

HISTORY OF FIELD MUSEUM

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(Continued from last month)

In order to further stimulate interest in the Museum on the part of school children, prizes were offered in 1897 to all grade school children in Illinois by H. N. Higinbotham of the Board of Trustees for the best essays describing the Museum which were based upon information obtained in visits to the institution. This plan, indorsed by the Superintendent of Schools of Chicago and the Superintendent of Public Instruction of Illinois, was carried on for a brief period and served to further direct the attention of school teachers and their classes to the valuable educational opportunities afforded by the Museum.

Among exhibits early inaugurated in the Department of Botany was a series illustrating North American forest trees. This was designed on an elaborate basis and included trunks and transverse sections, commercial planks, photographs of the trees in summer and winter, and other material illustrative of the important forest trees of North America. This series now occupies part of one large hall of the present building. Organization of a large herbarium for this Department was also begun at an early date and this adjunct has rapidly increased in size and value.

The lack of any adequate representation in the geological exhibits of the vast numbers of animals, strange to modern eyes, which in earlier geological periods inhabited the western United States, led to steps being taken early to overcome this deficiency. Successive expeditions led by Assistant (now Associate) Curator Elmer S. Riggs were made to the Bad Lands of South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska and adjoining states for this purpose, and remains of many and important species of titanotheres, rhinoceroses, camels, carnivores and various other animals of earlier times were secured. Had they not been obtained then many of them might never have become available.

Other expeditions carried on in this period included several by Assistant Curator George A. Dorsey and associates to the reservations of various Indian tribes of the west and northwest and the Pueblo Indians of the southwest. A botanical expedition sponsored by Allison V. Armour enabled Curator C. F. Millsbaugh to make large collections of the flora of the Antillean Islands.

The task of recording and labeling the various collections that had been received from the exposition, as well as those acquired later, was also steadily continued.

In 1898, a great model of the moon, the largest and most accurate ever made, was presented to the institution by Lewis Reese. This is still a unique and valuable feature of the Museum.

In 1899, Mr. Ayer retired from the Presidency of the Museum. He remained, however, a member of the Executive Committee. Mr. H. N. Higinbotham, who had been Chairman of the Executive Committee, was elected President. As President of the World's Columbian Exposition, he had been a steadfast advocate of the Museum and had taken an active part in its organization and support. W. H. Holmes retired as Curator of the Department of Anthropology and was succeeded by Dr. Dorsey. Miss Elsie Lippincott, the present Librarian, was appointed to fill the vacancy in that post caused by the resignation of the previous incumbent, Jules Dieserud.

By 1900 the functions of the Museum had become sufficiently outlined so that discontinuance of the historical and industrial exhibits which had been received from the exposition was decided upon. Accordingly, these exhibits were distributed to the Chicago Historical Society, University of Chicago, Armour Institute and the Philadelphia Commercial Museum.

Through a gift from Stanley McCormick the acquisition and installation of a large amount of material illustrative of the life and customs of the Pueblo Indians of the southwestern United States was achieved. By means of this material and the investigations in connection with it, the fine house group representing the domestic life of the Hopi Indians, nine of their ceremonial altars and several individual figures, such as the rabbit hunter, Hopi bride, and others, were prepared and form a part of highly prized exhibits relating to these tribes to be seen in the present building.

The construction of animal groups under Chief Taxidermist Carl E. Akeley was continued with little interruption. Some of the more important groups constructed at this time were those of the lesser and greater koodoo, Waller's gazelle, and mountain sheep, and the work perhaps reached its climax in 1901 in the so-called "Four Seasons" groups of the Virginia deer, in which the wealth of accessories and detail reached a height never before attained.

During all this time the condition of the Museum building was causing much concern and its maintenance proved costly and unsatisfactory. Constructed only for a summer's use, the building lacked the elements of permanency. The exhibits in the interior were constantly exposed to damage by leakage from the roof, and the steady disintegration and fall of the staff which covered the outer walls gave an unsightly appearance to the exterior. As early as 1900, Director Skiff stated that it had been necessary to reconstruct the roof almost completely, and by 1902 he reported that the building as a whole had reached the limits of repair.

(To be continued next month)

NEW MEMBERS

The following persons were elected to membership in Field Museum between March 17 and April 16:

Associate Members

Mrs. Charles Osborne Barnes, Harry Barnum, Dr. J. F. Biehn, Mrs. Lionel E. Bush, Miss Mary Louise Clas, Dr. Earl A. Courvoisier, Dr. Thomas R. Crowder, William A. Dyche, Miss Amy Falk, Mrs. Albert B. George, W. L. Huston, Dr. Richard Herman Jaffe, Wilson W. Lampert, George Tayloe Langhorne, Foreman N. Leopold, W. S. Lockwood, John M. McClun, George Mehling, Donald M. Nelson, Mrs. William E. Pratt, Miss Mabel C. Putnam, Miss Lillian Rueckheim, Joseph A. Rushton, Clyde E. Shorey, Robert E. Simond, John L. Strauss, Leonard H. Vaughan, William A. Vawter, II, Miss Mary M. Vial, George M. Willetts.

Sustaining Members

Mrs. Paul Blatchford, Mark B. Seelen, Mrs. Robert Stevenson, Niles Trammell.

Annual Members

Mrs. K. A. Booth, Mrs. A. H. Brumback, Robert B. Brown, T. Jerrold Bryce, Ossian Cameron, Mrs. Helen S. Chambers, Allan T. Gilbert, Mrs. G. A. Gungoll, Mrs. William H. Herbert, Miss Jean Hutchison, Captain Gordon C. Irwin, J. O. Karstrom, Walter M. Kiplinger, Mrs. Eben Lane, F. H. Lapham, Adolph Lindstrom, Ross C. Lusk, Mrs. George H. Mason, Simms D. McGuire, Mrs. James McKinney, A. G. McLaughlin, James B. Meigs, Mrs. J. C. Meiners, Miss C. Murphy, Mrs. Lloyd F. Neely, Miss Frances Newborg, Homer E. Niesz, F. Pabst, Mrs. Lawrence W. Paezler, Mrs. Thomas J. Price, Mrs. James E. Pringle, William P. Reed, Miss Edna M. Reineck, Mrs. William Remy, O. A. Rosboro, Mrs. Samuel Rosenthal, Samuel M. Ross, Mrs. Thomas Charles Russell, Henry

MAY GUIDE-LECTURE TOURS

Following is the schedule of conducted tours of the exhibition halls at the Museum during May:

Thursday, May 1: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Bird Homes, 3 P.M., Fisher Indians.

Week beginning May 5—Monday: 11 A.M., Fish and Fishing Implements, 3 P.M., Japanese Art; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Skeletons, 3 P.M., Egypt; Wednesday: 11 A.M., African Animals, 3 P.M., Oriental Costumes; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Bird Adaptations, 3 P.M., Roman Life.

Week beginning May 12—Monday: 11 A.M., Food Plants, 3 P.M., Primitive Ceremonies; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Indians of South America, 3 P.M., South American Animal Life; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Chinese Household Objects, 3 P.M., Habitat Groups; Thursday: 11 A.M., and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Eskimo Art, 3 P.M., Prehistoric Animals.

Week beginning May 19—Monday: 11 A.M., Bark and Fiber Clothing, 3 P.M., Animal Families; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Interesting Sea Life, 3 P.M., Hawaii, Samoa and Maoriland; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Mats and Blankets, 3 P.M., Mummies; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Musical Instruments, 3 P.M., Dinosaurs and Other Reptiles.

Week beginning May 26—Monday: 11 A.M., Horned and Hoofed Animals, 3 P.M., Useful Minerals; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Fish of Many Waters, 3 P.M., Uses of Clays; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Man Through the Ages, 3 P.M., Crystals and Meteorites; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: Holiday—no tours.

Persons wishing to participate should apply at North Entrance. Tours are free and no gratuities are to be proffered. A new schedule will appear each month in FIELD MUSEUM NEWS. Guide-lecturers' services for special tours by parties of ten or more are available free of charge by arrangement with the Director a week in advance.

Reptile Exhibits Reinstalled

Snakes of species common in Illinois, including some found within the Chicago area, constitute part of the exhibits in three large reinstalled cases of reptiles and amphibians now to be seen in Albert W. Harris Hall (Hall 18). Also of interest are large pythons, monitors or giant East Indian lizards, the giant frog of Africa, largest species in the world, and, in contrast, the tiny Cuban frog, smallest in the world, of which it would take 40,000 to equal in weight and bulk the ten-pound African cousin.

MEMBERSHIP IN FIELD MUSEUM

Field Museum has several classes of Members. Benefactors give or devise \$100,000. Persons who give or devise \$5,000 are elected to Fellowships, and may appoint their successors in perpetuity. Life Members give \$500; Non-Resident and Associate (Life) Members pay \$100; Non-Resident Associate (Life) Members pay \$50. All the above classes are exempt from dues. Sustaining Members contribute \$25 annually. After six years they become Associate (Life) Members. Annual Members contribute \$10 annually. Other memberships are Corporate, Honorary and Patron, additions under these classifications being made by special action of the Board of Trustees.

Each Member, in all classes, is entitled to free admission to the Museum for himself, his family and house guests, and to two reserved seats for Museum lectures provided for Members. Subscription to FIELD MUSEUM NEWS is included with all memberships. The courtesies of every museum of note in the United States and Canada are extended to all Members of Field Museum. A Member may give his personal card to non-residents of Chicago, upon presentation of which they will be admitted to the Museum without charge. Further information about memberships will be sent on request.



Farrington, Oliver C. 1930. "A Brief History of Field Museum from 1893 to 1930." *Field Museum news* 1(5), 4-4.

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