

**'Maggs, WA'**

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MAGGS, W. A.

1915/16

TELEPHONE,  
No 2010 PADDINGTON.

14, UPPER WIMPOLE STREET, W.

13 April 1916.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for returning  
the ancient pot & tooth crowns

I intend bringing them  
before the Odonto Section of  
the R. S. M., but am at  
present undecided about  
their habitat

Yours faithfully,

W. a. Maggs

C. J. S. Thompson Esq



H.M.M.

12 April 1916.

Dear Sir,

I am sending herewith the ancient pot and tooth crowns you so kindly lent us for the Museum. I was hoping we might have been able to have added them permanently to the collection, and if the owner would be willing to dispose of the same, perhaps you would kindly let me know.

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.

W.A. Maggs Esq.,

14. Upper Wimpole Street,

W.

TELEPHONE;  
No 2010 PADDINGTON.

14, UPPER WIMPOLE STREET, W.

4 April 1916.

Dear Sir,

I should be obliged  
if you would at your  
convenience please return  
the teeth and pot I left  
with you some months ago.

Yours faithfully,

W. A. Maggs.

C. J. S. Thompson Esq.

Curator, Wellcome Museum.



H.M.M.

7 April 1916.

Dear Sir,

I beg to inform you that Mr. Thompson is at present out of town but your letter will be brought before him on Monday and will have his immediate attention.

Yours faithfully,

W.A. Maggs Esq.,

14. Upper Wimpole Street, W.

THE WELLCOME HISTORICAL MEDICAL MUSEUM

AN INTERNATIONAL COLLECTION ILLUSTRATING THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE AND THE ALLIED SCIENCES



Telephone—"MAYFAIR 3481"

Telegrams—"BIBLIOTHEC, WESDO, LONDON"

54A, WIGMORE ST.

LONDON, W.

15 October 1915.

Dear Sir,

I much regret the delay in replying to your kind letter respecting the teeth found in the ~~an~~ Indian grave. I have had them examined by dental anatomists and also archaeologists, and the general opinion is, that the disappearance of the roots is due to some parasite or fungus that has eaten them and also the dentine away, leaving the shell or crown of enamel. They are probably from a grave dating back five or six hundred years, and it is thought they may have been taken from a skull and collected and placed in the pot and buried. The teeth have been identified as seven lower molars, nine upper molars, three canines, seven premolars and seven bicuspid.

I should be glad to know if you would be willing to lend the little pot and the remains to this Museum for a time. If so, we should much appreciate your kindness, as they would be an interesting addition to our collection.

Faithfully yours,

*L. S. Thompson*  
Curator

W.A. Maggs Esq.



TELEPHONE,  
No 2010 PADDINGTON.

14, UPPER WIMPOLE STREET, W.

16 August 1915.

Dear Sir,

I should be much  
obliged for the archaeologists  
opinion about the teeth  
and pot. I noticed that  
the teeth were not carious.

Yours faithfully,

W. A. Maggs.

C. J. S. Thompson Esq.

54<sup>A</sup> Wigmore Street.

W.



H.M.M.

14 August 1915.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 12th inst. together with the small pot containing the remains of teeth that was found in an Indian grave, has been forwarded by Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co. to me for examination.

As you no doubt may be aware, cremation was practiced by the early Indian tribes in the northern parts of South America, and also by the Incas and Mayas. The ashes and calcined bones were collected and placed in a small pot or urn and were eventually buried.

With respect to the condition of the teeth in this pot, it appears to me that they have been eaten away by the action of some chemical in the soil, and in some cases you can trace the process of erosion which has eaten away the roots. I do not think it is likely that these teeth were extracted during life.

With your permission I should like to show them to an archaeologist who has had some experience in the northern

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parts of South America, who is at present out of town, but I expect he will be back in a week or two's time. If you would kindly leave the pot with me until his return, I will let you know what he thinks, and send it back to you at the same time.

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.

W.A. Maggs Esq., L.D.S.,  
14 Upper Wimpole Street



TELEPHONE,  
No 2010 PADDINGTON.

14, UPPER WIMPOLE STREET, W.

12 August 1915.

Gentlemen,

I should be obliged if  
you would please give me  
your opinion upon the teeth  
and pot enclosed.

Mr. Orozco-Casola, L.D.S. Aug.  
of Costa Rica, in sending  
them writes "In an Indian  
grave was found a pot  
containing several teeth

mostly bicuspid and molars,  
but the interesting thing is  
that all the roots are worn  
out (?), and the dentine too,  
and only the enamel is  
left like a crown.

From examination of these  
teeth we can conclude that  
they have been buried for  
hundreds of years.

The Indians had the habit  
of burying with each  
individual all his belongings



treasures &c. The only  
explanation that I have is  
that there were "tooth-pullers"  
among them."

Yours faithfully,

W. A. Maggs.

Messrs Burroughs Welcome  
54 Wigmore Street W.<sup>Ob</sup>