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NEOLITHIC SUN-WORSHIP IS ILLUSTRATED IN THE HALL OF THE STONE AGE

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The seventh* group in the new Hall of the Stone Age of the Old World (Hall C) shows the sun rising over the great alignment of stones at Carnac in Brittany, France.

The people of the new stone age, who probably came into Europe from those regions east of the Caspian Sea, brought with them the new culture upon which our modern civilization rests. Among their contributions were the practice of agriculture; the true domestication of animals, which involves breeding in captivity; the manufacture of pottery; and tool-making by grinding and polishing.

Agriculture and the domestication of animals played a large part in the early development of man. The finest hunting ground can support only a limited number of families, whereas, with sheep, cattle, and grain, a fertile and well-watered soil can be made to produce food and clothing for a large population. It is possible that paleolithic man may have tamed wild animals occasionally so that they worked for him, but true domestication of the sheep, goat, pig, and cattle did not take place until the neolithic period. It is interesting to note

*The first six groups—Chellean, Neanderthal, Aurignacian, Solutrean, Magdalenian and Azilian—have been pictured and described in FIELD MUSEUM NEWS, issues of July to December, 1933, inclusive.

that the horse was not domesticated until early historical times.

Fragments of pottery have been found in upper paleolithic deposits, but finished jars have been found from no period earlier than the neolithic.

Neolithic men lived in huts, which were often grouped together to form villages. The most primitive form of hut was the pit dwelling, either circular or oval in shape, but occasionally in the form of a roofed trench with a fireplace. In late neolithic

headed, although skulls of round and intermediate form have been excavated.

In northern and western Europe tombs of many types were constructed with large, roughly dressed stones, many of which weigh several tons. The method employed to drag these stones to the desired place and raise them to an upright position is unknown. In addition to special tombs, there are single standing stones, known as menhirs, marking burials. Menhirs placed in parallel lines are known as alignments.

The most important of these is the Carnac alignment, a general view of which is presented in the Museum group.

This great line of menhirs, running east and west, was a place of worship of the sun, possibly combined in some way with the cult of the dead. A priest is shown with his arms raised toward the rising sun, which casts long, dark shadows behind the great blocks of weathered granite. He is welcoming the birth of a new day.

The figure of the neolithic priest is by Frederick Blaschke. The painted background is the work of Staff Artist Charles A. Corwin, who had for reference a scale model, sketches, and paintings made at Carnac by Pierre Gatier, and still and

motion pictures taken by Henri Barreire. The group was planned and directed by the writer with the collaboration of the Abbé Henri Breuil and Zacharie le Rouzic.



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A Neolithic Priest Welcomes a New Day

The mysterious prehistoric avenue of menhirs at Carnac, Brittany, is shown in this group in the Hall of the Stone Age of the Old World. The time represented is about 10,000 years ago.

times houses were built which were more like modern types, with several compartments and occasionally with two stories.

The neolithic population was mainly long-

MUSEUM RADIO TALKS ON WGN

Through the courtesy of WGN, the *Chicago Tribune* radio station, a series of talks on Field Museum and its activities is being broadcast by members of the Museum staff. The series opened on December 15 with a lecture by Director Stephen C. Simms on the Museum as a whole. Dr. Berthold Laufer, Curator of Anthropology, outlined the work of his department on December 29. Others scheduled to speak are Associate Curator Paul C. Standley, who will tell of the work of the Department of Botany on January 12; Acting Curator Henry W. Nichols, who will talk on the Department of Geology on January 26; Dr. Wilfred H. Osgood, Curator of Zoology, who will speak about his department on February 9; and Miss Margaret M. Cornell, Chief Guide-lecturer, who will sketch the activities of

the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures, on February 23. These talks are scheduled to begin at 4 P.M. An additional talk, to be announced later, will be given in March.

PHANTOM CRYSTALS

Two quartz crystals with phantoms, presented to the Museum by Fritz Ackerman of Bahia, Brazil, have been added to the mineral collection in Hall 34. Phantoms are diaphanous crystal shapes which appear in the interior of transparent crystals. Some are quite distinct, others are faint, misty forms which well merit the name of phantom. Many are the result of microscopic gas or air bubbles arranged in crystal form. In others, minute rods and spangles of other

minerals replace the bubbles. Sometimes when a crystal is growing the surface becomes soiled and the soiled surface is later covered as the crystal continues to grow. A growth which began as a colored crystal may change during its growth to another color or to a colorless form.

Phantom crystals are seldom mentioned by name in the text books, yet they have always been favorites of mineral collectors.

—H.W.N.

Uses Same Nest Year after Year

Unlike most birds, the golden eagle uses the same nest year after year, merely enlarging it periodically to meet its needs. A striking group of these birds, mounted amid a setting reproducing their natural environment, is on exhibition in Hall 20.



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