

AT THE EARTH'S CORE

Model Miniature MOLE Drilling Machine



Edgar Rice Burrows, the creator of Tarzan, also created the Pellucidar series, a number of stories in which the world is hollow and inhabited by diverse creatures like Ganaks (horned bison men), Brutemen (gorilla like farmers) and Mahars, the master race who are telepathic reptiles.



At The Earth's Core is Burrows most famous book in the series of seven. In 1976 Amicus Productions turned it into a feature film starring the legendary Peter Cushing and the hugely popular Doug McClure. The film tells the story of a Victorian scientist and a businessman who test a new tunnelling machine which is capable of burrowing at a rate of 78 feet per minute; they tunnel into the side of a Welsh mountain and so begins their plight. The Iron Mole is much more efficient than anticipated and they are soon end up in a prehistoric world located at the Earth's core.

The real star of the movie though is the wonderful Mole. In the movie it is a giant manned drilling machine, hundreds of feet long, in reality, it was a special effect model made to the highest standards of the day. The model used for filming is a stunning 17 feet long and 2 feet wide at its fattest point. It is fabricated from steel, aluminium, fibreglass, wood and resin.

The central structure is a steel pipe around which, three sections form the memorable machine. The most recognisable part is the nose, a sharply pointed fibreglass section which originally rotated. Most of the thread survives. The large centre section is also made from fibreglass with a series of windows along the forward and aft edges. The original light bulbs still remain behind the glass. The rear piece is open and within is a large ball with 2 spinning "gyroscopes" which theoretically powered the Mole. The underside of the mole is flat and open. The edge originally rested on the large metal support structure with angled the drill to the correct position. Inside all the wiring for the lights is present along with two (hydraulic) pumps used to spin the front and rear sections.

The model has survived the 37 years since filming in remarkable condition. This is testament to the initial high quality build. It was kept at a tourist attraction in Kent, England for many years before finding a home with us at Prop Store.















Please click below for a full video showcase of the model









