



CAN YOU FIND THE PRESIDENTIAL, THE REGAL, AND THE ROYAL AT THE VANDERBILT?

BIRD, BUTTERFLY, AND ETHNOGRAPHIC GALLERY (first floor - Memorial Wing)



EMPEROR MOTHS (family *Saturniidae*) are large, beautiful moths with “eye spots” resembling the eyes of an owl. This feature or “adaptation” is used to scare predators away. **FUN FACT:** Most moths are nocturnal (night fliers) and have feathered antennae and furry bodies, while most butterflies are diurnal (day fliers) and have knobbed antennae and smooth bodies.



FLY WHISKS are long-handled objects with bristles of animal hair at one end. **CHIEFS** in the Pacific Islands hold them as a symbol of their position, but they have a practical purpose as well. Attendants would wave fly whisks to keep the Chief free of flying insects – an important function in hot climates. We have two of them on exhibit. **FUN FACT:** Fly whisks of High Chiefs have longer handles than those of lower chiefs.

THE MARINE INVERTEBRATE GALLERY (first floor – Memorial Wing)



The **QUEEN CONCH** (*strombus gigas*) shell belongs to one of the largest families of mollusks native to the warm waters around North America. To find it, look for a large shell with a beautiful pink color inside. The Queen Conch can grow to be up to a foot long, making it desirable to collectors like Mr. Vanderbilt. **FUN FACT:** The flared-out shell is an adaptation to scare off predators. (They say these shells are delicious!)

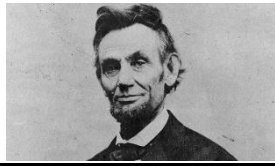


There is no regal title for the **NORTH AMERICAN LOBSTER** (*Homarus americanus*), but there should be. At a whopping 35 pounds it surely would have made a meal fit for a **KING**. Can you find this big guy? Lobsters store their food by burying it on the ocean bottom, and defend that area much as a dog would. **FUN FACT:** A Lobster’s “teeth” (chewing/grinding surfaces) are in its stomach!!!



THE SUDAN TROPHY ROOM (second floor gallery in the Memorial Wing)

The **AFRICAN CROWNED CRANE** (*Regulorum gibbericeps*) is easy to spot by the golden **CROWN** of bristles on its head. Groups of Crowned Cranes extend their wings to form a circle, and then dance out from the center, and hop back in to form a circle once again. These movements may have inspired some African dances. **FUN FACT:** This is the only Crane species that can perch in trees.



MEMORIAL WING STAIRS (second floor landing)

A copy of a letter written by our 16th **PRESIDENT, ABRAHAM LINCOLN**, is on display in a special place in the museum. Dated May 4, 1861, this letter was addressed to New York City Mayor Fernando Wood. How this letter came into the Vanderbilt Family's possession remains a mystery. The original letter and envelope are stored safely in the museum archives. **FUN FACT:** This letter can be examined more closely on the website of *The Papers of Abraham Lincoln*, which is a database developed by the State of Illinois to document Lincoln's correspondence. Representatives of *The Papers* visited the Vanderbilt Museum in 2011, to digitize and authenticate the letter.

THE NURSERY WING



A portrait of Mr. Vanderbilt's sister, Consuelo Vanderbilt Balsan, hangs in this part of the museum. She married the **DUKE** of Marlborough and gained the royal title of **DUCHESS** of Marlborough. **FUN FACT:** The Vanderbilt Family is related to English royalty through this marriage.



The **VANDERBILT MUMMY**, purchased from an antique shop in Egypt by William K. Vanderbilt II, arrived in New York aboard the **S.S. PRESIDENT HARRISON** in 1932. Mr. Vanderbilt was able to export the mummy from Egypt because he had a public museum in which it would be displayed. **FUN FACT:** Egypt no longer allows the exportation of mummies, but it loans them to other museums.

THE LIBRARY

This full-length portrait of **PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON** is on view in February to celebrate Presidents' Week. This pose is after the famous portrait by artist Gilbert Stuart, commissioned in 1796 by William Bingham as a gift for the Marquis of Lansdowne. **FUN FACT:** Now known as the *Lansdowne Portrait*, a version of this painting hangs in the White House in Washington, D.C.



THE STOLL WING

The **AFRICAN LION** (*Panthera leo*) is "The **KING** of the Jungle" and can be found posing in the diorama habitat depicting a grassland, or Savannah. This specimen, known commonly as a Black-Maned Lion, weighed approximately 550 pounds and was captured in Botswana, Africa. **FUN FACTS:** The female lion (lioness) is the hunter for the family. The male lion is the family protector. Their favorite food is zebra!