

Museum Notes

Among the items acquired by your Museum during the past few months were:

a sword with a carved ivory handle topped by an eagle head cast in bronze which is reputed to have been originally in the possession of the famous General Marquis De Lafayette. It was presented to Colonel Irad C. Day who had served as one of the General's Aides at the Battle of Yorktown,

a bag of much-used and well-nicked marbles including 2 plain glassies, one snowflake, one milky, 58 snotties, one cat-eye, 3 crockies (glazed clay), 2 agies (cut from agate), and 14 onion glassies, one of which is 100 years old and has the generous diameter of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Most specimens of fossils are found imbedded in a matrix of hard rock which must be carefully removed in order that the fossil may be more completely exposed and examined. In the past this was usually accomplished with chisels, scrapers and points, which, due to their grossness, often damaged the fine details of the fossil. Your State Museum has now partially solved this problem with the use of a miniature sandblast machine which ejects a tiny fast moving jet of compressed gas and abrasive dust. By directing this jet it can be made to abrade in a very selective manner and the matrix surrounding the fossil can be safely removed. The fine structure of the organism remains undamaged, and in some cases microscopic examination is necessary to detect the new details revealed.

The Printing Press on the Cover

On February 19, 1863, in Keokuk, Iowa, a group of convalescing soldiers from the General Hospital there attacked *The Constitution*, a Democratic newspaper. The mob destroyed the shop, throwing everything into the street, scattered type, and broke up the presses. This is a cut of a Washington hand printing press which was found in the street shortly after the incident. The mob was evidently agitated by remarks in the *Constitution* prior to the 19th.

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