

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:

Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb., Mar.	9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
April, September, October	9 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
May, June, July, August	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.

FIELD MUSEUM NEEDS SPECIMEN OF EXTINCT GREAT AUK

At an auction held in London on November 14 there were placed on sale two specimens (male and female) of the extremely rare great auk, and six eggs of this extinct bird. Opportunities to obtain such material are most infrequent, as of the 79 or 80 skins of the great auk known to be in existence all but about twenty are in the collections of permanent public institutions and therefore probably never again will reach the market. The total number of eggs of this bird known to be in existence is 75.

The great auk is the only extinct American bird of which Field Museum lacks a specimen. Unfortunately, the Museum, because of the strict limitations of its budget at the present time, was in no position to avail itself of the opportunity to bid on one of the auctioned specimens. In 1929 a great auk specimen was sold for \$3,300; on the present market it is believed that one might be obtained for perhaps one-half of that amount.

Among American cities with museums which possess great auk specimens are



Great Auk

A replica of the extinct bird, made from feathers of other birds. An original specimen would be a highly desirable addition to Field Museum's collections.

New York, Washington and Philadelphia. No museum west of Philadelphia has one. Even if funds should be made available to Field Museum for the purchase of a great auk specimen, it is not certain whether one could now be located that is for sale, although it is believed that it would be possible to obtain one within a reasonable time. If any person interested in filling this gap in Chicago's principal natural history collections should place funds at the disposal of the Museum for this purpose, the Museum would accept the funds with the understanding that it would undertake to negotiate such a purchase, and in the event of failure to locate a satisfactory specimen obtainable at a price within the funds furnished, the money would be returned to the donor. Likewise, should a purchase be made at a cost less than the amount of the funds furnished, any surplus funds above the price of the specimen and the expenses incidental to consummating the transaction would be returned to the donor.

"The acquisition of an original specimen

of a bird or other animal so rare as a great auk is of as much importance to a scientific museum as the acquisition of a genuine old master is to an art museum," says Dr. Wilfred H. Osgood, Curator of Zoology.

The great auk, also known as the gare fowl, once ranged the North Atlantic coasts of both America and Europe. On this continent it was normally found from Newfoundland south to Massachusetts, but occasionally in winter was seen as far south as Florida. It was exterminated through the ruthlessness of codfishermen who chopped the birds up to use them as bait. In America it has been extinct since 1840; in Iceland since 1844. In historic times the great auk had only five known nesting places—Funk Island, Newfoundland, which was its principal headquarters; and Iceland, the Faroe Islands, St. Kilda and the Orkneys. The great auks, which were flightless creatures with small penguin-like wings, averaged about 30 pounds in weight, and stood about two and one-half feet tall in normal sitting position.

A PLAN THAT WILL SIMPLIFY CHRISTMAS GIFT PROBLEMS

In accordance with its annual custom, Field Museum is again offering its Members assistance in the solution of some of their Christmas gift problems, by making available a plan whereby with maximum convenience they can present Museum memberships to friends.

A folder describing the Christmas gift membership plan, a handy application form, and a postage-prepaid addressed envelope for mailing the application to the Museum, will be found enclosed with this issue of FIELD MUSEUM NEWS.

The task of selecting gifts is reduced to the simplest possible proportions by this means. Time and effort which would be devoted to shopping are saved, and the burden of preparing and sending packages is eliminated.

In fact, to use Museum memberships as gifts, you have nothing whatever to do but write the name and address of the friend to whom the membership is to be presented, and your own name and address, and mail the application to the Museum with remittance for the membership fee. The Museum will take care of all other details for you. It will send an attractive Christmas card to the proposed recipient, upon which will be indicated the fact that the membership is a gift from you. It will also inform the recipient as to what the privileges of membership are.

Should you wish to make a number of Christmas presents of this type, additional application forms may be obtained by telephoning (Wabash 9410) or writing to the Museum, or names may be merely sent in a letter.

It is advisable to send in applications before December 17 to assure delivery of the greeting and notification cards to the recipients of your gifts by Christmas Day. The \$10 annual membership is the most popular for this purpose, but other classes of memberships are also available.

A Museum membership is a distinctive gift indicating to the recipient that you estimate him as a person of intellectual qualities. It is a gift that will bring reminders of your thoughtfulness many times a year, through the monthly issues of FIELD MUSEUM NEWS, through reserved seats for the two courses of Museum lectures, and through other privileges in which the recipient of your gift will participate.



1934. "Field Museum Needs Specimen of Extinct Great Auk." *Field Museum news* 5(12), 2-2.

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Holding Institution

Field Museum of Natural History Library

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