



THE Pteranodon

Highlights from the
Sternberg Museum of Natural History

No. 33

Summer 2006

Largest to Smallest, Summer Exhibitions Varied and Fun

If you are fascinated by extremes, you will be fully captivated by the changing exhibition lineup for Summer 2006! The subjects range in size from huge as an elephant to microscopically minute.

The blockbuster exhibition *Elephants!* opens Saturday, May 27 (less than two weeks after the museum's long-running and highly popular exhibition *John Cody's Moths* closes on May 14).

Two weeks later, on June 10, the opening of another traveling exhibition, *Ancient Microworlds*, will bring focus to the



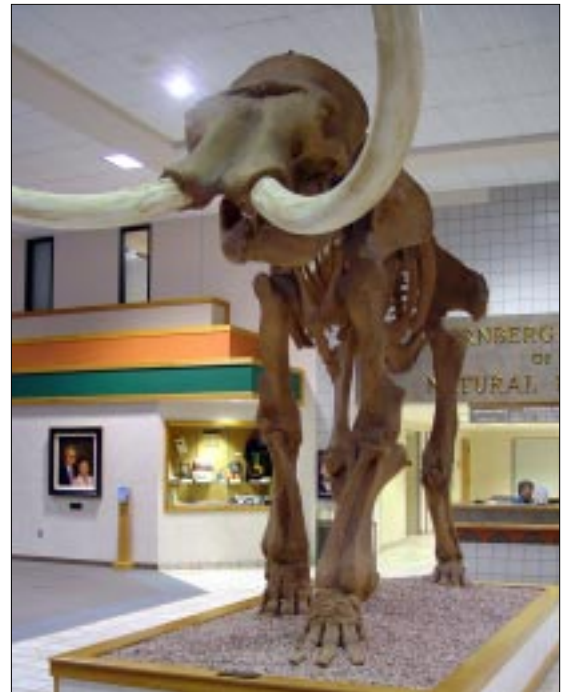
A museum volunteer works to free a tusk during the excavation of a mammoth discovered near Pratt, Kans. in 2000. The tusk has been partially covered in a protective plaster jacket.

aesthetic aspects of the natural world at a microscopic level. The microworld is as artfully beautiful as it is scientifically engaging.

The next day, June 11, will be the closing day of the exhibition *On Velvet Wings: The Silkmoth Photography of Kirby Wolfe*. Through his camera lens, Wolfe's quarter-century of careful observation and study of these startlingly beautiful creatures comes into precise focus.

June 24 will bring the final opening of the season as the Sternberg Museum unveils *Gorilla Art: Creative Works by Koko and Friends*. Koko is the famous 33 year-old lowland gorilla who learned to speak American Sign Language when she was just a baby. She understands spoken English and "talks" with a large vocabulary of signs.

Koko also communicates through artistic expression. She and her primate friends living at the Gorilla Foundation paint both representational images of their surroundings and colorful interpretations of their emotions. They title their own works, verifying the intent and significance of their art.



The Sternberg Museum's skeletal mount model of a mammoth, which wows visitors as they step into the building, is a daily reminder that elephants once roamed wild in Kansas.

Ancient Microworlds closes on Aug. 27; the final day for *Elephants!* is Sept. 3; and *Gorilla Art* runs through Nov. 5. We are excited to offer these opportunities. Let us share them with you!



Greg Walters, Exhibits Director, and Scott Moses, Exhibits Preparator, begin placing a new design on the Interstate 70 billboard on the museum's north side. With sides visible to both eastbound and westbound traffic, the sign uses a graphic that easily identifies the museum's domed building and directs travelers from either direction toward the museum.

To make butterfly houses

Round ice cream containers sought for project

If you can help to supply any of the following items, please drop them off at the admissions desk or call Thea at (785) 628-5517 or Cami at (785) 628-5502. Thank you for considering these needs!

Narrow men's neckties: any fabric, color, pattern (any decade!)

Ice cream containers: 1 quart cardboard cylinder with lid (minimum 4.5" diameter); about 20 by June and another 20 by August

Fruits and vegetables (including excess garden produce, items that are still have useable areas but would generally be considered unfit for humans are acceptable)



Washcloths, dishtowels, larger towels for use as cleaning cloths (holes, worn spots, and frayed edges are no problem)

Small animal supplies such as water bowls, aquariums, lids

Clear plastic peanut butter jars

Choate's Notes



Dr. J. R. Choate
Director

"There is *never* anything new to see or do at the Sternberg Museum." I have heard persons say this, and I can only assume that they were confusing the Sternberg Museum with someplace else or had visited the museum once and never returned. The fact that there is *always* something new to see or do is a source of pride for the Sternberg Museum staff. This issue of *The Pteranodon* demonstrates the diversity of exhibits and educational programs at the Sternberg Museum in just one summer.

The exhibits and educational programs scheduled for this summer should have broad appeal. Those who are enthralled with *John Cody's Moths* likewise will love *On Velvet Wings*. This should include persons with interests in biology, photography, art, or just beauty in general. *Elephants!* will appeal to children of all ages, persons interested in biology or paleontology, and everyone else who has watched elephants at zoos. *Ancient Microworlds* marries paleontology with photography to produce art that is as scientifically intriguing as it is beautiful. Finally, *Gorilla Art* will challenge the preconceived notions of persons who doubt our relationship with primate neighbors while enchanting those who love representational media. The summer's educational programs are equally diverse and impressive.

If you have the opportunity to do so, tell a friend about the educational and cultural opportunities that exist in Hays at the Sternberg Museum. With your help, we can convince others that "There is *always* something new to see or do."



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MUSEUM EVENTS

www.SternbergMuseum.com



May

27 Elephants! exhibition opens; continues through September 3

June



5 REGISTRATION DEADLINE for Swallowtail Butterflies Kids' Class; for youth through 5th grade; see pages 4 & 5 for details

10 Ancient Microworlds exhibition opens; continues through August 27

11 On Velvet Wings: The Silkmoth Photography of Kirby Wolfe exhibition final day

14 REGISTRATION DEADLINE for What's Bugging You!? 4-H & Museum Youth Activity; for all children ages 7-10; register with Hays Recreation Commission (785) 623-2650; see June 20 entry for details

19 REGISTRATION DEADLINE for Elephants! Mammoths! Kids' Class; for youth through 5th grade; see pages 4 & 5 for details

20 What's Bugging You!? 4-H & Museum Youth Activity; pre-registered children ages 7 - 10 (deadline June 14), \$4.00; 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Sternberg Classroom; Discover all the fun in insects, indoors and out

21, 22 Swallowtail Butterflies Kids' Class & repeat; for pre-registered youth through 5th grade; see pages 4 & 5 for details

24 Gorilla Art: Creative Works by Koko and Friends exhibition opens; continues through November 5

23 New Horizons: The Exploration of Pluto, by Paul Adams; general public \$1.00, members free; 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM, Engel Education Center

26 REGISTRATION DEADLINE for Animal Babies Kids' Class; for youth through 5th grade; see pages 4 & 5 for details

28 REGISTRATION DEADLINE for Castle Rock Adventure! 4-H & Museum Youth Activity; for all children ages 7-10 with their families; register at Hays Recreation Commission (785) 623-2650; see July 8 entry for details

30 Discover the Really Wild West; general public event celebrating Hays' Wild West Festival; 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Sternberg Discovery Room; see description at July 1 entry immediately below

July

1, 2, & 4 Discover the Really Wild West; general public event celebrating Hays' Wild West Festival; 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Sternberg Discovery Room; with your regular admission to the Sternberg Museum, have the opportunity to be up-close and personal with a native Kansas non-venomous snake handled by a Discovery Room facilitator.

3 REGISTRATION DEADLINE for Rock Collection Kids' Class; for youth through 5th grade; see pages 4 & 5 for details

5, 6 Elephants! Mammoths! Kids' Class & repeat; for pre-registered youth through 5th grade; see pages 4 & 5 for details

8 Castle Rock Adventure! 4-H & Museum Youth Activity; for all children ages 7 - 10 with their families, \$6.00 (register with Hays Recreation Commission (785) - 623-2650); 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM, begin at Sternberg Classroom; then each family provides its own transportation and the group goes out to explore at Castle Rock!

10 REGISTRATION DEADLINE for both Monarchs Kids' Class and for So Many Snakes Kids' Class; for youth through 5th grade; see pages 4 & 5 for details

12, 13 Animal Babies Kids' Class & repeat; for pre-registered youth through 5th grade; see pages 4 & 5 for details

17 REGISTRATION DEADLINE for Footprints Kids' Class; for youth through 5th grade; see pages 4 & 5 for details

18-22 Discovery Table at the Ellis County Fair; for learners of all ages, no charge; 5:30 PM - 10:00 PM, Gold Building; join us in the air-conditioned Gold Building for a different topic every evening during the week of the Ellis County Fair!

19, 20 Rock Collection Kids' Class & repeat; for pre-registered youth through 5th grade; see pages 4 & 5 for details

24 REGISTRATION DEADLINE for Backyard Bugs Kids' Class; for youth through 5th grade; see pages 4 & 5 for details

26, 27 So Many Snakes Kids' Class & repeat; for pre-registered youth through 5th grade; see pages 4 & 5 for details

August



2, 3 Footprints Kids' Class; for pre-registered youth through 5th grade (deadline July 17); meet in lobby, go as group to classroom

9, 10 Backyard Bugs Kids' Class; for pre-registered youth through 5th grade (deadline July 24); meet in lobby, go as group to classroom

SUMMER FUN FOR STERNBERG KIDS

SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLIES KIDS' CLASS

DATES: Wednesday, June 21st, 2:00-3:00 PM & Thursday, June 22nd, 1:00-2:00 PM

FEE: Public \$8.50; Members \$6.50

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 5

MUSEUM EDUCATOR: Thea Haugen

A butterfly with tails... and a tale! Coloring pages, stories, and a caterpillar home to keep—complete with a parsley plant and a caterpillar to eat it! (In case Mother Nature does not cooperate, we reserve the right to substitute similar activities and materials.)

ELEPHANTS! MAMMOTHS! KIDS' CLASS

DATES: Wednesday, July 5th, 4:00-5:00 PM & Thursday, July 6th, 1:00-2:00 PM

FEE: Public \$6.50; Members \$4.50

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 19

MUSEUM EDUCATOR: Cami Liggett

In correlation with the traveling exhibition "Elephants!" (May 27 – Sept. 3) we offer activities, touchable specimens (including fossil elephant parts), and information that will enhance a family visit to this superb exhibit. Plan your family visit for the same day or for a day before or after the class—either way, you will enjoy it just that much more.

ANIMAL BABIES KIDS' CLASS

DATES: Wednesday, July 12th, 2:00-3:00 PM & Thursday, July 13th, 1:00-2:00 PM

FEE: Public \$8.50; Members \$6.50

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: June 26

MUSEUM EDUCATOR: Thea Haugen

What could be more appealing than a baby? Nothing that we know of! And the Discovery Room always has a variety of babies around. Come to this class and let us show off our newborns as you discover these wild youngsters.

ROCK COLLECTIONS KIDS' CLASS

DATES: Wednesday, July 19th, 4:00-5:00 PM & Thursday, July 20th, 1:00-2:00 PM

FEE: Public \$8.50; Members \$6.50

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: July 3

MUSEUM EDUCATOR: Cami Liggett

What rocks do you like best? Most kids like to collect rocks, and most kids have questions to ask and stories to share about their rocks. Enroll in this class for the opportunity to share your love of rocks with other kids who feel the same way. If you have your own rock collection and you'd like to tell about it, please bring it along. If you have a rock that gives you big questions, bring it along and we'll see if we can find out the answers. Cami also has some rocks she would like to give you to add to your collection—or to start your collection if you don't have one already!

SO MANY SNAKES KIDS' CLASS

DATES: Wednesday, July 26th, 2:00-3:00 PM & Thursday, July 27th, 1:00-2:00 PM

FEE: Public \$8.50; Members \$6.50

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: July 10

MUSEUM EDUCATOR: Thea Haugen

Snake games, snake crafts, live snakes to see—who knew that something without legs could be so much fun? Join us as we explore the world of these critters that move along on their bellies.

FOOTPRINTS KIDS' CLASS

DATES: Wednesday, August 2nd, 4:00-5:00 PM & Thursday, August 3rd, 1:00-2:00 PM

FEE: Public \$10.50; Members \$8.50

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: July 17

MUSEUM EDUCATOR: Cami Liggett

How much can you tell from a footprint? This is like CSI, only there isn't a crime! Make a plaster cast of a footprint that you can take home, compare the footprints of different animals, and think about your own footprint.

BACKYARD BUGS KIDS' CLASS

DATES: Wednesday, August 9th, 2:00-3:00 PM & Thursday, August 10th, 1:00-2:00 PM

FEE: Public \$6.50; Members \$4.50

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: July 24

MUSEUM EDUCATOR: Thea Haugen

What kinds of Minibeasts live in your backyard? The museum's backyard is FULL of interesting critters. We'll bring some into the classroom and observe them while we also do some fun activities and crafts about these tiny animals that are all around us.



Steatoda triangulosa is a cobweb spider common in the local "backyard fauna." It is notable because its prey preference is the venomous brown recluse spider.

MY OWN MONARCH KIDS' CLASS

DATES: Wednesday, August 16th, 2:00-3:00 PM & Thursday, August 17th, 1:00-2:00 PM

FEE: Public \$10.50; Members \$8.50

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: July 10

MUSEUM EDUCATOR: Thea Haugen

Did you know that monarch butterflies migrate south in the winter? Discover all about monarchs when you come to this class. You'll go home with your own monarch caterpillar in a butterfly habitat cage. (In case Mother Nature does not cooperate, we reserve the right to substitute similar activities and materials.)

SUMMER CLASS REGISTRATION



GENERAL INFORMATION for SUMMER CLASSES:

All classes will accommodate children through 5th grade. Children of an age up to and including those entering 1st grade *must* be accompanied by a responsible adult who stays with them during the class. Very young children may accompany the adult, but will be included in class activities only if they are registered. We chose this structure to make it as easy as possible for families to participate in our summer classes.

The minimum class size is 4 students; the maximum is 10. The same class is held twice each week. Maximum class size is not negotiable because classes are repeated. If any class does not have at least 4 children enrolled by the registration deadline, the class will be cancelled and any families who are enrolled will be notified and their registration fee returned.

Enrollees will assemble with an Education Division representative in the lobby before class and then move to the classroom (Engel Education Center or the Expeditions Room) as a group. All classes are 1 hour long. An Education Division representative will escort older children attending without an adult back to the lobby after class is finished, and stay with them until all have been released to adults.

Questions? M-F 9 am - 5 pm call toll-free call 1-877-3321165 and select "0" for the main office; or Hays area call 628-5516

Please clip and return with payment to Sternberg Museum of Natural History, 3000 Sternberg Dr., Hays, KS 67601-2006



Child #1: _____ Parent or Guardian: _____
 Day _____ Evening _____
 Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Child #2: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Child #3: _____ Mailing Address: _____

Membership # (if receiving member prices): _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Wednesday Classes

Thursday Classes

Family Totals

	Which children?				Which children?			Public	Members
	#1	#2	#3		#1	#2	#3		
Swallowtails June 21 2:00-3:00	_____	_____	_____	Swallowtails June 22 1:00-2:00	_____	_____	_____	@ \$8.50	OR \$6.50 = \$ _____
Elephants/Mammoths! July 5 4:00-5:00	_____	_____	_____	Elephants/Mammoths! July 6 1:00-2:00	_____	_____	_____	@ \$6.50	OR \$4.50 = \$ _____
Animal Babies July 12 2:00-3:00	_____	_____	_____	Animal Babies July 13 1:00-2:00	_____	_____	_____	@ \$6.50	OR \$4.50 = \$ _____
Rock Collections July 19 4:00-5:00	_____	_____	_____	Rock Collections July 20 1:00-2:00	_____	_____	_____	@ \$8.50	OR \$6.50 = \$ _____
So Many Snakes July 26 2:00-3:00	_____	_____	_____	So Many Snakes July 27 1:00-2:00	_____	_____	_____	@ \$6.50	OR \$4.50 = \$ _____
Footprints Aug. 2 4:00-5:00	_____	_____	_____	Footprints Aug. 3 1:00-2:00	_____	_____	_____	@ \$10.50	OR \$8.50 = \$ _____
Backyard Bugs Aug. 9 2:00-3:00	_____	_____	_____	Backyard Bugs Aug. 10 1:00-2:00	_____	_____	_____	@ \$6.50	OR \$4.50 = \$ _____
Monarchs Aug. 16 2:00-3:00	_____	_____	_____	Monarchs Aug. 17 1:00-2:00	_____	_____	_____	@ \$10.50	OR \$8.50 = \$ _____

Check payable to *Sternberg Museum Summer Classes* Total \$ _____ enclosed

Volunteer Venues

Our volunteers' opportunities for involvement, social activities, and lifelong learning!

✓ What's your choice?

June

11 Welcome Party for 8th Grade Girls' Math and Science Campers:

Twenty-four girls entering 8th grade have been selected to attend the new annual FHSU Girls' Math and Science Camp, which kicks off with a welcome dinner and activities at the Sternberg Museum; Cami seeks an individual (male or female) who enjoys being with middle school girls and would like to make them feel welcome at the museum by serving in a general hospitality role from approximately 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, including supervising the buffet line.

16 Closing Luncheon for 8th Grade Girls' Math and Science Camp families:

The same camp described above closes with a family luncheon at which the girls give brief presentations that recap their learning during camp week; please contact Cami if you are interested in welcoming the girls' families and overseeing the buffet line.

19 Inservice Training for Summer Exhibitions:

From 10:00 AM to noon, Cami will offer an orientation and introduction to the *Elephants!* and *Ancient Microworlds* exhibitions, including information specific to western Kansas not contained in the exhibit text. We will start off in the museum classroom but also go out into the exhibit galleries. No registration; just be there!

21, 22 *Swallowtail Butterflies* Kids' Class:

Please contact Thea if you would enjoy helping during this children's class that she is teaching in June. See descriptions and exact schedule on page 4. This involves helping with young children up through 5th graders.

30 Discovering the Really Wild West:

Please see the July 1 entry immediately below.

July

1, 2, 4 Discovering the Really Wild West:

In this special afternoon (1:00 PM - 3:00 PM) event, planned annually to coincide with the Wild West Festival in Hays, museum visitors (members and the admission-paying general public) have the opportunity to discover Kansas' native snakes on a personal basis, with the freedom to touch live snakes handled by trained museum personnel. Thea would appreciate assistance during each afternoon session from an adult who is comfortable and adept with the snakes.

5, 6; 19, 20 *Elephants! Mammoths!* Kids' Class; *Rock Collection* Kids' Class:

Please contact Cami if you would enjoy helping during any of these children's classes that she is teaching in July. See descriptions and exact schedule on page 4. This involves helping with young children up through 5th graders.

12, 13; 26, 27 *Animal Babies* Kids' Class; *So Many Snakes* Kids' Class:

Please contact Thea if you would enjoy helping during any of these children's classes that she is teaching in July. See descriptions and exact schedule on page 4. This involves helping with young children up through 5th graders.

18-22 *Discovery Table* at the Ellis County Fair:

Located in the air-conditioned Gold Building and open from 5:30 PM to 10:00 PM, the museum's *Discovery Table* features a different set of specimens every night, ranging from rocks to mammal furs. These objects are great conversation starters, and there are generally lots of opportunities to chat with fairgoers. No expertise required; we provide information about the specimens.

Parking is available close to the building. A shift could be defined as the volunteer wishes, possibly two hours or even one, in the middle of the evening. Please contact Cami for this opportunity.

Contact:

Cami Liggett
(785) 628-5502
cliggett@fhsu.edu

Thea Haugen
(785) 628-5512
thaugen@fhsu.edu

These are the opportunities that have been brought up as of press time. To inquire about additional or new opportunities, contact

Mark Kellerman
(785) 628-5298
mkellerm@fhsu.edu

August

2, 3 *Footprints* Kids' Class:

Please contact Cami if you would enjoy helping during this children's classes that she is teaching during August. Descriptions and exact schedule are on page 4. This involves helping with young children up through 5th graders.

9, 10; 16, 17 *Backyard Bugs* Kids' Class; *Monarchs* Kids' Class:

Please contact Thea if you would enjoy helping during any of these children's classes that she is teaching during August. Descriptions and exact schedule are on page 4. This involves

helping with young children up through 5th graders.

31 New Docent Training: It's said that the best way to learn is to teach others, and this opportunity for lifelong learning certainly fits the bill. August 31 is the first of ten parts in the training series. Gain a deeper understanding of the exhibit gallery contents and learn about education strategies. This series is for new docents only. It may be cancelled if a minimum enrollement number is not reached. Participants *must interview with Cami by August 25 in order to participate.*

Variety and fun in your summer

Changing Exhibitions: Current & Upcoming

John Cody's Moths; continuing through May 14, 2006

Exquisite watercolors by "The Audubon of Moths" and interactive exhibits capture the beauty and biology of Cody's life-long passion.

On Velvet Wings: The Silkmoth Photography of Kirby Wolfe; continuing through June 11, 2006

Stunning photographs reveal the startling beauty of these wondrous creatures.

Elephants!; May 22 through Sept. 3, 2006

This summer exhibit is really BIG! Explore the 50-million-year natural history of elephants, from their fossil record to their world today.

Ancient Mircoworlds; June 10 through Aug. 27, 2006

Paleontology is married with photography to attain an intriguing exploration of past life. This is an ancient world as artfully beautiful as it is scientifically engaging.

Gorilla Art: Creative Works by Koko and Friends; June 24 through Nov. 5, 2006

Koko is the famous lowland gorilla who understands spoken English and "talks" with a vocabulary of more than 1000 signs. She also communicates through artistic expression, and her works are a fascinating and profound bridge between species.

"John Cody's Moths" available at the Sternberg Store

Special Edition individual Note Card <i>Full-color card and envelope, choice of 3 images</i>	\$ 1.50	"The Audubon of Moths" Posters <i>24" x 36" full color printed on heavy poster stock</i>	\$25.00
Collectors' Signed Note Cards <i>Signed special edition note card, biography, folio</i>	\$10.00	"Wings of Paradise" by John Cody <i>Full-color "coffee table book," 72 illustrations</i>	\$70.00
Tee shirts and Sweatshirts <i>Featuring "Royal Walnut Moth"</i>	prices vary	Special Edition Boxed Note Cards <i>Three design collections of twelve cards each</i>	\$16.00

STERNBERG MUSEUM ASSOCIATES

Enclosed is my check payable to *Sternberg Museum of Natural History* -OR- please charge to my:

VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

Acct. # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____



Membership Categories

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$100-\$249 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Curator's Club \$250-\$499 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Couple \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Director's Club \$500-\$999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Member \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$55 | |

Please send information about including the museum in my estate plans.

Name _____ Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____ Home Phone _____ Daytime Phone _____

Mail to: Sternberg Museum of Natural History, 3000 Sternberg Drive, Hays, KS 67601-2006
Charge by phone (toll-free call): (877) 332-1165

No. 33



**FORT HAYS STATE
UNIVERSITY**

STERNBERG MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
600 PARK STREET
HAYS, KS 67601-4099



NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HAYS, KS
PERMIT NO. 4

Admission Prices
\$6 adults (ages 13 - 59)
\$4 seniors (age 60+)
\$4 youth (ages 4 - 12)
\$3 FHSU students with valid ID card

Museum Hours
Tues. - Sat.: 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Sun.: 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Mon.: Closed
Discovery Room closes at 6:00 PM.

*in Hunting Dinosaurs in the Badlands of
the Red Deer River, Alberta, Canada*

— **Charles Sternberg** —

As my readers will bear witness, in the past, I have seen my choicest treasures for forty years leave my hands forever, to add to the glories of museums I shall in all probability never see.

