

EXPEDITION IN CHINA REPORTS PROGRESS

After a successful trip of about 2,000 miles into the interior from Shanghai, the Marshall Field Zoological Expedition to Southern China has arrived in the mountains above Mouping in the province of Szechwan and begun the collecting of rare animals for Field Museum. This was learned in a recent report, dispatched by courier, received from Floyd T. Smith, leader of the expedition. Large parts of the journey on the Yangtse River and its tributaries were made in native hand-propelled boats, and other long stretches were made afoot.

Mr. Smith, who is from Long Island, N. Y., is the only white man on the expedition. He is accompanied by about forty native hunters and skinners. A whole fleet of the small paddled boats was necessary to carry his caravan up the Yangtse, Ya and Min rivers. On the land sections of the journey native porters carried supplies.

An immediate object of the expedition is to collect specimens of the rare goat-antelope called the takin, and one of these animals has already been obtained, Mr. Smith reports. Specimens of many other kinds of animals have also been collected.

BUSHMAN COLLECTION RECEIVED

A valuable collection of ethnological material representing the Bushmen of Africa, who are probably the most primitive people in existence today, has been received at Field Museum of Natural History as a gift from Arthur S. Vernay, of New York and London. Mr. Vernay collected the objects while leading the Vernay-Lang Kalahari Expedition of Field Museum, which recently returned to this country.

The simple hunting culture of the nomadic Bushmen, against whom other African tribes as well as European settlers have constantly waged war, is completely represented. As the part of the Kalahari Desert where this material was obtained is extremely difficult of access, the Bushman culture is illustrated in a form unaffected by European influence.

Included in the collection are quivers and poisoned arrows, bows, ornaments consisting of ostrich-eggshell beads threaded to form necklaces, girdles and head-bands, beaded aprons, and an engraved ostrich egg. There is also a well-preserved Bushman skull, much valued because of the difficulty of obtaining anatomical specimens.

COPTIC TEXTILES INSTALLED

One of the two largest collections in this country of Coptic textiles from ancient Egypt has been placed on exhibition at Field Museum. Several hundred pieces are included, some of them almost complete garments, others fragmentary. In displaying them, a method new to archaeological exhibits in museums has been adopted, whereby the entire collection appears in one huge architecturally built-in case 108 feet long, forming part of one of the walls of the Egyptian hall (Hall J). The case is divided into a large lower section and a smaller upper section, and the display is made especially attractive by the use of concealed lighting.

The collection is representative of all phases of textile making and decorative design of the Coptic period in Egypt (first centuries of the Christian era), and includes many beautiful and rare examples which possess highest artistic merit as well as great archaeological interest. Not only the character of the designs, some of them being intricately woven pictures, but also the

interweaving of many colors in a large number of the pieces, make the textiles noteworthy. The figure of a dancing girl playing her own accompaniment on a tambourine is almost modern in composition and is one of the most attractive pieces in the collection.

The bulk of this valuable collection was presented to the Museum by Ernest R. Graham. The other pieces were contributed by D. G. Hamilton and others.

Almost all of the pieces are of linen, with their ornamentation in tapestry, woven with wool. They date from early centuries of the Christian era. Included are children's and adults' garments, parts of mummy wrappings, a red wool hair net, bonnets and caps, ornamental panels and medallions, and other textile products. The designs show a great variety of motifs, some illustrating the persistence of native Egyptian art of earlier periods, and others exemplifying the influence of Greek, Roman and Persian art.

SPECIAL NOTICE

All Members of Field Museum who have changed their residences or are planning to do so 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.

Members going away for a period during the summer, who desire Museum matter to be sent to their temporary addresses, may have this service by notifying the Museum of the summer addresses and the dates between which they are to be used.

Kish Season Closes

The 1930-31 season of operations on the site of the ancient city of Kish by the Field Museum-Oxford University Joint Expedition to Mesopotamia ended last month, it is reported by L. C. Watelin, field director of the expedition. In the division with the several cooperating institutions of the relics unearthed, the greater part of the treasures found in the recently discovered Sasanian palace (see FIELD MUSEUM NEWS, March and April, 1931) was allotted to Field Museum, Mr. Watelin states. The objects brought to light, and the data collected, will now be studied by Professor Stephen Langdon, director of the expedition, who will interpret their archaeological significance.

Gifts to the Museum

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

From Mrs. Charles K. Bassett—85 prehistoric arrow-points and knives, Oregon; from Charles Beckman—72 prehistoric arrowheads, knives and pendants, Washington; from L. K. Johnston—a prehistoric stone axe, scraper and 3 arrowheads, Indiana; from Gilbert Sellers—an ironstone concretion, Illinois; from E. B. Faber—a fossil amblypod jaw, Colorado; from H. C. Eggers—5 photographs illustrating desert phenomena; from Dr. Charles E. Burt—113 specimens of frogs, toads, snakes, lizards and salamanders, Texas; from A. B. Scott—a prehistoric stone ear-plug, Arkansas; from William B. Parmelee—3 paper carps used at the boys' festival, Japan; from Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Hellmayer—226 butterflies and moths, Bavaria and Switzerland; from Emil Liljeblad—392 beetles, Idaho; from Von Platen-Fox Company—a trunk of tamarack, and a board of sugar maple, Michigan; from Edward Hines Western Pine Company—2 boards (flat grain) of western larch, Oregon; from Richmond Cedar Company—a trunk and 2 boards of southern white cedar, Virginia; from West Coast Lumbermen's Association—4 trunk slabs, a wheel section and 2 boards of western red cedar, Washington; from Eastman-Gardiner Hardwood Company—4 trunk slabs, a wheel section and 2 boards of sycamore, Mississippi; from Berst-Forster-Dixfield Company—a trunk, a wheel section and 2 boards of paper birch, Minnesota; from the Conservator of Forests at Belize—62 samples of woods of British Honduras.

MAY GUIDE-LECTURE TOURS

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

Friday, May 1—11 A.M., Primitive Art, 3 P.M., Dinosaurs and Other Reptiles.

Week beginning May 4—Monday: 11 A.M., Asiatic Animals, 3 P.M., Peoples of the South Seas; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Crystals and Gems, 3 P.M., Economic Plant Life; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Roman Exhibits, 3 P.M., Marine Animals; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Game Animals, 3 P.M., Melanesian Art.

Week beginning May 11—Monday: 11 A.M., Fishes, Past and Present, 3 P.M., Eskimo Life; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Indian Ceremonies, 3 P.M., Mummies; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Basket Makers, 3 P.M., Physical Geology; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Birds of the Chicago Area, 3 P.M., Africa and Madagascar.

Week beginning May 18—Monday: 11 A.M., Peat, Coal and Oil, 3 P.M., Egyptian Art; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Jewelry, 3 P.M., Prehistoric Life; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Chinese Exhibits, 3 P.M., Makers of Totem-poles; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., South America, 3 P.M., Animals of Economic Value.

Week beginning May 25—Monday: 11 A.M., Story of the Horse, 3 P.M., Trees of the Chicago Area; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Animal Habitat Groups, 3 P.M., Pottery Makers; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Story of Early Man, 3 P.M., Weavers; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Rare Animals, 3 P.M., Mexico.

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 during the period from March 17 to April 16:

Life Members

Max Epstein

Associate Members

Louis L. Becker, Edwin Bluthardt, Dr. Frank Cary, Arthur E. Chapman, Theodore Dickinson, James H. Douglas, Jr., C. P. Dubbs, Kenneth P. Edwards, Walter L. Fisher, Mrs. J. Arthur Friedlund, H. B. Gear, Mrs. Marianna L. Griest, A. O. Hartmann, George J. Holmes, Mrs. Virginia H. Kendall, Arthur F. Klein, Mrs. Albert E. Leight, Mrs. Andrew MacLeish, Maurice S. Marcus, Mrs. William Remy, Harold F. Reynolds, Henry S. Robbins, Mrs. Walter J. Seifert, George V. Wienhoeber.

Annual Members

Mrs. William F. Babcock, Charles D. Boyles, J. W. Brashears, James F. Clancy, John A. Derham, Mrs. Seth C. Drake, N. A. Ford, Robert H. Gardner, Benjamin J. Glick, Miss Mary Pomeroy Green, Adolph H. Hansen, Charles F. Henning, Mrs. James Hughes, Mrs. Clara P. Knoke, Robert S. Leiser, Miss Mabel McLaren, Mrs. John K. Notz, Mrs. W. Irving Osborne, Charles Rennolds Ostrom, Mrs. I. D. Rawlings, John R. Reilly, Mrs. Kenneth E. Rice, Fred Seip, William F. Thiehoff, Roy E. Waite, Mrs. S. Arthur Walther, John L. Wilds, Mrs. Harry G. Wolff, Mrs. R. J. Wuerst, Walter H. Wyszynski, E. Frank Young, Miss Edna Zemon.

MEMBERSHIP IN FIELD MUSEUM

Field Museum has several classes of Members. Benefactors give or devise \$100,000 or more. Contributors give or devise \$1,000 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.



1931. "Coptic Textiles Installed." *Field Museum news* 2(5), 4-4.

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