

Museum Noir

In the Scottish galleries look out for:

Scotland's first weapon of war?

Arrow head embedded in a vertebrae fragment, c. 5500 BC.

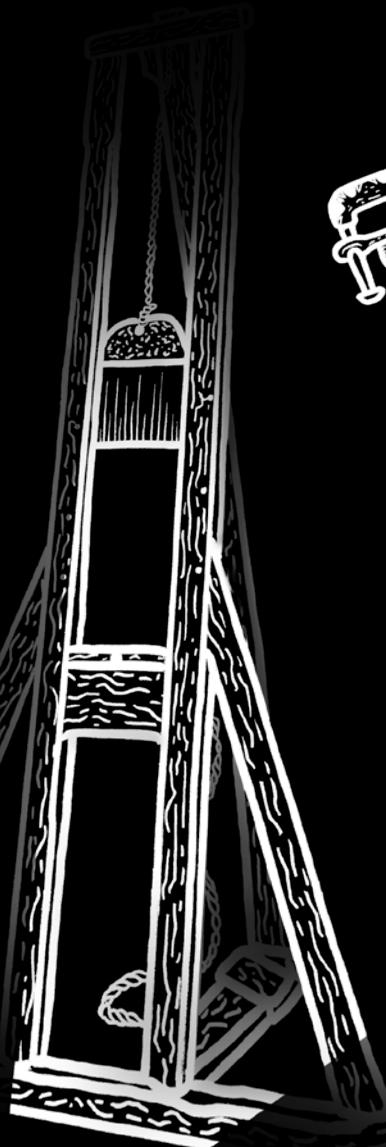
Early People, Level -1



The Maiden

An early 'guillotine' for beheading criminals and enemies of the state, used in Edinburgh 1564–1710.

Kingdom of the Scots, Level 1



Thumbscrews and padlock

Devices for punishment and torture, for instance of suspected witches, late 16th and 17th century.

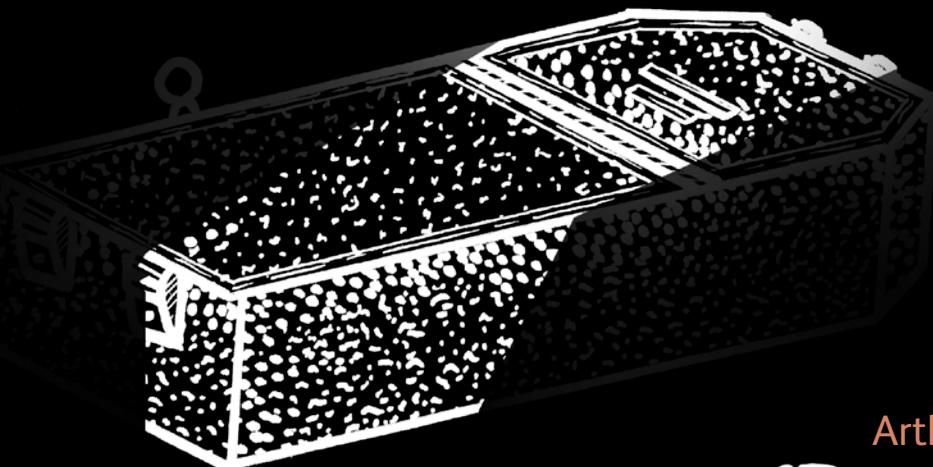
Kingdom of the Scots, Level 1



Elegy for William Burke

...Now Willie Burke, he's een awa',
And Ta'en his last adieu,
Nae mair he'll choke or stап the breath
O' poor fo'k when they're fu'.

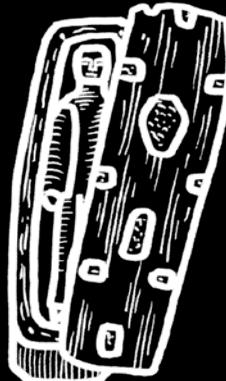
Burke and his associate William Hare murdered at least 16 people in Edinburgh, selling the corpses for anatomy dissections.
Scotland Transformed, Level 3



Mortsafe, 1831

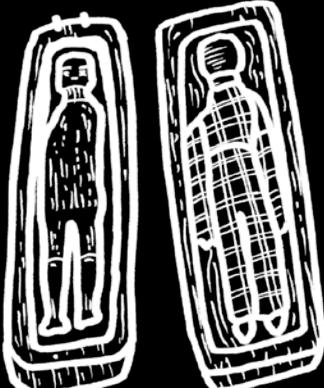
Mortsafes were fixed over coffins, to protect the recently dead from 'resurrectionists' or body snatchers, who dug up corpses to sell for dissection.

Industry and Empire, Level 4



Arthur's Seat coffins

Discovered on Arthur's Seat in 1836, the purpose of these miniature coffins, each with a tiny figure, remains a mystery.
Industry and Empire, Level 4



Level 6

Scotland: A Chilling Nation,

display in the Museum.

by the Arthur's Seat Coffins on

bestseller was partly inspired

notes and props. Ian Rankin's

signed copy with authors original

notes and props. Ian Rankin's

signed copy with authors original

The Falls

Ian Rankin

be a dark and dangerous place...

the grisly stuff that draws us. The past can

a thrill for me, too. Sometimes though, it's

their imaginations sparking – well, that's

generation explore and gape in wonder,

of a new story. And to watch the next

detail from history or even the germ

the National Museum of Scotland, some

always find something new when I visit

later – as a parent of small children! I

I loved museums as a child and – much

**REBUS
FEST**
In association with
Edinburgh International Book Festival

A special museum trail as part of RebusFest: celebrating 30 years of the iconic detective.

To find out more about Ian Rankin visit www.ianrankin.net

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National Museum of Scotland
Chambers Street
Edinburgh EH1 1JF

Open daily 10:00–17:00
Admission free, donations welcome
www.nms.ac.uk/scotland

 National
Museum of
Scotland

National Museums Scotland Scottish Charity No. SC011130

June 2017



Museum Noir

Discover some of
the darker objects
from Scotland's past
selected by author
Ian Rankin

