

STAFF NOTES

Col. Clifford C. Gregg, Director, and Karl P. Schmidt, Chief Curator of Zoology, attended the annual meeting of the American Association of Museums held in Philadelphia May 31-June 2. Col. Gregg is a member of the council of the association. Chief Curator Schmidt presented a paper on "The Function of University Museums." . . . Chief Curator Schmidt has been elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He recently gave an address on "The Origins of Domestic Animals" before the Midwest Humane Conference. . . . An expedition to collect upper Cretaceous and Eocene fossil plants in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee was begun last month by George Langford, Curator of Fossil Plants, and Dr. R. H. Whitfield, Associate in Fossil Plants. . . . Dr. Paul S. Martin, Chief Curator of Anthropology, Dr. Alexander Spoehr, Curator of Oceanic Ethnology, George I. Quimby, Curator of Exhibits, Dr. John B. Rinaldo, Assistant Curator of Archaeology, and Miss Elaine Bluhm, Assistant in Archaeology, attended the annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology held in Evanston recently. Dr. Martin was chairman of a session at which Dr. Spoehr presented a paper on the archaeology of Saipan, and Dr. Rinaldo was appointed a member of the Executive Committee. . . . Dr. Martin lectured and showed his motion picture, "Indians Before Columbus," at a meeting of the Anthropology Club at the University of Illinois in Urbana. . . . Dr. Spoehr attended a meeting in Washington of the advisory group for the Pacific Science Board's coral atoll program to complete final plans for the Board's atoll research project for the current summer in the Gilbert Islands. . . . Donald Collier, Curator of South American Ethnology and Archaeology, attended the annual meetings of the Division of Anthropology and Psychology of the National Research Council in Washington. . . . Colin C. Sanborn, Curator of Mammals, recently engaged in studies of Philippine mammals at the U. S. National Museum in Washington, D.C., and the American Museum of Natural History in New York. He particularly studied type specimens of rodents for completion of a research project. . . . Dr. Theodor Just, Chief Curator of Botany, has left on a field trip to the southwestern United States and California. He will also attend the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Evolution in Berkeley, California, where he will be joined by Chief Curator of Zoology Schmidt. . . . Miss Lorain Farmer, Museum guide-lecturer, recently appeared on Martha Crane's radio program on WLS and told about the work of the Raymond Foundation. . . . Dr. Julian A Steyermark, Curator of

SOUTH AMERICAN AND ORIENTAL FISHES ACQUIRED

The Museum has recently purchased the collection of fishes of the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh, an outstanding collection famous for its South American and Oriental fishes. No extensive work on the freshwater fishes of South America or on the marine fishes of the Far East is possible without consulting this basic collection.

In the early part of the century Carl H. Eigenmann, pre-eminent authority of his day on the freshwater fishes of South America, and his students amassed and described most of the South American material in the collection. Of the 575 species included, nearly half are represented by types. This part of the collection is of especial value also because it contains specimens from nearly all sections of South America.

The Oriental fishes comprise about one-third of the Carnegie collection and are both marine and freshwater species. In this portion there are approximately 1,753 species, of which 143 are represented by types. They are from many places in the Orient but principally from Japan, Formosa, and Korea. The Oriental collections were made and studied by David Starr Jordan and his associates and by various Japanese ichthyologists. In addition to these Oriental collections there are 1,364 lots of fishes from moderately deep (100 to 300 fathoms) waters off eastern Japan. These fishes were collected by Allan Owston, a shipmaster, who spent fifty years cruising and collecting in Japanese waters. Owston was a careful

observer with some knowledge of fishes, and many little-known species are included in his collection.

Nearly all of the material in the Carnegie collection was studied, sorted, and selected before it was sent to the Museum, and be-



FISHES 'LANDED' FOR CHICAGO

Packing the collection of exotic fishes of the Carnegie Museum for transfer to Chicago Natural History Museum.

cause of this there is very little duplication. The geographic areas represented are those in which our Division of Fishes has not carried on extensive field work, and therefore the great majority of species are especially worthwhile additions to our study collections. Our number of types will be more than doubled. Incorporation of the Carnegie material will make it possible to utilize the South American material that we already have and will greatly aid in working on our marine fishes.

LOREN P. WOODS
Curator of Fishes

the Herbarium, has recently been engaged in botanical field studies in the Ozark region of Missouri.

Annual Report Published

The Annual Report of Colonel Clifford C. Gregg, Director of the Museum, to the Museum's Board of Trustees, has just been published by the Museum Press. Distribution of copies to all Members of the Museum will be made at an early date. The Report, a book of 142 pages, gives details of all principal activities of the institution for 1950 and contains 24 illustrations.

Mexican Salamander Studies

Clifford H. Pope, Curator of Amphibians and Reptiles, plans to leave for the Mexican highlands about July 1, where he will study the habitat relationships of woodland salamanders. The salamander fauna of Mexico is of special interest because of its isolation and its similarity to that of our own southern highlands. Many of the Mexican species have been but recently discovered and are therefore little known. Investigation of the woodland salamanders of the southern Appalachians already has been carried on for several years, and so the time is favorable for an investigation in Mexico.



Woods, Loren P. 1951. "South American and Oriental Fishes Acquired."
Bulletin 22(7), 7-7.

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