

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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CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

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O. C. FARRINGTON.....	<i>Curator of Geology</i>
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Field Museum is open every day of the year during the hours indicated below:

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**.

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

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

A REQUEST TO MEMBERS

Enclosed with this issue of **FIELD MUSEUM NEWS** will be found an application form for membership in Field Museum, which it is earnestly hoped present Members will pass on to such of their friends as they think might be interested.

The more Members Field Museum has, the greater will be the services it can perform for all of its Members, and for the public at large. Thus by assisting the Museum in increasing its membership, a Member is not only helping the institution, but is augmenting the value of his own individual membership. On the other hand, by being a Member, and by assisting in obtaining other Members, he is aiding in making it possible for greater benefits to be derived by the general public from an important civic educational enterprise. Possession of a membership in the Museum is an indication of the holder's public spiritedness.

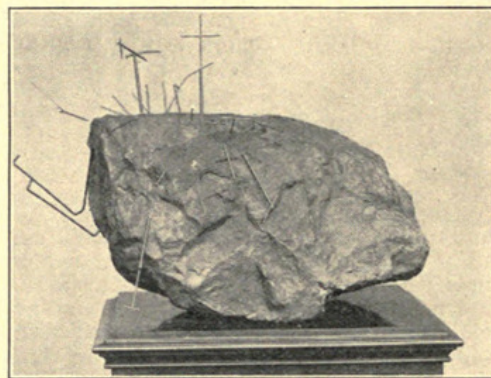
It is believed that there are thousands of people in Chicago whose interest in scientific matters, in the betterment of educational facilities, and in the furtherance of all

cultural activities in this city, would lead them to become Members of Field Museum except for the fact that they are unaware that such memberships are available. It is in the hope of reaching many of these and bringing to their notice what the Museum has to offer its Members, and what membership means, that the enclosed application is being distributed. The assistance of present Members is solicited, because it appears likely that they, more than anyone else, would be in contact with the type of people to whom possession of a membership in the Museum might appeal.

HUGE LODESTONE EXHIBITED

An extraordinary specimen of lodestone, weighing more than 400 pounds, and possessing unusual magnetic power has been placed on exhibition in Clarence Buckingham Hall (Hall 35) of the Museum. This huge natural magnet comes from the Wasatch Mountains in Utah.

Lodestone led to the invention of the magnetic compass in the twelfth century. The stone is that variety of the mineral magnetite which has the property of attracting



Large Natural Magnet

A powerful lodestone, weighing more than 400 pounds, now on exhibition in Clarence Buckingham Hall (Hall 35). Its magnetic effect is shown not only by the iron objects in actual contact with it, but by a nail at the left suspended in the air on a string without touching the stone.

iron. A steel needle placed in contact with a lodestone will in a short while become so magnetized that if free to move it will point toward the north pole. It was observance of this fact that suggested the compass. Displayed with the new Museum specimen are a number of metal objects which illustrate its effect.

The attraction of the lodestone for iron was known hundreds of years before the polarity of the mineral was discovered, according to Dr. Oliver C. Farrington, Curator of Geology. Thales of Miletus (630-550 B.C.) mentions this power of the mineral as do a number of the later Grecian sages. There is a fable that the discovery of the lodestone was made by a Cretan shepherd who noticed that his iron-pegged sandals and iron-shod crook clung to the earth. Digging into the ground he found lodestone.

In classical times and during the Middle Ages, extravagant fables based upon a misconception of the power of the lodestone were current. There were tales of magnetic domes which held statues of iron and even of brass suspended in the air, and there were accounts of mountains of lodestone which drew all the iron nails from ships which ventured near them so that vessels sailing those seas were obliged to use wooden pegs in place of nails.

Discovery of the compass has been attributed to many peoples of Europe and Asia.

Many accounts of the early use of the compass are now believed to be mythical. One such probably mythical tale credits the Chinese Emperor Hoan-ti with constructing, in the year 2637 B.C., a chariot on which was a female figure which always pointed south, and there are other Chinese accounts of the use of these "chariots of the south" at various times antedating the Christian Era.

There are some statements by European authors of the first centuries of the Christian era which possibly indicate an occasional use of the compass as early as the third century, but the first authentic records of its use do not antedate the twelfth century. The compass was certainly not extensively utilized for more than a hundred years before the first trustworthy description of it was given by Guyot de Provenes, who was a contemporary of Frederick Barbarossa (about A.D. 1200). He describes a floating needle which had been rubbed with lodestone. Shortly after his time the compass came into general use by mariners.

The first compasses were magnetized steel needles which were fastened to chips or reeds and floated upon water. The pivoted modern form, however, soon replaced the floating type. A curious type of compass was used in A.D. 1242 in the Indian seas. This was a hollow iron fish which swam on the surface of water and pointed north and south.

A New Indiana Tree

Recently Professor Samuel J. Record, Research Associate in Wood Technology, and Associate Curator Paul C. Standley discovered near Chesterton, Indiana, a grove of staghorn sumac trees that seem to have escaped the attention of botanists. The grove consists of more than a hundred trees, some of which are forty feet high and more than twenty-five inches in circumference. Mr. C. C. Deam, who published the admirable volume upon the trees of Indiana, knew the staghorn sumac only as a shrub. The discovery of the present grove therefore represents an interesting addition to the list of Indiana trees.

Practically all plants of Illinois, and more than 600,000 specimens of plants from all parts of the world, are contained in the herbaria of Field Museum.

Gifts to the Museum

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

From James A. Skelton—a pre-Columbian carved stone ring; from William B. Pitts—ten specimens, polished, of oolitic and orbicular jasper; from Robert Fuller—one specimen of ozalized wood; from Herman L. Schurg—four specimens pressure structure in sandstone and one specimen chert concretion; from Professor J. K. Strecker—224 shells (Unionidae); from Dilipat Singh—one Himalayan bear skin, skull and skeleton.

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 named by the giver. For those desiring to make 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 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. "Huge Lodestone Exhibited." *Field Museum news* 1(10), 2-2.

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