

Field Museum of Natural History

Founded by Marshall Field, 1893

Roosevelt Road and Lake Michigan, Chicago

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FIELD MUSEUM NEWS

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Field Museum is open every day of the year during the hours indicated below:

November, December, January	9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
February, March, April, October	9 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
May, June, July, August, September	9 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Admission is free to Members on all days. Other adults are admitted free on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays; non-members pay 25 cents on other days. Children are admitted free on all days. Students and faculty members of educational institutions are admitted free any day upon presentation of credentials.

The Museum's natural history Library is open for reference daily except Saturday afternoon and Sunday.

Traveling exhibits are circulated in the schools of Chicago by the N. W. Harris Public School Extension Department of the Museum.

Lectures for schools, and special entertainments and tours for children at the Museum, are provided by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures.

Announcements of free illustrated lectures for the public, and special lectures for Members of the Museum, will appear in FIELD MUSEUM NEWS.

A cafeteria in the Museum serves visitors. Rooms are provided for those bringing their lunches.

Chicago Motor Coach Company No. 26 buses go direct to the Museum.

Members are requested to inform the Museum promptly of changes of address.

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.

BEQUESTS AND ENDOWMENTS

Bequests to Field Museum of Natural History may be made in securities, money, books or collections. They may, if desired, take the form of a memorial to a person or cause, named by the giver.

Cash contributions made within the taxable year not exceeding 15 per cent of the taxpayer's net income are allowable as deductions in computing net income under Article 251 of Regulation 69 relating to the income tax under the Revenue Act of 1926.

Endowments may be made to the Museum with the provision that an annuity be paid to the patron for life. These annuities are tax-free and are guaranteed against fluctuation in amount.

THE VAMPIRE BAT

BY COLIN C. SANBORN

Assistant Curator of Mammals

Ever since the discovery of the vampire bat by the Spanish invaders of the New World there have been incredulous stories told about its habits. Many of these tales persist to the present day. It is only natural, of course, that they should grow up around an animal which lives by sucking blood from animals and men.

Belief in human vampires—the spirits of dead and living persons who were said to suck the blood of people at night—was very strong in Russia and Poland, and among the Slavonic races of Austria from 1730 to 1735. It was undoubtedly this widespread superstition which caused Buffon, about 1750, to name the bloodsucking bat the vampire.

As Buffon named the bat from descriptions and stories by other men it was some time before it was known exactly which bat had the bloodsucking habits, and many of the fruit-eating species were suspected, probably on account of their size. The true culprit was discovered by Charles Darwin while on the voyage of the *Beagle* in 1832. For some time previously the tales about bloodsucking bats had been regarded with skepticism in England. Since Darwin's discovery, two other bats, much rarer than the common vampire, have been identified with bloodsucking habits.

The vampires are small, being about three inches long, and have but twenty teeth, the fewest found in any bat. They have very sharp incisors which make a small wound in the skin of their victim. Their bite is not deep, the blood being taken from the capillary vessels of the skin. The bats have a very narrow gullet and a digestive system otherwise especially adapted for a diet of blood.

Human victims of the vampires are seldom awakened by the attacks and, in spite of what has been written to the contrary, animals do not appear conscious of the bites. Poultry suffer from attacks made on their combs.

Reports of the effects of the attacks on humans vary greatly, and one is forced to the conclusion that much depends on the individual bitten. In extreme cases a great deal of blood may be lost and the victim may feel weakened. The great danger to animals is in the continued attacks and from flies that deposit their eggs in the wounds and cause infection.

Protection against bats is much easier than against mosquitoes, and in some places lights are placed in barns to protect domestic animals. A few years ago, while in Brazil as a member of the Marshall Field South American Expedition, I found that by tying my horses to a picket line and hanging a powerful gasoline lantern over them, they were safe from the bats.

The true vampire bats are found from Mexico south to central South America. There are bats in other parts of the world called vampires but they do not have bloodsucking habits.

At present the only bats exhibited at the Museum are the harmless ones of the Chicago area, but an exhibit of other species, including the vampire, is planned.

African Clairvoyancy

When one considers that even some educated people are unable to resist fortune tellers and similar charlatans, it is not surprising that primitive man strives to peer into the future. In Africa many methods

are followed; for example, throwing bones and noting their arrangement when they fall; writing in the sand; examining the entrails of animals; and shaking a divination basket.

In Case 22, Hall D, is such a basket used by the Ovimbundu of Angola. This kind of divinatory apparatus is still employed, and two of the baskets from Angola are among the material collected by the Frederick H. Rawson-Field Museum Ethnological Expedition in 1929.

To the accompaniment of a friction drum the diviner shakes his basket, then pauses to observe what trinkets have come to the top. Two little wooden figures with their mouths close together may appear prominently. At once the diviner says that two people are whispering, plotting to kill by poison. A round piece of wood comes to the top. This is an open human mouth; someone, probably a woman, has been gossiping too freely. A little wooden snake appears at the top—the limbs of some unfortunate person will be twisted with pain. So the forecast proceeds with remedies suggested by the diviner.—W.D.H.

Report of Director Printed

The Annual Report of the Director of Field Museum to the Board of Trustees for 1932 has been printed by Field Museum Press, and copies will be distributed to all Members of the Museum at an early date. In the book, which contains 141 pages and nine photogravure plates, Director Stephen C. Simms reviews in detail all activities carried on during the year by the institution.

Traces of Glacial Period Iceberg

A large specimen of glaciated sandstone in Clarence Buckingham Hall (Hall 35) shows on its surface, besides the usual glacial striations, other markings made by a nearly stranded iceberg of the glacial period. These are scratches and gouges which cross the surface as interrupted lines. They were made by the cutting action of boulders imbedded in the bottom of the berg. When the slowly moving berg fell in the trough of a wave these boulders dragged across the rock and cut a line which was interrupted whenever the berg lifted to the crest of a wave.

Hopi Textiles

The Pueblo Indians of the Southwest have cultivated cotton for more than fifteen hundred years. At present, the Hopi of northeastern Arizona are the only American Indians who still grow it. Cotton was and is used for ceremonial robes, kilts, scarfs, sashes, and belts. After the white colonists introduced sheep into the country, the Hopi began to weave blankets from wool obtained from their own flocks.

In Hall 7, examples of Hopi textiles, both cotton and wool, are on exhibition.

Persimmons

The persimmons form a small family of tropical and subtropical trees and shrubs, especially numerous in Indo-Malaya, but also found elsewhere in both hemispheres. Several are cultivated for their edible fruits and some are esteemed for their black heart wood, ebony.

A fruiting branch of the wild persimmon of the southern United States, also various products of the persimmon family, are shown in the Hall of Plant Life (Hall 29), and the principal kinds of ebony may be seen in the Hall of Foreign Woods (Hall 27).



Sanborn, Colin Campbell. 1933. "The Vampire Bat." *Field Museum news* 4(5), 2-2.

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