

THIS IS A TRUE STORY.



PHILANTHROPIC IMPACT REPORT

JULY 1, 2012 - MARCH 31, 2014

CONTENTS

- 3 Message from the Managing Director
- 5 Engaging Exhibitions
- 8 Curators
- 16 Public Programming
- 26 Outreach
- 28 Funds

Thank you for your generous support of ROM Ancient Cultures. Your investment in Canada's world museum helps connect people to their world and to each other. Since 1914, philanthropy has been at the cornerstone of the ROM. Donors like you make the Museum an indispensable resource for building community by nurturing discovery and inspiring wonder.

Your investment in ROM Ancient Cultures has had a great impact on the Museum and has enabled many meaningful activities and powerful initiatives, including stunning exhibitions such as *Mesopotamia: Inventing Our World* and fascinating lectures from experts such as Dr. Zahi Hawass, Egypt's preeminent archaeologist.

Thank you for playing an important role in shaping and growing ROM Ancient Cultures, helping the Museum build community through its exciting public programs, engaging exhibitions and special events.

“Our donors and sponsors have helped make cutting-edge research, stunning exhibitions and educational programs possible at the ROM. Your philanthropic gifts fuel the acquisition of new specimens and artifacts, which enable us to offer unforgettable experiences, share our collections with the public, and tell fascinating stories about nature and culture.”

– Dr. Mark Engstrom, Senior Curator and Deputy Director of Collections & Research, ROM

Message from the Managing Director

Thank you for making ROM Ancient Cultures an essential destination for learning about the past civilizations, understanding how they can inform our lives today, and helping us plan for the future. Your generous support enables us to contribute new insights and discoveries to our understanding of the past, and to educate, engage and inspire our visitors on a daily basis.



It has been a great honour and a rewarding experience to lead ROM Ancient Cultures through its launch and first 18 months of engaging the public, supporting innovative research, and caring for the Museum's world-class collections. As Managing Director, I have had the privilege of working with expert staff and dedicated volunteers across the ROM to explore the cultures of the past and their relevance today. In this report, I'm pleased to share some of the work your support has enabled and the foundation we have created together for the future.

From early human ancestors in China to the technological innovations of Mesopotamia to the global economy of ancient Rome, ancient cultures help us understand the diversity of human experience. ROM archaeologists excavate around the world. Back at the Museum, our staff analyze and conserve the ROM's artifact collections. And our broader community of archaeology enthusiasts and experts share insight and data globally.

ROM Ancient Cultures builds on important work that began with the founding of the Museum 100 years ago. Archaeology was one of the ROM's first five major galleries when our doors opened in 1914, and we continue to collect and conserve important objects, advance scholarship and engage students and the public in learning about the past. Today, our donors, advisory committee and community partners help the Centre to leverage resources and have a greater impact.

This philanthropic report is just a snapshot of the Centre's varied and deep work. From 2012-2014, we have seen the continuation of longstanding archaeological research projects in China and Sudan and the initiation of new ones in Peru and Iraq. We have presented ground-breaking exhibitions on Mesopotamia, the Forbidden City—and soon Pompeii. Our staff and volunteers have provided

memorable and compelling experiences for diverse audiences, including our symposium on Iraq's cultural heritage, the first-ever ROM Game Jam, International Archaeology day and field trip visits for thousands of students.

ROM Ancient Cultures has a vibrant future. Our plans for the coming year include digitizing our collections, making our rich resources available to researchers and members of the public worldwide and providing new possibilities to use digital technologies. Thank you again for your generous support and for participating in the vibrant life of the Centre.

Sincerely yours,

Rae Ostman

Rae Ostman
Managing Director
ROM Ancient Cultures

 @ROMAncient



Engaging Exhibitions

MESOPOTAMIA: INVENTING OUR WORLD

The premiere North American engagement of *Mesopotamia: Inventing our World* was presented by RSA Insurance, in partnership with the British Museum. Special thanks to our generous Presenting Sponsor RSA Insurance, our Exhibit Patrons Mohammad Al Zaibak and Family and the Young Patrons Circle, our community partner the Canadian Arab Institute, our promotional partners GO and our media partners CTV and the Toronto Star.

This major exhibition explored more than 3,000 years of the ancient society's accomplishments, featuring more than 170 artifacts from the British Museum, in addition to those of the ROM and leading American institutions. The ROM was the sole North American venue to host the exhibition during an international tour. *Mesopotamia* attracted 157,740 visitors and 5,737 school visits, running from June 22, 2013-January 5, 2014. The exhibition was accompanied by a companion display entitled *Catastrophe! Ten Years Later: The Looting and Destruction of Iraq's Past*, which examined the effects of the Iraq war on the country's cultural heritage, including museums and archaeological sites.



CATASTROPHE! TEN YEARS LATER: THE LOOTING AND DESTRUCTION OF IRAQ'S PAST

Developed by the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, *Catastrophe!* was presented in tandem with *Mesopotamia*. An award-winning exhibition, *Catastrophe!* educated the public on the devastation of Iraq's cultural heritage. Serving as a reminder that Iraq's cultural heritage is still under threat, no artifacts were displayed. Text and images powerfully communicated the war's tragic effects and the continued impact on Iraq's cultural, archaeological, and heritage sites. "The exhibits complemented each other well: *Mesopotamia* conveyed the splendour of this ancient culture while *Catastrophe!* reminded us of the dangers to which it remains exposed," said Dr. Clemens Reichel, Professor of Mesopotamian Archaeology at the University of Toronto, Associate Curator of Ancient Near East in the ROM's Department of World Cultures.

THE CAT'S TOMB

Long before dogs were known as "man's best friend," cats were the most favoured pets by the ancient Egyptians. A spectacularly rare exhibit, *The Cat's Tomb* showcased a 2,500 year-old mummified cat wrapped in linen bandages. Incredibly, this cat was missing its mask, enabling visitors to view it sleeping eternally with its eyes closed, ears folded back and teeth exposed! This small exhibit showed how cats belonging to owners of the elite status were buried, the treasures these cats were buried with, as well as the important roles that cats played in ancient Egyptian society. *The Cat's Tomb* was on display in the Galleries of Africa: Egypt during summer of 2013 and was truly the cat's meow.



THE FORBIDDEN CITY: INSIDE THE COURT OF CHINA'S EMPERORS

Just prior to launching our year-long Centennial celebrations, the ROM unveiled *The Forbidden City: Inside the Court of China's Emperors*, presented by the Robert H.N. Ho Family Foundation with Manulife as Lead Sponsor. Special thanks also to our Family Programming Patrons Henry and Margaret Hung, our Promotional Partners, GO Transit, T & T Supermarket and Tour East Holidays, our Media Partners CTV and the Toronto Star and our Government Partners, the Governments of Canada and Ontario and the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund.



The exhibition is on display in Garfield Weston Exhibition Hall until September 1, 2014. Presented in collaboration with Beijing's Palace Museum, the show brings to Canada for the first time approximately 250 treasures that were part of Chinese imperial life for five centuries in a city strictly off-limits to all but the emperor, his family and his personal servants. These objects are the relics of a momentous chapter in China's long and fascinating history.

More than 80 of the exhibition's objects, including textiles, calligraphy, paintings, and armour, have never before travelled outside the Forbidden City. Complemented by stunning artifacts from the ROM's own internationally celebrated Chinese collections, these objects tell captivating stories and reveal the fascinating characters that made the Forbidden City the centre of an immense empire for more than 500 years. Due to the significant number of light-sensitive textiles and paintings, there was an extensive rotation of objects half way through the exhibition's engagement, presenting a new opportunity to experience the stories and exquisite objects of the Forbidden City.

The *Forbidden City* Project Advisory Committee assembled a diverse group of influential community leaders to advise the ROM on the exhibition and programming, while creating partnerships in many communities. It is co-chaired by Dr. Ming Tat Cheung, President and Chair of the Chinese Cultural Centre and Dan Rahimi, ROM Vice President, Program.

Curators



DR. CHEN SHEN, BISHOP WHITE CHAIR OF EAST ASIAN ART & ARCHAEOLOGY

Chen Shen is the ROM's lead curator for *The Forbidden City: Inside the Court of China's Emperors*. In December 2012, Chen travelled to China with co-curator Dr. Wen-chien Cheng, the ROM's Louise Hawley Stone Chair of East Asian Art, and curatorial advisor Dr. Sarah Fee, the Museum's Curator, Eastern Hemisphere Textiles and Fashion to spend time in the vaults of the Palace Museum and select the most compelling objects in the vast and storied collection. The exhibition features nearly 250 priceless objects from the collections of the Palace Museum and reveals what life was like inside the imperial court during the Ming and Qing dynasties. Following the run at the ROM, *The Forbidden City* will travel to the Vancouver Art Gallery.

In summer 2013, Chen Shen spent a month in China researching hand axes in the Luonan Basin. More recently, Chen is also curating a ROM 100 project related to the history of the ROM's Asian collections. *Collecting Asia: The First 50 Years* will be a biographical exhibition opening later this year, which will introduce visitors to some of the ROM's founding donors to the East Asian Department—individuals who, either financially or through their own collecting prowess, helped to build the ROM's world-class Asian collections. A range of stunning objects will be featured from China, Japan and South Asia, curated by Chen, Sara Irwin, Dr. Wen-chien Cheng and Jack Howard.

Publications:

2014 Objectives and Challenges: Past, Present, Future of Collecting Chinese antiquities in the Royal Ontario Museum, In *Collectors, collections, and collecting the arts of China: Histories and Challenges*, edited by Jason Steuber, with Guolong Lai. p 245-364.

Co-authored with Wen-chien Chen *The Forbidden City: Inside the Court of China's Emperors*. ROM 2014.

Chen Shen and Wen-chien Chen. 2014 Making the Forbidden City: An Introduction to the Exhibition *Orientalism*, Vol.45 (4):68-75.

Chen Shen 2014 Gifts of Boundless Longevity: Celebrating Imperial Birthdays in the Forbidden City *Orientalism*, Vol.45 (4):76-86.

Yongxing Li and Chen Shen Adaptation and Innovation: The imperial Cloisonné Collection. *Orientalism*, Vol. 45 (4):100-107.

Hong Chen, Chun Chen, Yiren Wang, Chen Shen 2013 Cultural adaptations to the Late Pleistocene: Regional variability of human behavior in southern Shanxi Province, central-northern China. *Quaternary International* 295:253-261.



ACQUISITION SPOTLIGHT

Thanks to the generous support of the Louise Hawley Stone Charitable Trust, ROM Ancient Cultures acquired an Imperial porcelain bowl with the reign mark of the Ming Dynasty Emperor Wan Li (1573-1620). This new ROM iconic acquisition is showcased in *The Forbidden City* exhibition, fills in gaps in the Museum's Chinese collections and enhances aspects of our educational programming.

DR. WEN-CHIEN CHENG, LOUISE HAWLEY STONE CHAIR OF EAST ASIAN ART

Wen-chien was co-curator of *The Forbidden City*. She was involved in almost every aspect of the exhibition, from the selection of objects, exhibition layout, label writing, to overseeing the final installation. Wen-chien was involved in the initial planning of *Collecting Asia: The First 50 Years, 1908-1958* to be on view in June, 2014. This exhibition introduces some of the ROM's founding donors to the East Asian Department—individuals who, either financially or through their own collecting prowess, helped to build the ROM's Asian collections.

Wen-chien has been active in her field by attending and presenting her research papers at numerous international conferences, including the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conferences in 2013 and 2014. Attendance at the annual AAS is particularly essential to be in frontline of the latest scholarship in Chinese art history and to maintain the ROM's international profile among art historians, other academics and museum professionals. Wen-chien developed research projects with a focus on pre-modern Chinese paintings—her specialized area and interest include: portraying women for didactic messages in early China, collecting China—the George Crofts collection at the ROM, and pictures for pleasure and beyond. Joined by Dr. Chen Shen, Wen-chien has also been supervising the Chinese ink rubbing inventory of ROM collection, a project in cooperation with the East Asia Library and the University of Toronto.

Publications:

- 2014 *The Forbidden City: Inside the Court of China's Emperors*, exhibition guidebook, co-authored with Dr. Chen Shen. Royal Ontario Museum, March.
- 2014 "Idealized Portraits of Women for the Qing Imperial Court", *Orientalism* vol.45 No.4, May, pp. 87-99.
- 2014 "Making 'The Forbidden City': An Introduction to the Exhibition", Co-authored with Chen Shen, *Orientalism* vol.45 No.4, May, pp. 68-75.



Left: *Collecting Asia: The First 50 Years, 1908-1958*: Mrs. H.D. Warren, Member of the First Board of Directors and ROM donor.
Right: Dr. Wen-chien Cheng.



Clemens Reichel at the site of Hamoukar in northeastern Syria.

DR. CLEMENS REICHEL, CURATOR OF ANCIENT NEAR EAST

Clemens Reichel is preparing to begin a new research project at Girsu in southern Iraq. The research team—including members from the University of Toronto, Penn State, McMaster University and Laval University—began fieldwork this summer. Dr. Reichel also continues his research related to the Hamoukar excavations in Syria and the Diyala Project in Iraq.

Clemens was the ROM's curator for the major exhibition *Mesopotamia: Inventing Our World*. He also participated extensively in the programming for the exhibition. On June 27 2013, he gave a lecture titled: *Kings of the Universe: The Rise and Development of Political Leadership in Mesopotamia*, as part of the ROM's *Explore Mesopotamia* Lecture Series.

DR. JUSTIN JENNINGS, CURATOR (NEW WORLD ARCHEOLOGY)

Justin's research and publications are generously supported by the Kircheis Family Endowment Fund, the Maya Research Fund and the Jan Schukard Endowment Fund. Since 2013, Justin has been the Curator-in-Charge for the ROM's Repatriation of Human Remains project. This project aims to repatriate human remains to descendant communities of the First Peoples of Canada and is a collaboration between multiple communities and government ministries.

Justin is currently planning a new research project at Quillcapampa La Antigua, Peru. His team completed survey work this past summer and expects a productive field season this coming year. Together with April Hawkins, Justin is also preparing a ROM 100 display on Toronto archaeology, scheduled to open in October, 2014 to coincide with International Archaeology Day. This exhibit will also feature a video component about Canadian First Peoples. Justin is researching and writing a manuscript tentatively called *Killing Civilization: Untangling the First Cities, States, Colonies, and Cultural Horizons from an Antiquated Concept*.

On February 8, 2013, Justin delivered the annual Vaughan Lecture at the 34th annual ROM Colloquium, a stimulating one-day event with experts highlighting their latest global discoveries and ongoing research. Titled *Death and destruction at La Real: Mortuary rituals and social change in pre-Columbian Peru*, Justin's talk delved into the ritual destruction of mummies (600-1000 CE), in the belief that it would help society cope with drastic social change.

Publications:

2014, Justin Jennings. A Glass for the Gods and a Gift to my Neighbor: the importance of alcohol in the Pre-Columbian Andes. In *From Aguardente to Zambumbia. A Social and Cultural History of Alcohol in Latin America*, edited by Gretchen Pierce and Aurea Toxqui, pp. 25-45. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

2014, Justin Jennings and Luis Jaime Castillo (Eds.). *Los rostros de Wari: perspectivas interregionales sobre el horizonte medio*. Boletín de Arqueología PUCP 16, Fondo Editorial de la Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Lima.



Justin Jennings and crew ascending the steps from Pakal's Tomb, located in the middle of the Temple of the Inscriptions at Palenque, Chiapas Mexico.



DR. KRZYSZTOF GRZYMSKI, SENIOR CURATOR (EGYPT & NUBIA)

Krzysztof Grzymski has travelled frequently to Sudan and Egypt to conduct his ongoing research related to Meroe, the capital of the ancient kingdom of Kush. He is currently focusing on publishing results of his excavations in Meroe, as well as planning for future exhibitions at the ROM.

The most recent fieldwork at Meroe was partly funded by the Qatar Museum Authority (QMA) and it is expected that this support will continue. The QMA has also funded the printing of his recently published tourist guide to the site of Meroe. The QMA provided a USD \$250,000 five-year grant for the excavation and conservation of the Amun Temple at Meroe. The grant will be administered by his partners from the University of Khartoum. Krzysztof successfully negotiated a gift from the Sudan's National Corporation of Antiquities and Museums of a stela from Meroe, which arrived at the ROM in 1994 as a loan. It has now been formally donated to the ROM.

Krzysztof gave numerous lectures, including presentations in the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, at the Sudan National Museum in Khartoum and to the staff of the Canadian embassy in Warsaw. He continues teaching in the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto. He also served until September 2013 as Vice-President of the Canadian Institute in Egypt.



PAUL DENIS, ASSISTANT CURATOR (GREEK, ETRUSCAN, ROMAN & BYZANTINE)

Paul Denis has been researching the Museum's collecting history over the past century for *A Century of Collecting*. Paul helped to develop the display's themes, coordinated the art and archaeology selection of objects, wrote label texts, and wrote and coordinated texts for the iPad component.

Paul Denis continues to research and plan for the proposed major exhibition on Pompeii, anticipated to open in June 2015. In addition, he continues to do research related to coins and other artifacts in the ROM's Greek and Roman collections.

The Greek and Roman section recently acquired an interesting fragment of a ring set with a reused carnelian Etruscan scarab, a class of intaglio with its back sculpted in the shape of a beetle. The Etruscan gem dates to about 325-275 BCE while the ring type likely dates to the early 4th century CE.

**KATE COOPER, REBANKS RESEARCH FELLOW IN CLASSICAL ARCHAEOLOGY,
MAY 2012-APRIL 2014**

Dr. Kate Cooper joined the ROM in 2012 for a Rebanks Postdoctoral Research Fellowship.

Her research, which builds on her Ph.D. work, focuses on the ancient uses and appreciation of figure-decorated archaic Corinthian pottery, which was the most widely transported of all the pottery produced in archaic Greece and is found all around the Mediterranean. She is also working on particular aspects of the iconography of early Greek pottery, including the sphinx and the gorgon. As well as pursuing her own research, Kate has day-to-day Museum tasks, including working in the Greek and Roman section on curatorial matters, and taking part in Ancient Rome and Greece Weekend and National Archaeology Day at the ROM.



While at the ROM, Kate Cooper initiated a research project in collaboration with Julia Fenn (Conservator, Ethnography) on the ROM's "Minoan" ivory goddess statuette, which is being documented in ROM publications and on the website. The project uses traditional and modern scientific methods to re-examine an object that has long been a highlight of the ROM's collection but is of dubious antiquity. Throughout the project, the researchers have engaged with ROM audiences through the website, revealing in real time some of the research that is taking place behind the scenes.

Highlights of the "Minoan" ivory goddess project so far include a video of Cooper and Fenn examining the figurine in the Conservation lab, a Google+ Hangout with Getty antiquities curator Kenneth Lapatin about the object, and the publication of a short article about the project in the international conservation newsletter *News in Conservation*. This ongoing research project is being developed into a ROM 100 gallery exhibit to open later this year.

NAN CAO, JAMES MENZIES RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Nan Cao has been studying the James Menzies Jade and Hardstone collection at the ROM since 2010. In 2012, the ROM extended her Research Fellowship for a second term, inviting Nan to complete her proposed manuscript using this important collection at the ROM. During her first term, Nan classified and catalogued the different jades and stones. She also did extensive research on the background of this collection, reading excavation reports and papers, and later wrote a review of all the published papers related to this study. She is now doing comparative research to appreciate the Menzies collection of jades related to Yinxiu jades excavated in the past 80 years and Yinxiu jades and culture in general.

Public Programming

Ancient Cultures Month

The Museum launched ROM Ancient Cultures in June, 2013. In conjunction with the opening of *Mesopotamia: Inventing our World*, presented by RSA Insurance, a wide range of innovative programming highlighted the Centre while engaging visitors of all ages and interests. Ancient Cultures Month programs included the following:

ANCIENT EGYPT WEEKEND | June 1-2, 2013

Never mind 'walking like an Egyptian'—Ancient Egypt Weekend was all about having fun like an Egyptian! Visitors learned to write their names in hieroglyphics, participated in an archaeology dig and created ancient Egyptian broad collars. The weekend also featured a scavenger hunt and ROM experts revealed some of the secrets of mummification.

ANCIENT ROME AND GREECE WEEKEND | June 15-16, 2013

Visitors explored the ancient empires of Rome and Greece and created their own gladiator helmets. Objects also came out of the vaults and onto touch tables. ROM curators were on hand, challenging kids to a game of knuckle bones! We also had a visit from some Roman soldiers on guard making sure participants were having fun in the way of ancient Romans and Greeks.

DISCOVERY CORNER - ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA | June 22, 2013

Timed to the opening of *Mesopotamia*, this program explored community and communication through art and writing in Mesopotamia.

ADULT WORKSHOPS | June 2013

A series of workshops took place throughout the month, providing rich insight into social, environmental, and cultural aspects of ancient civilizations and their continued legacy.

NAKHT: A HARD LIFE IN INTERESTING TIMES | June 26, 2013

Gayle Gibson, Egyptologist and ROM Educator, looked into the fascinating life of the teenage boy who became the subject of the first modern autopsy of an ancient Egyptian in this Context: Lecture at the ROM.

ANCIENT CULTURES TRIVIA NIGHT | June 27, 2013

Participants gathered at the Foxes Den Bar & Grill for a fun evening of challenging questions and interesting answers that touched on favourite ancient civilizations and pop culture references.

LECTURE BY DR. ZAHI HAWASS | June 3, 2013

Long recognized as the international face of Egyptology, Dr. Zahi Hawass gave a lecture about *The Mysteries of the Pyramids and the Magic of the Mummies: New Discoveries*. Speaking before a sold-out crowd, Dr. Hawass offered insights into some of the most fascinating people and places in ancient history. His passion was palpable. The lecture highlighted some of the most important archaeological research in recent years, including the discovery of the *Tombs of the Pyramid Builders* and the reconstruction of King Tutankhamun's family tree. Dr. Hawass discussed the use of innovative investigative techniques to explore the Great Pyramid at Giza, the identification of the remains of Queen Hatshepsut and other extraordinary discoveries made during his career as Egypt's preeminent archaeologist.



Clockwise: Re-enactors outside the ROM, Greek and Roman Weekend 2013, Dressing up for Ancient Cultures Month, Archaeologist Dr. Zahi Hawass in Egypt, Laura Lipcei at Ancient Greece and Rome Weekend 2013.

Programming for Mesopotamia

In conjunction with the engagements of *Catastrophe!* and *Mesopotamia*, ROM Ancient Cultures hosted a lecture series called *Robbing the Cradle of Civilization* on October 19-20, 2013. Internationally respected scholars engaged in lively dialogue around the issues of looting in Iraq and the long-lasting impact on its cultural heritage.

The symposium's keynote event was a discussion between Colonel Matthew Bogdanos, a US Marine Officer and author of the acclaimed *Thieves of Baghdad* (2005) and McGuire Gibson, Professor at the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute, one of the world's leading authorities on ancient Mesopotamia and the co-curator of *Catastrophe!* The next day, an expert panel examined international efforts to protect cultural heritage, particularly in times of conflict. The event concluded with a thoughtful discussion among the audience and the speakers, moderated by ROM curator Clemens Reichel. The symposium also featured a Google+ Hangout, with a dialogue between Clemens and Katharyn Hanson (Iraqi Institute for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage).

ROM Ancient Cultures hosted the *Discovering Mesopotamia* lecture series, featuring highly-regarded speakers from archaeology, art history, linguistics and the history of science (June-December, 2013). The ROM's Clemens Reichel offered the first lecture in the series called *Kings of the Universe: The Rise and Development of Political Leadership in Mesopotamia*. Assistant curator Tracy Spurrier provided a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the exhibition at her Contexts talk (September 25, 2013).

To connect the past with current events, ROM Ancient Cultures also hosted *Syria Today: Humanitarian Crisis and the Destruction of Cultural Heritage* with Stephen Cornish, Executive Director of Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) in Canada, and the ROM's Clemens Reichel.



A U.S. tank outside the children's section of the Iraq National Museum. On April 8, 2003, a gaping hole in the façade of this gateway was made by a U.S. tank round. The Assyrian winged bull in the gateway is similar to the one on display in the Yelda Khorsabad Court in the Oriental Institute Museum. Photo: Joanne Farchakh-Bajjal.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE: MESOPOTAMIA offered young adults an entry point to this important ancient civilization on June 21, 2013. In fact, each night of the fall series of Friday Night Live (October-December 2013) included a Mesopotamia component. On December 6, 2013, the ROM offered *Indulge like a Mesopotamian*, an exploration of fermented food and drink offered prior to Friday Night Live in the Museum's restaurant space, with ROM curators Clemens Reichel and Justin Jennings providing an archaeological perspective.

DISCOVERY CORNER: MESOPOTAMIA offered families special hands-on activities in the ROM's Wirth Gallery of the Middle East on June 22, 2013. On Culture Days (September 28-29, 2013) the ROM offered *Mesopotamia Weekend*, with activities on the Plaza and in the Museum. Families examined real artifacts, talked to ROM experts, and tried out the new *Choose Your Own Adventure* self-directed exploration of the *Mesopotamia* exhibition. Kids were also invited to a Mesopotamia Sleepover on October 4-5, 2013 and ROMKids incorporated Mesopotamia into Summer Club 2013 and other ongoing programs.

Adult Programming

GAME JAM AND OTHER DIGITAL GAMES PROJECTS | August 9-11, 2014

The ROM offered our first-ever Game Jam, co-organized by the University of Toronto and Gamercamp. Over 60 game developers, organized into 20 teams, spent a weekend at the ROM developing digital games related to the ROM's Ancient Cultures galleries. The event featured close collaboration between the teams and ROM experts, and resulted in an exciting set of playable games. The theme of the game jam was *Foretelling the Past*, and the challenge was to animate the ancient cultures galleries of the ROM.

ROM Game Jam games were available to play by Museum visitors at International Archaeology Day at the ROM on October 19, 2013 and at Friday Night Live on December 6, 2013. ROM Game Jam games were also featured in the games arcades at Gamercamp, Canada's games festival, held in Toronto on November 1-3, 2013. The event premiered a short documentary film of the ROM Game Jam created by Curio Film Studios, and included a presentation by the ROM's Rae Ostman and Bep Schippers at the Interactive and Game Conference.

In a related project, students of University of Toronto Computer Science professor Steve Engel developed six prototype mobile games related to the Ancient Cultures galleries. These were play-tested by ROM visitors during the Game Jam, and were featured at the ROM Members' Holiday Party in December 2013.

COURSES

Fall and winter courses for 2013 covered topics such as *Emerging Cities*, *Emerging Art: Mesopotamian Architecture and Art and Fakes, Forgeries, and Nazis: The Dark Side of Archaeology*. These in-depth programs are developed by program instructors in consultation with the relevant curators, and are designed to immerse visitors in the ROM's collections and research.

Lectures in Ancient Cultures included the following:

- Ron Williamson of Archaeological Services Inc. (January 30, 2013)
- Hugh Bowden of Kings College (April 8, 2013)
- Barry Kemp (September 19, 2013)
- Cyprian Broodbank on the prehistory of the Mediterranean (October 31, 2013). This talk was generously supported by the A.G. Leventis Gallery of Ancient Cyprus Fund.
- Artur Obluski on medieval Nubia (November 26, 2013)

CITIES IN THE SAND SYMPOSIUM | December 1, 2012,

The Friends of Ancient Egypt at ROM and the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities (SSEA) partnered to present *Cities In The Sand*, the 38th Annual Symposium featuring the latest academic discoveries from Egypt, with a specific focus on urban life in ancient Egypt.

Egyptologists working directly in the field along with other academics presented papers on life in towns and cities along the Nile from various periods throughout the country's long history. The *Cities in the Sand* symposium featured several international scholars bringing ancient cities to life with field and scholarly reports, offering a fascinating look at the archaeological discovery, and an examination of what excavations can teach us about ancient Egypt. The ROM's Dr. Krzysztof Grzymski presented on his excavation work at the city of Meroe.



Gaming projects offer new ways to engage the public in Ancient Cultures (including visitor-created experiences), expand our community to include young adults, and make ROM Ancient Cultures innovative and relevant.



Forbidden PROM

PATRONS

The ROM's Young Patrons Circle (YPC) generously supported *Mesopotamia* as Exhibit Patron in 2013. This support of a major ROM exhibition was an exciting first for this dynamic philanthropic group. On March 7, 2013, the ROM's Clemens Reichel gave a short talk to Patrons about this mysterious period and how it continues to influence present times. The evening was also a unique opportunity for Patrons to meet Rae Ostman, Managing Director of ROM Ancient Cultures.

PROM is the annual YPC fundraising event for the ROM with proceeds supporting the Museum's highest priorities including world-class exhibitions, establishing new galleries, funding leading-edge research and bringing educational programs to life. One of the city's most buzzed-about events, it has highlighted ROM Ancient Cultures for the past two years.

Ancient PROM on April 6, 2013 focused on innovation in the ancient world, with special tours of the permanent galleries. Over 1,000 guests "rocked the cradle of civilization in support of the ROM." Forbidden PROM on March 29, 2014 was inspired by the ROM's Centennial exhibition: *The Forbidden City: Inside the Court of China's Emperors*, presented by The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation and Lead Sponsor Manulife. Guests are encouraged to dress with the event theme in mind and both PROMs featured traditional and contemporary interpretations of ancient cultures.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The ROM Ancient Cultures Summer Internship program ran from May-August 2013. The program included eight students from Archaeology and Classics and provided them with experience related to curatorial and program work in museums. The students helped plan and implement family programming, including Ancient Egypt weekend, Ancient Rome & Greece weekend and the Mesopotamia Discovery Corner. The internship program strengthened our relationship with local colleges and universities.

Below is an excerpt from a ROM blog about Ancient Greece & Rome Weekend, which features two of our interns in Ancient Cultures:



WHAT WERE THE MOST MEMORABLE MOMENTS OF THE WEEKEND FOR YOU?

Natasha:

One of the parents came back to the writing table to show us the helmet her son made downstairs after seeing us. It was covered with Roman numerals and his name in Greek. It was really nice to know that children were excited about what we were teaching them.

Lindsay:

Scoring a bull's-eye while trying archery supervised by the "Archers of Dura Europos" (otherwise known as the Hart House Archery Club).

ROM Kids Programming

CURATOR'S CORNER | February 22, 2014

Curator's Corner is a chance for visitors to engage with our experts in various fields. ROM Ancient Cultures offered hands-on activities for families that connected nature and culture (such as Palaeolithic cave paintings).

MARCH BREAK | March, 2013 and 2014

Our March Break theme was *Passport to the World*. Ancient Cultures highlights from 2013 included building a model Maya pyramid from Lego bricks, inspired by the ROM's excavations at Altun Ha. In 2014, students demonstrated the use of real excavation equipment at our mock excavation site for kids and visitors learned about the difference between archaeology and palaeontology. Both years, ROM curators and experts brought out special artifacts and shared the work they do behind the scenes.

ARCHAEOLOGY WEEKEND | April 13-14, 2013

Archaeology Weekend showcased the research all of ROM Ancient Cultures curatorial departments, ROM Conservation, and several partner organizations (University of Toronto, Parks Canada, Ontario Archaeological Society, Dark Ages Re-Creation Company, and Archaeological Services Inc.). The participation of 2,000 visitors, as well as experts from across the ROM Ancient Cultures and across Ontario, demonstrated our commitment to serving as a hub for the public and professionals to engage with each other.

On April 20, 2013 we partnered with Parks Canada to offer special programming related to the Franklin Expedition. Ken Lister of the ROM presented research into potential lead poisoning of the crew, while Parks Canada underwater archaeologists shared artifacts from their ongoing search for the lost vessels. Saturday Morning Club throughout the fall featured sessions on *Heroes and Heroines* and *Ancient Inventions*.

INTERNATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY AT THE ROM | October 19, 2013

International Archaeology Day at the ROM was generously supported by the Greek Lecture Endowment Fund. ROM Ancient Cultures partnered with the Archaeological Institute of America to host International Archaeology Day at the Museum. Hundreds of sites around the world participated in this initiative, celebrating archaeology and the thrill of discovery—and the ROM event was one of the largest.

The day featured a broad representation of ROM Ancient Cultures community of archaeology experts and enthusiasts, including our own researchers, colleagues from the University of Toronto, the Archaeological Institute of America, Ontario Archaeological Society, Archaeological Services Inc., and historical re-enactors from the US and Canada. Highlights included play-testing games developed at the ROM Game Jam in August, experiencing a field hospital from the war of 1812 and discovering archaeological finds from across Toronto and Ontario.

ROM FOR THE HOLIDAYS | December 26, 2013-January 5, 2014

ROM Ancient Cultures also provided numerous opportunities for families to engage with our archaeological research and collections during ROM for the Holidays. The theme for 2014, *Toys, Games, and Gatherings*, provided ample opportunities to connect family audiences with winter traditions, games and toys from around the ancient world. We also shared a selection of digital games from the ROM Game Jam and University of Toronto student projects, furthering the impact from these partnership projects.



Top left and right: Archaeology Weekend at the ROM. Bottom left: Parks Canada underwater archaeologist on HMS Investigator, lost in 1853 in the Arctic and discovered in 2010. © Parks Canada. Bottom right: Saturday Morning Club students learning about dendrochronology.

Outreach

MUSEUM DIARIES

TVO's newly commissioned series *Museum Diaries* is a family viewing adventure that offers unprecedented access to the ROM. Airing for six weeks beginning February 25, 2014, each episode mixes science, history and intrigue with educational segments led by the ROM's team of professional curators, technicians and other experts. Featuring the exploration of ancient societies, rare historic photography of 19th-century Indian royalty, and the discovery of new species, the ROM's team of specialists offer an in-depth experience for Ontarians interested in natural history, science, art and culture.

ROM Ancient Cultures staff participated in several episodes of this exciting new show: *Fakes & Frauds Exposed*, *DNA Dissected* and *Ancient Egypt Mummified*.

Digital Initiatives

ROM Ancient Cultures maintains an active online presence, providing access to our research and collections to visitors around the world. Blog posts have included the ongoing *Weapon Wednesday* series by Robert Mason, *Behind the Scenes in New World Archaeology* with April Hawkins, and *For the Adventurousome: Traversing Back in Time* with Dr. Ed Keall by two University of Toronto students.

We have also hosted several Google+ Hangouts. For example, on January 15, 2014 we hosted a Google+ Hangout among Gayle Gibson, ROM Egyptologist, Andrew Nelson of the University of Western Ontario, and Andrew Wade of McMaster University, who discussed their recent cutting-edge medical research into the ROM's mummy collections.

Paul Denis, Kay Sunahara, and Rae Ostman are also working with Katherine Blouin (Greek & Roman History, University of Toronto Scarborough) to record video podcasts of objects in the Greek & Roman collections.

HELPING NEIGHBOURHOODS GROW STRONGER

Arts, culture and heritage enhance understanding and capacity for action; build social cohesion; contribute to community development; and foster civic participation.

Source: "Social Effects of Culture: Exploratory Statistical Evidence." Hill Strategies Research, 2008, <http://www.arts.on.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=2696>



SCOPIFYROM

is an exciting new smartphone application that allows visitors to experience ROM objects in fun and interactive ways, including X-raying a mummy and skinning a dino. This unique app lets visitors uncover exclusive ROM research and curatorial secrets.



ROM ANCIENT CULTURES IS INFORMED BY AN EXPERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE THAT SHAPES CONTENT AND PROGRAMMING.

We are grateful to the following individuals who generously offer their time and knowledge: Michael Chazan (University of Toronto); Steve Engels (University of Toronto); Mark Engstrom (ROM); Justin Jennings (ROM); Catherine MacDonald (Coordinator Durham Catholic District School Board Archaeology); Katie McMillan (ROM); Dimitri Nakassis (University of Toronto, Archaeological Institute of America); Chen Shen (ROM); and Ronald Williamson (Archaeological Services Inc).

ROM Ancient Cultures convened our first Advisory Committee September 27, 2013. Committee members include representatives from the fields of academic research, cultural resources management and consulting, formal and informal education, and new media. The committee serves as a professional network that identifies strategic partnerships and specific collaborative projects that will help the Centre achieve its objectives.

We identified several exciting ways to approach public engagement during 2014-2015. These include: engaging visitors in ongoing archaeological research at active sites; visualizations and modelling of archaeological data, including 3D imaging and 3D printing; and explorations of the prehistory and history of Toronto, with particular emphasis on engaging new Canadians and considering how we can find relevance in the past. We look forward to working on these with the strong collaborators who form our advisory committee, as well as new partners and supporters.

THE ACTIVITIES OF ROM ANCIENT CULTURES ARE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY A COMMUNITY OF DONORS WHO INVEST IN THE FOLLOWING FUNDS:

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