



TRICERATOPS

PALEONTOLOGY

Harvard Exhibits New-Found Triple-Horned Dinosaur

THE HUGE skull and jaws of a newly discovered type of triple-horned dinosaur, a monster four-legged and dragon-tailed reptile which grazed in the lowlands of eastern Wyoming more than 60 million years ago, has just been placed on exhibition at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University.

The skull is 58 inches in length and 53 inches in width, and is believed to have been part of a dinosaur estimated about 18 feet long and 10 feet high. Technically known as *Triceratops eurycephalus*, (wide-headed), the reptile represents the last recorded survivor of that great group known as Ceratopsians.

This rare and important specimen was discovered in Wyoming in 1930 by Erich M. Schlaikjer, who at that time was on field research for the museum. The find has not been previously made public. Mr. Schlaikjer is now on the faculty of Brooklyn University, Brooklyn, N. Y.

The specimen was found in an exposure of variegated Cretaceous shales, sandstones, and sands rising 56 feet above the waters of Horse Creek near

Torrington in southeastern Wyoming. The outstanding feature of the dinosaur is the tremendous breadth of its skull in relation to the length of the skull.

All known individuals of Triceratops are from North America and eastern Asiatic deposits, having lived in the late Cretaceous period which ranged from 60 million to 105 million years ago. The head of the reptile had a frill of bone spreading out over the neck of the skull proper, similar to a collar, which afforded protection against the carnivorous animals which lived in that period.

The Triceratops also had two brow horns, a short nasal horn, a powerful beak, small teeth, hind legs shorter than the front legs, four toes on each foot, and a long, heavy scaly tail. The brow horns of the specimen to be placed on exhibition are exceptionally long, while the nasal horn is shorter than average. The other skeletal remains indicate that the Triceratops was almost as large as other members of this family, but more slender-bodied and probably more agile.

These dinosaurs, which were larger

than any mammals that have ever lived, except whales, once roamed the eastern uplift of the Rocky Mountains, from Alberta to New Mexico, becoming extinct about 60 million years ago. Paleontologists assign their demise to disease, or change in climate, or to the possibility that mammals devoured the dinosaur eggs.

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ARCHAEOLOGY

Famed Altar to Zeus Discovered on Island

GERMAN archaeologists, working with permission of the Greek government, have discovered the sought-for altar of Zeus on the mountain of Aegina, famous in Greek myth.

Tradition said that a son of the god Zeus once begged his father to send rain to relieve a dreadful drought in the island of Aegina. Zeus sent rain, and the thankful people erected an altar to him on the mountain top. The mountain became famed as a weather prophet, and it is still said that when the peak is clothed in clouds, there will surely be rain.

At some unknown time, the people of Aegina moved the altar to Zeus to a new place, about 330 feet down from the summit. Here the excavations have been made by a former German minister to Athens, Rudolf von Kardorff, and a German archaeologist, N. Welter.

The excavators had only a brief mention of the altar by the Greek traveler Pausanias to guide them in classic literature, and no mention of it from medieval writings. Wars upon wars have stormed over the island, and the Turks destroyed all tradition. The visible clue to the site was a remnant of antique wall.

The altar discovered on the mountain is from the fifth century B.C. The antique walls prove to be a temple of the Greek-Pergamon period, second century B.C. A great monumental stairway has been found, dividing the building into two unequal parts. Up this stairway processions to worship Zeus must have mounted. The columns and decorations were of a local stone, less durable than the materials of walls and stair, and only one capital of a column has survived the centuries.

The view from the terrace where the Greek worshippers stood is pronounced marvelously beautiful, looking across isles of the sea to Athens and the plain of Attica.

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