

[Leaflet advertising the exhibition of The Petrified Man from Tucapel, Chile, in the Trance Room of the Royal Aquarium, London].

Publication/Creation

[between 1880 and 1899?]

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ROYAL AQUARIUM, S.W.

***To be seen in the Trance Room
near the West Entrance.***

The Petrified Man (or God) was discovered in the province of Tucapel. Some say he is antediluvian, others that he is Don Pedro Valdavia, and others that he is Sir Thomas Cavendish, and still others that he is Adam. The body is wounded in the head and breast. It is thought that he must have been killed and thrown into the river to prevent being sacrificed by the Indians. The petrified man was taken to Valparaiso by cart and rail, the journey occupying about 20 days, from thence Messrs. Cardenas & Co. forwarded it to Lima in Peru. He was exhibited there for a fortnight; he was then taken to Guayaquil. Whilst on Exhibition at Guayaquil he was visited by Medical men who severally tested the extraordinary phenomenon. It was then sent via Panama to New York, and was then shipped to England by Messrs. Pitt & Scott. Don Eugenio Selaya, a well-known Sculptor, whilst the exhibit was on view in Lima, gave the exhibitor a certificate to the effect that the petrified man had not been sculptured, and that no sculptor could execute such a work of the antique. It is a unique sight and without precedent in England, the man is 6ft. in height. There is nothing like it at the British or South Kensington Museums.