Written in Stone
The Treasures of Eden and the Rosetta Stone
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These rare original relics have survived from the very dawning of civilization. From ancient Sumer to the Holy Land, the eternally compelling mystery of the sudden appearance and rapid progression of urban life is traced through pottery, cylinder seals, cuneiform tablets, bronze and marble sculpture, currency, and weaponry from its distant origins in early Mesopotamia to Canaan, Egypt, Phoenicia, Greece, Palestine, Israel, and Rome. Recovered from the same period and region as the treasures of the Baghdad Museum, this breathtaking timeline of authentic artifacts includes some of the oldest idols and sacred representations of deities ever found. This magnificent collection features a rare cast of the famous Rosetta Stone and a replica of the mysterious Phaestos Disc.

A minimum of 2500 square feet is required. Negotiable fee (with deposit), plus round-trip shipping and insurance. 3 to 6 month venues. High security. Contact Marty Martin, Curator, Origins Museum Institute, 8001 Tonto Place, El Paso, Texas 79904. Phone: 915-755-2830. Email: originsmuseuminstitute@gmail.com.
Architects of the world’s first high civilization a thousand years before the Egyptians, the Sumerian people possessed an irrepressibly creative intellect which led to the conversion of the arid, unproductive plains of prehistoric Sumer (located in southern Iraq) into a rich and fertile kingdom whose culture placed great value on individuals and their achievements. In addition to the invention of soil irrigation, the wheel, the plow, sailboats, the casting of metals, brick making, and the creation of the first fine sculptures in stone, the Sumerians produced the first system of writing. Originally employed to record business dealings on clay tablets and seals, the written word quickly facilitated the spreading of ideas.

Founded as a religious center in the land of Elam during the late 5th Millennium B.C., the city-state of Susa (located in southwestern Iran) arose near the eastern border of Sumer, whose urban culture was a distinct influence upon the Elamites.

Descendants of the early Canaanites along the coast of Lebanon and the conquering Sea People who arrived around 1200 B.C., the Phoenicians developed a flourishing sea trade that extended as far as Spain and north Africa owing to their rich heritage of maritime traditions and forests of highly-prized cedar wood. Skilled artisans at glass making, terracotta pottery, and the production of rare purple dye, the Phoenicians were invaded by the Babylonians in 573 B.C. Their culture was later absorbed into the Hellenistic empire with the arrival in 332 B.C. of the conqueror Alexander the Great, who also established the Ptolemaic dynasty in Egypt, which fell under the rule of Imperial Rome during the reign of Cleopatra VII. The Phoenicians’ alphabet of 22 consonants was the foundation for the European and Sinaic (Egyptian, Arabic, and Hebrew) scripts.
After 2000 years a forgotten ancient language comes to life again

The Rosetta Stone
The Rosetta Stone. Among the most significant finds in the history of archaeology, this stele (an inscribed stone tablet) was discovered in 1799 by Napoleon's expedition at Rosetta (or el-Rashid), Egypt, located along the Nile delta near Alexandria, where soldiers repairing the Fort of St. Julien found it built into a wall that they were demolishing. It was excavated by Pierre François Xavier Bouchard. Regarded as black basalt for many years, it is now known to be pink granodiorite, stained black by the ink from the original rubbings ordered by Napoleon. Inscribed in 2 languages and 3 scripts, the tablet bore a decree issued by Ptolemy V Epiphanes during the 9th year of his reign, commemorating his accession to the throne in 196 B.C. Apparently written by the priests of Memphis, it also lists a number of benefits conferred upon the priesthood. The Egyptian texts, written in demotic for the common people and in hieroglyphs for the priests, were both translations of the Greek inscription.

Apparently executed phonetically, the first word to be recognized and translated from hieroglyphs (a pictorial system of writing) was the name of Ptolemy, or Ptolemaios. Royal names were enclosed within ovals, or cartouches, while the direction faced by bird and animal signs indicated the starting point and the direction in which the text was to be read. Because of its corresponding inscriptions, the Rosetta Stone, with its serpents, birds, and staring eyes, was an invaluable key to the deciphering of the mysterious ancient Egyptian script by 19th Century scholars Thomas Young and J.F. Champollion. Except during the bombing of London in 1917 at which time it was relocated to a Postal Tube Railway station at Holburn some 50 feet below the ground, the Rosetta Stone has been on display at the British Museum in London since 1802. Cast of the original housed at the British Museum.

Jean François Champollion (1790-1832). Shrouded in mystery for nearly 1500 years, Egyptian hieroglyphs were a lost form of writing until the discovery of the Rosetta stone and the subsequent unlocking of its secrets in 1822 by the brilliant French scholar and linguist Champollion, who began his 14 years of working on the decipherment of its strange inscriptions in 1808 at the youthful age of 18. He recognized that the last surviving representation of the ancient pharaonic language was the much later Egyptian Coptic script, that hieroglyphs were a combination of ideograms and phonetic script, representing both actual objects and sounds, and that cartouches (a knotted loop encircling a series of hieroglyphs in the manner of a
Champollion sent a letter to the French Royal Academy of Inscriptions announcing his historic breakthrough and describing his methods used in the momentous decipherment which led to the understanding of a vanished civilization which had been obscured by the sands of time for untold centuries. Portrait by Leon Cogniet.

**Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821).** In an effort to seize Britain’s possessions in India by controlling the Egyptian trade routes to the east, Napoleon sent French ships to Alexandria in 1798 to attack the British. Before the battle, Napoleon told his ground troops “Soldiers, from the tops of these pyramids, forty centuries are looking down at you.” Although they were victorious on land, the British royal navy commanded Lord Horatio Nelson, defeated the French navy leaving Napoleon stranded in Egypt for 3 years with a team of scientists, scholars and artists charged with the task of studying the architecture, antiquities, and culture of Egypt. Following his defeat, under the terms of the Treaty of Alexandria (1801) the Rosetta Stone was surrendered by a French officer to General John Hely Hutchinson’s emissary, Colonel Turner, in the streets of Alexandria and taken by a military escort to the HMS l’Egyptienne (a captured French vessel) for transport to the British Museum as the gift of King George III. Before relinquishing the stone, a rubbing of the inscription was ordered by Napoleon in the hope that, in lieu of its being possessed by France, the hieroglyphs would be deciphered by a Frenchman. Portrait by Jacques-Louis David.
TREASURES OF EDEN

The Legacy of the Land Between the Rivers
TREASURES OF EDEN

The Legacy of the Land Between the Rivers

MESOPOTAMIA

Northeast of Palestine, in the mountains of Armenia, the separate sources of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers flow southeasterly nourishing the fertile alluvial plains and valleys between them before merging together and emptying into the Persian Gulf. *Mesopotamia*, Greek for "between the rivers", was located in southern Iraq and encompassed the lands of *Assyria* to the north, *Akkad* in the central region, and *Sumer* in the south. Both the Assyrians and the Akkadians spoke the Semitic tongues of central Asia, but the origins of the Sumerians, as well as their linguistic affinities, are unknown. Although the Akkadians spoke a different language, their culture was indistinct from that of the Sumerians. The first settlers in Sumer were described as "fish-men" who came from the sea and reclaimed the land from the swamps by draining marshes and building mounds.

Around 6,000 years ago, within this fertile region in the Biblical land of *Shin‘ ar* (Sumer), the world's first civilization suddenly appeared in full bloom, along with astronomy and architecture, written language, judicial law, government, theology, art, metallurgy, medicine, schools, a monetary system, international trade, and organized warfare. According to ancient tradition its first settlement was the city of *Eridu*, from which the Persian word for "encampment", *ordu*, comes, and from which the German name *Erde*, or Earth, is derived, while the name Eden stems from the Sumerian word E.DIN (abode of the gods) and the later Akkadian word for "plain", *edinu*.

By 3100 B.C. the great city-state of Ur was established, but within a thousand years the Sumerian language was destined to become exclusively liturgical in use, replaced by Semitic as the spoken language throughout Mesopotamia and, after the 19th Century B.C., Babylonia. The profound influence of the ancient Sumerian civilization, however, spread throughout the Mediterranean to Africa and Europe, to the Indus Valley, to Asia, even to the Americas, its basic concepts remaining unchanged over millennia.
THE GODS OF EDEN

Inscribed in cuneiform writing on baked clay tablets, the ancient Sumerian Epic of Creation (which served as the basis for much of the later 6th Century B.C. Hebrew Book of Genesis and the Babylonian sacred drama, the Enuma elish), describes the mysterious civilizing gods of Sumer, the Anunnaki, who also found their way into the pantheons of Egyptian, Greek, and Canaanite divinities. Individually ruling the realms of heaven, earth, sea, and air, as well as the astral bodies and natural forces, there were 7 gods who “decree the fates” out of 50 revered as “the great gods.”

The principal deities included Anu, lord of the heavens and father of the gods, his younger son and legitimate heir Enlil (lord of the skies), his elder but illegitimate son Enki (lord of the waters), and his daughter Ninkharsag, goddess of fertility and secondary wife to both of her divine brothers.

The epic verse relates how the Anunnaki journeyed to Earth from the stars, mutinied against the harsh labor imposed upon them here, and subsequently created mankind (by combining their own blood with that of a primitive local beast) to toil in their place, to serve their comforts and, ultimately, to assume the responsibilities of kingship and civilization. To thin out the numbers of the rapidly swelling population, the gods visited plagues and finally a great flood upon their creation, but not without allowing one man to build an ark and survive along with “the seed of all living things” from the region. Rival factions among their various divine heirs led to wars among the gods and demigods which ultimately laid desolate the Sumerian cities scattered throughout the once fertile plains. The surviving lamentations of the devastated people of Sumer declare that “the gods have abandoned us like migrating birds.”
"In a city with no watchdogs, the fox is the overseer."

"Friendship lasts a day; kinship lasts forever."

"Who possesses much silver may be happy; who possesses much grain may be glad; but he who has nothing can sleep."

"Let what is mine stay unused; but let me use what is yours; this will endear a man to a friend’s household."

"You never tell me what you have found; you only tell me what you have lost."

"Build like a lord and live like a slave; build like a slave and live like a lord."

"Take the field of an enemy; then the enemy will come and take yours."

"Do not pick it now; later it will bear fruit."

"Into an open mouth, a fly enters."

"For one's pleasure, there is marriage; on thinking it over, there is divorce."

"A sweet word is the friend of everyone."
POTTERY

Although village-dwelling hunter-gatherers in Japan were producing the earliest known pottery by 10,500 B.C., it did not become a widespread practice in the Middle East until after 7000 B.C. Throughout the following ages, with the spread of urban civilization, the growing demand for ever larger quantities of pottery in standardized shapes and patterns led to the development of mass production of such everyday objects as bowls and jars.

Baked clay votive figures derive from an ancient funerary tradition dating back to the early 5th Millennium B.C. graves of the Sumerian city-states of Eridu and Ur. Although not directly associated with any deities, the common inclusion in burials of stylized figurines conventionally depicting mysteriously hybrid female beings with reptilian or birdlike heads may suggest the belief in an afterlife.

BRONZE

Evidence of a highly organized trade system already in place in southern Mesopotamia some 6,000 years ago, the development of metallurgy, which began around 3500 B.C. with the making of bronze (an alloy of copper and tin), helped lead to an urbanized society in early Mesopotamia.
Cuneiform script, the earliest form of writing, appeared around 3300 B.C. as a complete system with over 700 signs. Derived from pictographic drawings that represented real objects, it developed into stylized, abstract symbols which were a standardized series of combinations of wedges cut into soft clay with a reed stylus.

**Pictographic Signs c. 3100 B.C.**
- Star
- Bull’s head
- Barley
- Bowl
- Head/bowl

**Cuneiform Signs c. 2400 B.C.**

**Cuneiform Signs c. 700 B.C.**
- God, sky
- Ox
- Barley
- Food, bread
- To eat
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Sumerian Lamentations

The storm has killed the Land,
Taken every shred;
It bellowed like a raging beast
Across the countryside.
How could anyone escape?

Like broken pots,
The People’s bodies lined the city streets;
Inside its towering gates,
Where once they used to dance;
Along the avenues,
Where the festivals had taken place;
Everywhere the Dead were strewn,
Like rancid fat left to melt in the sun...

The gods have deserted us
Like the birds in winter...

Along the sacred shores
Of the Tigris and Euphrates,
Only wilted plants abound.
In the marshes,
The withered reeds rot in the mire.
The gardens and the orchards shrivel,
The plows have forsaken the pastures,
The seeds have forsaken the soil,
The fields are bereft of songs.

The sheepfolds are barren,
Deserted to the elements;
The sound of the churn has been stilled.
No more the aromas of butter and cheese.
Ninurta has dried up the milk of Shum’er.

Lifeless is the River at Ur,
Gone are the reed barges;
Few are the livestock in the Plain;
One by one, they die.

Since the founding of Shum’er
In ancient times,
Unto this day, with its great multitudes -
Has there ever been seen
A civilization that ruled forever?
With kingship Ur was blessed;
With everlasting rule it was not blessed.

O House of Ur,
Dismal is thy fate!
O Goddess of the Land that perished,
Thy Shrine is now a Place of Tears;
How canst thou even exist?

Forgotten are the bygone highways,
No one seeks them out.
The Temples of Ur in ruins lie,
Abandoned to the wind.

Sumerian Ode to a Ziggurat

O House of Brilliance and Darkness,
Of Heaven and of Earth,
O Great Ekur,
Mansion of the Gods
With a Pyramidion crowned;
Gloriously provided art thou
For the Union of Heaven and Earth.

House whose inner glow
Pulses with the Ruby Beam of Heaven
That reaches the farthest
Of the fars;
Thy magnificence raises the flesh.
Awesome ziggurat,
Abode of the Equipment,
Palace of Eternity,
Milestone for the Shem on high,
Where the god Shamash ascends -
O Mountain of mountains;
Noble and visionary is thy creation;
Only gods can comprehend it.
1. **Sumerian Marble Head of a Divinity.** Architects of the world's first high civilization a thousand years before the Egyptians, the Sumerian people possessed an irrepressibly creative intellect which led to the conversion of the arid, unproductive plains of prehistoric Sumer into a rich and fertile kingdom whose culture placed great value on individuals and their achievements. In addition to the invention of soil irrigation, the wheel, the plow, sailboats, the casting of metals, brickmaking, and a system of writing, the Sumerians produced the first fine sculptures in stone. Its inlaid eyes long missing, this haunting marble portrait of a bearded deity wearing a headdress is between 5,000 and 6,000 years old. Gazing serenely across the millennia, his wise face displays the Sumerians' classic standard of beauty: a single connected eyebrow. c. 4000 - 3000 B.C.
2. **Tel Halaf Terracotta Idol.** Traditionally depicted in a squatting position with her lower legs drawn up beneath her, this mother goddess has a stylized, conical head. Her arms are joined together in a loop under her prominent breasts. The entire figure is decorated with stripes of brown paint. *c. 4000 B.C. Subject to availability.*
3-4. Sumerian Stone Cylinder Seals. Evidence of a highly organized trade system already in place in southern Mesopotamia some 6,000 years ago, this ancient cylinder seal is made of white stone with a drill hole for stringing and incised with a simple cross-hatching design. The black seal is incised with an animal scene. To identify ownership and prevent tampering with the contents of storehouses and vessels, cylinder seals were rolled across tablets and lumps of clay to imprint their distinguishing patterns or insignias onto the soft seals. c. 4000 B.C.
5-14. **Sumerian Shell Money.** The world's earliest known true currency, these polished shell rings were cut from cone-shaped seashells brought inland from the Mediterranean coast to be used by the Sumerians as tokens of exchange. Although international commerce was strictly by barter at that time, local transactions for smaller daily needs customarily employed shell money as currency, usually strung on a necklace. The ancient Syrian cities of Ebla, Alalakh, and Ugarit, where these well preserved examples of Sumerian money were found, were linked by trade routes to Assyria and Sumer. *c. 3500 - 3000 B.C.*
15-16. Canaanite Terracotta Bowl And Jar. Although village-dwelling hunter-gatherers in Japan were producing the earliest known pottery by 10,500 B.C., it did not become a widespread practice in the Middle East until after 7000 B.C. Throughout the following ages, with the spread of urban civilization, the growing demand for ever larger quantities of pottery in standardized shapes and patterns led to the development of mass production of such everyday objects as bowls and jars. Made on a potter’s wheel in the Levant (the Mediterranean coastal regions neighboring Mesopotamia which included western Syria, Lebanon, and Israel) around 5,000 years ago, these clay vessels, elegant in their simplicity, resulted from prehistoric traditions handed down through the millennia. c. 3100 - 2900 B.C.
Syro-Hittite Clay Idols. These baked clay votive figures derive from an ancient funerary tradition dating back to the early 5th Millennium B.C. graves of the Sumerian city-states of Eridu and Ur. Although not directly associated with any deities, the common inclusion in burials of stylized figurines conventionally depicting mysteriously hybrid female beings with reptilian or birdlike heads may suggest the belief in an afterlife. These figurines were discovered in northern Syria near the Hittite Anatolian region (modern Turkey) where their ritual use as funerary offerings was still being observed after more than a thousand years. c. 3000 B.C.
19-20. **Lapis Inlay Necklaces.** Highly valued by the ancient Sumerians, lapis lazuli had sacred associations and at times was reserved for royalty. The Sumerians' quest for the precious blue stone established difficult trade routes to the mountains of Badakhshan in northeastern Afghanistan. Transported back to the cities of Sumer, the rare stones were then shaped and polished by hand into beads, amulets, and cylinder seals. Inlaid in silver reconstructions (c. 1900) of their lost original settings, the ancient beads of these necklaces are 5,000 years old. c. 3000 B.C.

21. **Lapis Inlay Bracelet.** Its appearance imitating that of the heavens, this dark blue stone flecked with impurities of gold or iron pyrite was prized along with gold and silver. The widespread use in ancient times of the rare mineral (a metamorphosed form of limestone rich in lazulite) attests to the existence by the 4th millennium B.C. of far-reaching trade networks between the Near East, western Asia, and northern Africa. The ancient jewels of this bracelet, inlaid in a silver reconstruction (c. 1900) of their lost original setting, were shaped and polished by hand 5,000 years ago. c. 3000 B.C.
22. Mesopotamian Nude Male Figure. This 4,500 year old carved stone statue is incised on the face, chest, and pubis to represent hair. Its primitive, abstract form is reminiscent of the neolithic fertility fetishes of 4000 B.C. c. 2500 B.C.
23. **Terracotta Goddess With a Vase**, Wearing a transparent gown and crowned with a headdress adorned with two horns, this votive figure represents the Sumerian goddess Inanna, later called Ishtar by the Babylonians, holding a vase from which the usual sacred Sumerian motif of twin flowing streams of water are depicted in the pleats of her vestment.  *c. 2500 B.C.*

*Subject to availability.*
24. Sumerian Marble Statue of a Priest. This ancient carved figure represents a standing bearded priest with a ritually shaven head, wearing a woolen skirt with four layers of tufted borders and a naked upper torso. His hands are clasped together in an attitude of devotion. c. 2500 B.C.
25. Susa Clay Ceremonial Gathering Figures. In addition to functional pottery vessels, early farming communities in the Middle East modeled stylized human figures of clay which were then fired. Founded as a religious center in the land of Elam during the late 5th Millennium B.C., the city-state of Susa (located in southwestern Iran) arose near the eastern border of Sumer, whose urban culture was a distinct influence upon the Elamites. Primitive in design and mounted on a clay base, this ethereal 4,500 year old sculpture from Susa depicts a ritual gathering scene. With their open arms extended, 5 stylized figures dressed in robes encircle 3 central figures. c. 2500 -2000 B.C.
26. Mesopotamian Copper Head of Sargon of Akkad. Cast in the complex lost-wax method, this masterpiece was discovered in Ninevah in the vicinity of the Ishtar Temple. Traditionally identified as the Akkadian founding ruler, Sargon, the style suggests that it more likely represents his grandson, the ruler Naram-Sin. This is a replica of the original sculpture housed in the Baghdad Museum. c. 2200 B.C.
27-28. Cuneiform Inscribed Clay Foundation Cone. The oldest known cuneiform texts, from the ancient Sumerian city of Uruk, reveal an established, complex business structure in operation, of which meticulous records were kept. The writing consisted of patterns of wedge-shaped strokes impressed with a stylus into soft clay. Alongside economic texts were dedication texts consecrating the foundations of new buildings in which they were buried, a practice as old as building itself, to ensure that the sacred sanctuaries of the Anunnaki (the pantheon of Sumerian gods) would endure. The text of this 4,100 year old foundation cone reads: "To Nindar, King of the Waves, High Water, His King Gudea, Forever of Lagos, His Girda House, built for Him." c. 2100 B.C.
29-30. Cuneiform Inscribed Clay and Stone Tablets. Under the kings of the Third Dynasty of Ur (2112-2004 B.C.) a renaissance of Sumerian culture saw the highest development of Mesopotamian bureaucracy and record-keeping. The oldest form of written language, cuneiform script (after the Latin cuneus, or "wedge") evolved directly from stylized pictographs carved into clay and stone. Recorded 4,100 years ago, the text of this ancient clay tablet reads: "For Ningazzida, His God. Gudea, the Governor of Lagash and Champion of Gatumdu (Goddess of Lagash) His temple in Girsu be built. II c. 2100 B.C."
31. Sumerian Inscribed Alabaster Vessel. Skillfully shaped by hand 4,000 years ago and incised with the world’s first form of writing, this precious translucent stone vessel could only have belonged to someone of considerable wealth. c. 2000 B.C.
32. **Sumerian Limestone Kohl Jar.** This small stone vessel was used for the storage and application of kohl (a cosmetic eyeshadow), a luxurious practice originated by the Sumerians, which ultimately spread to the Egyptians. *c. 2000 B.C.*

33. **Sumerian Bronze Ring.** Although now heavily patinated, this charming thumb-ring (size 10) was finely crafted in gleaming bronze by a skilled jeweler, and incised with raised geometric motifs designed in the shape of a flower. *c. 2000 B.C.*
34. **Sumerian Black Stone Bracelet.** Carved from a solid piece of black stone with white veining, this heavy bracelet may have served more as a weapon of defense or intimidation than as an adornment denoting its owner’s status. *c. 2000 B.C.*

35-39. **Sumerian Bronze Arrowheads.** The development of metallurgy, which began around 3500 B.C. with the making of bronze (an alloy of copper and tin), helped lead to an urbanized society in early Mesopotamia. Attached to a reed shaft these early bronze arrowheads were far superior to weapons of pure copper and flint for hunting and warfare. The appearance of the metal industry coincided with the rise of the Sumerian City-states and the development of cuneiform writing. *c. 2000 B.C.*
40. Mesopotamian Bronze Votive Horses and Chariot. Horse drawn chariots were in use in Mesopotamia for 200 years before their appearance in early Egypt, as illustrated by this exquisite 4,000 year old bronze votive sculpture cast in the ancient lost wax technique. Although the use of pure copper was widespread by 3000 B.C., true bronze was still scarce. Proportions of copper and tin varied widely, from 67% to 95% copper in surviving artifacts. c. 2000 B.C.
41. **Sumerian Bronze Amulet of a Woman.** This simple bronze casting portrays an upright Sumerian woman in the classic pose holding a vessel. Her typically long, braided hair forms a loop allowing the sculpture to be strung and worn as an amulet. *c. 2000 B.C.*
42-43. **Mesopotamian Brown Steatite Intaglio Seals.** Drilled for stringing and incised with the image of a winged god, this stone seal (which doubled as an amulet) is one of the oldest depictions of a winged deity ever found. The Sumerian *Epic of Creation* served as the basis for much of the Hebrew *Book of Genesis*. The mysterious civilizing gods of Sumer, the *Anunnaki*, found their way into the pantheons of Egyptian, Greek, and Indian deities as well. Individually ruling the realms of heaven, earth, sea, and air, as well as the astral bodies and natural forces, there were 7 gods who "decree the fates" out of 50 deities revered as "the great gods." The obverse side of the seal is incised with a star, the symbol for the Sumerian word *dingir*, or "god," while the image on the other seal represents the mythical phoenix, a bird which legendarily was resurrected from its own ashes. c. 2000 B.C.
44-46. **Mesopotamian Stone Zodiacal Intaglio Seals.** Incised on these brown steatite seals are images of the constellations Pisces, Leo, and Scorpius from the Zodiac. The Sumerian culture possessed a remarkably developed cosmology from its very inception, indicating a keen awareness of the stars and planets. *c. 2000 B.C.*

47. **Old Babylonian Brown Steatite Intaglio Seal.** Carved into the surface of this stone seal is the image of a Enlil, lord of the sky. He is holding a cup in one hand while standing before an offering bowl and an altar with a sacred tree upon it. Depicted in the sky above are a starburst, a crescent moon, and a formation of 6 enigmatic score marks possibly representing the other major deities in the pantheon of the 7 Anunnaki. On the opposite side the amulet is drilled for stringing and incised with a geometric pattern. *c. 1920 B.C.*

48. **Old Babylonian Stone Cylinder Seal.** This black steatite cylinder seal is carved with the image of a seated deity or ruler in a long, pleated garment and full regalia. Beneath a crescent moon, he is accepting an offering from a pair of standing figures. Cut with flint or copper tools and bored for stringing, cylinder seals were not only used for identification, but were associated with the protection of their owners against illness, curses, or slander. *c. 1920 B.C.*
49. **Canaanite Terracotta Plate.** Impractical for the nomadic lifestyle of hunter-gatherers, the earliest pottery is associated with village and urban settlements. Thrown on a wheel, this deep plate was finished with a wet smoothing, a widespread method in which the dried ceramic surface is painted with a fine coat of slip, or liquid clay prior to firing. The remains of this finish can be seen on the interior of the plate. *c. 1730-1550 B.C.*
50. Canaanite Four-Sided Terracotta Oil Lamp. Pinched to accommodate 4 wicks of braided fiber immersed in oil, this early clay lamp provided a typical Canaanite home with sustained indoor light at night over 3,500 years ago.

51. Canaanite Terracotta Saucer Lamp. The popularity of this elegantly shaped oil-burning lamp (pinched for a single wick) was widespread throughout the Middle East during the Late Bronze Age, replacing the earlier, plainer forms utilized throughout the Middle Bronze Age for lighting homes at night. Last used over 3,000 years ago, this ancient clay vessel still retains the scent of the fuel oil that was burnt in it. c. 1650 - 1200 B.C.
Mesopotamian Stone Mace Heads. Drilled with a wide cylindrical hole for mounting on the tip of a wooden shaft, these mace heads were designed for crushing skulls but were sometimes used as ornamental status objects. Over 3,000 years old, both the green and red stone battle maces belonged to important people. c. 1500 - 1200 B.C.
Mesopotamian Terracotta Vessels. This simple pair of conjoined lidded jars illustrates the charming simplicity and practicality of Mesopotamian households. Employing ages-old traditions, this modestly decorated clay jug, with its elegantly flared body and long-necked spout, was made on a potter’s wheel over 3,200 years ago to be used for the storage of liquids or oils. c. 1200 B.C.
56. **Mesopotamian Bronze Stag.** Wild animals indigenous to the lands of Sumer, Akkad, and Assyria included lions, wolves, boars, buffaloes, gazelles, and deer. Their veneration is exemplified by this stylized cast bronze votive figure equipped with a loop for stringing. c. 1200 B.C.

57. **Mesopotamian Bronze Figure.** As commemorated by this 3,200 year old cast bronze votive figure distinctly crowned with the divine conical headdress, the Mesopotamian gods, or Anunnaki ("Those Who Came to Earth from Heaven"), legendarily created the human race and its first kings, placing them in the fertile plain (edinu) between the two rivers. c. 1200 B.C.

58. **Mesopotamian Bronze Deity.** This 3,200 year old cast bronze votive figure represents a stylized deity with a neckband and a belt. Sumerian traditions reverently depicted their immortal gods with human passions and flaws. The Sumerians' theology, vividly intermingled with the cosmology of their sages, celebrated divine, often warlike beings who colonized the earth and interbred with their creation, humankind, after journeying here from the heavens. c. 1200 B.C.
59. **Mesopotamian Bronze Short Sword.** The sinuous hilt of this splendidly ornate weapon is adorned with a pair of lions’ heads. Invasions by the Semites, internal conflicts between rival city-states, and the destruction of the great city of Ur by the neighboring Elamites around 2000 B.C. ultimately led to the fall of Sumer after its political domination of Mesopotamia for a millennium-and-a-half. By the close of Hammurabi's reign around 1708 B.C., the conquered land was known as the kingdom of Babylon. Owned by someone of great wealth, this sword dates from the Middle Babylonian rule of southern Mesopotamia. *c. 1200 B.C.*
60. **Mesopotamian Bronze Dagger.** Decorated with an animal head crowning both sides of its narrow metal hilt, this elegant bronze weapon was a precious status object designed as much for display as for use. Prestigious luxury goods cast in bronze identified their owners with the elite ruling classes throughout Mesopotamia and the Levant. By 1000 B.C., the discovery of the properties of iron brought the Bronze Age to an end. *c. 1200 - 800 B.C.*

61. **Mesopotamian Bronze Battle Axe Head.** The shaft of this formidable weapon is armed with 4 spikes joined together at the base. Attached to a wooden handle, it was used in combat over 3,000 years ago. *c. 1200 B.C.*
62. **Mesopotamian Bronze Master of the Beasts Finial.** Utilized as an ornamental projection or end, this decorative finial depicts the stylized deity flanked by animals under his dominion, a traditional theme throughout the region. *c. 1200 B.C.*
63. **Mesopotamian Bronze Vessel.** The timeless design of this exquisitely shaped vessel, with its wide base, tapering neck, and flaring spout, is as ubiquitous today as it was in the early Second Millennium B.C. when it was crafted. *c. 1200 B.C.*
64. Predynastic Egyptian Terracotta Beer Bottle. The shape of this red clay vessel, with its pointed bottom, allowed for more of them to be stacked on their sides for the storage of beer made from fermented dates and bread loaves. c. 4000 - 3000 B.C.
65. **Egyptian Wooden Comb.** Primitively decorated with a simple geometric pattern, this ancient comb from the Old Kingdom dates to the 3rd Dynasty. c. 2780 - 2680 B.C.
66. Egyptian Kohl Jar. Used as a palette for the application of kohl, a finely ground black eyeliner, this tiny cosmetic vessel was in fashion throughout the entire history of ancient Egypt. The New Kingdom, 18th Dynasty, c. 1570 - 1342 B.C.

67. Egyptian Stone Mace Head. Made of blue lapis lazuli and bored through to accommodate a wooden shaft, this weapon was used to strike the enemy in the head, a tradition learned from the Sumerians. c. 1500 - 1200 B.C.
68. **Egyptian Stone Pesesh-Kef Wand.** Carved of basalt, this extremely rare ritual wand was one of the most important funerary objects used in the "Opening of the Mouth" ceremony. Crowned with the shape of a fish tail and incised with a vertical band of hieroglyphs bearing a spell for the restoration of the senses of the deceased, the wand was applied to the eyes, ears, nose, and mouth of the mummy by a priest or male heir. *c. 1570 - 1085 B.C.*

69. **Marble Face of Pharaoh Akhenaten.** Carved in the radical Amarna style, this exquisite image of the "heretic pharaoh" (husband of Nefertiti and father of Tutankhamun) is from a defaced marble statue, a part of the widespread violent desecration of his memory immediately following his death, owing to his revolutionary adoption of monotheism as the state religion of ancient Egypt. *c. 1353 - 1335 B.C.*
70. **Egyptian Limestone Wall Relief of the Amarna Royal Family.** Finely incised on the heavily patinated surface is one of the most famous of ancient Egyptian iconographic portraits: the image of the 18th Dynasty Pharaoh Akhenaten (depicted in the revolutionary Amarna style) early in his reign, wearing the conical white crown of Upper Egypt, together with his wife Nefertiti and their daughter Meritaten. Standing before an altar covered in lotus blossoms and surrounded by hieroglyphs, the royal family is making an offering to the heretical Aten, or sun disk, which personally caresses them with the hands of its life-giving rays. c. 1353 - 1335 B.C.
71. **Egyptian Wooden Headrest.** The ancient Egyptians slept with their heads supported by a crescent-shaped headrest, usually carved from wood and liberally wrapped with strips of soft linen. More elaborate forms were fashioned from stone or ivory, often with carved inscriptions. As funerary amulets they were ceremonially buried with the mummies. Its pedestal carved in an unusual openwork design, this 3,000 year old headrest is from the reign of Ramesses IX, last ruler of the New Kingdom, 20th Dynasty. *c. 1085 B.C.*
73. **Egyptian Alabaster Bowl.** This translucent beige stone bowl from the Third Intermediate Period was carved by hand some 3,000 years ago. *c. 1085 - 950 B.C.*

73. **Israelite Terracotta Colander.** Produced in the earliest settlements along the Fertile Crescent (Mesopotamia and the Levant), terracotta (baked clay) pottery was abundant owing to the wealth of porous red clays throughout the region. As technique and firing methods improved, a great variety of utensil and decorative shapes ensued. Fitted with a pair of sturdy handles, the bowl of this well-used 3,000 year old sifter is equipped with a series of holes for straining. *c. 1000 B.C.*
74. **Egyptian Bronze Osirine Mummycase Eyes.** This pair of bronze inlaid eyebrows and cosmetic eyeliner are all that remain of a long-since disintegrated Late Kingdom anthropoid coffin, with limestone inlays of black pupils over a white gesso ground. *c. 715 - 332 B.C.*

75. **Egyptian Bronze Hand Mirror.** First appearing during the Old Kingdom, from the Middle Kingdom on, mirrors were traditionally fashioned as polished solar discs mounted on a papyrus stem. The Late Kingdom, 26th Dynasty, *c. 663 - 525 B.C.*
76-82. **Egyptian Funerary Amulets.** In Ancient Egypt these amulets were sacred to the burial of any individual, high or low, and were imbued with magical symbolism. Left (from the top): a soapstone winged scarab, a green stone Eye of Horus, and a faience Djed Pillar. Center: a soapstone ushabti (a magical servant in the afterlife). Right (from the top): a small faience ushabti, a lapis lazuli scarab (from the Third Millennium B.C.), and a faience ankh, the hieroglyphic symbol for life. From c. 2040 B.C. to c. 663 - 600 B.C.
83-85. **Egyptian Funerary Collar and Mummybead Necklaces.** Made of green faience, ceramic disc beads, and gold plate, these stately necklaces were commissioned by the 26th Dynasty pharaoh Nekau for the opulent burial of a noble subject. Worn around the mummy's neck, the luxurious collar (made of faience beads and gold cowrie shells) was traditionally followed by a shroud of necklaces. Although refitted with modern settings, the integrity of the original designs is intact. *c. 600 B.C.*
86. Wooden Ptah-Sokar-Osiris Statue. Combining the gods of Creation and Resurrection, these ritual wooden statues were traditional funerary equipment in the tombs of Ancient Egypt. The paint is still completely visible on this extremely rare and splendid mumiform statue encompassing the symbolism of 3 divinities. c. 305 - 30 B.C.
87. Phoenician Terracotta Lantern. The enigmatic Phoenicians, whose clay lanterns lit ancient Mediterranean seaports from east to west for over half a millennium, were chronicled by Greek and Roman historians for their brilliant seamanship and shrewd sense of commerce. Descendants of the early Canaanites along the coast of Lebanon and the conquering Sea People who arrived around 1200 B.C., the Phoenicians developed a flourishing sea trade that extended as far as Spain and north Africa owing to their rich heritage of maritime traditions and forests of highly-prized cedarwood. Their alphabet of 22 consonants was the foundation for the European, Arabic, and Hebrew scripts. Skilled artisans at glassmaking, terracotta pottery, and the production of rare purple dye, the Phoenicians were invaded by the Babylonians in 573 B.C. Their culture was later absorbed into the Hellenistic empire with the arrival in 332 B.C. of the conqueror Alexander the Great. Their great north African city-state of Carthage thrived until it was sacked by the Romans in 146 B.C. c. 300 B.C.
88-91. Israelite Terracotta Jars. In the household and the marketplace, pitchers, bottles, and unguentarium jars were used to store wine, water, and other liquids as well as oils, spices, and balms. Unchanged for thousands of years, their basic shapes are still in use today. Made of coarse clay, these simple 2,000 year old vessels are from the time of Herod the Great. c. 100 B.C. - 100 A.D. One jar is subject to availability.

92-96. Israelite Terracotta Oil Lamps. As the source of light in every household for thousands of years, oil lamps were among the most widely used pottery throughout the Middle East. Because of its abundant availability and versatility, most terracotta pottery was of cheap, utilitarian kind. These 2,000 year old oil lamps are from the time of Herod the Great. c. 100 B.C. - 100 A.D.
97. **Roman Terracotta Oil Lamp.** Once providing light and charm for an ancient Roman household, this handsome oil lamp is decorated with a relief of Eros, youngest of the Roman gods, riding a dolphin, surrounded along the edge by an ornate border. *c. 100 B.C. - 100 A.D.*
98-103. **Roman Iron Construction Nails and Bronze Crucifixion Nails.** The city of Rome in central Italy grew from a farming village to become the capital of an empire which, at its height, included much of Europe, the Middle East, and the northern coast of Africa. Its vast, diverse population was united by Roman military power and government. Roman cruelty and the use of force brought great misery to its occupied territories.

These bronze nails were found in Palestine along ancient roadsides and in quarries where public executions took place. Nailing offenders to a wooden cross and leaving them to die of exposure over a period of several days publicized the might of the Roman government. These highly magnetic 2,000 year old iron nails are from the time of Herod the Great. c. 100 B.C. - 100 A.D.
104. **Roman Glass Janus-Head Flask.** Trimmed with a rolled rim and portraying similar faces on either side, this small amber glass flask was blown into a mold for mass production, a craft that the Romans learned from the Phoenicians.  *c. 50 - 100 A.D.*
105. **Roman Bronze Thimble.** Although the fall of Rome was nearly 1,500 years ago, its influence on our lives continues to this day, as evidenced by this tiny cast bronze thimble, its simple but functional design still unchanged throughout the ages. Roman law and the Latin language provided bases for much of the civilization of Europe and the Americas. *c. 100 - 300 A.D.*

106. **Roman Lead Gaming Die.** This single die made of cast lead was used for gambling, a popular pastime among Roman soldiers. It was originally covered with white paint, with incised circles on the surface to depict the numbers. *c. 100 A.D.*

107. **Roman Bronze Coins.** Coins of the Roman Empire were struck in gold and silver for the aristocrats and in bronze and debased silver for the plebeians. Intrinsically worth less than its face value, bronze coinage was issued in great quantities by the Roman emperors for some 500 years as a form of inflatable money whose artificial value could be decreased. Minted in a variety of sizes in at least 20 denominations, the coins typically bore a portrait of the emperor on the front side and a propagandistic design on the reverse reflecting what the Imperial Family wanted its citizens to believe. Used for everyday transactions, these 100 coins had a long circulation life and are quite heavily worn. *c. 200 - 400 A.D.*
108-117. **Greco-Roman Bronze Medical Instruments.** Widely revered as the fathers of medical science, Greek physicians began practicing medicine in Rome around 300 B.C. and continued under varying degrees of status until the fall of the empire in 476 A.D. by which time the Greek influence had begun to fade. Cast in bronze, these instruments were used by Greek and Roman surgeons practicing in the eastern reaches of the Roman Empire in Lebanon and Syria. *c. 200 - 426 A.D.*
118. **Roman Marble Bust of a Goddess.**
This fine portrait depicts a maidenly goddess such as Diana or a muse crowned with a small diadem. With an aquiline nose, her hair is combed back and bound in a chignon, her eyes delicately incised in an innocent, upward gaze. c. 200 A.D.

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119-120. **THE MURALS OF THE PALACE AT MARI.** Built over several centuries and located in Syria (in northern Mesopotamia) along the Middle Euphrates River, the expansive royal residence of King Zimri-Lim was reduced to ruins around 1760 B.C. when the city was destroyed by the Babylonian King Hammurabi. Dating from the early second millennium B.C., the magnificent murals, obviously decorated with Sumerian religious themes and whose brilliant colors have survived the ravages of time, attest to Mari’s long standing as a vital art center whose influence would spread as far as Egypt and Crete.

**The Investiture of the King of Mari**

In the presence of a host of deities and protected by fantastic animals, the king (probably Zimri-Lim) is accepting the sacred emblems of the ring of justice and the measuring rule, presented to him by Ishtar, the goddess of war (identified by her weapons and the lion beneath her feet). Below, two goddesses hold vases flowing with the sacred four rivers of Paradise while strange beasts guard a stylized tree.

**The Offering of Fire and Water**

Decorating the damaged, flaking wall of the royal audience chamber, the upper panel depicts the goddess Ishtar receiving the offering of another goddess before a procession of deities and mortals. The lower panel portrays the king offering libation and a burnt offering to a god enthroned on a mountain and crowned with a crescent moon in the presence of other divinities and a great bull.
121. Babylonian King Hammurabi. Hammurabi was the greatest ruler in the first Babylonian dynasty. Throughout his long reign he personally supervised navigation, irrigation, agriculture, tax collection, and the erection of many temples and other buildings. c. 1792 - 1750 B.C.
122. *Sumerian Couple (Terracotta Replica)*. Originally carved from gypsum with inlaid eyes of lapis lazuli, shell, and bitumen, this poignant statue found in the ancient Temple of Inanna in Nippur is an intimate portrait of an elderly couple seated with their arms around each other and tenderly holding hands. *c. 3200 B.C.*
A protective spirit guarded one entrance of the King’s quarters. This spirit is depicted as man with wings like an angel carrying a goat and an ear of corn believed to symbolize fertility. The so-called Standard Inscription is carved across the surface of the relief. c. 875 - 860 B.C.
124. Eagle Spirit - Palace of Assurnasirpal II Nimrud, Assyria. The palace at Nimrud was decorated with many protective spirits. One figure is depicted as an image in the form of an eagle-headed man. This spirit is shown protecting the palace from evil spirits with a cone described as a purifier, along with a ritual cup. c. 875 - 860 B.C.
125. Phaestos Disc. Directly influenced by ancient Phoenician script, the early writing of the tribal Crete and Santorini, the mysterious forerunners of the Greeks known as the Minoans, marks their emergence from the Stone Age at the beginning of the second millennium B.C. This enigmatic clay tablet, found in Crete and engraved in the elusive Linear A script, remains undeciphered.
15. Sumerian Genesis Tablet Three ("Enuma Elish")

enūma elish là nabû shamāmū ("When on high the heavens were not yet named…")

Inscribed on 7 clay tablets, the Babylonian Epic of Creation was discovered during the 1870s at Nineveh in the underground library of the 7th Century B.C. Assyrian King Ashurbanipal, who had collected a cache of over 50,000 cuneiform tablets preserving ancient texts, many written as much as 3,000 years earlier. Originally written in Sumerian, its similarities to the Genesis account of the creation of the heavens and earth were immediately recognized by both Jewish and Christian scholars.

This tablet (3) relates the epic battle between the celestial gods, interpreted by some scholars as an astute cosmological analogy of the cataclysmic formation of the solar system. The hero Marduk agrees to defend the pantheon of divine beings in exchange for their recognition of him as their supreme ruler and creates humankind to labor in place of the gods. Subject to availability.

16. Flood Tablet from the Epic of Gilgamesh. Also found in the vast library of Ashurbanipal in Nineveh was the Akkadian version of the adventures of Gilgamesh, the ruler of Uruk, and his quest for immortality. Tablet Eleven, the most famous cuneiform tablet in the British Museum, recounts the meeting between Gilgamesh and Utnapishtim, who had been forewarned by the Sumerian Anunnaki gods of the coming of a great worldwide flood.

After building a boat and loading it with the seed of every living thing he could gather, Utnapishtim survived the destruction of humankind, at last coming to rest on a mountain called Nimush. He released a dove and a swallow which returned after failing to locate dry land, but when he released a raven it did not return, signifying that the floodwaters had at last abated.

This story, ancient before it was ever written down and clearly the Sumerian source for the later Hebrew tale of Noah in the Bible, may be a record of the events that closed the Ice Age. Subject to availability.
Cover Story

Civilization’s early tools on display in Fort Myers

BY MARK S. KRZOS

The war in Iraq, the thefts of ancient treasures and the mega-hit film, “The Passion of the Christ,” have put a spotlight on a region of the world many regard as the birthplace of civilization.

And some of its cultural remnants have traveled to the New World and its land of cable television.

Called the Southwest Florida Museum of History’s most globally significant exhibit, “Treasures of Eden - Legacy of Civilization” features weaponry and artifacts that precipitate Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

“Our (King) Tut exhibit were replace,” explained Matt Johnson, the museum’s interim curator. “These are things you don’t see in small museums. You’re more likely to find these things in places like the Smithsonian. This is by far the most significant exhibit we’ve had here.”

Found in ancient Mesopotamia, Sumeria and Egypt, some of the 104 artifacts on display date back as far as 6,000 years.

The pieces range from the violent - bronze arrowheads, stone mace heads, battle axe heads, daggers, short swords and crucifixion nails - to the beautiful - jewelry, bronze figures, cosmetic jars - and practical - the earliest forms of money and the ancient writing called cuneiform.

The artifacts are significant to the history of humankind.

“This is the earliest evidence of civilization,” Johnson said. “Overnight, we went from caverman hunter-gatherers to a culture in Sumeria with writing and mathematics.”

“Eden” is the latest step in a new direction for the museum in Fort Myers.

Prior to last year’s Tut exhibit, it was devoted to the history of Southwest Florida, Johnson said. “We saw how interested people were and decided that we should try and do more.”

Johnson, who’s worked with the International Museum Trust of Texas, said he contacted that institution about bringing “Eden” to Southwest Florida.

The exhibit opened in January at the modest museum, a converted train depot tucked off Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, on Peck Street.

IF YOU GO

■ What: “Treasures of Eden - Legacy of Civilization” exhibit featuring artifacts dating back 6,000 years

■ When: Through July 31; hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays and noon to 4 p.m. Sundays.

■ Where: The Southwest Florida Museum of History, 2300 Peck St., off Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Fort Myers

■ Cost: $9.50 for adults, $8.50 for seniors and $4 for children

■ Info: Call 332-5955.

WHEN TO WATCH

■ The History Channel’s “Modern Marvels: Bible Tech” featuring artifacts on display at the Southwest Florida Museum of History airs at 10 p.m. Wednesday on Time-Warner cable channel 30 and Comcast cable channel 65.

■ Then the History Channel learned about the exhibition. The cable network was soon in town filming the artifacts for one of its longest-running programs, “Modern Marvels: Bible Tech.”

■ “These artifacts are usually spread out all over the place,” said Dolores Gavin, the channel’s programming director. “We heard about the museum and this stuff and what we found made it go to the show in a big way.”

■ The show will be broadcast at 10 p.m. Wednesday, focusing on the Tower of Babel, Noah’s Ark and the weaponry of the time, Gavin said. Viewers will get a glimpse at ancient warfare and social class.

■ “There were no long-range weapons during this time,” Johnson explained. “It was all hand-to-hand combat, and possession of many of these weapons had to do with your social status.”

■ Swords and daggers, for example, were used by the wealthy or ranking warriors, while the lower classes attacked with clubs or heavy stones attached to the end of large sticks, Johnson said.

■ Although the poorer set’s weapons were primitive, they were lethal.

■ “What they would do is swing it and it would shatter a skull or break bones on the arms or legs,” Johnson said of the stone-stick device.

■ (Above) Mesopotamian Bronze Dagger. Decorated with an animal head, this elegant bronze weapon was a prestigious status object designated as much for display as for use, c. 1200-800 B.C.

■ (Far right) Mesopotamian Nude Male Figure. This 4,500-year-old clay statue is incised on the face, chest and pubis to represent hair. Its primitive, abstract form, reminiscent of the neolithic fertility fetishes of 4000 B.C., indicates that two vastly diverse classes of artifacts inhabited the same region, c. 2500 B.C.
tools on display in Fort Myers

(Above) Cudiculation nails from the time of Herod the Great, found in Palestine. c. 100 B.C.-100 A.D.

(Lefl) Predynastic Egyptian Terracotta Beer Bottle. The shape allowed for more of them to be stacked on their sides for the storage of beer made from fermented dates and bread leaves. 4000-3000 B.C.

(Above) Mesopotamian Bronze Dagger. Decorated with an animal head, this elegant bronze weapon was a precious status object designated as much for display as for use. c. 1200-800 B.C.

(Far right) Mesopotamian Nude Male Figure. This 4,500-year-old clay statue is incised along the face, chest, and pubis to represent hair. Its primitive, abstract form, reminiscent of the Neolithic fertility fetishes of 4000 B.C., indicates that two vastly diverse classes of artisans inhabited the same region c. 2500 B.C.
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA MUSEUM OF HISTORY PRESENTS

Treasures of Eden
THE LEGACY OF CIVILIZATION

JANUARY 23 - JULY 21, 2004

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
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Hours: 10:00-5:00 Tuesday through Saturday
Admission: $9.50 adults; $8.50 seniors (65+); $4.00 children
All discount coupons will be honored. Group rates are available. 239.332.5955

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