

## 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 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.

### CONSERVATION

Field Museum's group of the wild turkey, shown on the first page of this issue of FIELD MUSEUM NEWS, not only suggests Thanksgiving but also brings to mind the relation of museums to the conservation of wild life.

However familiar we may be with the domestic turkey, most of us will never know the wild bird except as represented by specimens in museums. It is still far from being extinct but is now so scarce, so shy and so restricted to wild, little frequented regions that one's chances of seeing it alive are not very great. It is one of the features of nature in America which may not be preserved for future generations unless wise policies of conservation are followed.

The first and most obvious function of a natural history museum is to instruct and entertain by exhibiting natural objects and by presenting results of scientific research attractively and authoritatively to the public. In order to do this, there are many prerequisites and many collateral lines of influence extending beyond the walls of the institution and beyond the community in which it is situated. One of the latter is

conservation, in which museum men often perform important services.

Museum botanists, geologists, and especially zoologists are frequently called upon for information about natural conditions which may be utilized by legislative bodies or conservation agencies. Staff members of museums often hold advisory positions in organizations devoted to conservation and in some cases such organizations have had their inception among museum men. It was a museum expedition which led to the establishment of the Parc National d'Albert in Belgian Congo through the influence of Carl Akeley. Again it was through Charles Sheldon's interest in collecting animals for the United States National Museum that he went to Mount McKinley, Alaska, and later became chiefly responsible for the foundation of our Mount McKinley National Park.

In spite of the necessity of taking life in making its collections and conducting its expeditions, it is the spirit of a natural history museum to preserve rather than to destroy. The specimens of animals taken by museum collectors and permanently preserved are usually infinitesimal in number in comparison with those that are totally destroyed by other agencies.

—W. H. O.

### SPECIAL NOTICE

All Members of Field Museum who have changed their residences since October 1 are earnestly urged to notify the Museum at once of their new addresses, so that copies of FIELD MUSEUM NEWS and all other communications from the Museum may reach them promptly.

### THE AUTUMN WOODS

BY PAUL C. STANDLEY  
Associate Curator of the Herbarium

For late autumn Nature has reserved some of her choicest treasures among the plants. Among the glories of the autumn woods are the goldenrod, and the host of asters that spread their sheets of white, cold blue, and purple along the roadsides; and, most beautiful of all, the blue gentians that linger among the grasses even after frost.

After the peppertree has shed its scarlet leaves, and the oaks their bronze, yellow and crimson, there blossoms one of the strangest of the shrubs—the witch hazel. How odd that it alone should burst into flower upon the arrival of winter, its every branch a blaze of gold.

When the first snows have fallen there remain many mementos of the summer flowers—the infinitely varied seed pods, persisting on the dried stalks; and the brightly colored berries that supply winter food for venturous bird residents. There are many shrubs whose fruits are even more beautiful than their flowers—the winter-berry, a close relative of the holly, although it does not have evergreen leaves; the flowering dogwood with red berries, and the cornels with white or pale blue ones; the spice bush, with pungent red fruits; the strawberry bush of the dunes, with curious, rough, purple fruits, split open to expose the orange interior; the chokeberries; the black haws with sweet black fruits, and the red haws or hawthorns with red ones like diminutive apples; the bittersweet; the bearberry of the dune ridges, with richly colored foliage; the frost grapes; and a host of others.

In the deep woods on a shaded bank or spread over a mossy log you may find the

variegated leaves of the trailing partridgeberry or twin-berry with its small "double" red fruit. Many woodland plants retain their leaves in winter, giving an air of life to the landscape. Besides the white and jack pines, cedar, and juniper, there are the pyrolas or shinleaf; trailing arbutus, now almost extinct in the Chicago region; winter-green, with shining thick leaves and aromatic berries; one of the orchids, the rattlesnake plantain, its leaves delicately veined with silver; the horsetails; and the hardy Christmas fern.

Beside the roads there is an annoying abundance of burs and sticky pods of many sorts. The milkweeds are shedding their silk-tufted seeds from their opening pods. The teasels, with their rough conelike heads, stand sturdily erect until bowed down by the heavy spring rains. Every fence is lined with basketlike tumbleweeds, heaped there by the autumn winds.

If you venture out some cold fall morning, after a freeze, you may find the most curious of all the autumn plants—the frosted weed. When its slender wiry stems have been frozen, there often effloresce through the bark lacelike frills of thin ice, which are ethereally delicate.

### Important Plant Collection

Associate Curator Paul C. Standley recently determined several hundred specimens of plants of the Rubiaceae (Coffee Family) lent to Field Museum for study by the Botanical Garden of Leningrad. Included were many specimens collected more than one hundred years ago, and some obtained by the French botanist Aublet, who published in 1775 the first important work relating to the plants of South America (French Guiana). The Botanical Garden of Leningrad also sent to the Museum in exchange more than one hundred plants of the same family, collected in Brazil by the well-known botanist, Riedel, and of great historical importance.

### Gifts to the Museum

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

From Sidney Weiss—alabaster model of Taj Mahal, India; from Mrs. Thomas E. Curtin—37 herbarium specimens, New Mexico; from William A. Schipp—191 herbarium specimens, British Honduras; from John T. Reid—2 specimens thinolite; from Universal-Atlas Cement Company—6 specimens illustrating the manufacture of portland cement; from Elmer S. Riggs—34 negatives of views in Yellowstone Park; from Miss Emily A. Clark—1 lizard of the species *Psilodactylus caudicinctus*; from Charles Rydell—2 gaur ox skins, skulls and leg bones, Indo-China; from E. S. Frazer—4 lizards and 8 snakes, Irak; from Dillman S. Bullock—25 lizards and 9 frogs, Chile; from Mrs. Henry K. Coale—8 small mammal skins and 7 skulls, California.

### 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. "Important Plant Collection." *Field Museum news* 1(11), 2-2.

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