

FOUR MORE RAYMOND PROGRAMS OFFERED FOR CHILDREN

The spring series of free motion picture programs for children, presented by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures, will continue on Saturday mornings in April. Two showings are offered of the films on each program, one beginning at 10 A.M., and one at 11. Children from all parts of Chicago and suburbs are invited, and no tickets are required for admission. Children may come alone, accompanied by parents or other adults, or in groups from schools and other centers. Titles of the films to be presented on each date are as follows:

April 2—The Settlement of Jamestown:—Life Within the Stockade; The Village of Powhatan; The Capture of Pocahontas; The Spanish Spy; The Marriage of Pocahontas and John Rolfe.

April 9—The Farmer's Friend; Peculiar Pets; Cairo to the Pyramids; The Veldt.

April 16—Gold Mining in the Klondike; Animals of the Salton Sea; The World of Paper; The Art of the Caveman.

April 23—From Red Earth to Steel Girder; A Visit to Czechoslovakia.

April 30—Magic Myxies; Hindu Holiday; The Bittern; 200 Fathoms Deep.

SHANG JADES EXHIBITED

By C. MARTIN WILBUR

Curator of Chinese Archaeology and Ethnology

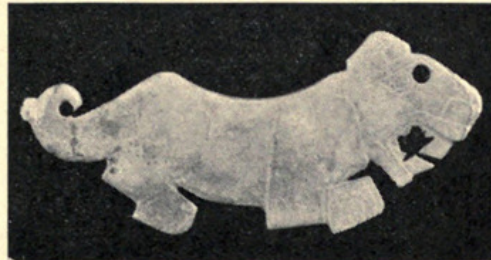
Important archaeological excavations at An-yang in north China during the past ten years have thrown a flood-light of information on China's earliest historical epoch—the Shang period. Modern scientists now know many things about China from 1400–1100 B. C. unknown even to Confucius, who lived only a few centuries later. Many of the finest jades in Field Museum come from An-yang. They were carved during the Shang period, and were buried in the tombs of Shang noblemen.

Who were the Shangs? A generation ago no one really knew. Today, because of the deciphering of Shang writing on oracle bones, and due to the excavations of the past decade, it is established that the people of the Shang state possessed a mature civilization, the earliest true Chinese civilization known. They were city dwellers and agriculturists with a full Bronze Age culture. In their society were kings and nobles, priests and scribes, soldiers, traders, workmen and slaves. They worshipped their ancestors, as have the Chinese ever since. Their written language, the predecessor of modern Chinese, was already very complex. In the arts they excelled in bronze casting, pottery making, and bone, ivory, and jade carving—to mention only those things which still remain.

Shang jade, exhibited in Cases 1 and 2 of the Hall of Jade (Hall 30) is admirable for its vigorous portrayal of animals. In Case 2 are both naturalistic and conventionalized forms representing tigers, oxen, hares, deer, alligators, mythical dragons, fishes and birds. Some of the finest pieces are prominently displayed in the front of the case. There are also ritual jades, copies of bronze weapons, and ornaments for clothing.

The Shang jades in Field Museum were among the first shown in any American museum. Brought from China to America by Mr. A. W. Bahr, a well known collector,

several years before the first scientific excavations at An-yang, their true antiquity was hardly suspected. Dr. Berthold Laufer, late Curator of Anthropology, realizing their importance as documents of the past, persuaded a group of far-sighted citizens to present the collection to Field Museum. The group included Mrs. George T. (Frances Gaylord) Smith, Mrs. John J. Borland, Miss Kate S. Buckingham, and Messrs. Martin A. Ryerson, Julius Rosenwald, Otto C. Doering, and Martin C.



Ancient Artist's Conception of a Tiger

Chinese jade carving of the Shang period (1400–1100 B.C.), on exhibition in Hall 30.

Schwab. Other Chicago citizens who contributed Shang or early Chou jades were Messrs. Richard T. Crane, Jr., and Charles B. Goodspeed. The foundation of the jade collection was laid by the Blackstone Expedition (1908–10), and the Marshall Field Expedition to China (1923), both conducted by Dr. Laufer.

Recently, with the collaboration of Dr. James M. Menzies, one of China's leading archaeologists, who discovered the site of An-yang, Case 2 in Hall 30 was reinstalled. Through his help many jades were definitely established as belonging to the Shang period. A few Shang bronzes, and oracle bones inscribed with early Chinese writing, are also exhibited, in George T. and Frances Gaylord Smith Hall (Hall 24), Cases 1 and 2.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Members of the Museum who have changed residences or plan to do so are urged to notify the Museum of their new addresses, so that FIELD MUSEUM NEWS and other communications may reach them promptly. A post card for this purpose is enclosed with this issue.

Members going away during the summer, who desire Museum matter sent to their temporary addresses, may have this service by notifying the Museum.

MRS. RAYMOND CONTRIBUTES \$2,000 TO FOUNDATION

The James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures was the recipient last month of another gift of \$2,000 from its founder, Mrs. James Nelson Raymond. This, like the many previous contributions Mrs. Raymond has made throughout the years since she established the Foundation with a \$500,000 endowment in 1925, will be used in meeting current operating expenses of the Foundation's manifold activities on behalf of Chicago's school children. At present the Foundation is giving its annual spring series of free motion picture programs in the James Simpson Theatre, as announced elsewhere in FIELD MUSEUM NEWS. A recent innovation in connection with these is the preparation of special exhibits of material relevant to the subjects of some of the films shown.

NEW FOSSIL VERTEBRATES IN TEMPORARY EXHIBIT

By BRYAN PATTERSON

Assistant Curator of Paleontology

The Field Museum Paleontological Expedition of 1937 obtained many interesting and important specimens from the upper Paleocene and lower Eocene formations of Colorado. The difficulties of preparing these specimens for study and exhibition were described in FIELD MUSEUM NEWS (November, 1937). Preparation by Mr. James H. Quinn, of the Department of Geology staff, is now far enough advanced, however, to permit the installation of a temporary exhibit of the more complete finds in Case 80 of Ernest R. Graham Hall (Hall 38).

Among the specimens exhibited is a partial skeleton of a member of the archaic order of hoofed mammals known as Pantodonta. It is closely related to *Barylambda*, an animal of which a skeleton was collected by a Museum expedition in 1933. A skull of *Barylambda* is also included in this exhibit. Likewise shown is a skull of one of the largest specimens of *Coryphodon* yet found, as well as the skull of a hitherto unknown animal which appears to be closer to *Coryphodon* than any other known form. The mammalian portion of the exhibit also includes a skull of the earliest known member of the extinct order Dinocerata. The later members of this order (specimens of which are shown elsewhere in the hall) were grotesque creatures with great six-horned heads. The new find represents an earlier, hornless stage in the evolution of the group.

The reptiles are represented by turtles and crocodiles. One of the crocodiles has short horn-like growths on the back of its skull. Such "horns" have never before been known in the order Crocodylia. This extraordinary feature went unnoticed in the field, and was only discovered recently in the laboratory during the preparation of the specimen.

Staff Notes

Mr. Llewelyn Williams, Curator of Economic Botany, has been granted a two years leave of absence to accept an appointment to engage in special work for the Ministry of Agriculture of Venezuela. Making his headquarters at Caracas, Mr. Williams will assist Dr. Henry F. Pittier, the famous Swiss botanist (formerly connected with the United States Department of Agriculture) in a botanical survey and study of the various resources of Venezuela.

Curator Karl P. Schmidt made a field trip last month to southwestern Arkansas to collect salamanders and other reptiles and amphibians. He was assisted by Mr. C. M. Barbour, a former member of the Museum's Staff. Recently Mr. Schmidt was honored by election to membership in the American Society of Zoologists.

Curator Rudyerd Boulton has returned to Field Museum after several weeks in the east where he was engaged in special research on the birds of Angola (Portuguese West Africa). His studies were made principally at the American Museum of Natural History, New York.

Curator C. Martin Wilbur recently lectured on Chinese archaeology before the Fortnightly Club of Chicago, and on Chinese jades before the Hoosier Art Patrons Association.

An American alligator, with nest and eggs, is shown in Albert W. Harris Hall (Hall 18).



Patterson, Bryan. 1938. "New Fossil Vertebrates in Temporary Exhibit." *Field Museum news* 9(4), 3-3.

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