

NEW LION GROUP: COLLECTED BY MR. AND MRS. MARSHALL FIELD

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It might be expected that a group of typical lions would be one of the first exhibits to be obtained for the Museum's hall of African mammals. The very fact of the animal's importance, however, and the exacting requirements made as to the quality of the material to be used have heretofore operated for postponement. For some years the lion has been represented in the Museum only by an individual specimen among the systematic collections in Hall 15, and by a group of two maneless males—the famous man-eating lions of Tsavo which are reputed to have killed and devoured 135 native laborers during the construction of the Uganda railroad. While the Tsavo lions are thus of great interest, they are not thoroughly characteristic of *Felis leo*.

It has remained for Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Field to provide specimens which do justice to the "king of beasts," and these have now been prepared in a striking group displayed in Carl E. Akeley Memorial Hall (Hall 22). They were secured during the trip which Mr. and Mrs. Field made by air to central Africa in 1930.

The group includes an exceptionally large male lion shot by Mr. Field, an equally fine lioness shot by Mrs. Field, and four small kittens. The composition is simple but impressive and characteristic. The male stands at attention on the smooth surface of a rocky eminence and the female lies peacefully below, while the kittens, so young their eyes are barely open, are gathered between her paws. The rocky setting illustrates the well-known habitat of lions in the Serengetti Plains of Tanganyika, where the animals were killed.

Popular conception of the lion is based on the lion of the zoo, of the moving picture and also, it must be said, of sculpture and heraldry. This lion is quite different from the wild one, which never has such a heavy mane as the captive one, and which is more lithe in general form. Therefore, this faithful representation of the monarch and his family as they appear in the natural state may not fulfill general expectations. To the naturalist and the hunter, however, the lion is rarely disappointing and it is universally granted that he deserves his far-flung reputation for dignified appearance and commanding disposition. He is conceded to be one of the most dangerous of all animals to hunt and, although he has learned to avoid man, he is bold and aggressive in attacking him when provoked. Many hunters have been killed or seriously mauled by lions.

There is only one species of lion, although several minor geographic varieties can be distinguished. Within historic times lions inhabited eastern Europe, Persia and India, but now they are practically confined to Africa. A few remain in the Gir Forest of western India, but their continued existence there depends upon careful protection.

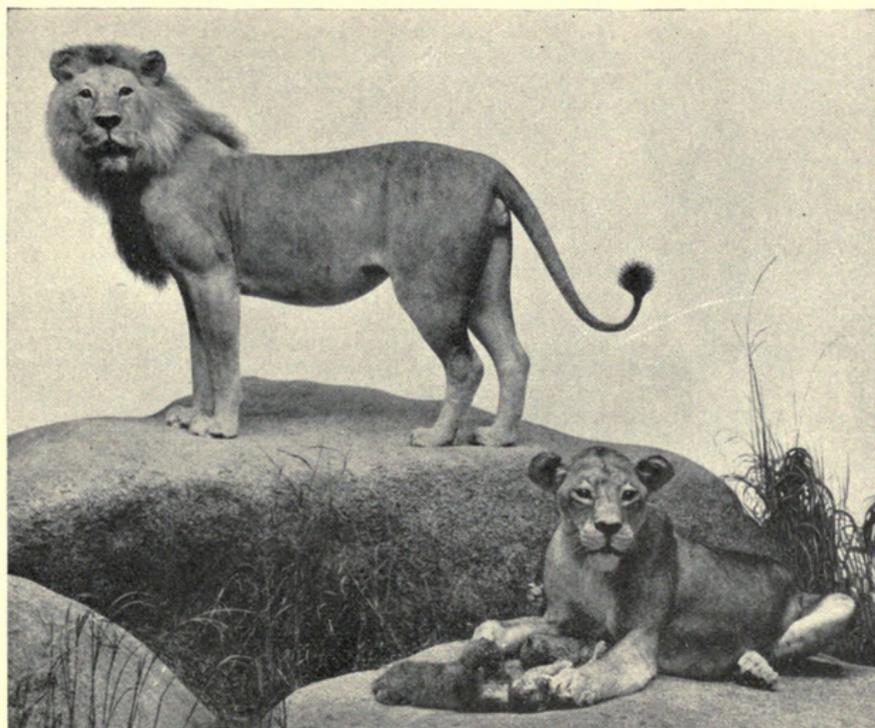
The male lion in the Museum's group has a length of nine feet seven inches, which is large enough to be worthy of mention in a book of records, since the maximum figures rarely exceed ten feet. Weights up to 500 pounds are claimed in some cases, but these are exceptional.

The group was designed and prepared by Staff Taxidermist C. J. Albrecht, who brought to his task a field experience with lions, gained while a member of the Harold White-John Coats African Expedition of 1929-30.

A SOUTH SEA HALL OF FAME

A peculiar illustration of the general desire of mankind to keep at hand some relic or reminder of the great who have departed may be seen in Joseph N. Field Hall (Hall A).

In southern Malekula, one of the New Hebrides Islands, the natives model on the skull of a deceased important man of the community his face and features. This is done with a plastic mass made of coconut



Monarchs of the Animal Kingdom

New group of lions in Carl E. Akeley Memorial Hall. These excellent specimens were collected by Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Field.

fiber, clay, and a gummy sap. The aim is to make this a real portrait, and often the man's hair is attached to the top and back. The face is painted with designs indicating the man's rank. These heads are placed on the tops of carved posts and kept in the men's clubhouse.

If the man is of very high rank, a body is also often made out of bamboo sticks and leaves, covered with the same plastic mass, and painted with the proper designs. The head is attached to this body. One such figure and several of the portrait heads are on exhibition at the Museum.—A.B.L.

The insect-catching plant known as Venus' fly trap makes an interesting exhibit in the Hall of Plant Life.

Products from forty different plants go into the making of Indian curry powder. The raw ingredients are displayed in the Department of Botany.

HOW PANAMA HATS ARE MADE SHOWN IN EXHIBIT

BY LLEWELYN WILLIAMS
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Popular materials for making hats are obtained from the stems of reeds, rushes or grasses, palm leaves, coarse tree basts, etc. Straw plaits made from wheat, rye, barley and rice straw furnish material for the greater part of the summer hats manufactured for wear in the temperate zone. Splints prepared from finely divided leaves of palms and allied forms of vegetation are also widely utilized. In the Orient splints of bamboo are commonly used. Manila hemp, from the leaf sheaths of a non-edible banana (*Musa textilis*), is also employed for this purpose. Screw pine leaves, cut into strips, also provide material. Within recent years manufactured cellulose material has come into use as a substitute for natural straw.

An exhibit installed in Hall 28 shows the various steps in the manufacture of Panama hats, as well as a series of hats made from

different plant materials in China, Java, Philippine Islands, India, and Brazil, and one made by North American Indians of Alaska.

The material used for making genuine Panama hats is obtained from the young, unopened leaves, which have not yet developed green color, of the so-called Panama hat palm (*Carludovica palmata*), occurring in northwestern South America. The folded leaf lamina is cut into fine splints or strips of uniform width. These are boiled in water, hung up in an airy place to dry, and then bleached in the sun. For plaiting, the splints are moistened, but throughout the subsequent operations they are guarded from the sun in order to preserve the moisture and to prevent unequal bleaching.

The manufacture of Panama hats is the principal industry of certain regions in Ecuador, Colombia and northeastern Peru. Formerly these hats reached the market by way of the Isthmus of Panama, whence came the name that still erroneously attaches to them. Leghorn hats are made from the upper and finer portions of wheat straw grown for the purpose in Tuscany, Italy. They are woven by hand into hat shape and then stiffened with gelatin.

Death of Dr. W. H. Holmes

News of the death of Dr. William Henry Holmes on April 20 was received at Field Museum with keen regret. Dr. Holmes was the first Curator of Anthropology at this institution, having joined the staff in 1894 and served for several years. Later he became successively head curator of anthropology of the United States National Museum, and director of the National Art Gallery in Washington. He was eighty-six years old at the time of his death.

Suits of armor, cannon, and other weapons of the Moro tribes of the Philippines are included among the exhibits in Hall H.



Williams, Llewelyn. 1933. "How Pananma Hats Are Made Shown in Exhibit."
Field Museum news 4(6), 2-3.

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