

# PENN MUSEUM'S GREATEST HITS

## 1 SPHINX | 1279-1204 BCE

EGYPT (SPHINX) GALLERY

The sphinx of the pharaoh Ramesses the Great weighs more than eight cars and is more than three thousand years old. The inscriptions on the chest and around the base give the five names of Ramesses II. At one time, this sphinx sat outside of the Museum, even in snowstorms!

When it was brought inside, the room in which you are currently standing had to be built around it.

From the front of the sphinx, turn left and follow the sign to the Egypt (Mummies) Gallery on the 3rd floor.

## 2 PUM II & HAPI-MEN | 3RD CENTURY BCE

EGYPT (MUMMIES) GALLERY



Before radiology, archaeologists unwrapped mummies to get a better look inside. The perfect rectangular cut on PUM's skull is no accident. Researchers checked to see if the embalmers removed PUM's brain, a routine step in the mummification process. Affirmative! Researchers used less invasive x-ray techniques to see inside the wrappings of Hapi-Men. And that mini-mummy? That's Hapi-Men's best friend, his dog!

Exit Mummies Gallery and turn right into the China Gallery.

## 3 CRYSTAL SPHERE | 19TH CENTURY

CHINA GALLERY

This crystal ball originally belonged to the last Dowager Empress of China, Cixi (Shi Shi), and, more recently, Wanamaker's. No one really knows how it got from an imperial palace in the Forbidden City to a department store in downtown Philly, but that's where Museum benefactor Eldridge Johnson spotted it in 1927. Johnson wrote a letter to Dr. Gordon, Director of the Penn Museum, saying that Wanamaker's would sell the ball for \$50,000; but Gordon tripped up a marble step, fractured his skull, and died before he could respond. In Gordon's honor, Johnson purchased and donated the sphere to the Museum.



## 4 EMPEROR TAIZONG'S HORSE RELIEFS | 636-649CE

CHINA GALLERY

Meet Autumn Dew (left) and Curly (right), two of Emperor Taizong's favorite horses. The Emperor had six of these massive reliefs made to decorate his tomb. He composed a poem for each one of them. The Tang horses are some of the most famous artifacts in Chinese culture.



Exit through the Japan Gallery; then turn left and enter Iraq's Ancient Past.

## 5 QUEEN PUABI'S HEADDRESS | 2600-2450 BCE

IRAQ'S ANCIENT PAST



Talk about bling! The Headdress of Lady Puabi, an ancient Babylonian queen, consists of 24 feet of gold ribbon and over 1,600 individual beads. It takes Penn Museum staff six hours to install, and when they are finished, Lady P is definitely ready for her close-up.

Exit Iraq's Ancient Past and head over to the Canaan and Israel Gallery straight ahead.

## 6 SARCOPHAGUS | 1200-1150 BCE

CANAAN AND ISRAEL GALLERY



This anthropoid or human-shaped coffin was excavated from Beth Shean — an ancient city in modern Israel and a crossroads of the ancient world for nearly 5,000 years. The archaeological site on which the coffin was unearthed was found beneath 18 levels of cities! And don't be fooled by that lone face... several people would have been buried within!

Exit Canaan and Israel Gallery and continue into the Rome Gallery straight ahead.

## 7 TWO FACES OF IMPERIAL POWER | 102 CE

ROME GALLERY



Walk around the other side of this artifact called the Puteoli Marble Block. It used to contain an over-the-top inscription honoring the Emperor Domitian describing him as being an all-around fabulous ruler. In reality, he was a despot — assassinated with a dagger while reading in his room. After his death, all traces of Domitian's rule were removed and his memory condemned. But, why waste a good piece of marble? The reverse side was carved into a relief honoring Emperor Trajan, a truly great ruler.

Exit into the Etruscan Italy Gallery. Walk three-fourths of the way down the Etruscan Italy Gallery.

## 8 THE NARCE WARRIOR | 8TH CENTURY BCE

ETRUSCAN ITALY GALLERY

This is the breastplate and helmet of an Etruscan warrior charioteer. We know this because the plate is made of only a single sheet of bronze, sufficient if you're up high in a chariot, not so good if you were engaged in the hand-to-hand combat favored by the Etruscans. This chieftain was buried with the bits that he used with the horses that drove his chariot. The tomb goods in the glass case to your right (19M) belonged to this fellow's wife.



Exit gallery to the right. Take the elevator or stairs to the second floor. Walk across the hall to the Africa Gallery and go to the back of the room.

## 9 NAIL FIGURES | 19TH CENTURY

AFRICA GALLERY



Have a problem? Then you'll need a nail. The Kongo Tribe used wooden statues like these nail figures to ask the spiritual forces for help, but just one nail or blade per request, please! Once a tribesperson's problem was solved, the nail would be removed. Which one of these figures do you think was most the successful?

Exit Africa Gallery and make a right. Mexico and Central America Gallery is straight ahead.

## 10 STELA 14 | 758 CE

MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA GALLERY



Meet Black House Great Turtle, Ruler 5 (center), his mother (bottom left) and the unlucky victim (right side) of human sacrifice. This Maya stela number 14 tells the story of Great Turtle's ascension to the throne. Archaeologists believe that it's so well preserved because it fell face-down in about 758 CE and stayed that way until its excavation more than 1,000 years later.