As the multimedia operator for his company's Sales Workshop, Steve Singleton has been doing a lot of traveling. The workshop's facilitators and he have conducted the workshop in Colorado Springs, Chicago, New York, Atlanta, Dallas, and Los Angeles, ending up in London, for a total of 13 six-hour workshops. Steve's wife Cindy accompanied him on the trip to the U.K. capital.

While Steve was busy with the workshop, Cindy took in St. Paul's Cathedral, Tower of London, and the Tower Bridge. Later on, the couple dropped by other famous London tourist spots too—Buckingham Palace, St. James Park, Big Ben, Parliament, Westminster Abbey, the Savoy, Trafalgar Square, Covent Gardens, St. Martin in the Fields. They also attended a production of Hamlet in the theatre district. And yes, they did ride a double-decker bus.

Getting to go to London has been one of Steve's life-long dreams, primarily due to his intense interest in the archaeology of the ancient middle east and mediterranean world. London's **British Museum** has a fabulous collection of inscriptions, sculptures, and artifacts. Steve returned home with these photos, which are just a sample of the ones he shot during their two visits to the British Museum.

Steve and Cindy also explored the British Library, which features some of the oldest manuscripts in the world, including one of the original copies of the Magna Carta, two of the oldest and best biblical manuscripts, and the exquisitely beautiful Lindisfarne Gospels. Unfortunately, however, the library does not permit photography. You can learn more and see some of what is there by going to the **British Library website**.

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Steve visits London's British Museum

Steve stands in front of a Lamassu, a colossal human-headed winged bull, which once guarded the entrance to the palace of Asshurbanipal II (c. 865 BCE) in Nimrod, a city about 22 miles south of Mosul, the third largest city of Iraq. Note the stylized horns and the leash (chest and flanks), similar to what the Assyrian used for dogs and cheetahs. This creature was supposed to prevent the palace from being attached by chaos.

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Steve visits London's British Museum

This is some of the surprisingly modern-looking gold jewelry once worn by the royal women of Ur, the hometown of Abraham. The Englishman Leonard Wooley and his team excavated Ur from 1922 to 1934. Most of the team's discoveries, including the tombs of nearly 2000 people, date from about 2600 BCE.

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Steve visits London's British Museum

This sculpture, which Wooley called "Ram in a thicket" (though it is actually a goat), was discovered in one of the royal tombs of Ur. It is made of gold-covered wood and the semi-precious stone lapis lazuli. This sculpture is all the more remarkable in view of the connection of a ram caught in a thicket with the story of Abraham (see Genesis 22:13-14).

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Steve visits London's British Museum

Upperclass women of the time of the Roman Empire typically had ornate hairstyles that often involved the use of falls and wigs, complex braiding, and entwining pearls and fine gold wires into their coiffures.

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Steve visits London's British Museum

Dionysius, the god of wine and merrymaking known to the Romans as Bacchus, is identifiable by his crown of grape leaves. The Greeks believed that rationality prevented humans from making contact with the spiritual realm, which is why their religious rituals often involved drunkenness, hallucinatory drugs, and orgiastic frenzies.

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Steve visits London's British Museum

Among the ancient Greeks were gifted sculptors, like the artisan who created this life-sized column. Similar columns adorn the Erechtheum, a small temple that stands beside the Parthenon on the Athenian acropolis.

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Steve visits London's British Museum

Socrates (d. 399 BCE) was one of the greatest of the Greek philosophers. He emphasized the importance of self-examination and self-knowledge. He introduced a dialogue technique of teaching known today as the Socratic method. His pupil, Plato, wrote down his many dialogues (and perhaps invented some of them).

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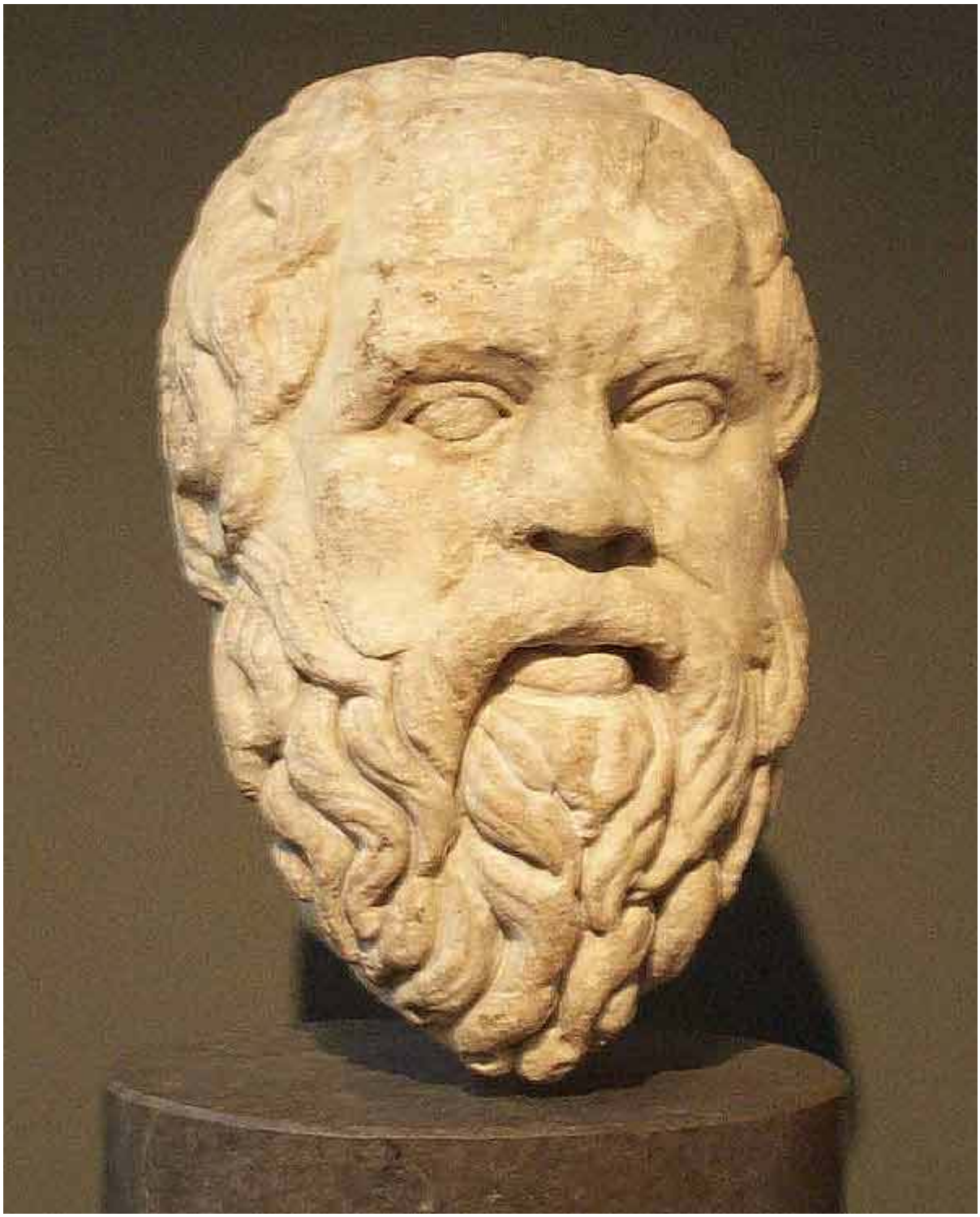

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Steve visits London's British Museum

By the first century of the Common Era, mystery cults from the Middle East were becoming popular throughout the Roman Empire. One of them was Mithraism, with its myth of Mithra's killing a bull. The blood of the bull was said to have given life to the world, symbolized by the dog and the snake drinking its blood. Initiates in the cult stood in a pit where they showered in and drank of the blood of a bull being killed on the grating above them. The strength of the bull was supposed to enter the initiates by this means.

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Steve visits London's British Museum

One of the ways ancients had of attempting to predict the future was to carve the liver out of an animal and examine its spots. This clay model was used by the apprentice who actually did the bloody business to mark with pegs where the spots occurred. The priest would then make his prognostication by looking at the model and reading the accompanying inscriptions.

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Steve visits London's British Museum

Like other Babylonian and Persian rulers, Nabonidus recorded his exploits on a terracotta cylinder, which, when baked, became a permanent record of his reign.

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Steve visits London's British Museum

This is the stela of Nabonidus, a Babylonian king who rebelled against tradition to worship the moon god, Sin. Nabonidus was the father of the Belshazzar of Daniel 5, who saw the famous "Writing on the Wall." He was also vitally interested in archaeology and opened a museum of ancient artifacts.

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Steve visits London's British Museum

This is the famous Rosetta Stone, a royal inscription in three languages. A comparison of the three led scholars to decipher the ancient Egyptian language of hieroglyphics.

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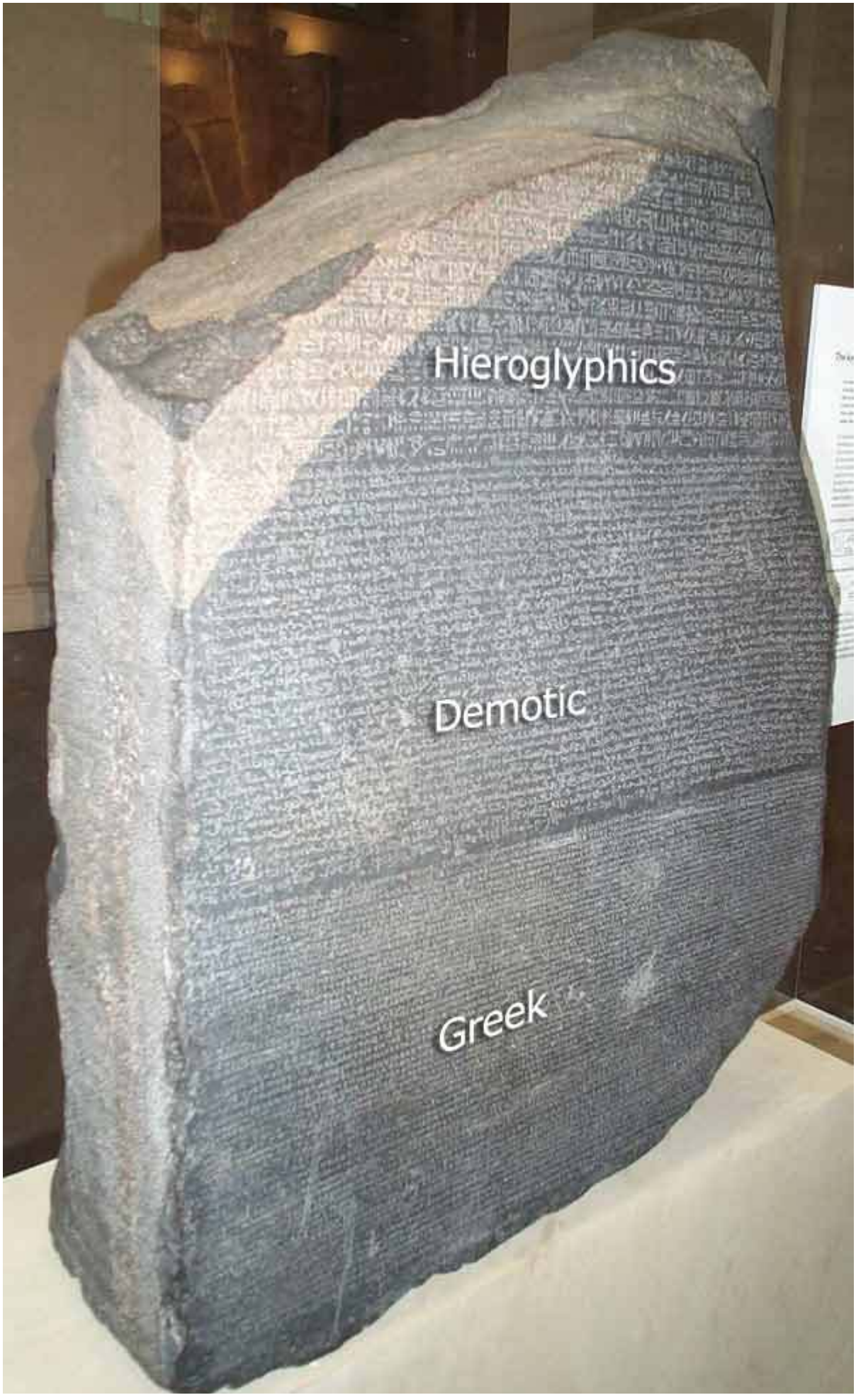
Hieroglyphics
Demotic
Greek

Steve visits London's British Museum

These are four canopic jars in which the internal organs of the deceased were placed when the Egyptians began the embalming process. The jars are each topped with an image of one of the four sons of the Egyptian god Horus (human, baboon, jackal, and falcon), who were thought to guard the organs deposited in them.

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Steve visits London's British Museum

A boardgame dated at around 2600 BCE was found in the royal tombs of Ur. The squares are inlaid with either limestone or lapis lazuli. Each player had five pawns, moved according to the results of a toss of a pair of knucklebones (one of a sheep and one of an ox). Apparently landing on a rosette signified good luck, while landing in a non-rosette spaced forced the player to pay a penalty. This much is revealed in a tablet dated at around 177-176 BCE that describes the game.

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Steve visits London's British Museum

Engaged in a delicate balance of powers with the Roman Empire was the Parthian Empire, which stretched from what is now Saudi Arabia through Iraq and Iran, all the way to India. The conical hat with the characteristic knob on top was often used in sculpture to identify Parthian soldiers.

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