

HISTORY OF FIELD MUSEUM

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(Continued from last month)

Reinstallation of exhibits in the new building having nearly reached completion in 1922, an extensive series of expeditions was inaugurated with funds contributed chiefly by Marshall Field (grandson of the founder), Arthur B. Jones and President Stanley Field. It was deemed preferable for a time to confine explorations largely to one continent, and since many regions in South America had not received adequate representation in the Museum, that field was chosen. Some eight expeditions, representing four Departments of the Museum, carried on explorations there during 1922, several continuing into following years.

The paleontological expedition to Argentina remained in the field nearly three years, and then after returning to the Museum for reorganization, resumed its work, continuing until the latter part of 1927. The geological expedition to Brazil also carried on its work in two installments, the first year being devoted chiefly to exploration in the state of Minas Geraes and the second in the state of Bahia. One of the zoological expeditions remained in the field until 1923, its activities being chiefly carried on in Chile and Peru. Another continued work until 1924. Archaeological investigations in Colombia were conducted for nearly two years. Botanical explorations were mainly devoted to localities in Peru and British Guiana.

While South America was the chief field of explorations, not all the expeditions of this period were confined to it. An important expedition under the leadership of Assistant Curator Fay-Cooper Cole, gathered ethnological collections in Malaysia during 1922-23. In 1922, in cooperation with Oxford University, extensive excavations in the ancient city of Kish, Mesopotamia, were inaugurated. These have been continued up to the present time. Large and important ethnological collections were made in China by Curator Berthold Laufer during 1923.

An expedition to Central Africa under the leadership of Major Alfred M. Collins of Philadelphia and Edmund Heller of the Museum staff left for that field in 1923 and remained nearly three years. A large gorilla and a male okapi were among the important animals obtained. Hostile natives were encountered at one point by this expedition and three of the porters were murdered.

The Museum also cooperated in the work of the Third Asiatic Expedition of the American Museum of Natural History, from the labors of which valuable fossils, including dinosaur eggs, many mammal skins and other specimens from Mongolia were obtained. An expedition to Honduras in 1923, under the leadership of Assistant Curator Karl P. Schmidt, secured a valuable series of reptiles which included the individuals forming the group of American crocodiles now exhibited. Other collecting carried on during this period included that of fishes by Assistant Curator Alfred C. Weed in Louisiana and Texas, of plants in Florida by Acting Curator B. E. Dahlgren and of birds in Alaska by H. B. Conover, Associate in Ornithology.

In 1923 the staff suffered the loss by death of Dr. Charles F. Millsbaugh, who had been Curator of Botany since the founding of the Museum. Dr. B. E. Dahlgren, who had been Associate Curator of the Department, was appointed Acting Curator of Botany.

To provide for conducting school children, members of clubs and societies, and other groups of visitors through the Museum halls, and supply them with information regarding

the exhibits, the institution's first guide-lecturer was appointed in 1922. The response to this service was so great that the staff of lecturers was soon increased to three, and with the addition of further duties now numbers five. The facilities afforded by the James Simpson Theatre also enabled weekly entertainments for children in the form of educational moving pictures to be offered in 1923. These have been continued until now with marked success, especially since the establishment of the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation (which will be chronicled in the next installment of this history).

In 1924 Albert W. Harris made a gift of \$100,000 to be added to the endowment of the Department of the N. W. Harris Public School Extension and this was of great aid to this branch of the Museum in its effort to keep pace with the increasing demands for its services of preparing and circulating traveling exhibits. The original endowment provided by the late Norman W. Harris, its founder, was \$250,000, and members of his family had contributed later an additional \$25,000.

Extensive additions made to the equipment and facilities of the Division of Printing in 1921 enabled, for the first time, all work of printing Museum publications, as well as labels, post cards and other impressions, to be done at the Museum. A complete equipment and staff for the production of photogravures were also provided, and a staff artist was engaged, thus furnishing means for making at the Museum the illustrations needed for publications, post cards, *et cetera*.

Several new classes of publications were initiated at this time in order that various subjects might be presented in the best form. These included leaflets designed for popular reading, memoirs for exhaustive treatment of subjects, and a technical and a design series.

Advantages of the new site and the greater facilities afforded by the new building were soon made evident by the increase of public attendance. Whereas the yearly attendance at the Jackson Park building never reached as high a figure as 300,000, the attendance at the new building, during the seven months following the opening, exceeded 500,000. For two years subsequently the figures were somewhat lower than this, but were exceeded in 1924, and since that time an almost uninterrupted increase in the yearly number of visitors has been enjoyed, exceeding 1,000,000 annually since 1927.

(To be continued next month)

Plants from Mount Duida

G. H. H. Tate of the American Museum of Natural History recently conducted a natural history survey of Mount Duida, a solitary peak in southern Venezuela. The large collection of plants made on the mountain is to be described in a volume edited by Dr. H. A. Gleason of the New York Botanical Garden.

At the request of Dr. Gleason, a report on the Rubiaceae or Coffee Family has been prepared by Paul C. Standley, Associate Curator of the Herbarium at Field Museum. This mountain peak, isolated by many hundreds of miles from any other mountain, has a very distinct flora as may be judged by the fact that of the twenty-eight Rubiaceae collected there, no less than twenty-two are new species, and two represent new genera. A nearly complete set of them has been deposited in the Herbarium of Field Museum.

GUIDE LECTURE-TOURS

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

Week beginning November 3—Monday: 11 A.M., Chinese Exhibits, 3 P.M., Animals of Open Spaces; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Indian Homes, 3 P.M., Tree Climbers; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Cooking Utensils, 3 P.M., Skeletons; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Mummies, 3 P.M., Useful Plants.

Week beginning November 10—Monday: 11 A.M., Woodland Indians, 3 P.M., Reptiles; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Prehistoric Animals, 3 P.M., Hall of Plant Life; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Indian Ceremonies, 3 P.M., The Horse Family; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Gems and Jewelry, 3 P.M., Costumes.

Week beginning November 17—Monday: 11 A.M., African Animals, 3 P.M., African Hall; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Wood Carvings, 3 P.M., Fishes, Past and Present; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Roman Exhibits, 3 P.M., Asiatic Animals; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., South American Archaeology, 3 P.M., Marine Animals.

Week beginning November 24—Monday: 11 A.M., Northland Peoples, 3 P.M., Fur-bearers; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Deer and Antelope, 3 P.M., Oriental Drama; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Egypt, 3 P.M., Habitat Groups; Thursday: Thanksgiving Holiday—no tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Primitive Man, 3 P.M., Winter Birds.

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 September 17 and October 16:

Life Members

Louis E. Asher

Associate Members

Edward J. Birk, Mrs. Leopold Bloom, S. M. Brennwasser, D. M. Compton, Henry A. Gardner, A. Kunstadter, Mrs. Vera Lauter, Mrs. Walther Mathesius, Dr. Ralph W. Parker, Charles S. Ross, Walter Bourne Smith, Mrs. B. G. Tighe, Louis Edward Tilden, Mrs. Gertrude D. Wood, Fay Woodmansee.

Annual Members

W. S. Agar, Sr., Paul W. Beda, Gottfried D. Bernstein, Charles R. Bixby, Carl A. Borland, Mrs. F. F. Bullen, Mrs. Russell E. Butler, O. W. Butts, Mrs. F. O. Clizbe, Walter Erley, Victor E. Garwood, Mrs. John H. Hamline, Mrs. William Hilliard, William T. Jane, Miss Helen M. Jewell, Dr. Aaron E. Kanter, Glen B. Kersey, A. G. Lange, W. H. Lazarus, Colonel A. F. Lorenzen, Mrs. William H. McSurely, Mrs. Arthur W. Moore, Dr. Ole C. Nelson, Mrs. H. H. Newman, Donald W. Newton, Mrs. Leslie H. Nichols, Mrs. Frank O. Nicholson, Charles D. Peacock, Miss Doris Petersen, Miss Sara A. Randick, Merritt M. Ranstead, James B. Redpath, Miss Marion J. Reynolds, W. F. Rieder, Mrs. Lester S. Ries, Miss Carol F. Roe, Mrs. H. L. Rogers, Thomas F. Sanford, Mrs. A. J. Sayers, Mrs. H. A. Schenkel, Mrs. John G. Shortall, Miss Anna B. Showalter, Dawson H. Skeen, Mrs. Harold M. Smith, Mrs. Axel S. Sorensen, Mrs. Frank E. Spencer, Elbert Gary Sutcliffe, Henry Curtis Swearingen, S. E. Thomason, Mrs. K. A. Townsend, Atlee H. Tracy, Mrs. William H. Trow, Jr., K. L. Van Sickle, Miss Flora Waalkes, Miss Harriot Ward, Mrs. David A. Warner, Mrs. J. K. Watson, Mrs. Lewis Wessel, W. J. White, J. E. Whitwell, Mrs. Arthur C. Wilby, Dr. Russell M. Wilder, Howard L. Willett, Van Leer Wills, Miss Mary L. Windsor, Mrs. I. M. Zander, Mrs. LeRoy J. Zorn.

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(11), 4-4.

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