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EXHIBIT OF WATER BUFFALO OBTAINED BY KELLEY-ROOSEVELTS EXPEDITION

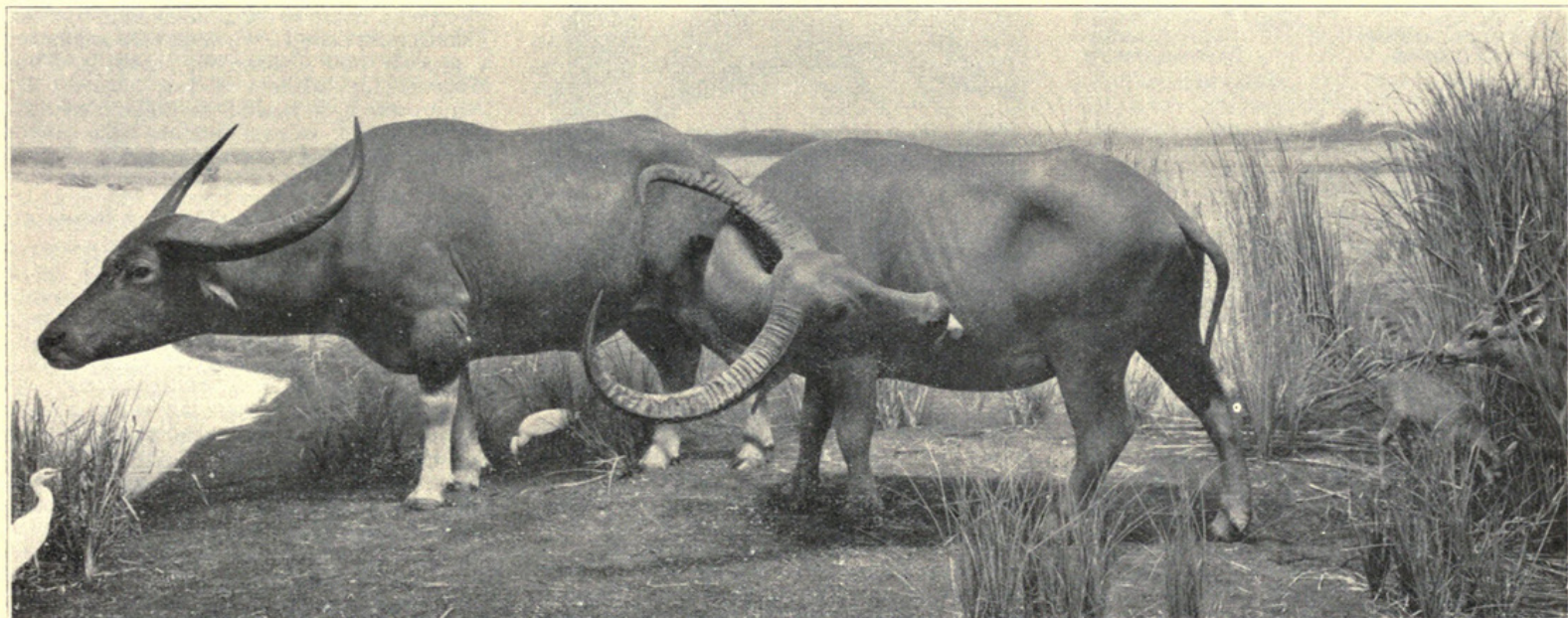
The second large habitat group of animals composed of specimens obtained by the Kelley-Roosevelts Expedition to Eastern Asia has been installed in William V. Kelley Hall (Hall 17).

The principal figures in the new group are two large specimens, male and female, of the Asiatic water buffalo. Near-by are seen three small hog deer, male, female and young, and specimens of white "cow heron," which habitually follow the water buffalo. All the specimens were collected by Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, now Governor General of the Philippines, who, with his brother,

The specimens were obtained by Colonel Roosevelt under extremely adverse conditions. The hunt was conducted during a period of terrific heat, in the rainy season, and many hardships and the hazard of tropical fevers had to be faced.

The wild water buffalo of Asia, sometimes called Indian buffalo, is rapidly becoming very rare, according to Dr. Wilfred H. Osgood, Curator of Zoology. Like the African buffalo, it is a very dangerous animal and often charges hunters, sometimes with fatal results to the men. It is belligerent, vindictive and tenacious by

northern Ceylon. Domestic varieties derived from it are widely used as draft and milch cattle in its native lands. Large herds are no longer seen and there has been local inter-breeding between wild and domestic stock. One of the best-known domestic varieties is the carabao of the Philippines. On account of its semi-aquatic habits it is very useful for work in the rice fields. The domesticated animal is used also in Egypt. Typically the water buffalo is of large size, equaling the African species, but differing in that it has slender, flattened horns. These sometimes exceed five feet in length.



Water Buffalo, Hog Deer and White Heron

New habitat group installed in William V. Kelley Hall. The specimens were obtained by Colonel Theodore Roosevelt.

Kermit Roosevelt, led the expedition. The first group completed as a result of the expedition was that of the rare giant panda.

A scene reproduced in the background, representing the natural environment of the animals in southern Indo-China, has been prepared by the Museum's staff artist, Charles A. Corwin. The taxidermy is by Julius Friesser and Arthur G. Rueckert.

nature, and even when wounded will frequently charge madly. Although tigers frequently attack buffalo, at times the attacker is killed in the encounter.

The water buffalo is found most often wading on river bottoms and flood plains, wallowing in mud, says Dr. Osgood. It formerly ranged the low country along the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers, and also

They do not meet at the base as do those of the African buffalo.

The hog deer, also shown in the group, abound in the lowlands, and mingle unconcernedly with the buffalo. The white herons are regular companions of the buffalo, following them in order to feed on the insects and other small forms of life disturbed as the buffalo tramp through the tall grass.

MEXICAN HOUSEHOLD GODS

By J. ERIC THOMPSON

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Large numbers of small pottery heads or full-length figures are found at archaeological sites in the valley of Mexico and the surrounding country. Many of these are beautifully executed, revealing a high standard of craftsmanship. Heads are common but complete specimens are rare, and Field Museum is fortunate in possessing an exceptionally good collection of them, which is on exhibition in Hall 8. Without question these clay figures represent idols, for in many cases the distinctive attributes of various gods are clearly marked. Prob-

ably they served as household gods—the Mexican equivalent of the Roman *penates*.

The changes in technique which occur make it possible to arrange the figures in chronological order. The earliest are crude, hand-made specimens dating back more than 2,000 years. Later in date are the beautiful Toltec figures of the Teotihuacan period. These were made in pottery molds, and in their elaborate head-dresses and free treatment of featherwork reach a high level. Later again are the heads of the Aztec period. These were also made in molds, and date back between 500 and 700 years. They reveal poorer modeling, but are of more general interest since the attributes of recognizable gods are more clearly delineated.

The heads were sometimes placed on top of lumps of maize or amaranth dough, which had been modeled in human shape. These were then sacrificed to agricultural deities to assure bountiful harvests.

Among the figures in the Museum's collection are a mother and child who probably represent the earth goddess, Coatlicue, with her son Huitzilopochtli, the Aztec war god. A long-nosed individual is the wind god, and a seated woman is goddess of dancing and flowers. One of the series has been modeled in the shape of a temple-crowned pyramid, while another shows the wind god perched on top of his pyramid, looking down from the summit of the great stairway.



Boulton, Rudyerd. 1932. "The Passenger Pigeon." *Field Museum news* 3(5), 2-2.

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