

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF FIELD MUSEUM

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(Continued from last month)

On the day following the opening of the Museum, nearly 16,000 persons entered its portals. Many expressed gratification that so many of the great collections and unique treasures of the exposition were to be permanently preserved in Chicago. It was realized that the Museum was only beginning, and that in the presentation of its subjects there were yet gaps to be filled and new fields of endeavor to be entered.

During the following year the main lines of future activities were established. Curators were appointed to the different Departments, in part from among those who had been engaged in the preliminary work of installation, and in part from other institutions. W. H. Holmes was called from the United States Bureau of Ethnology to be Curator of Anthropology; C. F. Millspaugh was appointed Curator of Botany; O. C. Farrington was chosen Curator of Geology, and H. W. Nichols, Curator of Economic Geology. The Department of Zoology (excepting ornithology) was placed under the direction of D. G. Elliot, of the American Museum of Natural History. C. B. Cory of Boston was appointed Curator of Ornithology.

Expeditions and field work to expand the collections were begun as early as October, 1894. These included an expedition to Yucatan and other parts of Mexico by Curators Holmes and Millspaugh, for anthropological and botanical material; one to San Domingo by Assistant Curator George K. Cherrie for ornithological specimens, and one to Alaska by Captain M. W. Bruce for ethnologic material. President Ayer brought from Egypt and Italy important acquisitions illustrative of Egyptian and Roman cultures and archaeology.

A series of popular illustrated lectures was given on Saturday afternoons from December to May. As the inclement weather of the winter months considerably lessened attendance, the plan of confining the lectures to two months each in the fall and spring was adopted the following year.

Plans for Museum publications were also inaugurated. It was decided to confine them to scientific or technical subjects. The first ones related to Museum exhibits and to material obtained by expeditions.

A system of memberships was instituted which included Annual Members, Life Members, Patrons, Corporate and Honorary Members. Privileges were established for Members similar to those existing today. During the first year 723 Members were enrolled, an encouraging indication that continued support and cooperation of the citizens of Chicago could be counted upon.

From the first it was desired to extend the advantages of the Museum to all pupils in the public and other schools. Tickets identifying school pupils as such, and providing for their free admission at all times, were distributed in city and county schools, and lectures before classes from schools were given by members of the scientific staff.

On the financial side there was welcomed the decision of the South Park Commissioners to appropriate \$15,000 annually in support of the Museum.

An expedition to Mexico by Curator Farrington during 1895 resulted in procuring ores and minerals from the most important mines there, and representative specimens from volcanoes, glaciers, *et cetera*.

In the following year (1896) a noteworthy and, for that period, novel step was taken in outfitting, under the

direction of Curator Elliot, an expedition to Africa to procure an extensive series of animals. This was done on a scale which was at that time quite unique in the history of museums. Carl E. Akeley, Chief Taxidermist of the Museum, accompanied Curator Elliot. The expedition spent six months in Africa and returned laden with a great variety of specimens of the characteristic animals of Somaliland and adjoining regions. This was the beginning of many African trips which have been undertaken since both by this and many other institutions and individuals. The mounting of the animals obtained subsequently engaged Mr. Akeley's attention for many years and resulted in some of his finest work. Most of the specimens are still to be seen in Akeley Memorial Hall of the Museum.

During the early years, much internal readjustment and improvement was constantly being carried on in the Museum. New material was being added, and the work of preserving and organizing the somewhat hastily installed original collections, and transferring them from the temporary cases used in the exposition to more permanent and substantial ones, was continually in progress.

(To be continued next month)

## EDUCATIONAL SETS OF POST CARDS

The Museum recently published thirty-seven educational sets of post cards illustrating subjects represented in the exhibits of the Departments of Anthropology, Geology, Zoology and the N. W. Harris Public School Extension. The cards are printed by the photogravure process. Each card contains a brief text. The sets are in special envelopes prepared for convenience in mailing, but they also may be mailed as individual post cards if desired. They are suitable, too, for mounting in albums, and can thus be made into a pictorial natural history library. Children, especially, will be interested in them, and in their case there can be no doubt of the truth of the old Chinese proverb, "One picture is worth 10,000 words."

Following is a list of the sets with subjects, number of cards in each, and price:

| Numbers and subjects of sets                               | Cards in sets | Price | Numbers and subjects of sets                                 | Cards in sets | Price |
|--|---------------|-------|--|---------------|-------|
| <b>ANTHROPOLOGY</b>  |               |       |  |               |       |
| 1. Archaic Bronzes, China                                  | 16            | .30   | 23. Wooden Masks, New Guinea and New Britain                 | 10            | .20   |
| 2. Sung Bronze Vases, China                                | 10            | .20   | 24. Prepared Human Heads, New Guinea and New Hebrides        | 8             | .15   |
| 3. Bronze Figures, China                                   | 15            | .30   | 25. Alabaster Jars, Egypt                                    | 12            | .25   |
| 4. Ancient Pottery, China                                  | 14            | .30   | 26. Bronzes and Ivory Carvings, Benin, West Africa           | 12            | .25   |
| 5. Mortuary Clay Figures                                   |               |       | 27. Medicine-man, Wooden Masks, etc., Cameroons, West Africa | 8             | .15   |
| a. Human Figures, China                                    | 10            | .20   |  |               |       |
| 6. Mortuary Clay Figures                                   |               |       | <b>GEOLOGY</b>   |               |       |
| b. Animal Figures, China                                   | 14            | .30   | 1. Restoration of Ancient Landscapes, Plants and Animals     | 14            | .30   |
| 7. Buddhist Sculpture, Buddhas, China                      | 7             | .15   | 2. Neanderthal (Mousterian) Man                              | 10            | .20   |
| 8. Buddhist Sculpture, Bodhisattvas, China                 | 14            | .30   |  |               |       |
| 9. Buddhist Sculpture, Monks, China                        | 6             | .10   | <b>ZOOLOGY</b>   |               |       |
| 10. Buddhist and Taoist Sculptures, China                  | 10            | .20   | 1. Apes and Monkeys  | 8             | .15   |
| 11. Imperial Costumes, China                               | 6             | .10   | 2. Interesting Large Rodents                                 | 7             | .15   |
| 12. Actors' Costumes, China                                | 8             | .15   | 3. Marsupials, or Pouched Mammals                            | 8             | .15   |
| 13. Lama Mystery-play, Tibet                               | 13            | .30   | 4. Tarantulas, Centipedes and Scorpions                      | 10            | .20   |
| 14. Folk Costumes, Tibet                                   | 10            | .20   | 5. Skates and Rays of American Waters                        | 10            | .20   |
| 15. Buddhist Sculpture, India                              | 14            | .30   | 6. Common American Moths                                     | 10            | .20   |
| 16. Ancient Sculpture, Mexico                              | 8             | .15   | 7. Common Illinois Butterflies                               | 20            | .40   |
| 17. Ancient Pottery, Peru                                  | 15            | .30   |  |               |       |
| 18. Drums, Daggers, Bags, etc., New Britain and New Guinea | 11            | .20   | <b>N. W. HARRIS PUBLIC SCHOOL EXTENSION</b>                  |               |       |
| 19. Household Utensils, Admiralty Islands and New Guinea   | 10            | .20   | 1. Types of cases loaned to Chicago Schools                  | 7             | .15   |
| 20. Human and Animal Figures, New Guinea                   | 10            | .20   |  |               |       |
| 21. Ceremonial Masks, New Guinea and New Hebrides          | 8             | .15   |  |               |       |
| 22. Malagan Figures and Masks, New Ireland                 | 10            | .20   |  |               |       |

Post card sets on other subjects will be added to these series from time to time.



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