

MUSEUM HAS VAST COLLECTIONS FOR STUDY DURING PAN AMERICAN WEEK (APRIL 12-19)

Throughout the western Hemisphere, Pan American Week will be celebrated from April 12 to 19; the program in Chicago is sponsored by the Pan American Council.

Field Museum is cooperating by displaying in Stanley Field Hall during April a special exhibit emphasizing a few basic facts concerning hemispheric solidarity (see page 4).

On Friday, April 17, at 2 P.M., Miss Elizabeth Hambleton of the Museum staff will conduct a guide-lecture on "Arts and Sciences of the American Indians."

The nationwide observance of Pan American Week is promoted by the Pan American Union in Washington, and the Office of the Co-ordinator of Inter-American Affairs (Nelson Rockefeller's Committee). This year, due to the steps taken at the recent Inter-American Conference in Rio de Janeiro, and because of the inter-independence of the various American republics as a result of the war, there is more than ever before urgent need for greater unity and understanding between the United States and its sister republics.

The climax of the week's celebration will be on Tuesday, April 14, Pan American Day. This, says a statement issued by Chicago's Pan American Council, "is a day set aside to commemorate the idea of the political, economic, intellectual, and spiritual unity of the twenty-one republics of the Americas. On April 14, 1890, the First International Conference of American States, held in Washington, organized the Pan American Union. Widespread celebration of Pan American Day dates to 1930.

"Unification of the thoughts and aims of the free countries of the Western Hemisphere has been an ideal of statesmen in every American country since the days of the great Bolivar. Pan American Day expresses the reality of the ideals which all the Americas hold in common."

Dr. Paul S. Martin, Chief Curator of Anthropology, has been appointed official representative of Field Museum to the Pan American Council. He and other members of the Museum staff are co-operating in various ways with that organization.

Although Field Museum's interests are world-wide, it has always particularly emphasized Pan American material in both exhibits and study collections. Ever since the Museum first opened in 1894, one-half or more of its hundreds of expeditions have been devoted to the Western Hemisphere.

The following brief survey, by departments, can attempt to outline only in the sketchiest fashion the Museum's comprehensive permanent Pan American exhibits:

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

In the Pan American nations are numerous cultural factors important in binding them together. Increasingly recognized in this

regard are the large Indian populations, and the common heritage of Indian culture with its great influence on American civilization. The United States and Canada have relatively small though culturally important Indian populations; on the other hand, such countries as Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia are more than half Indian in composition. The Indian civilizations at the time of discovery of the New World were by no means identical, but they had sufficient in common to influence similarly the transplanted European culture in different parts of America, and today there are similar social and economic Indian problems in many Pan American countries.

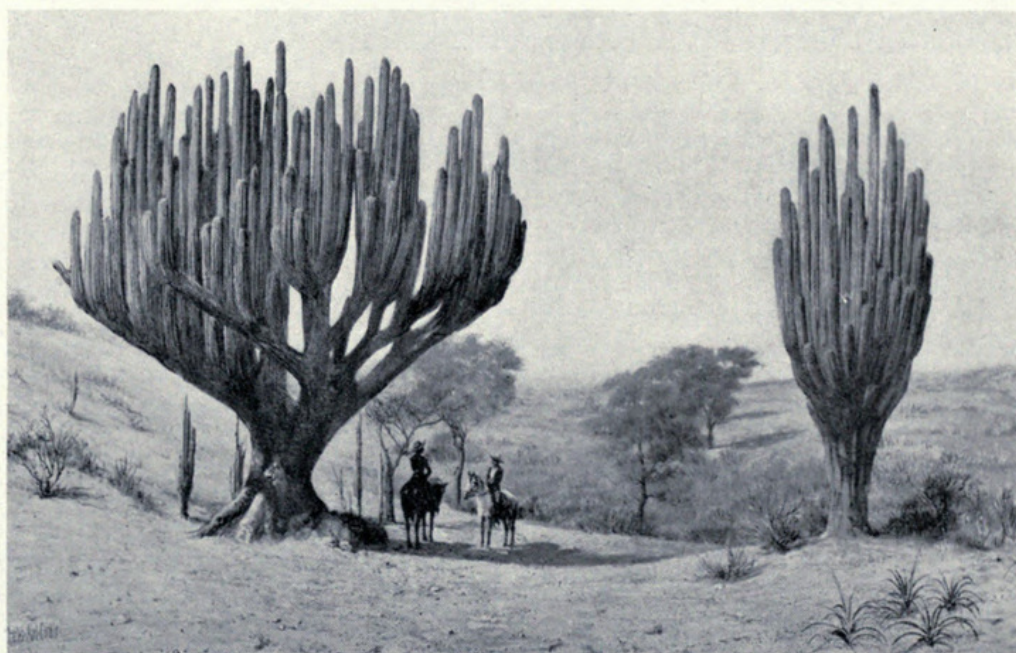
The exhibits in the Department of Anthropology at Field Museum offer splendid opportunities for study of the Indian background of contemporary culture in the Americas. Here may be observed the common characteristics of Indian life, and the regional variations which have been signi-

ceremonies, villages, and pueblos, and life-size figures of men and women demonstrating characteristic costumes, equipment, and activities of everyday life.

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY

The exhibits of the Department of Botany (except the woods) are arranged not geographically, but systematically according to botanical relationships or to applications of plants and plant products in industry. The Hall of Food Plants is naturally devoted in major part to North, Central and South America. There is a special exhibit of grains. Both beet and cane sugar are well represented. Dioramas show the methods used in Brazil in growing and treating cassava and coffee. Other series of exhibits include leguminous seeds, starches, spices, nuts, palms and their products.

One hall is devoted to woods of the United States, and another to foreign woods. The latter contains a large number of important cabinet and construction woods



LANDSCAPE IN SOUTHERN MEXICO

Prominent in the vegetation of subtropical America are these great plants, known as candelabrum cacti. One of a series of mural paintings by the late Charles A. Corwin, former Staff Artist of Field Museum, on the walls of Martin A. and Carrie Ryerson Hall (Hall of Plant Life). Two species of the giant cacti are shown—*Lemaireocereus Weberi* on the left, and *Pachycereus Chrysomallus* on the right.

ficant in the development of cultural differences in the various nations. Especially notable are the Museum's collections from different culture areas of the United States, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, and the Andean countries of South America—the regions in which Indians were of greatest historical importance, and which have the largest Indian populations today. In addition to systematically arranged collections of Indian artifacts from each region illustrating such phases as social organization, religious ceremonials, warfare, arts and industries, hunting, fishing, agriculture, etc., there are miniature groups showing typical

from tropical America, particularly Mexico, the West Indies, Central America, and the Amazon Valley. Another hall is devoted to plant raw materials. Subjects of special exhibits are such plants as cotton, sisal hemp, tobacco, Brazilian and other rubbers, and American gums and waxes.

The Department's fifth and largest hall, known as the Hall of Plant Life (Martin A. and Carrie Ryerson Hall), contains exhibits arranged according to botanical relationships, designed to show, by means of accurate reproductions, the characters of the almost 300 families of plants native in America. Included are most of the im-



1942. "Landscape in Southern Mexico." *Field Museum news* 13(4), 3-3.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/25719>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/365023>

Holding Institution

Field Museum of Natural History Library

Sponsored by

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the Chicago Field Museum.

For information contact dcc@library.uiuc.edu.

Rights Holder: Field Museum of Natural History

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.