

Field Museum of Natural History

Founded by Marshall Field, 1893

Roosevelt Road and Lake Michigan, Chicago

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FIELD MUSEUM NEWS

STEPHEN C. SIMMS, *Director of the Museum*.....Editor

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O. C. FARRINGTON.....Curator of Geology
WILFRED H. OSGOOD.....Curator of Zoology
H. B. HARTE.....Managing Editor

Field Museum is open every day of the year as follows:

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; non-members pay 25 cents on other days. Children are admitted free on all days. Students and faculty members of educational institutions are admitted free any day upon presentation of credentials.

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

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 Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures.

Announcements of courses of free illustrated lectures on science and travel for the public, and special lectures for Members of the Museum, will appear in FIELD MUSEUM NEWS.

In the Museum is a cafeteria where luncheon is served for visitors. Other rooms are provided for those bringing their lunches.

Members should inform Museum promptly of changes of address.

OLD FRIENDS IN THE WILDS

Toward the end of this month Chicago's schools will close for the summer vacation period. With their closing, the principal part of another year's work of the Department of the N. W. Harris Public School Extension of Field Museum will be concluded.

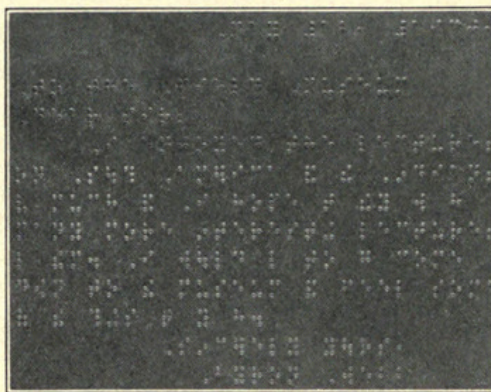
Through the circulation by this Department of some 1,100 traveling exhibition cases containing wild flowers, birds, and small mammals, approximately 500,000 children have been reached repeatedly throughout the school year. Each child has had access to two cases every two weeks, and thus close to eighty different subjects in all have been brought to his attention during the course of the school terms.

It is hoped and confidently believed that as a result of their observation of the material contained in these cases, added pleasures will be experienced by these half-million children during their vacations this summer. With the increased opportunities vacation provides for the children to encounter in life the birds, the animals, the

flowers and plants, they will find as a result of their contact with the traveling exhibits that many of these things are familiar. There is more satisfaction in meeting a strange looking bird and knowing what he is than in seeing him and not feeling any glint of recognition. The children who remember the specimens they have studied in the Harris cases will find the parks, forest preserves, lakes and other places they may visit full of old friends.

A LITTLE LIGHT FOR CHILDREN WHO LIVE IN DARKNESS

A most touching evidence of appreciation of the work being carried on by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures was received by the Director of Field



Byron Webb's Letter

Appreciation of a Raymond Foundation lecture, written in the Braille system for the blind. Photograph is one-third actual size.

Museum last month in the form of thirteen letters, written in the Braille system, from blind pupils of the Burley Public School. The children had heard some extension lectures given in their classroom by a member of the Raymond Foundation staff.

One of the letters, with its punched symbols spelling out the words so they may be read by the blind through their fingers, is shown in the accompanying picture. Its contents are typical of the sentiments expressed in all the letters. It is written by a sixth grade boy, and, translated, it reads:

To the Field Museum,

DEAR SIR:

I enjoyed the lectures on South America and the Indians very much, and I hope they will have many more interesting lectures like them. I would like to go down to the Museum and feel some of the things that you have.

Sincerely yours,

BYRON WEBB

The other letters are from boys and girls from the age of seven up, representing all school grades from the first to eighth. Some of those from the younger children pathetically express the hope of coming to the Museum "to see the animals and things."

Dr. Laufer Honored

Dr. Berthold Laufer, Curator of Anthropology, was elected last month to membership in the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C., an honorary organization. The honor was conferred on Dr. Laufer in recognition of the vast amount of research he has conducted, especially in connection with Oriental cultures.

DOWNSTATE SENDS VISITORS

Large groups of visitors from downstate Illinois are being brought to the Museum at frequent intervals under the auspices of the Chicago Entertainment Committee, under the direction of its Secretary, Clyde I. Backus, Assistant Director of the Department of Registration and Education, State of Illinois.

So far in 1930 the Committee has brought three groups aggregating 1,143 persons, with other parties scheduled for the near future. Many others were brought last year. Groups include both school children and adults, and are formed in cities, towns, villages and rural districts. Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary and similar clubs and civic organizations in the various places cooperate in organizing the parties, and the railroads are extending special low rate fares. Mr. L. C. Larson is directly in charge of the parties, and guide-lecturers of the Museum staff conduct the tours of this institution.

New Snake Discovered

A remarkable new species of poisonous snake has been discovered at the Museum during examination of a reptile collection recently received. It is a new kind of horned viper, and was obtained in the Syrian Desert by Assistant Curator Henry Field, while leading the Marshall Field North Arabian Desert Expedition. That none of its species has ever been previously reported was established by Karl P. Schmidt, Assistant Curator of Reptiles. Mr. Field's collection, which was made incidentally to the main objective of his expedition—gathering of anthropological material—contained other valuable reptile specimens, including an extremely rare lizard of which only one other specimen was ever obtained, and a desert monitor or giant lizard.

Gifts to the Museum

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

From Dr. A. C. Kinsey—188 gall insects and 407 insect galls; from the Bureau of Science, Manila—3 crocodiles; from Edward H. Taylor—19 specimens of frogs, lizards and snakes; from William G. Clegg—2 red grouse; from Hercules Powder Company—exhibit of pine distillation products; from Charles Grosskurth—a white pine board for exhibition; from I. S. Schneider—iron spear and iron crescent-shaped ax, North Africa; from Miss Lida A. Pittman—a gilded brass bracelet, inlaid with cat's eyes, India; from Mrs. Charles Schweppe—a decorated metal mirror, T'ang period (A. D. 618-906), China; from Thomas S. Hughes—2 black red-figure vases, Greece.

Ample free parking space for automobiles is available at the Museum.

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 not exceeding 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 for life. These annuities are tax-free and are guaranteed against fluctuation in amount.



1930. "New Snake Discovered." *Field Museum news* 1(6), 2-2.

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