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LIFE-SIZE RESTORATION OF TITANOTHERES IS PLACED ON EXHIBITION

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A life-size restoration of gigantic titanotheres—extinct animals which resembled rhinoceroses in appearance, but were as tall and bulky as elephants—has just been placed on exhibition in Ernest R. Graham Hall of Historical Geology (Hall 38). The group, a gift to the Museum from Mr. Graham, is the work of Frederick A. Blaschke, sculptor of Cold Spring-on-Hudson, New York, who also made the restoration of the Neanderthal family and the *Mesohippus* which have now been on exhibition in the same hall for some time past. The group of titanotheres is composed of three animals—an enormous male in standing position, a female, and a young titanotheres lying down. A background reproducing the supposed natural habitat of these huge beasts has been provided, this being the work of Charles A. Corwin, staff artist of the Museum.

The titanotheres were great two-horned beasts which were abundant in the Bad Lands of Nebraska and the Dakotas about 30,000,000 years ago, according to scientific estimates. The animals, as restored in the Museum's exhibit, are modeled to show them as it is indicated by fossils they must have appeared in life. The male figure was constructed from measurements and studies of a fossil skeleton in the Museum of Yale University; the female from a skeleton in the American Museum of Natural History, New York; and the young one from a skeleton in the University of Wyoming.

This is the first time an attempt has been made by scientists to reproduce in full-size three-dimensional form amid natural surroundings a group of these great beasts. In the work the sculptor has had the advice of Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn, President of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, and Professor W. K. Gregory of

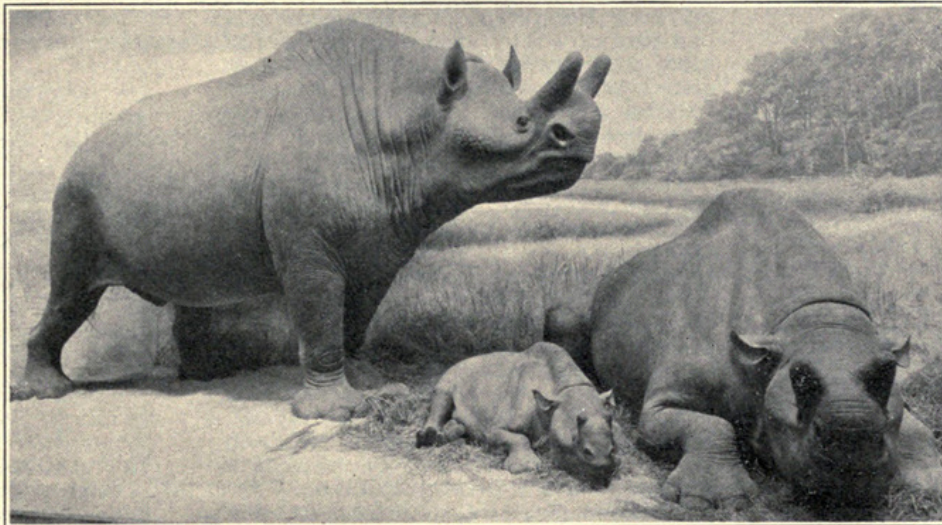
They were related on the one hand to the horse family and on the other to the rhinoceroses, but they differed from both of these in many ways. They died out suddenly millions of years ago. In recent years numerous fossil skeletons of them which have been covered up by sands and clays have been found in the Bad Lands of Nebraska and the Dakotas as the bones have been washed out by rains and streams.

The largest titanotheres attained a height of more than eight feet and weighed fully as much as African elephants. Their legs were massive, and their feet were padded like those of elephants. Splendid fossil specimens are preserved in Field Museum and in a number of other museums throughout America.

Transportation of the life-size models of these huge creatures from the sculptor's studio at Cold Spring-on-Hudson to Chicago offered a unique problem. They were brought in motor trucks, but many detours had to be made on account of low bridges and the tremendous height of the male model. Even with these

detours, it was necessary to cut off the hump of the standing animal model temporarily, and to release all air from the truck tires to get clearance for the load under certain bridges. Mr. Blaschke personally rode the trucks to supervise the safe transit of the models.

A large mural painting of a group of titanotheres, by Charles R. Knight, also presented by Mr. Graham, has been added to the series of prehistoric scenes on the walls of Graham Hall.



Restoration of Titanotheres

Life-size group prepared by Frederick Blaschke, on exhibition in Ernest R. Graham Hall.

Columbia University, who are among the foremost authorities on prehistoric life, as well as Curator of Geology Oliver C. Farrington of Field Museum, and the present writer.

The titanotheres lived in wet marshy lands and fed upon plants. They were once almost as abundant as bison were when white men first explored America. Their two blunt horns were placed side by side on the nose and served as offensive weapons.

Totems for Exchange or Sale

After having selected types of totem poles, house posts and grave posts representing the Alaskan Eskimos and Northwest Coast Indians for its exhibits in Hall 10, Field Museum has left a number of excellent similar specimens for which no use can be found here due to the lack of space. It is believed that these would be of value to other institutions or to private collectors, and negotiations as to their disposal either by exchange or sale are solicited. Those who might be interested are invited to correspond with the Director of the Museum.

51,917 Visitors in One Day

Field Museum was visited by 51,917 persons on May 21. This vast number of people came to the Museum largely as a result of the fact that Grant Park was thronged that day with spectators viewing

the United States Army Air Corps parade on the lake front, a feature of the recent Chicago Jubilee. This attendance was exceeded on only one previous day in the Museum's history—May 24, 1929, when the number of visitors was 59,843.

University Honors Dr. Laufer

Dr. Berthold Laufer, Curator of Anthropology at Field Museum, received an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Chicago during the June commencement exercises at the university. The honor was in recognition of the important work he has performed in Asiatic research.

The many important economic products of palm trees, with specimens from the trees themselves, are the subject of a Museum exhibit.

Argali Sheep Received

Three specimens of the Argali or Hodgson's sheep, a mountain animal very difficult to obtain, have been received at Field Museum of Natural History as a result of the expedition to Sikkim (on the Tibetan border) conducted for the Museum by C. Suydam Cutting of New York. The animals were encountered at high altitudes in the mountains, and were shot by Mr. Cutting himself. He was accompanied by a party of native hunters. The sheep are somewhat similar to the rare Marco Polo sheep, also found in Asia, of which the Museum has mounted specimens which were obtained by Colonel Theodore Roosevelt and Kermit Roosevelt while leading the James Simpson-Roosevelts Asiatic Expedition.

An assembled skeleton of the extinct great auk, huge bird which once inhabited North America, is on exhibition at the Museum.



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