Chicago Natural History Museum

FOUNDED BY MARSHALL FIELD, 1893

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THE BULLETIN

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Members are requested to inform the Museum promptly of changes of address.

LIBRARY RECLASSIFICATION

The Board of Trustees has approved the project of reclassifying and recataloguing the Museum Library according to the Library of Congress Classification as rapidly as possible. The reasons for adopting this classification in preference to continuing with the Library's own scheme are several: The L.C. scheme has been developed by specialists in classification for actual application to a large collection of books; it is comprehensive, expansive, flexible, and practical; emanating as it does from a growing library, it is undergoing continuous amplification and revision; the fact that it is the classification scheme of our "national library" insures its continued development.

A great deal of attention has been given the problem of cataloguing costs. By adopting the L.C. Classification and cataloguing practice substantially without change, the Museum Library will be able to utilize the bibliographical work performed by the Library of Congress Processing Division. Eventually, this will result in economy of time and effort on the part of the staff and will permit greater attention to be given to other phases of the Library's activity.

The Library's collection of material on the Belgian Congo has been considerably strengthened by the receipt of a large block of publications of the Institut Royal Colonial Belge and of the Institut des Parcs Nationaux du Congo Belge. The latter group contains the published results of the work of the several expeditions sponsored by the institute.

STAFF NOTES

Mr. Karl P. Schmidt, Chief Curator of Zoology, and Mr. John W. Winn, Assistant Curator of Fishes, as well as Mr. Loren P. Woods, Curator of Fishes (on leave of absence), attended the meetings of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists at Higgins Lake, Michigan. Mr. Woods presented an account of the coral reef fishes of the Bikini Atoll, on which he is working under the direction of Dr. L. P. Schultz at the United States National Museum. Mr. Schmidt presented committee reports as representative of the society to the National Research Council. . . . Mr. Philip Hershkovitz, Assistant Curator of Mammals, and Mr. Luis de la Torre, temporary assistant, attended the meetings of the American Society of Mammalogists, August 25 to 27. . . . Dr. Fritz Haas, Curator of Lower Invertebrates, reports a very cordial reception at the Bermuda Biological Station for Research, where he has been joined by Mr. Joseph B. Krstolich, artist. Dr. Haas reports conditions for study of the marine fauna extremely favorable. . . . Mr. Samuel H. Grove, Jr. has been appointed a preparator in the plant reproduction laboratories of the Department of Botany, and Mr. Harold Hinshaw has been appointed assistant in the Herbarium.

Ecuador Botanist at Museum

For several weeks the Museum will be host to one of Ecuador's foremost scientists, Professor M. Acosta Solis, Director of the Ecuadorian Institute of Natural Sciences at Quito. Mr. Solis, who has made detailed studies of the vegetation of Ecuador and who recently gave the herbarium the largest collection of Ecuadorian plants ever received by this or any other institution, will be writing labels for the thousands of specimens so that they will be available for study and eventual insertion in the herbarium.

Change in Visiting Hours

On September 2, the day after Labor Day, autumn visiting hours, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., go into effect at the Museum, continuing until October 31.

Interesting to all readers of Robinson Crusoe and other tales of adventure on "desert islands" is the breadfruit tree. An exhibit of breadfruit is a feature of Martin A. and Carrie Ryerson Hall (Hall 29).

PEIPING—SPECIAL EXHIBIT OF PHOTOS, SEPT. 1-30

"Peiping," a photographic exhibition prepared by the editors of *Life* magazine, will be placed on view at the Museum from September 1 to 30, inclusive. The pictures in the exhibit are devoted primarily to Peiping architecture and, although based on a photographic essay that recently appeared in the magazine, they include many not hitherto published.

The photographs were made by Mr. Dmitri Kessel, a Life staff photographer, during an assignment in the Far East. Mr. Kessel spent many weeks photographing the Chinese city's unique and beautiful architecture, which had suffered little from the hands of the Japanese during the war. Of the subject, the editors say: "The history of China's ancient capital began more than a thousand years before Christ. For centuries, its palaces and temples have been many times built, destroyed, rebuilt again. And although most of its present-day monuments go no further back than the 15th century, Peiping still stands, one of the great architectural cities of the world."

The exhibit will be on display in the south half of Stanley Field Hall. There are twenty-five panels, 28"x38". In some instances, an entire panel is devoted to a single photograph, such as a superb view of the rooftops of the Forbidden City or the Inner Starry Wicket Gate to the Altar of Heaven.

GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

Following is a list of some of the principal gifts received during the last month:

Department of Anthropology:

From: Major Wang Ching-Yien, Chanute Field, Rantoul, Ill.—a rubbing from inscription on stone monument, T'ang dynasty, A.D. 841, China.

Department of Botany:

From: Dr. Hugh C. Cutler, Chicago—39 herbarium specimens, Bolivia and Cuba; Dr. Henry Field, Thomasville, Ga.—18 specimens of fungi, Georgia.

Department of Geology:

From: C. M. Barber, Flint, Mich.—specimens of *Plesiosaur*, Arkansas.

Department of Zoology:

From: Robert Guillaudeu, Chicago—17 frogs, lizards, and snakes, Illinois and Indiana; Lt. John F. Kurfess, Warrington, Fla.—34 snakes, Florida; J. E. Johnson, Jr., and John Sparks, Waco, Texas—232 snakes, frogs, lizards, salamanders, and turtles, Texas.

Library:

From: Margaret Conover, Stanley Field, and Eugene S. Richardson, Jr., all of Chicago; Henry Field, Thomasville, Ga.; Henry C. Hitt, Seattle; A. W. Jessep, Melbourne, Australia; National Research Council, Ottawa, Canada.

Raymond Foundation:

From: Charles Albee Howe, Homewood, Ill.—334 color slides.



1947. "Library Reclassification." Bulletin 18(9), 6-6.

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