

# Paris Museum Takes Visitors to Tropics

Paris, which has long boasted the title of the most beautiful city in the world, beloved alike by artist and lady of fashion, lays claim to a new distinction. Here, in a unique new museum, lies the solution of the problem of the traveller who would like to see the Arctic without enduring the bitter cold, to see the Egyptian Sudan and central Africa without enduring the stifling heat and without risking the bites of venomous snakes or the jaws of man-eating animals. The new museum is the gift of the late Duke of Orleans.

In it is a rare collection of mounted specimens of the wild life of the regions mentioned, presented to the public exactly as they appear in real life. There are no glass cases. The animals and birds of each region occupy an enormous room, and are separated from the visitor only by a

modest railing of which he is almost completely unconscious. Down the middle of the rooms he walks, as it were, on a path through the Arctic and Africa, birds and animals on either side, grouped in life-like positions amid their native vegetation.

Here, in the central African room, stands a giraffe, biting off an interfering branch at the top of a tree, from a lower branch of which a large black snake hangs half-coiled. A monkey is characteristically searching his neighbor for fleas while a group of lions peer threateningly over the tall grass. There are several hundred specimens in this room alone. Every detail in grouping and in reproduction of natural environment has been considered to make the rooms veritable corners of life in the regions represented. Instead of the old method of stuffing with hay or

bran, the best animal sculptors were engaged to produce plaster casts over which the skins were pulled. The atmosphere of reality is further enhanced by the paintings on the walls which were done from photographs taken of the regions where the animals and birds were found.

The collection was made, not by a great naturalist, but by a great hunter of royal birth, the late Duke of Orleans, great-grandson of King Louis Philippe of France. Exiled from his native land for fear of a royalist movement, the duke spent forty years of his life in hunting expeditions in the far North and in Africa. Upon his death he bequeathed his collection to the French Natural History Museum and provided money for a new building in which to house it.

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## Mummies X-Rayed

Unopened mummy packs containing within their sealed wrappings the bodies of ancient inhabitants of Egypt, Peru, and North America have been looked into by the penetrating eye of the X-ray in an intensive investigation conducted by Roy L. Moodie, well-known California paleontologist.

Twenty-five Egyptian mummies, eighty Peruvian mummies, one North American burial and a dozen or more assorted sacred animals and birds have been examined and more than 300 large X-ray pictures have made, Dr. Moodie states.

The bones which stand forth in the X-ray plates show particularly diseases and injuries which killed and distressed the world's earlier inhabitants. A mummy of an Egyptian woman shows hardening of the arteries and a poker spine. Diseases of the teeth are clearly in evidence, and there is one singular case of a well-known modern ailment, impacted wisdom teeth.

Material for the investigation was furnished by the American Museum of Natural History in New York, the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, the University of California, and the San Diego Museum. Results of the study, now practically completed, will be published by the Field Museum.

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## Roman Statue in German Ruins

A beautifully wrought bronze statue of the Roman god Mercury is the latest prize won from the ruins of a group of ancient temples in the German city of Trier on the Moselle. The image is only 21 centimeters—less than a foot—in height, but its fine modelling marks it as a genuine work of art, as well as an archaeological find of the first water.

Roman, German and Celtic gods alike were honored in Trier during imperial Roman days, from the first to the fourth century, when the city was held by the legions and was one of the most important centers of Roman power and culture north of the Alps. In the group of sixty or more temples which Dr. Siegfried Loeschke, of the Provincial Museum of Trier, has recently uncovered, there are many altars and images dedicated to the same deity under both German and Latin names.

Thus the old hammer-wielding thunder-god Thor or Donar is also called Jupiter, and curiously enough, he sometimes bears a third name as well, that of Hercules, the Roman demi-god. Similarly Mars was also worshipped under the German name of Tiu, and Mercury, always smooth-shaven in Roman temples, is here given a beard and identified with Wotan or Odin.

The pagan temples were destroyed

in the fourth century through the zeal of a powerful Christian bishop, and it has been assumed that the place stood unoccupied after that time. But Dr. Loeschke has recently discovered traces of occupancy by the Franks, the warlike German tribe that conquered Gaul and turned it into France after the legions were withdrawn by the declining Roman empire. This serves as a link between Roman and medieval Trier.

An extension of Trier's history into a remote pre-Roman past has also resulted from Dr. Loeschke's most recent work. He has found traces of an exceedingly ancient wooden structure, in the post-holes of which were many pottery fragments of Bronze Age date, but none of any later period. This marks the settlement at Trier as having been in existence as early as 1000 B. C.

Dr. Loeschke has been forced to suspend operations because of lack of funds, but he is hopeful that he will be able to raise means by private subscription to continue the work.

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The United States is the only country using gas masks extensively in mines, but the mining industries of northern Europe have lately become interested in American success with carbon monoxide masks.