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Review of *Barnum Brown: The Man Who Discovered  
Tyrannosaurus rex*. By Lowell Dingus and Mark A.  
Norell.

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mid to late 19th century. His father was an ambitious, but level-headed, Virginia-born entrepreneur-turned-Kansas farmer, and young Brown grew up on a prosperous farm that employed 31 men. Authors Dingus and Norell highlight a key event in Brown's life when, aged 16, his father took him on an epic four-month trip of three thousand miles by oxcart to see the Old West his parent had known before it passed away forever. As Brown described it, "This was Father's finest gift to me; it was of himself." It seems this trip instilled a life-long sense of wanderlust in Brown, giving him the courage to travel far away from home and the skills to look after himself in remote places. Returning, he enrolled in high school in Lawrence, Kansas, and continued on to higher education at the University of Kansas in 1893.

Originally intending to study engineering, but soon realizing that geology and palaeontology were his calling, he managed to charm his way onto a field expedition in 1894 led by Samuel W. Williston, one of the leading palaeontologists of the day. Brown made a great impression on Williston, and his exemplary field and camp skills led to his being recommended as an assistant on an American Museum of Natural History expedition in 1896. He passed muster with the AMNH field crew, and his fate with the AMNH was sealed. He would remain with the Museum well past his official retirement in 1942 until his death in 1963.

It is impossible to summarize Brown's many accomplishments and adventures in this short review. During his time with the AMNH he traveled extensively in western North America and internationally—Cuba, Mexico, Patagonia (where he survived a ship wreck near Cape Horn), France, England, Turkey, Greece, Ethiopia, Egypt, Somaliland, Arabia, India, and Burma. Fifty-seven specimens he collected now form the foundation for the exhibit halls in the AMNH, not just including dinosaurs, but fossil mammals and invertebrates as well. He returned almost yearly to western North American sites that host thousands of top-quality fossils of backboned animals from the past 280 million years.

The book itself is well written, and follows Brown's life chronologically from birth to death. Along the way, the narrative delves, sometimes quite deeply, into the people and events, both American and foreign, that would have influenced Brown's life and work at the time. The reams of facts, figures, and dates in the book are meticulously referenced using the extensive archives of the AMNH. Brown was notorious for not keeping field notes, and correspondence to and from the field with his bosses, as well as annual reports, are the sources for most of the

**Barnum Brown: The Man Who Discovered *Tyrannosaurus rex*.** By Lowell Dingus and Mark A. Norell. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010. xiv + 368 pp. Map, illustrations, appendices, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95 cloth.

Barnum Brown, born in 1873, was a product of the American West and the homesteading traditions of the

details of Brown's life while associated with the Museum. Despite their efforts, the authors lament that aspects of Brown's personal life and personality can really only be glimpsed from the writings of his two wives, his only daughter, and professional colleagues, leaving the man himself still a bit of a mystery. **Donald M. Henderson**, *Curator of Dinosaurs, Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology, Drumheller, Alberta.*