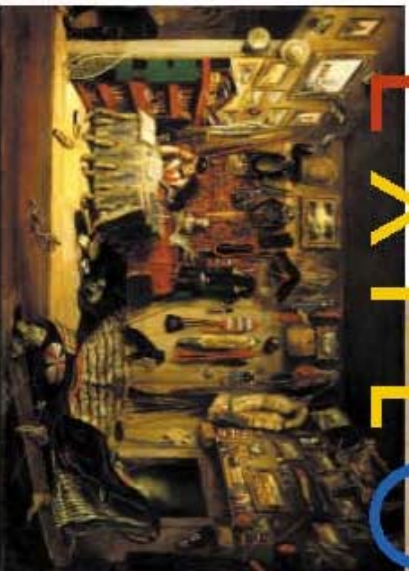


EXPLO RATIONS



Krieghoff's Chronicle:
A moment in time, treasured through the years

This oil on canvas called *An Officer's Study* Room in Montreal was painted in 1846 by Cornelius Krieghoff, an artist regarded as the primary recorder of mid-19th-century life in Montreal and Quebec. His scenes of daily life were so well known, and collected in his own day as they are today.

This painting is one of the best-known works in the ROM's Canadian collection. For many years it was privately owned, coming to the ROM and into the public eye in Toronto only in 1933 when it was displayed in the Museum's Canadian Gallery, now called the Sigmond Samuel Gallery of Canada.

ROM supporter Sigmond Samuel purchased the painting for the Museum from Miles Heron Norton, who grew up in Cobleskill, Quebec, in a mansion built by his wealthy industrialist and investor father. In a letter to Dr. Samuel written in January 1965, Miles Norton mentioned about the work: "When that painting hung in our Krieghoff room, for only Krieghoff were hung in that room, I used to go in every morning to look at them, for that was the time we got the best light. The *Officer's Study* Room was the one I lingered over as it was a special favorite of mine."

Within months of its display at the ROM, Dr. Samuel received a message from Ralph Chalk-Stone I advised to create an offset reproduction of the painting for the firm's calendar and to produce a separate art print.

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WAR PAINT

Tipi liner tells the tale of one Blackfoot warrior's exploits



In 19th-century Plains Indian society, a man's prestige was often measured by his war deeds. To ensure public recognition, pictographic records of his exploits were painted on highly visible surfaces, including beaver robes, shirts, tipi, and tipi liners. Recently, the ROM acquired a tipi liner that adds significantly to its existing collection of Blackfoot war-paint records. It is one of perhaps as few as 15 such liners in museum worldwide, the earliest painted by Dubon Steves around 1830.

Made of cotton muslin and measuring 407 x 200 cm (159 x 78 inches), the ROM's tipi liner, unlike some examples, appears to display the deeds of a single individual, painted by one craftsman. Its pictographic record falls roughly into three tiers: the top, taller sections depicting warriors as well as weapons and scalp ornaments; the middle records horse-riding expeditions—indicated by a horse cutting a tether or footprint leading to a hand on a rein; and the bottom depicts gun battles.

The ROM acquired the tipi liner from George Tanasick, a New York antiquities dealer who first saw it hanging in James Luongo's Plume Trading and Bead Company Indian Museum in Montreal, New York, around 1970. Although it is without tribal documentation, certain motifs—such as the scout sign (an arm and zigzag), scalps cutting off victims, and a beaver capturing hands—strongly suggest Blackfoot origin. The repeating motifs confirm that these events took place well after 1870 and the style of the figures points to a date of execution of 1920. The Blackfoot Indians of Alberta and Montana continued to raid enemy homes well into the 20th century, even though they had settled on reserves by 1880. A number of Blackfoot fought in the First World War and displayed pictographic records of their deeds, not unlike their kin elsewhere in the buffalo days.

—Arii Brownstone

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Lunar Landing

Most meteorites are formed of leftover material from the beginning of our solar system more than 4.5 billion years ago. The



ROM FOYLE.GIF OF THE ROM PHO WAM ELCHE DOWM BIT FPHO

majority originate in the Asteroid Belt, a vast region that lies between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. But certain, particularly rare types come from our celestial neighbour—the moon and Mars. Both these bodies are considerably smaller than the Earth and have much less gravity. It's large enough meteorite impact occurs on either of these surfaces material can be launched into space and, with luck, land on Earth. The ROM's newly acquired meteorite specimen called

which would sell for \$1—50 percent of which would go to support the Canadiana Gallery. It was Ralph-Clark-Stone's most technically challenging project at that time, but Miss Norton pronounced it "an exceptionally fine piece of work—the colouring and detail are so good." Now and then copies of it surface and to this day curatorial staff still field inquiries about the art print, the only one made from one of the ROM's premier paintings.

—Arlene Gehmacher

NWA 3163 is one such example, a piece of lunar crust that was launched into space by an enormous impact on the moon. Found in 2001, it is one of the largest lunar meteorites in existence, and will hold a prominent place in the Teck Cominco Suite of Earth Science Galleries slated to open in late 2008.

—Jon Nicklin

DECK—Rare ROM meteorite fell from the moon