Transforming Understanding of the Human Experience

127 Years of Global Research

Over One Million Objects
300+ Excavation and Research Projects:
Marquee Excavations – Memphis, Egypt
300+ Excavation and Research Projects:
Marquee Excavations – Nippur, Iraq
300+ Excavation and Research Projects:
Marquee Excavations — Tikal, Guatemala
Penn Museum Today:
20 Field Projects Funded by Director’s Field Fund

North America • China • Egypt
France • Georgia • Guatemala
Iraqi Kurdistan • Kenya • Laos
Mexico • Peru • Turkey
Penn Museum Today:
Gordion, Turkey
Student Fieldwork Opportunities:
Gordion, Turkey
Penn Museum
Today:
Abydos, Egypt
Student Fieldwork Opportunities:
Abydos, Egypt
Extraordinary Collections

**HISTORY of the WORLD in 1,000 OBJECTS**

tells the human story from a new perspective—through a wealth of fascinating and beautiful artifacts, from the everyday to those that made history.

**THE HUMAN LEGACY**
Our talent for making things defines us as humans, and the objects that people leave behind provide a window on the world in which they lived, as well as what they valued and believed. Starting well before the earliest written records, this book traces our uniquely resourceful species from its beginnings to the present day, exploring different human cultures and civilizations. By grouping objects from each culture into themes—such as trade, clothing, and ritual—a rounded picture of life at that time emerges, revealing not only what gave each culture its identity but also what it had in common with others. In addition to everyday items, there are objects from pivotal moments in history, such as the United States Constitution and the watch used by Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo.

**CLARITY AND AUTHORITY**
Stunning photographs capture the items in unprecedented detail. The images are complemented by engaging text that not only reveals how each object was made and used but also sets it in the context of historical events and the civilization that created it. Authenticated by staff at the world-famous Smithsonian Institution, *History of the World in 1,000 Objects* is a beautiful and authoritative visual celebration of human ingenuity and achievement.
HISTORY of the WORLD in 1,000 OBJECTS
Foreword

There is something magical about the survival of human-made objects from the past. A piece of jewelry, a cup, a notebook, or a scroll that has, often arbitrarily, survived the general eradication of objects in some degree to bridge the gulf of years that separates us from the world of our ancestors—their inhabitants of ancient Egypt or the Roman Empire, the Aztecs of Mexico or Japanese samurai. A collection of such artifacts can vividly represent a long-line civilization, its daily life, its art and culture, its ways of making war and conducting trade, its rituals and its beliefs.

Many objects have come to us from ancient times through the rituals surrounding death. Our knowledge of the ancient Egyptians, for example, would be much poorer but for their habit of burying personal possessions with the dead. The resultant decoration and furnishing of palaces and places of worship has been another rich source of surviving artifacts. We are also beholden to the desire of people to record the great events of their own time, which has given us Trajan's column in Rome and the Norman Bayeux Tapestry. Some objects were created to celebrate heroes or gods. But the statues of ancient Greece and Rome, some are exquisite craft work, such as Japanese Samurai armor and the gold figures of the West African Asante. Others are famous puzzles, such as the Rosetta Stone, which eventually allowed scholars to decipher Egyptian hieroglyphics.

Objects are particularly important when evoking human memory that have left no written records, such as that of the hunters and farmers of the Neolithic era. But objects are also a rich source of information about the more recent past. Historical documents such as England's Magna Carta and the United States Constitution have remained alive as a basis for current political practice, as well as existing as physical objects preserved for posterity. The Watt steam engine was the rise of practical good sense, skill, and basic science that was to advance the Industrial Revolution, while the Ford Model T transports us back to the early days of modern motorized society.

Collected together in this book, objects from all periods generate a striking impression of the overarching shape of human history and its development from stone tools to space flight. They also take us on a breathtaking journey through the eons of arts and human history.

K. S. Grant
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

The earliest known tools were of stone. Using their cutting edges, wood and other materials could also be made into tools. Over hundreds of thousands of years, tools became more specialized, designed for particular tasks, and the range of materials expanded to include clay, leather, fibers, shell, and, later, metals.

THE FIRST TOOLS

Handaxe
The first stone tools, made around 2.5 million years ago, had one simple cutting edge. Handaxes, from around 1.6 million years ago, were carefully shaped digging, cutting, and general-purpose tools.

Obdian core and blades
Modern humans invented blades, which they used as cutting tools or embossed for other purposes. Many small blades could be struck from a single core.

HUNTING

Clovis point
Elegant points were made by the North American Clovis culture as tips for spears, which were used as projectiles to hunt bison and mammoths. This example was found in a mammoth skeleton.

Barbed harpoon
Fishing, begun by early modern humans, became increasingly important after the last ice age. Fishing gear included wood, bone, and later fishhooks and harpoons, nets, and elaborated fishtraps.

Flint arrowheads
Swords and arrows, to kill prey at a safe distance, were invented in the late Paleolithic. Later times saw many improvements in their efficiency, such as these arrowheads with barbs to embed them more securely in prey.

DIGGING STICK

Digging sticks
Digging sticks were used to dig up tubers and to make holes in tree stumps and bulbs. A stone weight on the stick increased its power of penetration.

EARLY SAW

Egyptian saw
Although some multipurpose tools continued to be made, over time tools for specific purposes proliferated. This example of an early Egyptian saw, made around 3000 BCE, is one such specialized tool.

AXES

Neolithic diorite ax
In the later Stone Age after 10,000 BCE, people developed new techniques, grinding and polishing hard stone to make axes for felling trees and other purposes.

Stone shaft-hole ax
As metal objects spread in 3rd-millennium BCE Europe, communities that did not use metal made fine stone imitations of them, not as tools but as prestigious fashion items.
RAM CAUGHT IN A THICKET

In the 1980s, the British art historian and curator Howard Carter discovered a remarkablecache at Tutankhamun's tomb, dating from around 1350-1300 BCE. The cache contained over 4,000 objects, among them a large and magnificent gold ram's head that had been placed on the pharaoh's chariot. The ram's head is one of the finest examples of ancient Egyptian goldwork, and it is believed to have been created to honor the god Amun-Ra, the chief deity of the Theban triad. The gold used in the ram's head is of a high purity, and the craftsmanship is remarkable, with intricate details and symmetrical designs. The ram's head is a symbol of power and protection, and it is believed to have been placed on Tutankhamun's chariot to ensure his safe passage through the afterlife. The ram's head was uniquely crafted, with a curving neck and a large, curved horn that extends upwards, adding to its majestic appearance. The gold used in the ram's head is of a high purity, and the craftsmanship is remarkable, with intricate details and symmetrical designs. The ram's head is a symbol of power and protection, and it is believed to have been placed on Tutankhamun's chariot to ensure his safe passage through the afterlife.
BATTLESTUDY OF THE MARSEWarrior

VILLANOVAR ARMOR

The term of the Etruscans and neighboring people often included armor and weapons, indicating how these soldiers fought in the third millennium b.c. Weapons were often elaborately fashioned from bronze or iron, but they were treated as valuable as the arms of war. The Marse, who lived in the south of Italy, were known for their iron weapons and armor. The term of the Etruscans and neighboring people often included armor and weapons, indicating how these soldiers fought in the third millennium b.c. Weapons were often elaborately fashioned from bronze or iron, but they were treated as valuable as the arms of war. The Marse, who lived in the south of Italy, were known for their iron weapons and armor.

NARCE TOMBS

Some beautifully crafted objects have been found in the tomb of a warrior's tomb at Narce in central Italy, dating from the third millennium b.c. Along with the iron and gold equipment, the warrior wore a helmet with an iron head and a bronze face mask. The nose was cut off, but it is believed to have belonged to the Etruscans. A famous bronze helmet from the Narce tomb is shown in this text. The helmet is a typical example of Etruscan craftsmanship.

PRETORI ARMOR

The scene depicts the Etruscan and his shield, with iron at the rear and bronze at the front. The shield has a bronze boss and a silver rim. The helmet is a typical example of Etruscan craftsmanship.

MINIATURE ARMOR

The scene depicts the Etruscan and his shield, with iron at the rear and bronze at the front. The shield has a bronze boss and a silver rim. The helmet is a typical example of Etruscan craftsmanship.

ENLISTED MAN

The scene depicts the Etruscan and his shield, with iron at the rear and bronze at the front. The shield has a bronze boss and a silver rim. The helmet is a typical example of Etruscan craftsmanship.

ARMOR

The scene depicts the Etruscan and his shield, with iron at the rear and bronze at the front. The shield has a bronze boss and a silver rim. The helmet is a typical example of Etruscan craftsmanship.

Etruscan World

A section of the Etruscan World exhibit is shown in the image. The exhibit features a variety of Etruscan artifacts and includes interactive displays and informational posters. The exhibit provides an overview of Etruscan culture and history, and it is a popular destination for visitors interested in ancient history.

Exhibit Information

- Title: Etruscan World
- Location: Museum of Italian Art
- Hours: Monday to Saturday 10 AM to 5 PM, Sunday 1 PM to 5 PM
- Admission: Free for members, $5 for non-members
Lakota Sioux war bonnet

Visors of the Sioux tribes of the Great Plains were eagle-feather bonnets. The feathers represented brave deeds performed by the man who wore the bonnet or the people he led. The Lakota Sioux were among the tribes that defeated General George Custer and the US 7th Cavalry at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876.

- Headress made of 12 eagle feathers, finished with red down
- Tufts made of horsehair, attached to feathers with white clay
- Tail made of 25 eagle feathers

Forehead band

The blue and white glass beads used to make this band were obtained from European traders. The red woolen cloth is called “Shoshone” after its original place of manufacture in Gloucestershire, England.

- Ribbons and horsehair fringe
- Red woolen shroud cloth
- Each feather records a brave deed in battle
Object-based Learning:
In the Galleries
Object-based Learning:
Collections Storage
Object-based Learning:
Collections Study Room
Object-based Learning:
Collections Study Room
Object-based Learning:
CAAM Classroom
Object Analysis:
CAAM “Pottery and Archaeology” Course
Object Analysis:
CAAM “Food and Fire” Freshman Seminar
Object Analysis:

CAAM “Food and Fire” Freshman Seminar
Object Analysis:
CAAM “Food and Fire” Freshman Seminar
Penn Museum
Today:
Visitor Programs
Press Announcement:

Tuesday, October 21
Penn Museum Engaging Locally

Touch Tours for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Exhibitions – *Beneath the Surface*
Exhibitions – *Corn: From Ancient Crop to Soda Pop*

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2016 Exhibition:
The Golden Age of King Midas

February 13-November 27, 2016
Second Floor Special Exhibition Galleries
King Midas existed, but his real treasure was not gold. Instead of being remembered for the “golden touch” and other legends, he should be known for his impressive kingdom, Phrygia (now central Turkey), and legacy as ruler of a people who achieved excellence in engineering, architecture, bronze and pottery making, and influenced the ancient world around them.
The Golden Age of King Midas

Showcasing the Museum’s longstanding excavation, education, and site conservation work at Gordion
The Golden Age of King Midas

Through a special agreement with the Republic of Turkey, more than 100 objects loaned from four museums in Turkey, including the majority of materials unearthed in Tumulus MM, the burial tomb of Midas’s father, from the Gordion Museum and the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, Ankara.
Creating New Galleries
Creating New Galleries

**West Wing Second Floor Galleries**
Near East Galleries – **Opening fall 2017**

**Transition Galleries**
Crossroads of Cultures – Main Entrance Area – **Opening fall 2018**
Writing Gallery – Third Floor – **Opening fall 2018**

**Harrison Wing Rotunda**
Asian Collections with a focus on Buddhism, mostly Chinese collections but also incorporating Japanese and Indian material – **Opening fall 2020**

**Coxe (Egyptian) Wing**
Lower Floor – the Realm of the Afterlife – **Opening fall 2018**
*New Mummy Gallery; Tomb Chapel of Kaipure*
Upper Floor - The Realm of Gods and Kings – **Opening fall 2020**
*Dramatic installation of the throne room from the Palace of Pharaoh Merenptah; Nubia Gallery.*
The Ancient Near East Galleries tell the story of how people developed essential aspects of our modern way of life
Penn Museum Near East Galleries

Collections from Marquee Excavations

Nippur, Iraq 1889-1900
First American excavations in Mesopotamia
Beth Shean, Israel 1921-1933
Ur, Iraq 1922-1934
Hasanlu, Iran 1956-1977

Ongoing Excavation and Research

Gordion, Turkey
Iraqi Kurdistan
Azerbaijan
Iran
Penn Museum Near East Galleries

Timeline

Curatorial concept
November 2014 – November 2015

Design
December 2015 – November 2016

Production/Installation
December 2016 – August 2017

Opening
September 2017