‘Exploritis’

Roy Chapman Andrews

Leader of the Central Asiatic Expeditions

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“I was born to be an explorer. There never was any decision to make. I couldn't do anything else and be happy. The desire to see new places, to discover new facts— the curiosity of life always has been a resistless driving force in me.”¹

Roy Chapman Andrews opened his book, This Business of Exploring, with this statement, to answer the question of why he chose exploration as a career. A career that, much like the term ‘exploration’, is difficult to define in a handful of words. A scientist, an explorer, a paleontologist, an author, even a salesman; all of these were roles which Roy Chapman Andrews assumed during his lifetime in a never ending quest to satisfy his driving inner desire to discover new things. A desire which he viewed as a disease, that could never be cured, but merely put into remission through continued exploration. He even created a name for this ailment, ‘Exploritis’.²

While Andrews may have labeled the condition, he did not claim to have discovered it. “Exploritis is not a new disease. In fact, it is just about as old as the human race. … That's the reason why the earth today is peopled to the uttermost corners. But in most individuals, the germs lie dormant, giving only a stir now and then...”³ In Andrews however, the ‘Exploritis’ germs were never dormant. In fact, his battle with the condition would take him from performing taxidermy in the woods of Beloit, Wisconsin, to cleaning floors at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, to ultimately serving as the Director of that Museum. Along the way, Andrews would conduct explorations of many corners of the world,

however none would prove to be more historically important than the Central Asiatic Expeditions which he led from 1918 – 1925.

The exploration conducted by Roy Chapman Andrews through the Central Asiatic Expeditions and the encountering of the Flaming Cliffs fossil site allowed Andrews to exchange knowledge of his successful expedition through collected fossils, written works, and photographs which have served as an inspiration to other explorers and paleontologists.

Roy Chapman Andrews

Roy Chapman Andrews was born in Beloit, Wisconsin, on January 26, 1884. By age nine he had developed a passion for hunting which led to an interest in taxidermy. Andrews became so skilled at taxidermy that he started a part time business mounting trophies for local hunters. He used the profits to pay for his tuition to Beloit College where he majored in English but also took courses in anthropology and evolution. After graduating in June 1906, Andrews went to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City where its Director, Hermon Bumpus, was impressed with Andrews’ determination to obtain a job and hired him as a janitor in the taxidermy department. (Appendix Photos 1 & 2)

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In less than a year, Andrews’ work ethic earned him a role on a Museum sponsored expedition to salvage the skeleton of a whale which had washed ashore on Long Island, NY. Andrews spent the next seven years conducting various Museum sponsored expeditions relating to whales. (Appendix Photo 3) Time at sea however did not wash away his ‘Exploritis’, and by 1915 Andrews was planning for what would become his greatest exploration of all.

**The Central Asiatic Expeditions**

Henry Fairfield Osborn, President of The American Museum of Natural History (1908 – 1935) and Andrews had become friends and respected each other’s enthusiasm for exploration. Osborn had been promoting a theory that the origins of mammals evolved in central Asia rather than the widely accepted notion of Africa. His theory was published in the April 13, 1900 issue of *Science* which Andrews referenced when suggesting to Osborne that the Museum should fund an exploratory zoological expedition of central Asia. Andrews proposed “a series of

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expeditions... to uncover the fossil record from which the evolutionary history of these animals might be reconstructed.”

With Osborn’s approval, Andrews successfully conducted the zoological expedition, returning to New York in October 1917 where he was swarmed by reporters wanting to capture his adventurous stories from the trip which the always outspoken Andrews was more than willing to share. In 1919, Andrews generated more public interest and demonstrated his ability to exchange information he had gathered by publishing a full account of the expedition in his book *Camps and Trails in China*. The book was a success as indicated by its multiple reprints in 1920 and 1925.

Plans for an immediate return to central Asia were interrupted by World War I. Andrews was assigned to the United States Naval Intelligence sector and deployed to Peking, China due to his knowledge of the Far East. Even during his service, (June 1918 – April 1919), Andrews was able to satisfy his ‘Exploritis’ through assignments which took him “twice across the Gobi ... It was work I loved because it most fit into my peacetime job of Asiatic exploration.”

By 1920, after completing the exploratory expedition in 1917 and observing the Gobi Desert during his military service, Andrews realized that an expedition into the Gobi would be

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12 Gallenkamp, Charles. Page 70.


much larger than the one he proposed five years earlier. He met with Osborn again and stated, “We should try to reconstruct the whole past history of the Central Asian plateau...It must be a thorough job; the biggest land expedition ever to leave the United States.”\textsuperscript{16} Andrews estimated it would be a five year effort costing $250,000.\textsuperscript{17} An excited Osborn was concerned about funding, but Andrews had a plan; “My only chance...is to make it a ‘society expedition’ with a big S. ...New York society follows a leader blindly. If they have the example of someone like Mr. Morgan...they’ll think it is a ‘must’ for the current season. ‘Have you contributed to the Roy Chapman Andrews’ expedition? If not, you’re not in society.’ That’s the idea.”\textsuperscript{18}

Andrew’s idea relied on the changes to society which had been occurring since World War I ended. Known as ‘The Roaring Twenties’, it was a period when the American economy strengthened, people moved to larger cities and had more disposable income to spend on luxuries.\textsuperscript{19} The science of Paleontology was also ‘roaring’ with stories of great discoveries around the world being reported, increasing public desire to see these specimens first-hand. Museums in major cities competed with each other by introducing more extravagant dinosaur exhibits. In Pittsburgh, PA, Andrew Carnegie funded a paleontology expedition by his Carnegie Museum of Natural History to compete with the American Museum of Natural History.\textsuperscript{20}


\textsuperscript{17} Andrews, Roy Chapman. \textit{Under a Lucky Star – A Lifetime of Adventure}. Page 164.


Andrews was banking on the competitive spirit of New York’s high society to gather the required funding. His plan worked. Andrews used his popularity gained through his earlier Asian expeditions to sway wealthy investors like J.P Morgan and John D. Rockefeller Jr. to fund the expedition.21

In February 1921, with funding and planning complete, Andrews embarked on his mission to find proof of Osborn’s theory of the origins of man in Asia. The expedition was groundbreaking because, “For the first time, a land expedition was carried out with an odd combination of primitive automobiles and a caravan of over one hundred camels to haul supplies, including the gasoline for the vehicles. ...a flamboyantly crazy scheme.”22 With plans to explore thousands of miles into the Gobi Desert, it was required that teams travel ahead to establish bases of supplies. (Appendix Photo 4) So it was not until early 1922 that Andrews’ team set off. “At six o’clock on the morning of April 21, 1922, the five vehicles; their engines roaring like the prehistoric beasts we had come to seek,...climbed slowly towards the Great Wall....beyond lay Mongolia, with all of its mystery, challenges, and unanswered questions.”23 (Appendix Photo 5)

The Flaming Cliffs

With the winter of 1922 approaching, Andrews’ team needed to retreat from the Gobi by September for safety. On their way out, they got lost and while the team was seeking directions from local Mongols, one of Andrews’ assistants, J.B. Shackelford wandered off and discovered a


23 Gallenkamp, Charles. Page 120.
One skull, sent back to the Museum, was determined to be a new dinosaur which was named after Andrews, *Protoceratops andrewsi*.25 (Appendix Photo 6) “Their fellow scientists, awestruck by the basin’s brilliant red and orange formations, would christen it the “Flaming Cliffs,” the name by which it is still known to every paleontologist. “We could hardly suspect that we should later consider it the most important deposit in Asia,” wrote Andrews, “if not in the entire world.”26 (Appendix Photo 7)

Andrews’ team returned to the Flaming Cliffs in July of 1923. George Olsen, a Danish-born paleontologist, discovered what may be the most famous dinosaur fossil ever found, a small collection of dinosaur eggs on an eroded bank of the Flaming Cliffs’ basin.27 (Appendix Photo 8) Further excavation revealed a nest of eggs with the skeleton of a small dinosaur just above the nest. This new dinosaur was named *Oviraptor*, meaning egg thief, for it was believed the dinosaur had been encased in a mudslide while stealing eggs from the nest.28 (Appendix Photo 9) Years later, it was determined that the Oviraptor was most likely sitting on the nest keeping the eggs warm,29 not stealing them. Because of their discovery of dozens of fossilized eggs at the Flaming Cliffs, Andrews and his Central Asiatic Expedition team would forever be credited with proving that dinosaurs were not born live, but rather hatched from eggs.

24 Gallenkamp, Charles. Page 156.
26 Gallenkamp, Charles. Page 156.
In 1925, Andrews led another successful expedition to the Flaming Cliffs and nearly 40 additional eggs were discovered. Andrews’ original mission was to prove out Osborn’s theory that the origins of man came out of Asia. “Ironically, that central goal was never attained; nary a scrap of genuinely ancient human bone was ever retrieved by the Central Asiatic Expeditions. Yet Andrews and his team still triumphed on the scientific front.”

Fossilizing his Story for Future Explorers

Both during the Central Asiatic Expeditions and after their completion, Andrews “was in constant demand as a lecturer and an author.” The outgoing Andrews was more than willing to share what he had learned with the world. He wrote numerous books, but none greater than The New Conquest of Central Asia, a 678 page volume detailing the Central Asiatic Expeditions. He contributed to articles for the Saturday Evening Post, Harper’s, and Asia magazines. Andrews was the cover story for the October 29, 1923 issue of Time magazine. As the Museum’s Director, he spoke on weekly radio programs and was often asked to give commercial endorsements. (Appendix Photo 10)

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34 Gallenkamp, Charles. Page 182.

Many of these materials are available through the Roy Chapman Andrews Society, established in 1999 by Beloit, Wisconsin residents who wanted to exchange information and maintain awareness about one of the 20th Century’s most famous explorers. The Roy Chapman Andrews Society Distinguished Explorer Award is presented annually. “The award recognizes outstanding achievements in scientific discovery through explorations that offer new insights into previously unknown or poorly known subjects or areas.”

Michael J. Novacek, Senior Vice President; Curator, Division of Paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, received the Distinguished Explorer Award in 2003. Novacek, in his book *Time Traveler*, credits Andrews with inspiring him at a young age. “My favorite book...when I was seven was *All About Dinosaurs* by...Andrews.” Novacek authored the forward to Charles Gallenkamp’s biography about Andrews. “He (Andrews) was a gifted storyteller, and his stories riveted many of us from childhood... For generations to follow, including the few of us who eventually found ourselves working as


paleontologists, those glorious fossils at the Flaming Cliffs were the stuff of dreams and inspiration.\textsuperscript{41}

Novacek is not alone when it comes to being inspired by Andrews’ books for children. Clive Coy, Chief Technician, Laboratory for Vertebrate Paleontology, University of Alberta authors a blog (Whales, Camps & Trails) dedicated to Andrews’ lifetime of work. “Many of today’s leading dinosaur specialists like Philip Currie …acknowledge their adult fascination with dinosaurs is in part due to reading Andrews’ All About Dinosaurs, or All About Strange Beasts of the Past.”\textsuperscript{42} Coy also stated, “He (Andrews) began to write books specifically for young readers in the hope that it would encourage them to pick up the torch.”\textsuperscript{43}

Philip Currie, professor at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, gives credit to Andrews’ book, All About Dinosaurs for his chosen career path. “After reading All About Dinosaurs by Roy Chapman Andrews when I was 11 years old, I knew that I wanted to be a dinosaur hunter.”\textsuperscript{44} Currie is a former Curator of Dinosaurs for The Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology and, like Andrews; his fieldwork has included extensive time in China, and

\textsuperscript{41} Novacek, Michael J. Foreword. Dragon Hunter: Roy Chapman Andrews and the Central Asiatic Expeditions. Page X - XI.


Currie says of Andrews, “Reading his All about Dinosaurs made me decide at 12 to become a paleontologist. ...His belief in public education also had a strong influence on me.”

‘RCA’d’

For the most part, Andrews is acknowledged as a skilled, well-spoken explorer and paleontologist. However during his tenure as Director of the American Museum of Natural History from 1935-1942, criticisms of his abilities were made. “Andrews was viewed by many as an ineffective administrator, a misplaced adventurer whose abilities in the field were unquestionably brilliant but who pursued ill-advised policies behind the director’s desk. ...although it is difficult to imagine that anyone could have managed substantially better during the depressions darkest days.”

Others detractors were not pleased with Andrews’ approach to raising funds for the Museum by promoting himself. They regarded Andrews as a “headline seeker who used his widely publicized exploits to ... enlarge his status as a celebrity. He was a clever showman with an uncanny ability to draw the public into the excitement of his escapades, something he felt was

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too often missing in scientific endeavors. He...was a master at manipulating the press as an essential part of his fund-raising skills."\(^{49}\)

Andrews’ paleontology skills did not escape the detractors’ arrows either, but interestingly the criticism relating to this area actually came from Andrews himself. He openly admitted his lack of patience to properly perform the tedious work required of a skilled paleontologist when extricating fossils. "I was inclined to employ [a] pickax" he confessed.\(^{50}\)

For many years to come in the Museum’s paleontology department, anytime a damaged fossil was being examined it was referred to as having been ‘RCA’d – an allusion to Andrews’ heavy handed approach to collecting.’\(^{51}\)

**Incurable ‘Exploritis’**

Criticisms aside, the life’s work of Roy Chapman Andrews, specifically his leadership of the Central Asiatic Expeditions, has resulted in significant contributions to the field of paleontology. The uncharted lands of the Gobi Desert he explored, the fossil laden Flaming Cliffs he encountered, and the countless specimens, books and photographs he exchanged with the world continue to serve as inspiration for modern day explorers and paleontologists who more than likely are dealing with their own cases of ‘Exploritis.’ Andrews never discovered a cure for this ailment; however he did offer a suggested remedy:

"Always there has been an adventure just around the corner – and the world is full of corners."\(^{52}\)

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\(^{49}\) Gallenkamp, Charles. Page 295.

\(^{50}\) Gallenkamp, Charles. Page 152.

\(^{51}\) Gallenkamp, Charles. Page 152.

Appendix of Photographs

Photo 1: Roy Chapman Andrews on the steps of the American Museum of Natural History in 1908.  

Photo 2: American Museum of Natural History, New York – circa 1900-1910.54

Photo 3: Roy Chapman Andrews aboard the schooner the Adventuress. Alaska - 191355


Photo 4: Expedition camp at Tuerin, Mongolia (1922) showing camels loaded with supplies and vehicles which Andrews and his team travelled in.56

Photo 5: Andrews’ caravan slowly climbs towards Mongolia, April 1922.57


Photo 6: An exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City showing the dinosaur Protoceratops andrewsi (named for Andrews).
Photo 7: Roy Chapman Andrews standing at The Flaming Cliffs

Photo 8: Roy Chapman Andrews displaying the first deposit of dinosaur eggs discovered by Danish Paleontologist George Olsen at the Flaming Cliffs in 1923.60

Photo 10: A Dodge advertisement with an endorsement by Roy Chapman Andrews.\textsuperscript{62}

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Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources:


http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/det1994021051/PP/

Annotation: This is a very clear picture of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City taken between 1900 and 1910. While the exact date and photographer are not given, the picture shows how the Museum looked when Roy Chapman Andrews began working there in 1906. This resource would be useful for anyone wanting to see a clear image of the museum from the early 1900’s.


http://images.library.amnh.org/digital/index.php/items/show/19112

Annotation: This is a picture of Roy Chapman Andrews standing on the steps of the American Museum of Natural History in New York City in 1908 which was two years after he began working there in 1906. This picture is in the American Museum of Natural History’s Digital Photo Library which is a resource I used to obtain many of the
pictures for my paper. This website is an excellent resource for anyone wanting to view pictures taken during the Central Asiatic Expeditions.


   **Annotation:** This book was written by Roy Chapman Andrews at his base in Peking, China shortly after the last major expedition into the Gobi Desert completed in 1925. I used this book to confirm dates and specific information relating to the 1925 expedition and the eggs recovered from the Flaming Cliffs. This book is an excellent resource for anyone wanting to read a detailed, first-hand account of the Central Asiatic Expeditions.


   **Annotation:** This book is referred to by other Paleontologists I referenced in my paper like Michael J. Novacek as being Roy Chapman Andrews’ greatest work. The book is 678 pages long and I only used it to confirm the dates of events referenced in my paper. This book would be an outstanding resource for anyone wanting to read an extremely detailed, scientific account of the Central Asiatic Expeditions.


   **Annotation:** In this book, Roy Chapman Andrews talks about the planning he went through while attempting to continue conducting expeditions into the Gobi Desert during
the period of 1928-1930. His attempts were not as successful as in earlier years due to increased political tension in China and the threat of thieves disrupting his expedition. This is the resource in which Andrews talks about ‘Exploritis’ which is the title of my paper. This is a good resource for anyone wanting to learn about how Roy Chapman Andrews went about selecting a team of researchers for an expedition.


**Annotation:** This is Roy Chapman Andrews’ autobiography. Most of the book is dedicated to his leading of the Central Asiatic Expeditions. I used this book as resource for my paper to discuss Andrews’ fundraising activities for the Central Asiatic Expeditions. This is a great resource for anyone wanting to learn about Andrews’ life as told directly by him.


**Annotation:** This is a copy of a Dodge advertisement in which Roy Chapman Andrews talks about the dependability of the Dodge trucks he used to conduct the Central Asiatic Expeditions. I found the picture on the *Whales, Camps & Trails* blog which is
maintained by Clive Coy. The blog is a great resource for viewing photographs of items relating to the life of Roy Chapman Andrews.


   **Annotation:** This article in *Science* is very detailed and difficult to understand. I did not use information from this article specifically in my paper, however I did reference it. This would be a good resource for anyone interested in the specific “Out of Asia” theory proposed by Henry Fairfield Osborn.


   **Annotation:** This is a photograph of Roy Chapman Andrews aboard a whaling ship taken in 1913. Andrews spent seven years working on whaling expeditions for the American Museum of Natural History. This is a good resource for anyone interested in seeing what it looked like on a whaling ship in the early 1900’s.

**Annotation:** James B. Shackelford was the primary photographer Roy Chapman Andrews employed for several of his expeditions. Shackelford is also the original discoverer of the Flaming Cliffs as explained in my paper. Many of the photos Shackelford took during the Central Asiatic Expeditions are contained in the American Museum of Natural History’s Digital Photo Library which is an excellent resource for looking at photos from the expeditions.

**Secondary Sources:**


**Annotation:** The Roy Chapman Andrews Society’s website contains a lot of information about Andrews and his life’s work. I used the website to conduct a lot of research for my paper. This specific page was referenced in my paper to discuss the founding of the Society. This website is an outstanding resource for anyone wanting to learn about Roy Chapman Andrews and the continued efforts to maintain his legacy.


[http://roychapmanandrewssociety.org/additional-resources/](http://roychapmanandrewssociety.org/additional-resources/)

**Annotation:** The Roy Chapman Andrews Society website contains a large number of additional resources and links which I used to conduct research for my paper. This portion of the Society’s website is a good resource for anyone wanting to find additional resources relating to Andrews.


**Annotation:** The American Museum of Natural History’s website contains history section which provides a good amount of information in chronological order. I used this webpage to confirm dates referenced in my paper relating to the positions held by Roy Chapman Andrews and Henry Fairfield Osborn at the Museum. This webpage is an excellent resource for anyone interested in the history of the American Museum of Natural History.

**Annotation:** This section of the American Museum of Natural History’s website contains a short article, video, and some photographs relating to dinosaur reproduction. I used this webpage to get the picture of the Oviraptor fossil included as Appendix Photo 9 in my paper. This webpage is a good resource for anyone wanting to learn more about dinosaur reproduction.


   http://whalescampsandtrails.blogspot.com/

**Annotation:** Clive Coy maintains the Whales, Camps & Trails blogspot which is dedicated to Roy Chapman Andrews’ life’s work. Coy is a paleontologist at the University of Alberta and I quoted him in my paper. Coy also referenced another paleontologist, Philip Currie from the University of Alberta who I researched as well. Coy’s blog is a good resource for anyone wanting to learn more about Andrews and see many photographs of his expeditions and published books.


**Annotation:** This book is a biography of Roy Chapman Andrews. It is a very detailed account of his life and primarily focuses on his Central Asiatic Expeditions. I used this book to obtain a lot of the information and quotations used in my paper. This is an excellent resource for anyone wanting to learn about the life of Roy Chapman Andrews.
   

   **Annotation:** This website contains a scientific account of the identification of the Oviraptor fossil discovered during the 1923 Central Asiatic Expedition. I used this resource to cite the description of the Oviraptor in my paper and this would be a great resource for anyone wanting to learn more about this dinosaur and its nesting habits.

   

   **Annotation:** The Roy Chapman Andrews Society’s website contains a lot of information about Andrews and his life’s work. I used the website to conduct a lot of research for my paper. This particular page was used for the Appendix Photo 6 in my paper which shows the dinosaur Protoceratops andrewsi which was named after Andrews. This website is a good resource for anyone wanting to learn about Roy Chapman Andrews and the continued efforts to maintain his legacy.

   
**Annotation:** The Roy Chapman Andrews Society gives an annual award to an individual for recognition of outstanding achievements in science through exploration. It was through this website that I learned about Michael J. Novacek, the first recipient of the award in 2003. Like Roy Chapman Andrews, he works for the American Museum of Natural History and credits Andrews for inspiring him at a young age. This resource is an excellent source of information about Novacek and his work.


**Annotation:** Michael J. Novacek is a paleontologist at the American Museum of Natural History. In his foreword to Charles Gallenkamp’s biography of Roy Chapman Andrews, Novacek talks of his early exposure to books written by Andrews and how he was inspired by them and the stories of the Flaming Cliffs. This is a good resource for anyone wanting to read about how Andrews served as an inspiration to modern day explorers.


**Annotation:** This book is Michael J. Novacek’s autobiography. In it, Novacek writes about how, as a child he read books about dinosaurs written by Roy Chapman Andrews and this inspired him to become a paleontologist. This book is an excellent resource for anyone wanting to learn more about Michael J. Novacek.


https://uofa.ualberta.ca/dinosaurs/paleontology/the-people-of-paleo/philip-currie

**Annotation:** This webpage is part of the faculty description page on the University of Alberta’s Paleontology Department’s website. Philip Currie answers a series of questions about himself and one of them relates to his inspiration to become a paleontologist which he states was Roy Chapman Andrews. This website is a great example of another modern day explorer discussing how they were influenced at a young age by Andrews.


**Annotation:** This website is maintained by the History Channel, a cable television channel. There is a brief description of Dr. Philip Currie, Professor, Biological Sciences, University of Alberta and Canada Research Chair in Dinosaur Paleobiology. It is mentioned how Currie worked in Mongolia which is where Roy Chapman Andrews conducted his Central Asiatic Expeditions. This is a good resource for anyone wanting to learn more about modern day explorers who are performing research in Mongolia.


http://www.amnh.org/our-research/staff-directory/michael-j.-novacek

**Annotation:** This webpage is part of the American Museum of Natural History’s faculty page. I used this resource to properly cite Novacek’s official title and to learn a little
more about his experience in the field of paleontology. The webpage also lists many published works by Novacek which could be useful to anyone wishing to read more about his experiences.

   **Annotation:** This webpage explains the purpose of the Roy Chapman Andrews Society annual Distinguished Explorer Award. It also lists all of the recipients of the award. I used this list to research each of the recipients to learn if any of them made references to being inspired by Roy Chapman Andrews. This is where I first learned about Michael J. Novacek. This webpage would be useful to anyone wishing to learn more about the Distinguished Explorer Award and its past recipients.

   April 2, 2016.
   [http://www.history.com/topics/roaring-twenties](http://www.history.com/topics/roaring-twenties)
   **Annotation:** This website is maintained by the History Channel, a cable television channel. This page on the site provides a short history of “The Roaring Twenties” and explains how Americans were gaining wealth and moving from farms to big cities. It explained how society was changing and becoming a “commercial culture” with a desire to spend their new wealth. I used this resource to include historical context information to show how Andrews was able to use his skill as a salesman to gather funding from
wealthy investors wanting to increase their status in society by having their names associated with the Central Asiatic Expeditions. This webpage would be useful to anyone wishing to learn more about how society changed in the 1920’s.


**Annotation:** This article in *American Scientist* discusses how Paleontology has remained a branch of science that has been able to keep a broad audience for many years. Keith Thomson writes about how discoveries of dinosaurs have always been very popular especially due to some of the great showmanship by famous Paleontologists like Roy Chapman Andrews, Edward Cope, and Henry Fairfield Osborn. This article provided information about other museums in other cities that were competing against the American Museum of Natural History in New York City to attract visitors to their dinosaur exhibits. This article would be helpful to anyone wanting to know about the history of Paleontology’s popularity beginning in the late 1800’s.