

Discoveries and Dispatches

The Knight of the Bracelet

Open this fall, an exhibition featuring George Barbier, art deco illustrator, costume designer, and dandy *extraordinaire*

His reputation now borders on forgotten, perhaps, but early in the 20th century George Barbier was a glittering light in Parisian high society and an admired player in its rich artistic scene. His social circle included author Marcel Proust and jeweller Louis Cartier.

The son of a wealthy Nantes export/import merchant, Barbier “arrived” as an artist in Paris in 1912, at the time the epicentre of radical change in fashion and design. Captivated by performances of Les Ballets Russes and its principal dancers Nijinsky and Karsavina, Barbier illustrated and published two exquisite albums devoted to the dancers, and his career was launched. *Dessins sur les danses de Vaslav Nijinsky* was published in 1913, followed by *Album dédié à Tamar Karsavina* in 1914. Barbier’s passion for the theatre and for ballet dominated much of his professional life for the following two decades, as he became a leading designer in Paris. Among his creations were costumes for Rudolph Valentino and Josephine Baker, as well as costumes and set designs for the famously risqué revues of Les Folies-Bergère and Casino de Paris.

Barbier was an illustrator par excellence, most notably for *Journal des dames et des modes* and *Gazette du Bon Ton*, two new and exclusive fashion magazines richly illustrated with coloured fashion plates using the colour stencilling technique known as *pochoir*. (The ROM Library and Archives is home to rare complete holdings for both of these titles.) He and his fellow contributors became known collectively as the *chevaliers du bracelet* for their flamboyant manners, dandyish appearance, and their sporting of a bracelet as a common accessory.

Over the course of his brief 20-year career, Barbier illustrated more than 30 books, contributed illustrations to many popular magazines of the period, and wrote innumerable social commentaries, art criticisms, and theatre reviews. He published two sets of almanacs, richly illuminated with *pochoirs*, which depicted the radical post-war shift in fashion and design. The ROM has acquired the five-volume set of his miniature *Guirlande des mois* (1917–1921), bound in white satin covers and painted with his illustrations. Its sequel, *Falbalas et fanfreluches* (1922–1926), was published in a larger format, and in it Barbier portrayed romance and youth in historical settings purely imaginative and whimsical. He also did work as a designer for his friend, legendary Paris jeweller Louis Cartier. It is here that one might argue Barbier’s work has endured longest in the popular imagination; he created more



N'en dites rien...
George Barbier,
*Gazette du
Bon Ton*.

than 100 jewellery designs and designed the stylized panther that remains the iconic symbol of La Maison Cartier today.

At the relatively young age of 50 George Barbier died in Paris in 1932. Surprisingly quickly, he seems to have faded from memory, and it would be more than 75 years before Barbier would be honoured with a major retrospective of his original works, held in 2008 in Venice. And now, the first major exhibition in North America on Barbier features the extensive Toronto holdings of Barbier’s published illustrations, drawn from the Royal Ontario Museum, the Toronto Public Library Special Collections, and the George Grant Collection at the Fisher Library.

ARTHUR SMITH is the head of Library & Archives at the ROM. Learn more about George Barbier in an article by Arthur Smith at rom.on.ca.

Chevalier du bracelet: George Barbier and his illustrated works runs from **September 30 to December 20, 2013** at the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto.

The exhibition is curated by ROM librarian Arthur Smith, who became fascinated with Barbier *pochoirs* in the mid-1990s when he encountered a volume of *Falbalas et fanfreluches* while mounting a display of treasures from the ROM’s rare book collections.



Good Food in the Badlands

When the ROM's palaeontology team, led by curator David Evans, headed out west this summer, they took along an extra crew member with an unlikely educational background: George Brown College's Hospitality program. Ongoing Museum champion and former Chair of the Board of Trustees of the ROM Sal Badali ensured that there were funds available for one chef-hopeful to gain experience "out in the field." In addition, board member Michael Detlefsen generously contributed funds for vehicle rental.

In this instance, "out in the field" was meant literally—a field owned by a local farmer in Alberta's Badlands: dinosaur country.

Chef Nicholas Mackay was chosen by George Brown to spend 10 days at Milk River, relieving the palaeontologists of their usual cooking duties on top of their fieldwork hunting dinosaur bones.

But this was no picnic: cooking in the Badlands is a challenge. Nicholas prepared food on a three-ring gas burner and grill, amid the dust, out in the hot Alberta sun. He also had to make regular trips to the store to restock. Nicholas discovered that "the nearest store" was an hour-and-a-half drive to Medicine Hat, through

cattle country and canola crops. "I drove a thousand kilometres or more over 10 days," he says.

Nicholas cooked two meals daily. "I created a theme for dinner—one night it was Vietnamese, another it was a Southern theme with barbeque." He also prepared packed lunches for the 18-person team, with offerings such as rice and curry or gourmet sandwiches with homemade pickles. "Food is the fuel that keeps us digging. Good food is important for keeping morale in camp high, and Nicholas's fantastic meals were hugely appreciated by the crew," says David.

This was Nicholas's first trip to Alberta and his first dig. "I always wanted to dig up dinosaur bones," he says. So when he wasn't cooking, the young chef took the opportunity to assist David and the other palaeontologists at the Milk River dig. "I found a rare crocodile skull and a variety of dinosaur bones—including a tyrannosaur tooth," says Nicholas. No word if they resulted in a good soup.

AMANDA LEE is a publicist in the ROM's public relations department.



Damien with fellow palaeontologists Hans Larsson and David Evans.

Community

Damien the Palaeontologist, Age 12

As a very little boy Damien was fascinated with dragons and, as is often the case, as he grew up that evolved into a love of dinosaurs and all things related. And today, like many 12-year-old boys, he has a hero, someone first seen on television: Hans Larsson, a palaeontologist at McGill University’s Redpath Museum in Montreal.

On August 8, the ROM and Make-A-Wish Canada teamed up to help Damien—who has been diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia—meet his hero and be a palaeontologist and museum curator for a day.

The ROM was delighted to help in making his wish come true: ROM staffer David Evans invited Hans Larsson, a friend and colleague from Montreal, to visit while ROM staff worked with the Make-A-Wish Foundation to create a special day of activities for Damien and his family behind the scenes at the Museum. These activities included a tour with the two palaeontologists through the public galleries, extended exploration of the Museum’s collections not on display, and concluded with a turn through the palaeobiology lab. He left with a loot bag of mementos.

This was a day to remember and cherish for the young dinosaur enthusiast, discussing like a seasoned palaeontologist all manner of fossils and discoveries with David and Hans and sharing his impressive knowledge of and passion for all things dinosaur.

Since its inception in 2006 ROM Community Access Network has sought to make the ROM and its collections available to all members of the community by removing barriers that may prevent individuals from visiting. By partnering with over 40 community partners, ROMCAN is able to engage with individuals in the community, and encourage new audiences to discover what the museum has to offer.



Getting Our Game On

In mid-August, the ROM hosted a horde of keen electronic game programmers, designers, artists, coders, and other wizards for our first-ever game jam.

Inspired by the age-old concept of the musical jam session in which a bunch of musicians gather together to create something new in a free-flowing and creative environment, we did the same for video games. With the goal of generating ideas for new games, a jam creates an opportunity for committed, dynamic, and inspired gamers to come together for an intense weekend of collaborative creativity. Key to their success is an inspiring subject area, a limited period of time, and plenty of room for thinking outside the box. The experience is almost always intense!

For the first-ever ROM Game Jam, participants were presented with a straightforward challenge: create a mobile game that animates and enhances the Museum’s exhibits. Not so straightforward perhaps was the event theme “foretelling the past.”

Led by Rae Ostman, managing director of ROM Ancient Cultures, this pilot event was produced in conjunction with Gamercamp, the University of Toronto, and the U of T’s Game Development and Design Club. Completed games will get play-tested by members of the public at the ROM in mid-October and will premiere officially at Gamercamp in November. You can learn more on our website at rom.on.ca: simply search “game-jam.”



Photo of Damien by Wanda Dobrowlanski. Game Jam images courtesy Gamercamp Magazine.



Barry Kemp at the Great Temple of Aten site, Amarna, February 2013.

Ancient Egypt

Barry Kemp at the ROM

For the past 35 years, Professor Barry Kemp has been leading extensive excavations and studies at the famed Amarna site in Middle Egypt—meaning he has been working there roughly twice as long as the time the ancient city was actually inhabited nearly 4,000 years ago. Recently, and for the first time, he came to Canada to talk about it.

The Amarna period was one of the most dramatic chapters in Egyptian history. In the 14th century BCE, the Pharaoh Akhenaten moved the capital from Thebes to an uninhabited strip of desert hundreds of miles north. There, the controversial king built the city of Akhetaten (present day Amarna) and together with his co-regent Nefertiti created a revolution in art, culture, architecture, religion, and thought. It all lasted just 16 years before it was overthrown.

Kemp, a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (we all know it better as a CBE) and Emeritus Professor of Egyptology at Cambridge University, reported on some of his recent work excavating and partially reconstructing Amarna's Great Temple of Aten, one of the most unusual and intriguing temple structures in Egypt. He also shared his insights into the daily workings of an ancient Egyptian city and presented new insights into the hard, short lives endured by the common people of Amarna so long ago.

Invited by the ROM's Friends of Ancient Egypt (FAE) in cooperation with Toronto's Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities (SSEA), Kemp presented *City of the Sun God: Amarna and*

its rulers, Akhenaten and Nefertiti on Thursday, September 19 in the Eaton Theatre. Proceeds from the lecture will go directly to support Kemp's own efforts to preserve, protect, and excavate the City of the Sun God, with a portion also going to fund the ROM's own Egyptian collection.

A recording of the talk will be available at rom.on.ca as well as a recent exclusive interview with Kemp and additional information on his life, thoughts, and work.

LAURA RANIERI is a Toronto writer and an Egyptology graduate student at the University of Toronto.

UPGRADE YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Royal Patrons Circle and Young Patrons Circle members enjoy exclusive events in thanks for their support of the ROM. Here's a look at our exciting fall lineup:

- September 24 RPC *Behind the Scenes Tours*
- October 7 YPC *Collection Adventures: Bill Jamieson Collection*
- October 17 RPC preview of *Carbon 14* exhibition
- October 26 YPC Tour of Art Toronto

Please note: all dates are subject to change.

For more information on how to join RPC or YPC, visit rom.on.ca/support or call **416.586.8003**.



Graham Crawshaw (Toronto Zoo) and Jacquie Miller (ROM), with a White-footed mouse at BioBlitz 2012.

Burgess Shale to BioBlitz

Parks Canada and the ROM are natural partners

It's a natural relationship: the Royal Ontario Museum and Parks Canada working together to help make sense of our world. After all, Parks Canada protects and shares the stories of our nation's most precious sites. And the ROM, Canada's largest field research museum, is home to researchers, curators, and other experts who study, explore, and explain our natural and cultural heritage. They steward a collection of millions of specimens and artifacts that form a foundation of knowledge about our world, our country, and our peoples.

The ROM and Parks Canada have partnered on many projects over the years. Take for example, the award-winning Burgess Shale Virtual Museum, launched in 2012, focusing on the World Heritage site within Yoho National Park. Other initiatives include ongoing research into migrating Red-Knot shorebirds in Mingan National Park in the St Lawrence River, a Find the Baby Bison Contest in 2012 that drew entries from thousands of kids across Canada, and in April 2013, The Franklin Expedition Gallery Event at which Parks Canada staff presented the results of their ongoing underwater search for HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* and at which ROM assistant curator Ken Lister described his work investigating the possibility of lead poisoning of the ill-fated crew.

"Parks Canada is proud to work with the ROM on a number of exciting initiatives that help people understand and connect with Canada's natural and cultural heritage," says Andrew Campbell, vice president, External Relations and Visitor Experience for Parks Canada. "From researching and protecting the Burgess Shale, to bringing nature and culture to urban audiences through world-class museum exhibits, and delivering interactive educational experiences that delight and engage young Canadians, our collaboration with the ROM helps to inspire discovery of Canada's

treasured natural and historic places, and to build a culture of conservation in Canada."

Most recently, Parks Canada, the ROM, and six other leading environmental organizations collaborated on the 2013 Ontario BioBlitz in Rouge Park in Toronto on September 14 and 15. An all-star team of Ontario biologists, naturalists, and hundreds of volunteers gathered to catalogue all the living things found in the park from the micro to macro-scopic. Species catalogued include mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, plants, fungi, and insects. Volunteers also signed up for guided hikes, species identification programs, and photo workshops. To learn more about this cool event, check out the website at ontariobioblitz.ca.



Coming to grips with a Dekay's Brownsnake.

Photos of Ontario BioBlitz 2012: White-footed mouse (Peromyscus leucopus) by Stacey Kerr; Brownsnake (Storeria dekayi) by Caitlin McManus.

Friday Nights are Back!

The ROM recently wrapped up its third, and most successful, season of Friday Night Live. We'll be bringing back a Fall season of Toronto's original cultural, social destination on October 18 through to December 6, 2013. Planning is already underway with eight weeks of themed in-gallery experiences and live entertainment. Continue to "expect the unexpected" with more fashion, dance and Asian culture. Watch for a special night of Trick-or-Treating at the ROM. Thanks to our media partner *NOW* magazine. To find out more, check out rom.on.ca/fridays!



Photos: FNL courtesy ElectricCITY Events Inc. Statuette of rearing goat. 30-12-702; courtesy of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology; Philadelphia, P.A.



LAST CHANCE!

Statuette of rearing goat with flowering plant (*The Ram Caught in a Thicket*).

Mesopotamia: Inventing our World

Come and spend Thanksgiving with the iconic *Ram Caught in a Thicket* before it returns to the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology on October 15.

Replacing the *Ram* is another iconic piece from Mesopotamia. The *Lyre with Bearded Bull's Head* arrives at the Museum on October 17. The lyre would have been lost to culture had it not been for the ingenuity of British archaeologist Charles Leonard Woolley, who upon its discovery took careful measures to preserve the measurements of the sound box, which had disintegrated over time, so that we can see the fully restored lyre today.

Robbing the Cradle of Civilization

Preserving the art and archaeology of Mesopotamia and other threatened cultures

We're continuing our exploration of Mesopotamia this fall with the Museum hosting a two-day symposium on October 19 and 20. Join us for thought-provoking discussions and dialogue on the looting of museums and archaeological sites in Iraq and around the world, particularly in times of conflict. Through debate, presentations, and eye-witness accounts of the looting scandal, we invite you to participate in identifying strategies and policies for preserving the world's cultural legacy.

The symposium is scheduled for October 19 to 20, with a presentation and a moderated conversation in the Samuel Hall Currelly Gallery on the evening of October 19, 2013.

Saturday, October 19

2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Special film screening

7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Keynote: *The Looting of the Iraq Museum: A Conversation with Colonel Matthew Bogdanos and Dr. McGuire Gibson.*

What lessons were learned from the museum lootings in Iraq? Has anything changed over the last 10 years? This keynote will include an update on recovered artifacts and a discussion on how to move forward and face such volatile situations in the future.

Sunday October 20

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Find out more at rom.on.ca!

While at the ROM, don't forget to check out *Catastrophe! Ten Years Later: The Looting and Destruction of Iraq's Past*. The exhibition comes to us from the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago and marks the 10th anniversary of the looting of the Iraq Museum—an incident that sent shockwaves throughout the world.

Presiding in the Heavenly Court

Former ROM curator Ka Bo Tsang and colleagues bring to light new research on the ROM's iconic murals in a new publication



“In a grand ceremony...deities are summoned to convene for audience in the Heavenly Court. There, they take up positions according to their rank...and face north, the position where the Three Purities are seated—the highest triad of the Daoist pantheon—and receive the deities in a court audience in their palace in heaven.” —Lennert Gesterkamp in the book *Beyond Clouds and Waves*, co-authored with Ka Bo Tsang and Klaas Ruitenbeek.

He's describing two of the vividly painted ROM murals, created around 1325 CE, located on the east and west walls in the Bishop White Gallery of Chinese Temple Art, representing the Daoist heavenly court. “The Museum's pair of Daoist murals represents the best-preserved monumental Daoist artwork from the early 14th century in the world,” observes Ka Bo, retired curator of Chinese pictorial art, now a Research Associate.

Originating from northern China and acquired by the ROM in 1937, the world-famous paintings have been the primary subject of several international publications dedicated to Daoist art.

Beyond Clouds and Waves brings together new research and stunning photography of the ROM murals in three essays: an art historical and iconographical critique, an essay on the functioning of the murals in Daoist temple rituals, and a study of a Daoist handscroll and its relationship to the murals.

Beyond Clouds and Waves: Daoist Paintings in the Royal Ontario Museum is available at the ROM Store, bookstores, and on-line. Price \$29.95.



Top: *Chaoyuan tu* (Heavenly Court Painting), east mural, 10.2 m x 3.2 m, ROM 933.6.3.

Bottom: Detail of *Yuhuang* (Jade Emperor). Ka Bo describes him as “a powerful deity believed to be in control of all deities in heaven. In the case of humankind, he rewarded the good with peace, prosperity, and longevity; he punished the wicked with disasters and suffering.”



International Archaeology Day

Mark **October 19** in your calendars. Save the day because you will be wanting to join us as we celebrate International Archaeology Day.

Join our celebrations at the ROM and explore archaeology from around the world, through hands-on activities, crafts, ancient objects, and more. Learn about the cool ongoing research projects that are in our pipeline.

Experts from the ROM and other organizations will be on hand to share how archaeologists excavate, the kinds of artifacts they discover, and how the artifacts are then studied in the lab.



Curators Chen Shen (left) and Clemens Reichel (right) chat with visitors at last year's Archaeology Weekend at the ROM.

Climate is Culture

Imagine an exhibition about global climate change created by visual artists, film and theatre makers, writers, musicians, advertising directors, and architects. Now imagine their work being created in collaboration with leading experts on climate change—scientists, economists, new energy technologists, politicians, ecologists, and social scientists.



The result would be *Carbon 14: Climate is Culture*. And there's no need to simply imagine it! This innovative and engaging exhibition by eight climate experts and 25 artistic creators from the U.S., Mexico, and Canada and around-the-world is coming to the ROM in October.

Highlighting how climate change is not just an environmental issue but a cultural one too, *Carbon 14* offers unique perspectives on biodiversity and extinction, sustainability and resiliency, old and new clean technologies, and the roles of art, poetry, politics, economics, and ethics in making the changes needed to save our planet.

In addition to the installation, public programming for the *Carbon 14: Climate is Culture* Exhibition + Festival unfolds at the Museum, on subway platform screens, in theatres, and elsewhere throughout the city. Highlights at the ROM will include an evening with renowned British sculptor Antony Gormley as guest speaker for the ROM's eighth annual *Eva Holtby Lecture for Contemporary Culture*. For more details visit rom.on.ca/carbon14.

Produced by Cape Farewell Foundation in partnership with ROM Contemporary Culture, *Carbon 14: Climate is Culture* exhibition will run from **October 19, 2013** to **February 2, 2014** in the Roloff Beny Gallery (Level 4) and the Thorsell Spirit House (Level 1).