

ARTANCIENT



## FOSSILISED TYRANNOSAURUS REX TOOTH

Circa 67 million years ago  
H. 12.5 cm x W. 4.2 cm

### PROVENANCE

Found in Butte County, South Dakota, USA, Summer 2021.

An extremely large and extraordinarily well preserved tooth of one of the most iconic prehistoric predators - the *Tyrannosaurus Rex* - with a remarkable video capturing the moment of its discovery.





### The King of the Dinosaurs

Found in Butte County, South Dakota, this fossil comes from the Hell Creek ecosystem, where the first T. rex fossils were unearthed in 1902 by Barnum Brown, a palaeontologist with the American Museum of Natural History. On 25 July 1902, in sheer awe of his discovery, Brown wrote, 'Quarry No. 1 contains the femur, pubes, humerus, three vertebrae and two undetermined bones of a large Carnivorous Dinosaur... I have never seen anything like it from the Cretaceous.' The genus was first classified following its complete excavation in 1905. In that year, Henry Fairfield Osborn, President of the American Museum of Natural History, stated: 'I propose to make this animal the type of a new genus, Tyrannosaurus, in reference to its size, which greatly exceeds that of any carnivorous land animal hitherto described...'

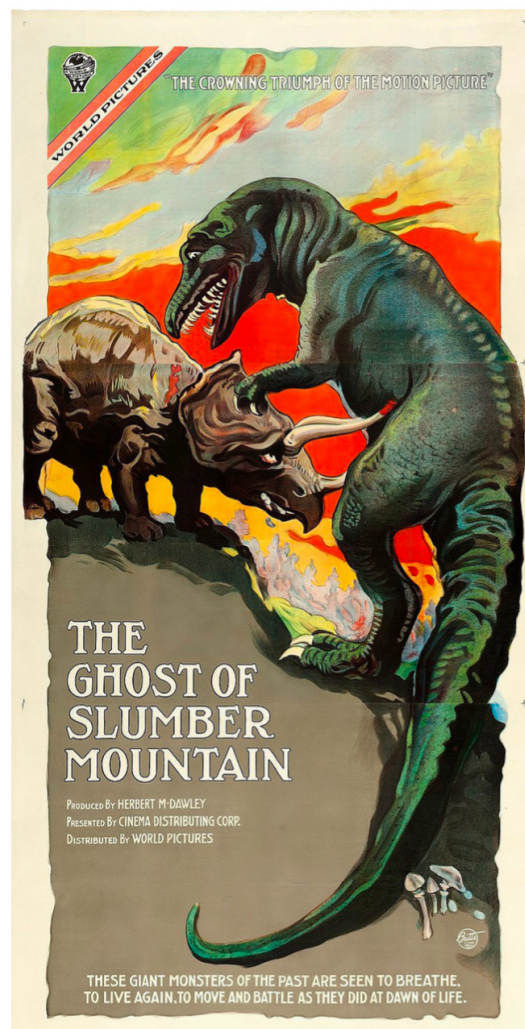
Osborn could not help celebrating his museum's spectacular acquisition. He further stated that 'This animal is in fact the *ne plus ultra* of the evolution of the large carnivorous dinosaurs: in brief it is entitled to the royal and high sounding group name which I have applied to it...' This name - deriving from the Greek and Latin for 'tyrant lizard king' - was by no means undeserved. At its largest, the *Tyrannosaurus rex* reached heights of 12 metres in length and weighed between 5,000-7,000 kilograms. Dubbed as the 'largest flesh-eater that ever lived' by Brown in 1915, the T. rex jaw, lined with 60 saw-edged teeth, would have had spectacular strength, capable of delivering up to 6 tonnes of pressure, and being able to crush bone easily.

The present specimen with its perfectly preserved serrated edge, and spider web-like surface, is an iconic symbol of one of Earth's greatest prehistoric predators.

'A powerful creature, doubtless swift of movement when [the] occasion demanded speed and capable of destroying any of the contemporary creatures, *a king of the period and monarch of its race.*'

Barnum Brown, palaeontologist with the American Museum of Natural History, 1905.

1 *Tyrannosaurus rex* on display at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.



### On the Silver Screen

Soon after its discovery, *Tyrannosaurus rex* quickly became an object of widespread public fascination. Newspaper articles from the early 20th century heralded it as the 'royal man eater of the jungle,' 'the absolute warlord of the earth,' and 'the Prize Fighter of Antiquity.' Barnum Brown even advised on the cinematic debut of the dinosaur in *The Ghost of Slumber Mountain* (1918). From then on, the T. rex was seared into the public imagination through innumerable appearances in films, television and literature. As a result, *Tyrannosaurus rex* remains to this day the only dinosaur popularly referred to by its full scientific name. The present specimen therefore represents not only a 67 million year old piece of natural history, but also the real-life manifestation of one of the greatest pop-culture icons of the 20th century.



2 Movie poster from the 1918 film, *The Ghost of Slumber Mountain*

3 The discovery of the present tooth, Butte County, South Dakota, Summer 2021.