

CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENTS —RAYMOND FOUNDATION

A special entertainment for children, provided by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures, will be given in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum on Lincoln's Birthday, Thursday, February 12.

Motion pictures of episodes in the life of Abraham Lincoln will be presented, including the following films: "My Father," "Abe's First Law Case," and "The Call to Arms."

The Raymond Foundation announces also its annual spring series of ten children's entertainments on Saturday mornings, which will begin this month. The first program of this series will be on February 21, and will be partly devoted to celebration of George Washington's birthday. The films are "Washington Becomes President," "Alexander Hamilton," "Washing the Elephants," and "Sir Stickleback, the Hedgehog."

On February 28 the films will be "Beautiful Winter," "The Falls of Iguassu," "Insect Farmers and Laborers," "Plant and Animal Death-traps," and "A World Unseen."

There will be two showings of each (including that of February 12)—one at 10 A.M. and one at 11. Admission is free.

Announcement of the other eight programs of the spring series will appear in subsequent issues of FIELD MUSEUM NEWS.

MUSEUM HONORS CONFERRED

At a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of Field Museum, Arthur S. Vernay, of New York and London, and Mrs. E. Marshall Field, of New York, were elected Honorary Members of the Museum. This is a distinction which, under the by-laws of the Museum, is conferred upon those persons who have rendered eminent service to science.

Philip M. Chancellor of Santa Barbara, Calif., was elected a Patron of the Museum, an honor conferred in recognition of eminent service to the Museum.

Mr. Vernay financed and personally led the Vernay-Lang Kalahari Expedition for Field Museum last year. This expedition brought the Museum a vast zoological collection including several thousand specimens of African mammals, birds, fishes and invertebrates. In addition, Mr. Vernay obtained important botanical and ethnological collections which he presented to the Museum.

Mrs. E. Marshall Field has manifested a long continued and deep interest in science, and has actively participated in scientific work in the interest of the Museum. Several years ago she was a member of a Field Museum expedition which made large collections of botanical, geological and zoological material over a wide range of territory in South America. The work of Mrs. Field contributed much to the success of this expedition.

Mr. Chancellor has financed and led two Museum expeditions, the Chancellor-Stuart Expedition to the South Pacific (1929-30), and the Chancellor-Stuart Expedition to Aitutaki (1930). Both of these expeditions brought the Museum valuable zoological collections. Outstanding specimens include giant dragon lizards of Komodo, one of which is now on exhibition in Albert W. Harris Hall (Hall 18), and reticulated pythons of Borneo (the world's largest species of snake) which are now being prepared for exhibition.

Practically all important plants of Illinois, and more than 600,000 specimens of plants from all parts of the world, are contained in the herbaria of Field Museum.

C. SUYDAM CUTTING RETURNS FROM SIKKIM EXPEDITION

C. Suydam Cutting has returned to his home in New York from his recent zoological expedition to Sikkim in India, and along the northern border of Tibet, conducted on behalf of Field Museum. This expedition, organized and wholly financed by Mr. Cutting, was the fifth Museum expedition in which he has participated. He was accompanied by Herbert Stevens, well-known collector from Tring, England, who has remained in the field to continue the work of the expedition. Mr. Cutting devoted himself largely to hunting big game and to photography, while Mr. Stevens' work is for the most part concentrated on the collection of smaller mammals, birds and reptiles.

Both as an active member, and as a contributor of funds and equipment, Mr. Cutting participated in the James Simpson-Roosevelts Asiatic Expedition (1925-26); the Field Museum-Chicago Daily News Abyssinian Expedition (1926-27); an expedition to Assam which he personally conducted in 1928; and the William V. Kelley-Roosevelts Expedition to Eastern Asia (1928-29).

Mr. Cutting's interest in the Museum has been demonstrated also in other ways. After the return of the Daily News Abyssinian Expedition, Mr. Cutting purchased and presented to the Museum the remarkable collection of bird paintings made on that expedition by the late Louis Agassiz Fuertes. Last year he financed the publication by the Museum of a portfolio of fine reproductions in colors of these paintings. He has presented the Museum with a number of highly valued motion picture films made on various expeditions. He is an Honorary Member, a Patron, and a Corporate Member.

EXHIBIT OF THE DRAGON LIZARD OF KOMODO—CHANCELLOR-STUART EXPEDITION

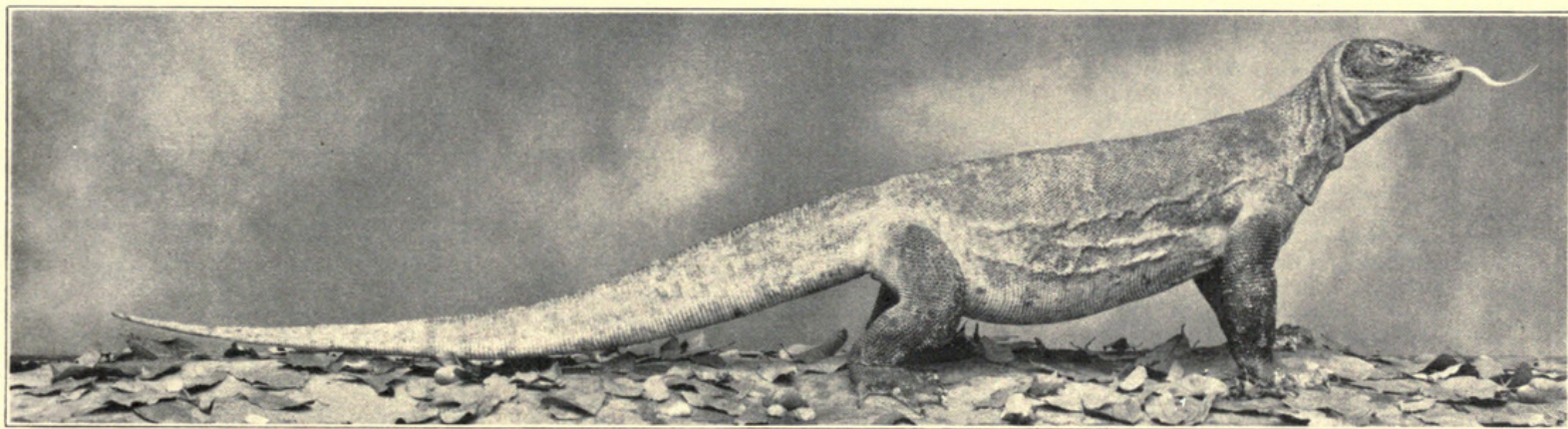
By KARL P. SCHMIDT
Assistant Curator of Reptiles

Half legendary tales of gigantic lizards current among the Malays in the East Indies were discounted by travelers as variants of

of until 1926, when the Douglas Burden Expedition to Komodo Island collected a sufficient series of specimens to prove that ten feet is about the maximum length which the species in question attains. Even

"natur-monument" after the example of the national monuments of the United States.

The Komodo lizard feeds on small game of all kinds and is undoubtedly able to pull down half-grown wild pigs and deer. This



Giant Lizard of Komodo (Hall 18)—Chancellor-Stuart Expedition to the South Pacific

the Chinese dragon stories until the giant lizard of Komodo Island was described in 1912. The species was named *Varanus komodoensis* by Dr. P. A. Ouwens, Director of the Buitenzorg Gardens in Java, from a series of five specimens, the largest of which measured nearly ten feet in length.

As long as this creature remained known from only a few specimens, the stories of its size and ferocity continued to grow. Exaggerated ideas of a lizard twenty-five to thirty feet in length were not disposed

this leaves the "dragon lizard of Komodo" much the largest of living lizards, for it is relatively short-tailed and powerfully built in limbs and body.

The distribution of this remarkable lizard is curiously restricted for it is found only on Komodo and the adjacent end of the larger island of Flores in the Lesser Sunda chain, east of Java. Fearing the extinction of so remarkable a form, the government of the Dutch East Indies now protects the species and has made Komodo Island a

diet is supplemented by carrion from larger animals.

Field Museum is fortunate in having specimens of the "dragon lizard," which it owes to the Chancellor-Stuart Expedition of 1929, led by Philip M. Chancellor. The reproduction now on exhibition in Albert W. Harris Hall (Hall 18), made by Leon L. Walters of Field Museum's taxidermy staff, by his remarkable cellulose-acetate process, exhibits the varied coloring of the living animal.



Schmidt, Karl Patterson. 1931. "Exhibit of the Dragon Lizard of Komodo - Chancellor-Stuart Expedition." *Field Museum news* 2(2), 3-3.

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