

## HISTORY OF FIELD MUSEUM

BY OLIVER C. FARRINGTON  
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(Continued from last month)

Moving the contents of the Museum from the old Jackson Park building to the new edifice in Grant Park was a task of great magnitude. Not only were the exhibits and cases which had occupied approximately eight acres of floor space in the Jackson Park building of great bulk, but many were of a fragile and delicate nature, requiring great care in handling and transportation. Of the hundreds of glazed cases to be moved, many contained lights of very large dimensions. Some of the exhibits numbered thousands of specimens, the identity of each of which had to be preserved, while their arrangement had to be so systematized that they could be reinstalled in the same order. Protection from weather and dust was also essential.

Both railroad and motor truck transportation were employed for the transfer. A railway spur was built to the west door of the Jackson Park building and another spur connected the main line of the railroad to the building in Grant Park. The removal of objects and boxes by motor truck was begun early in March, 1920, and was continued until the beginning of September of that year. During this time, 354 loads of motor trucks of five-ton capacity were carried and deposited. Transfer by rail was begun on April 26 and was concluded by June 4, this part of the undertaking being confined to a period of thirty-four working days. The number of freight cars loaded and unloaded was 321. A total of 1,727 glazed and unglazed cases was moved. The number of boxes, crates, barrels and packages transported was 11,645, and of articles of office furniture, boxes of books and equipment for all departments, 8,006.

The success with which this difficult and strenuous undertaking was carried out may be judged from the fact that the damage suffered in transit by the entire amount of material totaled only \$1,250.

To some extent, during the period of moving and immediately upon its completion, installation of the exhibits in the new building was begun. This work was much facilitated by the fact that the positions in which cases and other exhibits were to be placed in the new building had been indicated on plans made before removal. Also all boxes containing exhibits were deposited in the halls in which they were to remain. Through the care thus taken in marking and assigning to their places in the new building all material transported, installation proceeded rapidly and successfully. The work was carried on through the winter of 1920-21 and such rapid progress was made that by the beginning of May the Museum was ready for reopening.

This notable event in the history of the Museum took place on May 2, 1921. It was signalized by a reception extended to about 8,000 invited guests. These included prominent citizens, educators, army and navy officers, and public officials. As the guests wandered through the beautiful halls of the new building, there was a generally expressed satisfaction that the dream which had been in the minds of a few public-spirited citizens approximately twenty-five years earlier had culminated in the establishment of a museum of world-wide scope and importance housed in a splendid and permanent building. It was recognized also that the new facilities afforded greater opportunities for public service and scientific progress. Moreover, the location in Grant Park made available funds which had been placed at the disposition of the South Park Board for museum

purposes by vote of citizens of the south side some years before. Felicitations were, however, tempered with sadness because Director Frederick J. V. Skiff, who had been a vital factor in the development of the Museum since its beginning, did not live to see the culmination of his efforts. He had passed away a little more than two months before the reopening of the Museum. The period was marked by other losses by death among the Museum staff and officials. Of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Frank W. Gunsaulus passed away early in the year, and of the Curators, C. B. Cory died during the summer.

D. C. Davies, who had been connected with the Museum since its earliest days as Assistant Secretary and Auditor, was appointed Director. Wilfred H. Osgood, who had been Assistant Curator of Zoology, was appointed Curator of Zoology. John E. Glynn was appointed Superintendent of Maintenance.

During the period of transfer, the Museum staff was naturally so fully occupied with this undertaking that few opportunities could be utilized for expeditions, explorations and research. However, in 1920, Dr. Osgood, accompanied by H. B. Conover, spent some months in northwest Venezuela, securing birds and mammals to supplement previous work in that region.

(To be continued next month)

## THE BRONZE DISEASE

BY H. W. NICHOLS  
Associate Curator of Geology

Many of the ancient bronzes received at Field Museum and at other museums are infected with the bronze disease or malignant patina. If not cured this disease utterly destroys the bronze. Its cure has always been difficult, but it is now under control at Field Museum.

It appears first in mild cases as a rough patch of a whitish green color which, if neglected, may spread over the entire surface, constantly penetrating deeper, and in the end completely destroying the bronze. The disease is unique and has nothing in common with the bacterial decay of wood and fabric, nor is it related to the tin disease which sometimes destroys pewter. It is caused by the presence of corrosive compounds of copper and acid which have the property of renewing themselves after their activity has been expended in corroding the bronze. A minute speck of malignant patina can, theoretically at least, destroy the largest bronze.

There are a number of copper compounds which can act in this way, but the only one found active in Field Museum is the basic chloride of copper. Bronzes become infected with this chloride when they are long buried in soil which contains salt. This salt may come from organic waste or it may be desert or sea salt.

The disease is cured in Field Museum by an electric treatment originally devised for another purpose, and by a chemical treatment developed in the Museum Laboratory.

## Museum Honors Three Scientists

At a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of Field Museum three noted foreign scholars who have rendered important services to the Museum were elected Corresponding Members of the institution. They are Abbé Henri Breuil, professor in the Institut de Paleontologie Humaine, Paris; Professor Sir Arthur Keith of the Royal College of Surgeons, London; and Professor Grafton Elliot-Smith of University College, London.

## OCTOBER GUIDE-LECTURE TOURS

Following is the schedule of conducted tours of the exhibits during October:

Week beginning September 29—Monday: 11 A.M., Melanesia, 3 P.M., African Animals; Tuesday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Lacquer and Cloisonné, 3 P.M., Italian Archaeology; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Eskimos, 3 P.M., Migrating Birds.

Week beginning October 6—Monday: 11 A.M., Systematic Animals, 3 P.M., Chinese Exhibits; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Japan, 3 P.M., Animal Life in Asia; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Egyptian Life, 3 P.M., Animals That Hibernates; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Horses—Past and Present, 3 P.M., Musical Instruments.

Week beginning October 13—Monday: 11 A.M., Madagascar, 3 P.M., Giants of the Past; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Animal Habitat Groups, 3 P.M., Coffee, Chocolate and Tea; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Indians and Their Clothing, 3 P.M., Melanesian Art; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Early Man, 3 P.M., Native Trees.

Week beginning October 20—Monday: 11 A.M., Coal and Peat, 3 P.M., Fish and Reptiles; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Native Philippine Life, 3 P.M., Mines and Ores; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Animals of South America, 3 P.M., Chinese Art; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Users of Gold and Silver, 3 P.M., Sea Life, Past and Present.

Week beginning October 27—Monday: 11 A.M., Weapons and Armor, 3 P.M., Totem-pole Indians; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Palms, Cereals and Spices, 3 P.M., Primitive Industries; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Crystals and Gems, 3 P.M., Looms and Textiles; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Egypt and Kish, 3 P.M., Osteology Hall.

Persons wishing to participate should apply at North Entrance. Tours are free and no gratuities are to be proffered. A new schedule will appear each month in FIELD MUSEUM NEWS. Guide-lecturers' services for special tours by parties of ten or more are available free of charge by arrangement with the Director a week in advance.

## NEW MEMBERS

The following persons were elected to membership in Field Museum between August 17 and September 16:

### Corresponding Members

Abbé Henri Breuil, Professor Grafton Elliot-Smith, Professor Sir Arthur Keith.

### Associate Members

Mrs. Edward W. Bailey, George W. Hand, Mrs. Carl Heinzen, A. L. Kuehn, Harry J. Kuhl, Mrs. August Lange, Mrs. Alice R. Langenbach, Mrs. D. B. Scully, Sr., Morris Karl Wilson, John David Yondorf, Milton S. Yondorf, Jr.

### Sustaining Member

John W. Evans

### Annual Members

Mrs. Albert J. Deniston, Jr., Carlisle Durfee, Mrs. Harry P. French, Mrs. David Mayer, Jr., Mrs. Albert G. McNeil, J. H. Millsaps, Mrs. Paul F. Morf, Mrs. Harry C. Patterson, Mrs. Harry F. Perkins, Mrs. Richard Pride, Miss Emily Rehm, Mrs. Charles W. Shippey, Miss Marguerite Stokes, Harry Stribley, Mrs. Harry Sutter, Donald H. Sweet, Miss Maude Thompson, Herbert B. Thomson, Mrs. George F. Tibbits, Frank H. Townner, Charles S. Traer, Robert J. Twyman, Mrs. Richard G. Waskow, Edwin F. Weary, Norton H. Weber, Kenneth Williams, Miss Prudence Wolf.

## MEMBERSHIP IN FIELD MUSEUM

Field Museum has several classes of Members. Benefactors give or devise \$100,000 or more. Contributors give or devise \$5,000 to \$100,000. Life Members give \$500; Non-Resident (Life) and Associate Members pay \$100; Non-Resident Associate Members pay \$50. All the above classes are exempt from dues. Sustaining Members contribute \$25 annually. After six years they become Associate Members. Annual Members contribute \$10 annually. Other memberships are Corporate, Honorary, Patron, and Corresponding, additions under these classifications being made by special action of the Board of Trustees.

Each Member, in all classes, is entitled to free admission to the Museum for himself, his family and house guests, and to two reserved seats for Museum lectures provided for Members. Subscription to FIELD MUSEUM NEWS is included with all memberships. The courtesies of every museum of note in the United States and Canada are extended to all Members of Field Museum. A Member may give his personal card to non-residents of Chicago, upon presentation of which they will be admitted to the Museum without charge. Further information about memberships will be sent on request.



Farrington, Oliver C. 1930. "A Brief History of Field Museum from 1893 to 1930." *Field Museum news* 1(10), 4-4.

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