

### SPRING LECTURE COURSE BEGINS MARCH 7

The fifty-fifth free lecture course presented by Field Museum will begin on Saturday, March 7. Eight lectures on science and travel, illustrated with motion pictures and stereopticon slides, will be given by eminent explorers and naturalists. The lectures will be on successive Saturday afternoons, and will be given in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum.

All lectures begin at 3 P.M. Admission is free. Following is the complete schedule:

**March 7**—The Lost Valleys of the Caucasus  
William Osgood Field, Lenox, Massachusetts

**March 14**—The Human Side of the Byrd Expedition  
Chief Yeoman Charles E. Lofgren, United States Navy (retired), Personnel Officer of the Byrd Expedition to the Antarctic

**March 21**—Australian Life and Scenery  
Professor Griffith Taylor, University of Chicago

**March 28**—Exploring the Jungles of Surinam  
Jean M. F. Dubois, Denver, Colorado

**April 4**—Alaska  
Amos O. Berg, Ottawa, Canada

**April 11**—Across Asia's Snows and Deserts  
William J. Morden, Associate in Mammalogy, American Museum of Natural History, New York City

**April 18**—The Tale of the Ancient Whale-man  
Chester Scott Howland, Boston, Massachusetts

**April 25**—A Close-up of Early America  
Gilbert E. Gable, New York City

No tickets are necessary for admission to these lectures.

### CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENTS —RAYMOND FOUNDATION

Eight more of the free motion pictures of the spring series provided for children by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures remain to be given on Saturday mornings during March and April in the James Simpson Theatre of Field Museum. The first two were given in February. Following is the schedule of dates and titles of films to be shown on each:

**March 7**—The Antics of the Kilowatt; The Eagle's Nest; Traveling in a Goatskin Boat.

**March 14**—America Raises Rubber; Thrills in Yellowstone; Bare Facts About Bears.

**March 21**—Fine Furs on Fine Animals; Picturesque Roumania.

**March 28**—A Jaguar in Stone; Belgian Cities; How Buds Become Leaves; Fishes of Many Waters; Hagotian, the Rug-maker.

**April 4**—The Story of Silk; Pineapples; Life in a Pond; Undersea Partnerships; The Life History of a Pearl.

**April 11**—The Story of Asbestos; Fire-making Without Matches; Drummers and Boomers; Porcupines and Their Neighbors.

**April 18**—The Island of Sugar; Prodigal Palms; Poor Butterfly; The Message of the Flowers.

**April 25**—In Batik Land; A Dyak Wedding; Teak-logging in Siam; Elephants on Parade; Wooden Shoes.

Each program is given twice, at 10 and 11 A.M. Children from all parts of Chicago and suburbs are invited to attend.

### Archaeological Expedition Sails

The Third Marshall Field Archaeological Expedition to British Honduras and Guatemala sailed from New Orleans February 27 for Belize. It will excavate ancient Maya sites and conduct ethnological research among the modern Mayas. J. Eric Thompson, Assistant Curator of Central and South American Archaeology, is leader.

## MODELS OF ZAPOTEC TEMPLE AND MAYA PYRAMID PLACED ON EXHIBITION IN HALL 8

By J. ERIC THOMPSON

Assistant Curator of Central and South American Archaeology

Recently a model of the famous palace at Mitla in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, was placed on exhibition in Hall 8. Mitla was the capital of the Zapotecs, one of the most advanced tribes of ancient Mexico, who evolved a distinct culture and maintained their independence until conquered by the Aztecs in A.D. 1494.

The model, which was made at the United States National Museum, shows the temple as it was when in occupation, but the original, even at the present time, is remarkably well preserved. It consists of a long hall with great stone columns down the center, the long axis at right angles to the entrance, and behind, four long and narrow rooms grouped around an interior court.

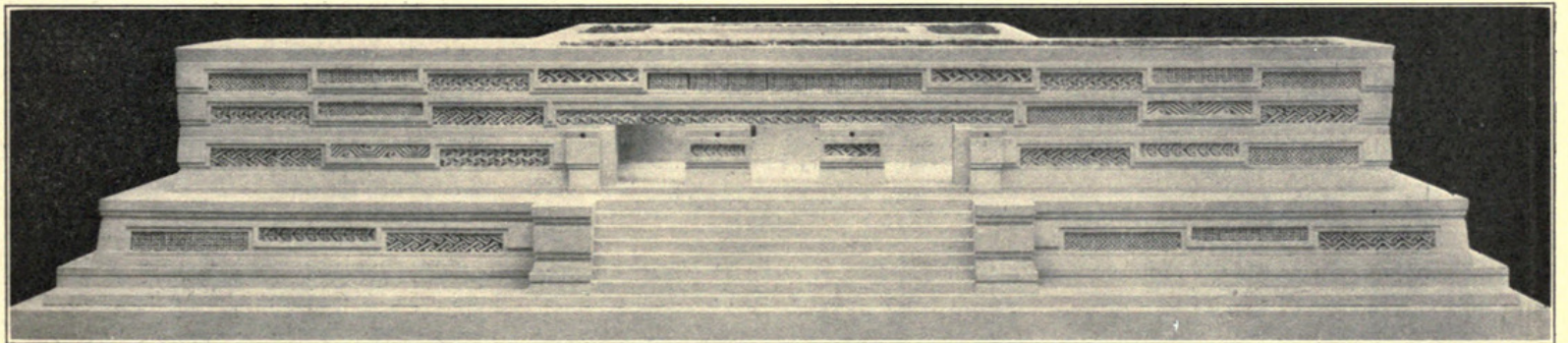
depressions in the mortar beds at the top of the walls show how the weight was carried by wooden beams, and in the model part of the roof is restored in such a manner that the original method of construction shows.

According to an early Spanish writer, Burgoa, who visited Mitla shortly after the conquest, this building served as the temple and residence of the Zapotecan rulers and high priests. He writes, "One of the rooms . . . was the palace of the high priest, where he sat and slept, for the apartment offered room and opportunity for everything. The throne was like a high cushion with a high back to lean against, all of jaguar skin, stuffed entirely with delicate feathers or with fine grass. . . . All the rooms were clean and well furnished with mats. It was not the custom to sleep on bedsteads, however great a lord might be."

the Carnegie Institution of Washington. The pyramid, which is adorned with grotesque masks of the rain gods, has a somewhat un-Maya appearance. The later inhabitants of the city of Uaxactun had covered it up in order to build a larger pyramid on top, and to this the under pyramid owes its remarkably good state of preservation. The excavation was the work of Oliver G. Ricketson of the Carnegie Institution, and the model was made by Samuel Guernsey of Boston.

The structure is of peculiar interest because it appears to antedate the earliest dated stelae at Uaxactun, which in turn are more ancient than any monument known from any other Maya city.

Casts of two Maya lintels from Yaxchilan in Guatemala have recently been hung at the east end of the same hall. These are



Model of famous Zapotec temple at Mitla, Oaxaca, Mexico. On exhibition in Hall 8.

The chief interest of the building lies in the very fine series of geometric patterns in stone that adorn the outer and inner walls. These designs are arranged in horizontal panels, the relief having a depth of about an inch and a half. The panels consist of a large number of separate stones, each with its portion of design carefully carved on its surface so that it fitted without error into the general pattern. The effect was enhanced by painting the background a deep red. Although the roof has now collapsed, the

According to this same writer, the high priests and kings were buried under the palace; for Mitla, which is a corruption of an Aztec word *Mictlan*, meaning the abode of the dead, was supposed to be above the entrance to the underworld. Human sacrifice, too, was performed in this building.

Another model, representing the earliest known Maya building, has also been placed on exhibition in Hall 8. This represents a stucco covered pyramid excavated at Uaxactun in the Peten District of Guatemala by

magnificent examples of Maya sculpture. They are both from the same building and represent the drawing of blood from the tongue and its offering to the two-headed plumed serpent god. The carving, which is in deep relief, portrays clearly the deformation of the head, the head-dresses of quetzal feathers, ear-plugs, and finely woven textiles.

Other improvements to Hall 8 include a series of large photographs of Maya temples and buildings, additional casts, and the reinstallation of material in the cases.





1931. "Archaeological Expedition Sails." *Field Museum news* 2(3), 3-3.

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