

GROUP OF SWISS LAKE DWELLERS IN HALL OF STONE AGE

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The eighth* group in the Hall of the Stone Age of the Old World (Hall C) shows an early morning scene at a Swiss Lake Dweller village at Neuchâtel, Switzerland.

Centuries before the dawn of history in Europe, people in a neolithic stage of culture settled around the lakes of Switzerland, building their homes on pile-supported platforms over the water. The migration to that region must have taken place thousands of years before the Christian era. Iron implements, and Roman tiles and coins, found in the upper layers of some of the sites, give some indication of the approximate date at which Lake Dweller culture ended.

During 1853-54 the lakes of Switzerland receded to an unusually low level. Villagers, seizing an opportunity to secure more land on the shores for their vineyards, found in the new ground wooden piles, stags' horns and stone implements. These discoveries marked the beginning of study of the Lake Dweller culture. Since that time hundreds of sites have been excavated.

The Swiss Lake Dwellers were an indus-

animal horns, teeth and bones. The Swiss Lake Dwellers were successful hunters, in spite of the fact that, judged by modern standards, their weapons might be considered wholly inadequate. They captured bears and wolves, as well as stags, wild boars and bison. A few fragments of leather suggest that the skins were partially prepared and possibly used for clothing.

The Lake Dwellers, last of prehistoric peoples, took great strides toward civilization. Living in large, settled communities, men learned to cooperate with each other and to have some thought for the common good. The raising of cattle, cultivating of grain, and storing of food indicate a desire to provide for the future which was probably lacking in their predecessors. Such practices also must have developed the sense of property to a greater degree than ever before. Commerce developed within the community and with the outside world, spreading knowledge and ideas from group to group.

In the Museum's Lake Dweller group two fishermen are seen on the beach hauling in their seine, which holds the morning catch of fish. In the background are pile-supported



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Life When the Dawn of History Was Approaching

Swiss Lake Dwellers and their village erected on piles over the water, as restored in group in the Hall of the Stone Age of the Old World. These people developed a culture which presaged what we know as civilization.

trious people, and their earliest remains suggest a relatively complex social organization. The hundreds, sometimes thousands, of wooden piles found in each site, indicate that they lived in large communities. Their huts, built on platforms supported by piles near the shores of lakes, possessed unquestionable advantages, for some of these were connected with the shore only by wooden bridges, and others could be reached only by canoe, which assured reasonable safety from attack. Such dwellings also enabled the people to catch fish with considerable ease.

From the number of their industries we may presuppose a division of labor. They raised cattle, an occupation requiring continuous care and foresight, as did the cultivation of the ground and the sowing and reaping of harvests. Among the plants they cultivated was flax, which they spun into thread, and used for weaving cloth and making fishnets. They manufactured pottery, and the variety of their tools and implements testifies to their deftness. Implements were made from wood, stone, and

platforms with huts built upon them, where the daily activities are starting.

Sculptor Frederick Blaschke modeled the two figures of the men, and the painted scene is the work of Charles A. Corwin, Staff Artist. The group was planned and directed by the writer. In preparation for this work, a reconstruction of a Lake Dweller scene was painted at Neuchâtel by Charles R. Knight, with the technical advice of Dr. Paul Vouga, who is in charge of the local museum.

MUSEUM OFFICERS RE-ELECTED

At the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Field Museum, held January 15, all officers of the institution who served during 1933 were re-elected. President Stanley Field was re-elected, for the twenty-sixth time, to the office he has held continuously since January, 1909. The others re-elected to their respective offices are Albert A. Sprague, First Vice-President; James Simpson, Second Vice-President; Albert W. Harris, Third Vice-President; Stephen C. Simms, Director and Secretary; and Solomon A. Smith, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary. There were no changes on the Board of Trustees

MRS. OSCAR STRAUS SPONSORS EXPEDITION TO AFRICA

An expedition, to be known as the Straus West African Expedition of Field Museum, left Chicago January 17. Driving to New York in a passenger automobile and a motor truck which are to be used in the field, the expedition embarked on a steamer for Dakar, in the French colony of Senegal, on January 25.

The expedition is sponsored by Mrs. Oscar Straus of New York, widow of a former American ambassador to Turkey who became Secretary of Commerce in the administration of President Theodore Roosevelt. Jesse Isidor Straus, the present ambassador to France, is Mrs. Straus's nephew.

At Dakar the expedition will be joined early in February by Mrs. Straus herself, who is stopping in France on her way to Africa. She will accompany the party during about two months of work and travel in Senegal and contiguous territory. The expedition will continue in operation some six or seven months, during which it will cover about 4,000 miles in regions ranging from the barest desert to the most luxuriant forest in the world.

Rudyard Boulton, Assistant Curator of Birds at Field Museum, is the scientific leader of the expedition. Mrs. Boulton is accompanying her husband to carry out a commission she has received from the Carnegie Corporation of New York to make phonograph records of the native music of African tribes. Frank C. Wonder of the Museum's taxidermy staff is the mammal collector of the expedition, and John F. Jennings of Chicago is photographer.

After leaving Dakar the expedition will motor through Senegal and other parts of West Africa to Timbuktu, collecting birds and mammals, and recording native music, on the way. Thence the party will drive to Kano in northern Nigeria, and work through Nigeria to Lagos. Collecting will be done principally in the dry thornbush country on the southern edge of the Sahara Desert during the first three months.

From Lagos Mr. Wonder will proceed to collect small mammals in the low rain forests and on the plateau boundary between Nigeria and Cameroon, while the Boultons will board ship for Angola (Portuguese West Africa) where they will continue research they began on two previous expeditions. Mr. Boulton hopes to collect specimens for three or four habitat groups of unusual birds to be installed in a proposed new hall of foreign birds at the museum. Among the principal objectives of the collectors will be a nesting colony of weaver birds, a group of giant plantain eaters, and a group of helmeted hornbills, all of which are birds difficult to obtain and little represented in museums at present.

New Guinea Hairdressing

An interesting example of elaborate hairdressing is exhibited in Joseph N. Field Hall (Hall A) in the collection from the south coast of Dutch New Guinea. The rather short curly hair of a native is divided into many separate strands, to each of which long strips of fiber are fastened. Some of these are again gathered together into bundles with various ornaments attached. This is done in various ways, depending upon the sex and age group of the individual. The style for each group is more or less fixed, and on rising to an older group the whole hairdress is frequently cut off short, and the hair allowed to grow out afresh.

*The other seven groups—Chellean, Neanderthal, Aurignacian, Solutrean, Magdalenian, Azilian and Neolithic—have been pictured and described in FIELD MUSEUM NEWS, issues of July, 1933, to January, 1934, inclusive.



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