

D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum

What is the Museum?

The University of Dundee's Zoology Museum was originally founded in the 1880s by D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson, Professor of Biology and Natural History 1885-1917. He is best known today for his extraordinary book *On Growth and Form*. A ground-breaking investigation into the growth of organisms, it pioneered the science of mathematical biology, and continues to influence scientists, artists and architects today.



Because of their use in teaching, the collections are unusual in containing examples from all the divisions of animal life. From microscope slides of single celled life-forms, to deep sea creatures and giant reptiles, the museum has an amazing range of specimens on show. There are also displays about D'Arcy, his interest in conservation and biodiversity, his far-flung expeditions and his links to the Dundee whalers. Whether your interest is in science, art or natural design, you will find inspiration here, just as D'Arcy Thompson himself was inspired by the form and function of living organisms.



What to see

- The King Penguin presented by Sir Ernest Shackleton
- The Giant Spider Crab
- Fossils of prehistoric creatures
- Colourful and exotic birds
- Rare and remarkable mammals
- Whaling artefacts
- Beautifully crafted models and teaching charts
- D'Arcy's original microscope

When to Visit

The museum is open Fridays 2 - 4.30pm during the summer vacation (mid June to early September) and for various other events throughout the year - check our website for more details:

www.dundee.ac.uk/museum/zoology

Contact us on 01382 384310 or museum@dundee.ac.uk

D'Arcy Thompson Zoology Museum
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Every Object Tells a Story...

The New Zealand Huia was unique in that the male and female birds had differently shaped bills. The birds were sacred to Maori tribes who used their feathers in head-dresses. However numbers declined with the arrival of European settlers, and in 1901 their feathers became part of a European fashion trend. The Huia was hunted to extinction, being last officially recorded in 1907. D'Arcy acquired this pair in 1898.

Why not visit other museums in this area? Find out more at www.taysidemuseums.org.uk

