

Field Museum News

Published Monthly by Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago

Vol. 1

JANUARY, 1930

No. 1

NEW ZOOLOGICAL EXPEDITION DEPARTS FOR AFRICA

A new and important zoological expedition, the Vernay-Lang Kalahari Expedition for Field Museum, will soon be in operation in Africa. This expedition is financed by Arthur S. Vernay of New York and London. Mr. Vernay, who has had wide experience in big game hunting, will himself be one of the joint leaders of the party. Associated with him in the leadership will be Herbert Lang, formerly of New York, who has been engaged in African explorations for several years, and is recognized as one of the foremost authorities on African mammals. Captain B. E. H. Clifford, Imperial Secretary at Pretoria, Transvaal, British South Africa, Rudyard Boulton, ornithologist, and Allan Chapman will also be members of the expedition.

Mr. Vernay recently left New York for London, and is completing preparations there for the expedition. He will sail from Southampton for Capetown on February 13, and then proceed to Francistown where he will meet Mr. Lang. From that point, with a motor caravan and full equipment, the expedition will set out for its work in the Kalahari Desert, and along the Botletle River in the British protectorate of Bechuanaland. Hunting will be continued until about June. A number of rare animal not now represented in the Museum's collections, and some not yet obtained by any museum, will be sought. One of the chief objectives will be specimens for a habitat group of the beautiful sable antelope of Angola.

Other Expeditions

The Frederick H. Rawson-Field Museum Ethnological Expedition to West Africa, under the leadership of W. D. Hambly, Assistant Curator of African Ethnology, has completed its work in Angola (Portuguese West Africa) where more than 1,200 objects representing the Ovimbundu tribes have been collected. It is now making collections in Nigeria (British West Africa).

The Chancellor-Stuart-Field Museum Expedition to the South Pacific is completing its zoological collections,

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF FIELD MUSEUM FROM 1893 TO 1930

By Dr. Oliver C. Farrington, Curator of Geology

Within thirty-six years Field Museum of Natural History has attained a place among the first four scientific museums of the world, and it now occupies one of the largest and finest of all museum buildings.

As is well known, the Museum was primarily an outgrowth of the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893. The first published suggestion that a museum should be formed as a result of the exposition was, in the opinion of the late F. J. V. Skiff, first Director of the Museum, an article by Professor F. W. Putnam in the *Chicago Tribune* of May 31, 1890. In that year and the following one Professor Putnam also addressed local bodies on this subject and his views were duly reported in the newspapers.

In 1891, Dr. G. Brown Goode, then in charge of the United States National Museum, while in Chicago to consult with the exposition directors regarding government exhibits, emphatically pointed out to J. W. Ellsworth, a member of the foreign affairs committee, the opportunity afforded by the exposition to establish a great museum. Mr. Ellsworth became an enthusiastic advocate of the plan, and he was able to interest other committee members, including William T. Baker, chairman.

As a result, purchases made abroad by this committee, and those of equipment for some departments, were viewed partly in relation to their usefulness for a future museum. Early in 1892 an organization called the Columbian Historical Association was formed, at the suggestion of members of this committee, to take advantage of the privilege granted scientific societies to import exhibits free of duty. Funds contributed to this society by various individuals were regarded by Director Skiff as being the first actually given in behalf of the Museum.

In July, 1893, a letter by S. C. Eastman, published in the *Tribune* and followed by strong editorials in other newspapers, called attention anew to the desirability of

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SUNDAY LECTURES FOR MEMBERS

Three special illustrated lectures for Members of the Museum will be given on Sunday afternoons during January, and one in February. These are the last of the autumn and winter course of eleven lectures which began in November:

January 12—The Rainbow Isles of the Guinea Gulf
Mr. T. Alexander Barns, London, England

January 19—Shrinkers of Human Heads
Dr. Herbert Spencer Dickey, New York

January 26—Through Southern Abyssinia
Mr. C. J. Albrecht, Department of Zoology, Field Museum of Natural History, Member of the Harold White-John Coats-Field Museum Expedition to Southern Abyssinia.

February 9—Sea Hawks

Captain C. W. R. Knight, London, England

These lectures will be given in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum, and will begin promptly at 3 P.M.

Each Member of the Museum is entitled to two seats for each lecture, to obtain which he should show his **membership card** to an attendant at the theatre on the afternoon of the lecture. Upon presentation of the card Members will be given two tickets of admission to the reserved section of the theatre.

Seats in the reserved section which have not been claimed by 3 P.M. will be offered to the public.

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Founded by Marshall Field, 1893

Roosevelt Road and Lake Michigan, Chicago

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FIELD MUSEUM NEWS

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Field Museum of Natural History is open every day of the year during the following hours:

November, December, January	9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
February, March, April, October	9 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
May, June, July, August, September	9 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Admission is free to Members on all days. Other adults are admitted free on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays; a charge of 25 cents is made to non-Members on other days. Children are admitted free on all days. Students and members of the faculties of any university, college, institute or school are admitted free any day upon presentation of credentials.

The Museum is conveniently located with relation to Rapid Transit Lines (the "L"), Chicago Surface Lines, Illinois Central Suburban Trains, North Shore Line, South Shore Line, motor-buses, or automobile. Ample free parking space is available.

The Library of the Museum, containing some 92,000 volumes on natural history subjects, is open for reference daily except Sunday.

Guide-lecture tours of the exhibits are offered to the public. Full information appears elsewhere in FIELD MUSEUM NEWS.

Traveling exhibits are circulated in the schools of Chicago by the Museum's Department of the N. W. Harris Public School Extension.

Lecturers for school classrooms and assemblies, and special entertainments and lecture tours for children at the Museum, are provided by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Public School and Children's Lecture Division.

Courses of free illustrated lectures on science and travel for the general public, and special series of lectures for Members of the Museum, are provided at frequent intervals. Announcements will appear in FIELD MUSEUM NEWS.

In the Museum is a cafeteria where luncheon is served for visitors between 11 A.M. and 3 P.M. daily, 12 noon and 4 P.M. Sundays. Other rooms are provided for children and parties bringing their own lunches.

Members are requested to inform the Museum promptly of changes of address, so that they will not fail to receive their copies of FIELD MUSEUM NEWS and other Museum communications regularly.

FIELD MUSEUM NEWS is printed in the Division of Printing of the Museum.

To reprint material published in FIELD MUSEUM NEWS, permission should be obtained from the Editor.

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY presents herewith the first issue of FIELD MUSEUM NEWS, which is to be published monthly for the purpose of announcing, reporting, and permanently recording all activities of the Museum.

The NEWS will be sent regularly to all Members, and it is hoped it may serve to keep them all in closer and more continual touch with the institution and its accomplishments than has been heretofore possible.

All those who are interested enough to hold membership in the Museum will find the brief historical sketch of the institution, publication of which begins in this issue, of value as a record of the past.

This history is being written by Dr. Oliver C. Farrington, dean of the Museum's Curators, who has served as head of the Department of Geology since the institution's earliest days. It will outline what has been accomplished in thirty-six years since the founding of the Museum by the first Marshall Field.

THE NEW YEAR is faced by the Museum with a program calling for continued and unceasing efforts toward further expansion and improvement in all branches of the institution's work. It is the aim of those now entrusted with the administration of the Museum to make the year now beginning, and all future years, as fruitful as those of the past.

One of the most important factors in making possible a continuation of this progress is an active and interested Membership. FIELD MUSEUM NEWS is dedicated to the promotion of this interest by keeping the Members fully informed as to the Museum's activities. From so doing it is believed that the Museum and its Members will receive mutual benefits, and that the Museum will become of greater service to the Members.

GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

Following is a list of some of the principal gifts received by the Museum during the past month:

From Professor A. R. Emerson—369 named termites; from Professor R. Kanehira—206 herbarium specimens from Peru; from Mrs. H. C. Morris—petroleum from a depth of 8,523 feet, the deepest well in the world; from William A. Schipp—145 herbarium specimens from British Honduras; from Dr. A. M. Meldrum—2 skulls of Australian aborigines; and from F. Vondrasek—23 quartz arrowheads and spear-points.

BEQUESTS AND ENDOWMENTS

Bequests to Field Museum of Natural History may be made in securities, money, books or collections. They may, if desired, take the form of a memorial to a person or cause, to be named by the giver. For those desirous of making bequests, the following form is suggested:

FORM OF BEQUEST

I do hereby give and bequeath to Field Museum of Natural History of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois,

Cash contributions made within the taxable year to Field Museum of Natural History to an amount not in excess of 15 per cent of the taxpayer's net income are allowable as deductions in computing net income under Article 251 of Regulation 69 relating to the income tax under the Revenue Act of 1926.

Endowments may be made to the Museum with the provision that an annuity be paid to the patron during his or her lifetime. These annuities are tax-free and are guaranteed against fluctuation in amount.

HISTORY OF FIELD MUSEUM

(Continued from page 1)

a museum and aroused much public interest. In recognition of this interest, a committee of three of the directors of the exposition called a public meeting "to adopt measures to establish in Chicago a great museum that shall be a fitting memorial of the World's Columbian Exposition and a permanent advantage and honor to the city." This meeting, held on August 7, 1893, was attended by about one hundred leading citizens. As a result of the meeting a committee was appointed to incorporate an institution such as had been projected.

Under the name of "The Columbian Museum of Chicago" application was made for incorporation, with sixty-five leading citizens as incorporators and fifteen as trustees. On September 16, 1893, a charter was applied for and granted. The object of the corporation was stated to be "the accumulation and dissemination of knowledge and the preservation and exhibition of objects illustrating art, archaeology, science and history."

Meanwhile, officials of the exposition had become actively interested in the plan for the Museum, and began to solicit and procure from exhibitors gifts and transfers of desirable exhibits. Response to the requests generally was hearty, and material for the new Museum accumulated rapidly. On September 14 a communication from A. W. Manning in the *Evening Post* suggested that holders of exposition stock donate their shares to the Museum, and this suggestion brought ultimately, from about 1,100 persons, gifts of certificates totaling \$1,500,000 in par value.

Thus, seemingly, progress was being rapidly and successfully made toward the establishment of a great museum. As time went on, however, and exhibits accumulated in large amount, it began to be realized that an adequate endowment to insure permanency to the institution was as yet far from being obtained. The country-wide financial stringency which developed to alarming proportions in 1894 was already beginning to be felt. Strenuous efforts which were made to raise the amount needed failed to give the hoped-for results. By the middle of October, in the words of Director Skiff, "a period of discouragement came upon those at work for the Museum. Nothing but the faith, devotion and courage of a few men prevented the disintegration of the preliminary organization and the practical abandonment of the Museum enterprise."

(To be continued next month)

Four New Habitat Groups

As this issue goes to press final work on four new North American mammal habitat groups is being completed, and it is expected that they will be ready for public inspection within a few days. These groups show polar bears, Alaska brown bears, American bison and muskox in reproductions of scenes representing their natural environments.

Frederick H. Rawson Gives \$10,000

The Museum received in December a gift of \$10,000 from Frederick H. Rawson, member of the Board of Trustees. The gift is a contribution toward a fund for a Hall of Prehistoric Man. The hall will contain exhibits illustrating the progress of prehistoric man in western Europe from about 3,000,000 years ago down to about 10,000 B.C. A feature will be six groups of life-size figures of the principal types of early man in settings depicting

the conditions under which they lived. These will be similar in character to the Neanderthal group now on view in Ernest R. Graham Hall. The new hall will contain also other groups, and large collections of artifacts illustrating many phases of prehistoric cultures.

New Kish Exhibit

A new temporary exhibit of selected antiquities unearthed at Kish by the Field Museum-Oxford University Joint Expedition to Mesopotamia was recently placed on view in Stanley Field Hall. The objects displayed were found in graves of the earliest Sumerian period (about 3500 B. C.).

EXPEDITIONS

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and is expected home next month. It is led by Philip M. Chancellor, its sponsor, and Norton Stuart. Important acquisitions reported include two excellent specimens of the reticulated python of Borneo, largest reptile known to science, and two of the giant lizards of Komodo. Officials of the Dutch East Indies colonial government cooperated.

The Peruvian division of the Marshall Field, Jr., Botanical Expedition to the Amazon, in charge of Llewellyn Williams, Assistant in Wood Technology, is collecting woods and other botanical material in little known parts of the interior of Peru. The main division of this expedition, which worked in Brazil under the leadership of Dr. B. E. Dahlgren, Acting Curator of Botany, returned with several thousand specimens of the native flora.

Another expedition at present in operation is the Field Museum-Oxford University Joint Expedition to Mesopotamia, which is in its eighth season of archaeological excavations at Kish. Field Museum's participation is sponsored by Marshall Field, Jr.

The final work of the William V. Kelley-Roosevelts Expedition to Eastern Asia for Field Museum was completed with the return early in December of Herbert Stevens, who led one of its several divisions which worked in French Indo-China, China and Tibet. Mr. Stevens brought a large and important collection of zoological and botanical material. Vast collections obtained by the other divisions, led by Theodore and Kermit Roosevelt, and by Harold J. Coolidge, Jr., had been previously received. The specimens collected by all divisions include 1,479 mammals, 5,194 birds, 528 reptiles and amphibians, 438 fishes, 5,000 insects and 2,400 plants. C. Suydam Cutting accompanied the expedition and gave valuable services in making both still and motion pictures.

Other expeditions which completed their work in 1929 are as follows: the Crane Pacific Expedition, sponsored and led by Cornelius Crane, which cruised over much of the Pacific, making zoological collections consisting of 852 mammals, 1,228 birds, 200 reptiles and amphibians, and 1,200 fishes; the Harold White-John Coats-Field Museum Expedition to Abyssinia, Kenya Colony and Tanganyika Territory, which also obtained zoological collections; the Second Marshall Field, Jr., Archaeological Expedition to British Honduras, which collected Maya archaeological and ethnological material; the Field Museum-Williamson Undersea Expedition to the Bahamas, which collected material for proposed undersea life groups; the Thorne-Graves-Field Museum Arctic Expedition, which collected zoological material; a second botanical expedition in Peru, an ornithological expedition to Arizona, a geological expedition to New Mexico, and a zoological expedition in India. The last four were sponsored by Marshall Field, Jr.



Farrington, Oliver C. 1930. "A Brief History of Field Museum from 1893 to 1930." *Field Museum news* 1(1), 1–3.

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