

RAYMOND FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

Two more of the summer series of programs for children presented by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures remain to be given during August.

On Thursday, August 4, the program will consist of the motion picture, "Glimpses of South America," to be given in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum at 10 A.M., and a tour of South American exhibits conducted by Raymond Foundation lecturers, which will begin at 11 A.M.

On Thursday, August 11, the motion picture, "Animals at Rest and Play," will be given in the James Simpson Theatre. There will be two showings, one at 10 A.M., and one at 11.

Children from all parts of the city and suburbs are invited to attend. No tickets are necessary for admission. In addition to those coming individually or with their parents or other adults, children may come in groups from clubs, community centers, and other organizations.

HALIBUT—WIDELY EATEN, BUT LITTLE KNOWN

By ALFRED C. WEED
Assistant Curator of Fishes

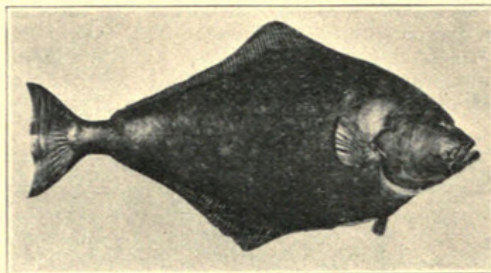
Halibut, one of the most common of edible fish, remains nevertheless one of the fish about which the layman knows little. While it is known as one of the largest market fishes of the world, few people living away from the regions where it is caught are aware even that it is a giant member of the flounder family. Sold chiefly in "steaks," few inland people have ever seen a whole halibut, especially since shipments are always made with the head cut off, a practice so unique in former days that it must have created much comment. Some market man, annoyed at the ceaseless questioning on this point, seems to have made up a story to satisfy his customers, and his tale has been handed down apparently, with additions, and now seems to be generally believed. At least, many people in Chicago are firmly convinced that "the head of this big fish is so horrible in appearance that the government will not permit it to be brought to any place where sensitive persons may see it."

The truth is that the halibut is not especially different in appearance from any other large-mouthed flounder. A mounted specimen of this fish, prepared by Staff Taxidermist Leon L. Pray, is now on exhibition in Albert W. Harris Hall (Hall 18). There are two reasons why the heads are not shipped to market. First, the dealers do not want to pay express charges on many pounds of fish that cannot be sold. Second, in many places the fishermen have the right to keep the heads for their own use. On a head that weighs ten pounds there will be several pounds of good meat that could not be saved for marketing without spoiling the appearance of the more saleable parts of the fish.

Halibut is caught in the cold northern seas of America and Europe. While its flesh is fine and delicate in quality, it can be so well and easily preserved for marketing far from the seacoast that it became well liked inland long before the use of modern methods of handling fish.

In northern seas these fish are found in rather shallow water, but farther south the fishermen must put their hooks down to much greater depths to get them. Most halibut are caught on trawl lines, which are

long lines with hooks fastened to short pieces that are tied to the main line every few feet. A Greenland fisherman may put out eight to ten miles of trawl at a "set" in water not more than 200 feet deep. The fisherman in Queen Charlotte Sound, north of Vancouver, may make one end of his four-mile "set" in water less than 100 feet deep while the other end may be almost half a mile below the surface. The fisherman who goes out from Seattle may set his long lines in water a quarter of a mile deep. Years ago most of the halibut sold in this country



Halibut

Millions eat this fish, but few have ever seen a whole one either dead or alive. The head is never shipped to market. This specimen is on exhibition in Albert W. Harris Hall.

were caught on hand lines, off the coast from Boston northward, at depths of a few hundred feet.

Although most of the halibut that come to market are of moderate size, the fish frequently grows very large. A weight of more than 100 pounds is very usual, but the small ones weighing from ten to thirty pounds, known as "chicken halibut," are preferred and bring a higher price.

Two Museum Staff Men Honored

Henry W. Nichols, Associate Curator of Geology at Field Museum, has been appointed a member of the Mineral Industries Committee of the Western Society of Engineers.

Llewellyn Williams, Assistant in Wood Technology at Field Museum, has been awarded the honor of election to membership in the International Association of Wood Anatomists.

Petroleum-yielding rocks and sands are included in the economic geology exhibits.

Chinese carvings in bamboo and vine roots form an interesting exhibit in the Department of Anthropology.

Gifts to the Museum

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

From Companhia Ford Industrial do Brasil—200 herbarium specimens and 38 wood specimens, Brazil; from H. W. von Rozynski—115 herbarium specimens, Mexico; from Dr. Ray Carpenter—64 herbarium specimens, Barro Colorado Island; from Edward Hines Lumber Company—4 boards of Ponderosa pine, west coast of United States; from Professor Manuel Valerio—221 herbarium specimens, Costa Rica; from Bro. Paul—183 herbarium specimens, Colombia; from the Red River Lumber Company—4 truck slabs, 4 boards, and a wheel section of incense cedar, California; from J. G. Salas—4 hand specimens of woods and 24 herbarium specimens, Guatemala; from Professor Maximino Martinez—12 herbarium specimens, Mexico; from Mrs. Harry L. Ringer—8 humming bird skins, South America; from T. E. Musselman—an albino immature bronzed grackle, Illinois; from W. C. Page—a live New York weasel, Illinois; from O. G. Malde—a hoary bat with 2 young, Illinois; from Jessie C. Stokes—3 young chimney swifts and nest, Illinois; from John G. Shedd Aquarium—a Florida manatee and a specimen of "lion fish," *Pterois volitans*, Samoa; from Professor T. D. A. Cockerell—18 bees and 11 shells; from Captain Fred G. Saeger—a large specimen of green moray (fish), Florida.

AUGUST GUIDE-LECTURE TOURS

Conducted tours of exhibits, under the guidance of staff lecturers, are made every afternoon at 3 P.M., except Saturdays, Sundays, and certain holidays. Following is the schedule of subjects and dates for August:

Week beginning August 1: Monday—Animal Life of the Deserts; Tuesday—General Tour; Wednesday—Pewter, Jade and Gems; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Fish and Reptiles.

Week beginning August 8: Monday—Unusual Plants and Their Flowers; Tuesday—General Tour; Wednesday—Looms and Textiles; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Egypt.

Week beginning August 15: Monday—Birds and Their Families; Tuesday—General Tour; Wednesday—Primitive Costumes; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Plants and Animals of Long Ago.

Week beginning August 22: Monday—Chinese Art; Tuesday—General Tour; Wednesday—Story of Man; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Peoples of the Tropics.

Week beginning August 29: Monday—African Birds and Mammals; Tuesday—General Tour; Wednesday—Makers of Totem Poles.

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.

Plant Grows Through Rock Salt

A piece of rock salt, four inches thick, with a desert plant growing through it, is an exhibit which attracts attention among visitors to Frederick J. V. Skiff Hall (Hall 37). The specimen was obtained by the Marshall Field Brazilian Expedition a few years ago. It is one of numerous small weeds growing through holes in a layer of rock salt observed by Associate Curator Henry W. Nichols, geologist of the expedition, while passing through a shallow depression in the floor of the Atacama Desert near Calama in northern Chile. The salt layer in the region ranges from four to twelve inches in thickness, and the plants grow through holes barely large enough to accommodate their stems. The living plants in the desert, Mr. Nichols says, seemed to be nearly as dry as the Museum's specimen is now.

NEW MEMBERS

The following persons were elected to membership in Field Museum during the period from June 16 to July 12:

Annual Members

Henry H. Barlow, Alfred E. Buhrke, Miss Kate E. Chislett, Mrs. Chester A. Cook, D. C. Curtis, Henry L. Getts, Sr., Joseph J. Rice, John B. Shay, S. J. Walpole.

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.



1932. "Plant Grows Through Rock Salt." *Field Museum news* 3(8), 4-4.

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