

## FOUR MORE LECTURES IN AUTUMN COURSE

Four more lectures in the fifty-sixth free course presented by Field Museum remain to be given during November. The lectures are given on Saturday afternoons in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum, and all begin at 3 P.M. They are illustrated with motion pictures and stereopticon slides. Eminent explorers and naturalists have been engaged as lecturers.

Following is the schedule of dates, subjects and speakers:

### November 7—Mexico

Fred Payne Clatworthy, Estes Park, Colorado

### November 14—Explorations in the Old Maya Empire

Dr. Sylvanus G. Morley, Carnegie Institution, Washington, D.C.

### November 21—On the Trail of the Viking

Captain Donald B. MacMillan

### November 28—Camera Shooting in the Southern Marshes

Alfred M. Bailey, Director, Chicago Academy of Sciences

No tickets are necessary for admission to these lectures.

## THE PELICAN FLOUNDER

By ALFRED C. WEED  
Assistant Curator of Fishes

Conditions in the cold depths of the ocean seem to force all creatures living there to take on strange shapes. Some of the fish are long and slender. Others are short and thick. Still others are broad, flat and almost as thin as a wafer. Many of them have very elastic stomachs so that they can swallow creatures actually larger than themselves.

Something more than thirty-five years ago the United States Bureau of Fisheries steamer *Albatross* was sent to study the ocean and its inhabitants in the vicinity of the Hawaiian Islands. During the course of dredging in one of the deep channels between the islands, a very strange flounder was caught. This fish was almost as transparent as glass and hardly thicker than a sheet of cardboard although it was about eleven inches long and nearly three inches wide, across the fins. Its stomach seemed to be very small, the whole body cavity being scarcely larger than a twenty-five cent piece. The bones seemed to be united so firmly that the stomach could not expand, except a little in thickness.

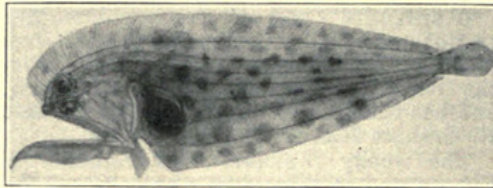
The most surprising thing about this fish was its mouth. The jaws were long, slender and slightly curved at the tips. Instead of the meaty structures that we see on the floor of the mouth of a bass, this fish had a thin, tough membrane that could be stretched almost indefinitely to form a pouch like the one a pelican uses to carry home a fish dinner. When, later, some of these fish were caught with deep-sea shrimps in the pouch, it seemed even more certain that the slender, flexible jaws and the elastic membrane were actually used, first, as a dipnet to catch food and, second, as a purse to hold it until there was room for it in the stomach or until it could be made small enough to be swallowed.

Very few fishes use their jaw teeth for biting or crushing their food after it is safely inside the mouth. They are used to catch or hold the food or to cut or crush it loose from the place where it grows. Back in the throat, behind the gills and just at the entrance to the gullet is a set of bones that usually bear teeth. They are hard and heavy and used like millstones by the fish

that pick up hard-shelled creatures for food. Some vegetable feeders have them fitted for cutting the food into small bits. Those that catch large, slippery prey have the throat teeth sharp and directed backward, to help in holding the victims and forcing them into the stomach.

Thus the pelican flounder can catch a big shrimp in the dipnet and hold it there while nibbling at it with the throat teeth until it has been made small enough to be swallowed. The food will keep, for the temperature of the water and of the fish is only just above the freezing point of fresh water and colder than most refrigerators.

Like all its relatives, the pelican flounder has both its eyes on the same side of the head. The eyeballs are larger than the thickness of the head and stand on the surface, ordinarily. When they must be



Pelican Flounder

Strange deep-sea fish that stores its prey in a pouch. A reproduction now on exhibition in Albert W. Harris Hall (Hall 18).

drawn in they project into the mouth, which spreads a little to give room for them.

A celluloid reproduction of one of these strange fishes has been made by Staff Taxidermist A. G. Rueckert and is now on exhibition in Albert W. Harris Hall (Hall 18).

## UNIQUE RACING TROPHY

An ancient Chinese bronze vase, now on exhibition in Stanley Field Hall, was reproduced in solid gold and used as the trophy in the Hawthorne Gold Cup race of the Chicago Business Men's Racing Association which was run on October 8.

The original vase represents the art of the Han Dynasty, and was made about 1,800 years ago, according to Dr. Berthold Laufer, Curator of Anthropology, who at the request of the racing association selected the subject to be reproduced. It is a technical masterpiece of casting.

The use of a replica of this vase is a demonstration of the applicability of many of the objects in the anthropological collections for adaptation to modern arts and industries, either in reproductions or, by their suggestive values, in design.

## Gifts to the Museum

Following is a list of some of the principal gifts received during the last month:

From B. Knoblock—5 ethnological and 2 archaeological specimens, Wisconsin, Missouri and Illinois; from R. Bensabott, Inc.—22 inscribed oracle bones, Shang dynasty (about 1500 B.C.), China; from Ralph A. Bond—an ipil board, Philippine Islands; from James Zetek—361 herbarium specimens, Canal Zone; from Companhia Ford Industrial do Brazil—28 fiber plants, Brazil; from The Williamson Veneer Company—2 panels of Santa Maria veneer, Panama; from Herbert C. Walther—17 specimens of rare metals; from E. A. Mueller—174 fulgurites, Wisconsin; from The Stauffer Chemical Company—3 specimens of sulphur, Texas; from Western Borax Company, Ltd.—a specimen of kernite (borax ore), California; from Hobart M. Smith—15 lizards, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico; from G. F. Ryan and George E. Carey, Jr.—a seladang, French Indo-China; from Major Chapman Grant—21 frogs, Porto Rico; from Theron Wasson—a barbet skin, headwaters of Rio Napo, Ecuador; from Dr. Mary J. Guthrie—9 bats in alcohol, Missouri; from Cincinnati Society of Natural History—2 paratypes of salamander, North Carolina; from Thomas K. Birks—2 snakes, Wisconsin; from Mrs. W. P. Cronican—a fox snake, Illinois.

## NOVEMBER GUIDE-LECTURE TOURS

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

Week beginning November 2—Monday: 11 A.M., Eskimo Life, 3 P.M., Animals of Plains and Deserts; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Physical Geology, 3 P.M., Borneo and Sumatra; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Burial Customs, 3 P.M., Reptiles; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Animal Life in the Chicago Area, 3 P.M., Clothing of Primitive Peoples.

Week beginning November 9—Monday: 11 A.M., Giants of Long Ago, 3 P.M., Mound Builders; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Systematic Birds, 3 P.M., Weavers in Many Lands; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Chinese Exhibits, 3 P.M., Skeletons; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., American Indians, 3 P.M., Gems and Jewelry.

Week beginning November 16—Monday: 11 A.M., Pottery, 3 P.M., Fishes, Past and Present; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Animal Families, 3 P.M., Story of Early Man; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Egypt, 3 P.M., Trees and Wood Products; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Rodents, 3 P.M., Wood and Stone Carvings.

Week beginning November 23—Monday: 11 A.M., The Panda and Its Relatives, 3 P.M., Weapons and Armor; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Game Birds, 3 P.M., The Art of the Hopi and Navaho Tribes; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Roman Exhibits, 3 P.M., Prehistoric Life; Thursday: Thanksgiving holiday—no tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Marine Life, 3 P.M., Moon and Meteorites; Monday, November 30: 11 A.M., Homes in Many Lands, 3 P.M., Jade Exhibits.

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.

## NEW MEMBERS

The following persons were elected to membership in Field Museum during the period from September 18 to October 15:

### Associate Members

Mrs. J. Ogden Armour, Mrs. James E. Baum, William F. Bode, Miss Mary Brenza, Mitchell D. Follansbee, Miss Anne C. Hemple, Ross O. Hinkle, L. T. McMenemy, Mrs. Francis C. Sherman, Sr., Mrs. Charles W. Ware.

### Sustaining Members

Harry F. Vories, Jr.

### Annual Members

Arch W. Anderson, H. A. Baker, Mrs. William F. Brown, Edmund Burke, Mrs. Gerald M. Butler, Mrs. Glen C. Carnahan, Dr. James T. Case, Mrs. Edward S. Clark, Eugene Feuchtinger, Mrs. Carl A. Hedblom, Mrs. Robert G. Hunt, Mrs. Grace L. Knautz, Henry J. Lalley, Mrs. James P. McManus, Asher Moment, George S. Monk, Clarence Morgan, James F. Oates, F. J. Pearson, Conrad E. Ronneberg, Charles W. Spooner, Miss Emily Staples, Dr. Yorke B. Sutch, Miss Pearl Torpe, William P. White, Mrs. Morris K. Wilson, Mrs. Leander L. Winters.

## MEMBERSHIP IN FIELD MUSEUM

Field Museum has several classes of Members. Benefactors give or devise \$100,000 or more. Contributors give or devise \$1,000 to \$100,000. Life Members give \$500. Non-Resident (Life) and Associate Members pay \$100. Non-Resident Associate Members pay \$50. All the above classes are exempt from dues. Sustaining Members contribute \$25 annually. After six years they become Associate 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.





Weed, Alfred C. 1931. "The Pelican Flounder." *Field Museum news* 2(11), 4-4.

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