

HISTORY OF FIELD MUSEUM

By OLIVER C. FARRINGTON
Curator, Department of Geology
(Continued from last month)

Even before the site of the new Museum building had been determined, the materials for its construction were being prepared. As early as 1914 Director Skiff reported that the greater part of the steel required had been prepared, and of the marble necessary more than one-half had been quarried and cut.

The location of the Museum site in the area south of Grant Park necessitated a large amount of filling, since the elevation there at the time was thirty feet below the height proposed for the ground floor of the new building. This work was not completed until the latter part of 1916, and the filling and grading of the surrounding area required several years more for its completion. However, all energies were directed toward carrying on the work in every direction as rapidly as possible and plans for the final arrangements of the halls, laboratories, offices, work-rooms, *et cetera*, were carefully worked out.

Devotion of interest and energy to plans for the new building naturally lessened opportunities available for expeditionary work, but the preparation of groups, especially those of birds, was actively continued. The Walrus Island bird group was completed in 1914, and the flamingo, Venezuelan screamer and ibis groups in 1915. These were all the work of Taxidermist L. L. Pray. The model of a gold mine, made by Assistant, now Associate, Curator H. W. Nichols, was also completed in 1915. Preparation of units of the North American forestry exhibit was also continued, twenty-three of these units being completed and placed on exhibition during 1915.

Expeditions included one to Brazil by R. H. Becker, who obtained mammals and birds in the states of Minas Geraes and Bahia, and at Trinidad collected material for the oil-bird group. An expedition to South America financed and participated in by A. M. Collins and L. G. Day was also carried out in this period. R. H. Becker acting as collector for the Museum. From Mollendo, Peru, the party went overland to Cochobamba, Bolivia, then followed the Mamore and Madeira rivers to the Amazon. Thirteen hundred specimens of birds and mammals were secured, and were equally divided between Field Museum and the American Museum of Natural History, New York. An expedition in the same year to the Olympic Mountains by Taxidermist Julius Friesser procured the specimens for the large elk group which is now on exhibition. In 1915 G. A. Dorsey retired from the position of Curator of Anthropology, and the present incumbent, Berthold Laufer, who had been successively Assistant, Associate and Acting Curator in the Department, was appointed Curator.

At the close of the Panama-Pacific Exposition, held in San Francisco in 1915, a number of valuable and interesting exhibits were secured from exhibitors there. These included a series of pagodas, some of which are exhibited in the south corridor of the present building, other Chinese material, a well-arranged and instructive exhibit of by-products of coal presented by the London (England) Gas Company, a restoration of a giant Moa from New Zealand, and a large variety of ores and minerals from Bolivia, China, Japan, Greece and other countries.

Exhibition groups completed at the Museum during the year 1916, included those of the Alaska moose, the largest single group that had been made up to that time, and a

group of birds of northern Brazil. Activities of the Department of the N. W. Harris Public School Extension included an exhibit at the San Francisco Exposition, and the completion of 476 cases for use in the schools.

By the year 1917 progress in the construction of the new building had advanced so far that on September 28 the corner-stone was laid in the presence of a group of the Trustees and executive officers of the Museum. A pension fund for Museum employees was also provided at this time through an endowment contributed by President Field.

Conditions brought about by the World War being waged during this period unavoidably affected, more or less, the various activities of the Museum. Public attendance fell off considerably, and the dangers and difficulties of travel limited the possibility of expeditions. However, the preparation of bird groups was continued and the groups of winter birds of Illinois, shore birds of Lake Michigan, and bird life at Fox Lake were completed during 1917.

By 1918 enough progress had been made in the construction of the new building to permit the gradual dismantling of exhibits and their preparation for removal. To a large extent, therefore, from this time on for several years the activities of the Museum force were chiefly concerned with these tasks. During 1919 a donation by Trustee James Simpson enabled the beautiful audience hall in the Museum, now known as the James Simpson Theatre, to be constructed and furnished according to the most approved designs.

By the opening of the year 1920 the exhibits in the Jackson Park building had been so far withdrawn for packing and preparation for removal that on February 23 of that year, the Museum was closed to the public, to remain closed until the new building and exhibits there should be made ready.

(To be continued next month)

INDIAN EXHIBITS REINSTALLED

Reinstallation of the exhibits in James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Hall (Hall 4), representing chiefly the Indian tribes of the upper Mississippi valley and the Great Lakes region, has been completed. A large amount of material never before exhibited has been added to the collections, and the old exhibits have been much improved. The former black screens have been replaced with the newly adopted screens in light colors, and all labels have been reprinted on buff cards in black type.

Tribes represented in the hall include the Potawatomi who inhabited the Chicago area, and the Sauk, Fox, Menominee, Ojibwa and Winnebago. Much of the newer material was obtained several years ago by an expedition sponsored by Julius and Augusta N. Rosenwald. For the first time there is now exhibited a good collection of sacred and ceremonial objects such as medicine bundles, charms, and other such objects used by the former Indians of the Chicago region.

Of outstanding interest in the hall are the medicine lodge records in birch bark collected by Director Stephen C. Simms (when he was a member of the staff of the Department of Anthropology) among the Ojibwa of Minnesota. This is one of the best collections of its kind in existence, and includes records of songs, medicine lodge rituals, and individual records. The Ojibwa developed a form of incised pictographic record more nearly like writing than anything else that has originated in North America.

GUIDE-LECTURE TOURS

Following is the schedule of conducted tours of the exhibits during September:

Week beginning September 1—Monday: Labor Day holiday—no tours; Tuesday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Korea and Siberia, 3 P.M., Fishes of Many Kinds; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Cave Dwellers, 3 P.M., Chicago Animals.

Week beginning September 8—Monday: 11 A.M., China, 3 P.M., Gems and Jewelry; Tuesday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Egypt, 3 P.M., Prehistoric Animals; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., South America, 3 P.M., Bird Habitats.

Week beginning September 15—Monday: 11 A.M., Dinosaurs and Other Reptiles, 3 P.M., Roman Hall; Tuesday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Indians of Plains and Plateau, 3 P.M., Rare Birds; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Fire-making and Cooking Utensils, 3 P.M., Animals of Stream and Pond.

Week beginning September 22—Monday: 11 A.M., Woodland Indians, 3 P.M., Oriental Theatricals; Tuesday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Mummies, 3 P.M., Economic Minerals; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Peoples of the Pacific, 3 P.M., Horned and Hoofed Animals.

Monday, September 29—11 A.M., Melanesia, 3 P.M., African Animals; Tuesday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours.

New Fossil Collection

A collection of fossil insects and plants, and other paleontological material, was made during the summer in the vicinity of Florissant, Colorado, by a Museum expedition in charge of Bryan Patterson of the Department of Geology. Excavations were conducted on several sites, and a large variety of specimens was uncovered. Among the collections have been found a number of previously unknown species.

NEW MEMBERS

The following persons were elected to membership in Field Museum between July 15 and August 16:

Life Members

Aldis J. Browne, Mrs. A. A. Sprague II.

Associate Members

William R. Bowes, Mrs. William Albert Gilchrist, Mrs. J. M. Glenn, H. L. Harker, J. Howard Helfrich, Mrs. Fred Hertz, C. G. Kropff, Mrs. W. J. Lang, Ben B. Linton, Albert S. Louer, Mrs. Walter G. McIntosh, John A. Senne, John F. Spohn, Mrs. Carl B. Stibolt, S. P. O. Swenson, Mrs. Harry L. Thomas, Mrs. John R. Thompson, Mrs. T. E. Wilder, Sr., Mrs. George L. Wilkinson.

Sustaining Members

James Rorrison, Miss Laura Alice Vignes.

Annual Members

Dr. C. R. Belding, Frederick H. Bradford, William A. Brewerton, Mrs. George A. Davis, Father Charles Fani, Edward R. Harrison, Mrs. Helen M. Huebsch, Edward T. Lee, Miss Martha Jane Mellen, Mrs. George R. Mitchell, Albin O. Osterling, Mrs. I. W. Schutte, Walter E. Sergeant, Mrs. Annie G. Stoll, J. J. Sutton, Mrs. Ada R. Thompson, Mrs. A. H. Thorpe, Herbert Tiffen, Mrs. J. H. Vail, James Z. Van Winkle, Mrs. Felix Victor, John P. Voight, Walter S. Vose, George B. Waterstraat, Miss Josephine A. Wendell, Thomas H. West, Miss Bertha M. White, Miss Laura G. White, Mrs. Theodore Wilken, Harvey S. Williams, Mrs. Dean M. Workman, Charles H. Wyman, Dr. Rachelle S. Yarros.

MEMBERSHIP IN FIELD MUSEUM

Field Museum has several classes of Members. Benefactors give or devise \$100,000. Contributors give or devise \$5,000. 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, Patron, and Corresponding, 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(9), 4-4.

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