

lished recently in *The American Midland Naturalist*.

The retirement at the close of the year of Emil Sella, Curator of Exhibits in the Department of Botany, is announced with regret. Mr. Sella joined the staff of the Museum in 1922 as a glassblower and preparator in the Stanley Field Plant Reproduction Laboratory of the Museum. He advanced over the years to Chief Preparator of botanical exhibits and in 1947 was appointed Curator of Exhibits in the Department of Botany. Hundreds of plant models at the Museum bear silent testimony to his unusual ability and skill in reproducing in permanent form a wide variety of plants.

Mr. George Langford, Curator of Fossil Plants, also retired at the end of the year. Mr. Langford came to the Museum in 1949 after his retirement from a business career. A native of Denver, Colorado, he graduated from Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University in 1897. His great interest in the coal fossils in the strip mine areas of Wilmington, Illinois, and his general interest both in paleontology and certain phases of anthropology brought him to the Museum first as a volunteer and later as a staff member.

Dr. C. Earle Smith, Jr., Associate Curator of Vascular Plants, resigned at the end of the year to accept employment with the United States Department of Agriculture. He will be stationed at Beltsville, Maryland. Dr. Smith joined the staff of the Museum in January of 1959 and has been interested especially in tropical vegetation.

#### BROR ERIC DAHLGREN 1877 — 1961

Dr. B. E. Dahlgren, Curator Emeritus of Botany, died of a heart attack at his home on December 16, 1961. This ended a varied career that began with emigration from his native Sweden to the United States when he was in his teens. After receiving his degree from the University of Minnesota, Dr. Dahlgren engaged in the practice of orthodontic dentistry in New York City at the turn of the century. His studies of the comparative

anatomy of the mammalian palate led to use of the collections at the American Museum of Natural History, and subsequently to an interest in problems of museum exhibition. Employing some of the materials and techniques of mechanical dentistry, Dahlgren constructed models of invertebrate animals, including insects, that were superior to any known at the time. Eventually he gave up the practice of dentistry and became a staff member at the American Museum.

In 1909, Dr. Charles W. Millsbaugh, the Museum's first Curator of Botany, with the support of Mr. Stanley Field, President, induced Dahlgren to become head of the department's Division of Modeling. In 1935 Dr. Dahlgren became Curator of Botany, a title that was changed the following year to Chief Curator of Botany.

Under his direction a program of botanical exhibition was begun that resulted in the famed Stanley Field Collection of Plant Models and botanical exhibits considered to be the finest anywhere. Among the most spectacular of these is the restoration of a Carboniferous forest on display in Hall 38 of the Museum. Illustrations of this restoration have appeared in most textbooks of geology published since the completion of the exhibit.

Dr. Dahlgren was an authority on wax palms and conducted a number of botanical collecting expeditions to Jamaica, British Guiana, Brazil, and Cuba.

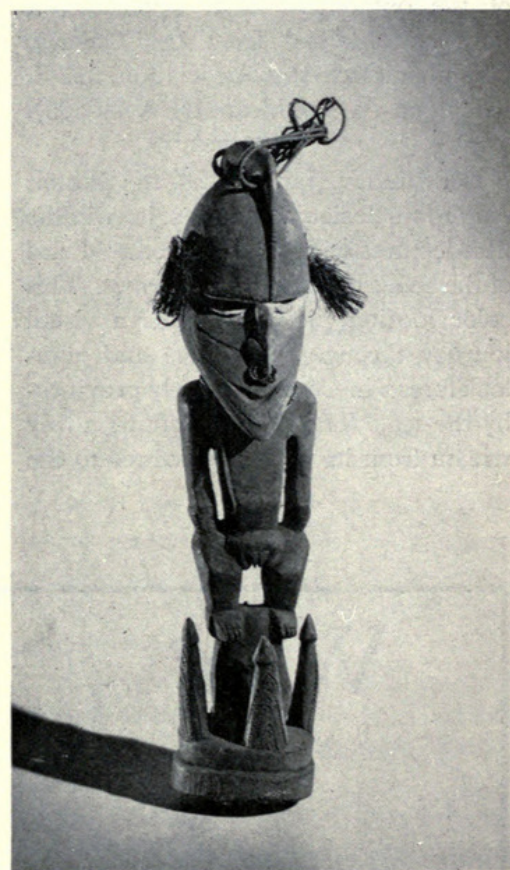
#### Scientific Meetings and Honors

The government of Guatemala has honored two former staff members of Chicago Natural History Museum for scientific work accomplished relating to that country. On September 15, Dr. Julian Steyermark received Guatemala's "Order of the Quetzal" from the Guatemalan government at Caracas, Venezuela. The same honor was bestowed on Mr. Paul C. Standley at Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on October 11, 1961. The honors were bestowed in recognition of the scientific studies of these botanists on the flora of Guatemala.

Rupert L. Wenzel, Curator of Insects, has returned from a trip to the Canal Zone where he worked and conferred with Major Vernon J. Tipton, U. S.

Army. Wenzel and Tipton are writing a paper on the butterflies of Panama. The study is part of a U. S. Army-sponsored research program directed by Major Tipton, who is Chief of the Environmental Health Branch of the Division of Preventive Medicine, U. S. Army Caribbean.

Dr. Paul S. Martin, Dr. Donald Collier, Dr. Roland W. Force, Mr. Phillip H. Lewis, and Mr. George I. Quimby, all of the Department of Anthropology, recently attended annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association in Philadelphia. Mr. Lewis presented a paper on "Comparison of Art of Primitive and Civilized Societies." His monograph, *A Definition of Primitive Art*, has just been published by the Museum Press (Fieldiana: Anthropology, Vol. 36, No. 10; 21 pages, 5 illustrations; 50c). At



*Effigy hanger, New Guinea. Illustration from  
"A Definition of Primitive Art"*

the meetings, Dr. Force discussed "The Concept of Process and the Study of Cultural Change." Dr. Force is now en route to his new post as Director of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum in Honolulu, Hawaii.





1962. "Bror Eric Dahlgren (1877-1961)." *Bulletin* 33(1), 8-8.

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