

## FOUR MORE LECTURES IN AUTUMN COURSE

Four more lectures in Field Museum's Sixtieth Free Lecture Course remain to be given on Saturday afternoons during November. These lectures, illustrated with motion pictures and stereopticon slides, are presented in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum, and all begin at 3 P.M. Following are the dates, subjects and speakers:

### November 4—The Spell of Egypt

H. C. Ostrander, Jersey City, New Jersey

### November 11—Republics in the Clouds—Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia

Major James C. Sawders, Nutley, New Jersey

### November 18—By Way of Cape Horn

Alan J. Villiers, Melbourne, Australia

### November 25—Amazon Twilight

Earl Hanson, Carnegie Institution, Washington, D.C.

No tickets are necessary for admission to these lectures. A section of the Theatre is reserved for Members of the Museum, each of whom is entitled to two reserved seats on request. Requests for these seats may be made by telephone or in writing to the Museum, in advance of the lecture, and seats will then be held in the Member's name until 3 o'clock on the day of the lecture. Members may obtain seats in the reserved section also by presentation of their membership cards to the Theatre attendant before 3 o'clock on the lecture day, even though no advance reservation has been made. All reserved seats not claimed by 3 o'clock will be opened to the general public.

## CHILDREN'S MOTION PICTURES —RAYMOND FOUNDATION

Of the autumn series of entertainments for children provided by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures, five more remain to be given on Saturday mornings from November 4 to December 2 inclusive. The programs are presented in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum, and each is given twice, at 10 A.M. and 11 A.M. Admission is free. The films to be shown on each date are listed below:

### November 4—Hunting Dinosaurs; The Romance of Glass

### November 11—The Frog; The Ants' Cow; The Mystery Box; From Dog to Airplane

### November 18—Musk Ox and Polar Bear; The Sky Splitter; Comets and Eclipses

### November 25—A Furry Tale; The Puritans

### December 2—Through the Year with Animal Friends: Spring; Summer; Autumn; Winter

## AN AQUATIC AROID

By B. E. DAHLGREN  
Acting Curator, Department of Botany

The well-known Indian turnip and the skunk cabbage figure in our woods as rather isolated representatives in the temperate zone of a large group of plants that reaches its highest development in the moist tropics. The cultivated calla lily, the caladiums, and the elephant ears are other familiar, though exotic, members of the plant family, Araceae, which in common botanical and horticultural parlance is known as the "aroids," aroid meaning arum-like.

The chief features which the aroids have in common are well illustrated by the calla lily with its showy spike or spadix set with minute, inconspicuous flowers, usually lack-

ing petals and sepals. This lack is compensated for by the presence of a large sheathing spathe at the base of the entire spadix. In the calla lily this spathe is white, in other aroids it is green or spotted, in still others brilliant scarlet in color.

The aroid family is very large. Among its many genera and their numerous species there are found many variations on this characteristic floral structure, just as there are a large range and variation in the shape and size of the leaves of these plants. In some aroids the flowering spike is so small and inconspicuous that only a careful search will reveal its presence; in some others the spadix is astonishingly large. It may be as tall as a man, thicker than a man's arm.

What is most remarkable about these plants is their diversity of habit. They include at least one floating aquatic, *Pistia*, the water cabbage, many swamp plants like the calamus, and numerous climbers and epiphytes. The latter sometimes begin life as climbers, then lose all connection with the ground and continue to grow as



Aninga Plant

An aquatic calla lily which grows in profusion along the banks of the Amazon. This exhibit in the Hall of Plant Life was prepared by the Stanley Field Plant Reproduction Laboratories.

air plants, or put forth roots that may reestablish contact with the soil. Others begin their existence as epiphytes in the tree tops and only much later reach the ground with their pendent roots.

Several of the aroids on the order of the elephant ears furnish edible tubers of large size. The most important of these, the taro, is the chief starch plant of the entire Polynesian region. The eddo of the West Indies is one of several American relatives that yield similar edible tubers.

One of the best known of ornamental greenhouse plants is a large climber with perforated leaves and edible fruit, *Monstera deliciosa*, which is represented in the Hall of Plant Life (Hall 29). A recent addition to this hall is a large aquatic aroid, a kind of aquatic calla lily, *Montrichardia*, of tropical America. It is known in British Guiana as mucca-mucca; in the Amazon region it is called aninga. This aquatic is a common sight in northern South America, where it forms large patches or solid stands fringing the muddy river margins in five or six feet of water. Its tapering stem, which may grow to ten feet or more in height, is only a few inches thick in its upper part but enlarges rapidly toward the base where it may be from eight inches to a foot in diameter. Its young shoots and large compound fruits appear to be the favorite food of the hoatzin, the primitive claw-winged, crested bird called canje pheasant in Guiana, and cigana in the lower Amazon.

## NOVEMBER 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 November:

Wednesday, November 1—Egyptian and Etruscan Burials; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Races of Mankind.

Week beginning November 6: Monday—Animal Life in Cold Lands; Tuesday—Lacquer, Rubber and Turpentine; Wednesday—Peoples of the South Seas; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Primitive Musical Instruments.

Week beginning November 13: Monday—Prehistoric Plants and Animals; Tuesday—Looms and Textiles; Wednesday—Halls of Plants and Their Uses; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—North American Archaeology.

Week beginning November 20: Monday—Indians of Plains and Deserts; Tuesday—Skeletons, Past and Present; Wednesday—Crystals of Economic and Decorative Value; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Trees and Wood Products.

Week beginning November 27: Monday—Asiatic Animal Life; Tuesday—Men of the Stone Age; Wednesday—Winter Birds of the Chicago Region; Thursday—Thanksgiving holiday, no tour.

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.

## Gifts to the Museum

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

From Museo Nacional—183 herbarium specimens, Costa Rica; from Van Cleef Brothers—12 specimens of rubber material, Sumatra; from Professor Martin Cárdenas—50 specimens of plants, Bolivia; from Ford Motor Company—8 planks of Tapajos woods, Brazil; from Companhia Ford Industrial do Brasil—45 herbarium specimens and 34 wood specimens, Brazil; from Rev. Brother Elias—97 herbarium specimens, Colombia; from Desert Laboratory of Carnegie Institution of Washington—185 herbarium specimens, Arizona and Sonora; from C. H. Mueller—460 herbarium specimens, Nuevo León; from John W. Jennings—a specimen of jasper, Arkansas; from Arthur J. Lay—2 fluorspar specimens, Illinois; from Charles Mariott—14 specimens claystones, Michigan; from B. E. and Frances C. Axe—a gold nugget, Yukon Territory, Canada; from O. J. Dowling—3 specimens sylvite, New Mexico; from James H. Quinn—2 specimens of fossil mammals, and shell and skull of a fossil turtle, Nebraska; from Thomas K. Birks—a tiger salamander and a lamprey, Wisconsin; from the Charleston Museum—6 chain pike and 16 grass pike, South Carolina; from Edward Brundage, Jr.—45 salamanders, a frog, and a snake, North Carolina; from United States Department of Agriculture—3 bundles of bamboo culms and a box of leaves, Georgia; from Dr. Alfred E. Emerson—a western wood frog, Wyoming; from Klaus Aberg—2 toads, a snake, 2 white-footed mice, and 2 red squirrels, Michigan; from Mr. and Mrs. William Haskell Simpson—a silk embroidery and a painting in colors on silk, China, and 2 painted pottery jars, New Mexico; from Claud M. Longenecker—2 prehistoric stone axes and 50 projectile points, Indiana; from Homer E. Sargent—13 rugs, blankets, and a garment, Algeria and Tripoli, and an old serape, Mexico.

## NEW MEMBERS

The following persons were elected to membership in Field Museum during the period from September 16 to October 15:

### Contributors

Prince M. U. M. Salie

### Non-Resident Life Members

Knox Hearne

### Associate Members

John L. Cochran, Austin Guthrie Curtis, Jr., W. E. Denkwalter, Dewey A. Ericsson, Mrs. William Sherman Hay.

### Annual Members

Edward A. Berger, Herman Black, John G. Curtis, William C. Flanagan, David F. Gladish, Mrs. Harry Hart, Mrs. Virginia W. Haskins, Miss Ray Hilliker, Scott A. Holman, Ralph H. Honecker, Mrs. Charles S. Kiessling, Dr. Joseph M. Leonard, Robert D. Mowry, Willis D. Nance, Dr. Harry A. Olin, Peter P. Person, Mrs. Arno P. Rayner, Reynold S. Smith, L. Parsons Warren.





Dahlgren, B. E. 1933. "An Aquatic Aroid." *Field Museum news* 4(11), 4-4.

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