

## 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.

### "LIVING FOSSILS"

The queer forms of life which inhabited the earth in prehistoric times are not quite all extinct. In the depths of the seas are to be found, alive, the last lingering remnants of great groups of fishes and their relatives, of the types that filled the oceans millions of years ago. An exhibit of these so-called "living fossils" is a feature of the collections of fishes in Albert W. Harris Hall (Hall 18).

Among the species of "living fossils" shown are various gars, lungfishes, and lampreys, the paddlefish "bowfin" or "dog-fish," and the bichir of the Nile.

Scientific study of the structure and life history of the lampreys—a kind of eel with a round sucking mouth and a skeleton of cartilage instead of bone—leads to the belief that they were among the world's first definitely fish-like creatures. The gars are the last representatives of the tribe of armor-plated fishes which once swam the seas in vast multitudes. Today they are the wolves of fresh water, being viciously destructive to other forms of aquatic life. In salt water, which they also inhabit, there are other creatures just as predatory. In comparatively recent times, geologically speaking (which means regarding hundreds of thousands and even millions of years ago as "recent"), the waters of the world were filled with fishes of various shapes and sizes, all carrying shell-like armor such as the gars wear today.

The lungfishes, shown in the exhibit, are believed to be direct descendants of fishes which were probably the ancestors, during the course of evolution through the ages, of all later and higher forms of life. They were the great, great, great (and great multiplied perhaps a billion times) grandfathers of, first, the amphibians, now represented by our frogs, toads and salamanders; then of the reptiles which definitely forsook the water for habitation on land; and from them of the birds, whose direct ancestors were reptiles; and finally of the mammals, also derived through the reptiles.

Of the paddlefishes, so-called because of their long paddle-like snouts, very little is known. They are found in various waters, notably in the Mississippi Valley, and are valuable for their roe which makes excellent caviar. Of their habits, and the use they make of their long snouts, scientists have to date been able to learn practically nothing. The Nile fish called bichir, shown in the exhibit, seems to be related to the ancestors of most of the higher vertebrates, but not closely to living forms.

### EXHIBIT OF ANCIENT GLASS

The Museum's extensive exhibits of ancient glassware from Syria, Rome, Pompeii, Gaul, Mesopotamia and other centers of early civilization, have been improved and reinstalled in Edward E. and Emma B. Ayer Hall (Hall 2). Four large cases and part of another are devoted to this material. Many rare and unique specimens are included. The objects range in age from the first to the fifth century A.D.

That trade marks were employed in ancient times is indicated by the name of a manufacturer, "Froti," which appears in raised letters on the bottom of an oil bottle made in Gaul in the second century A.D. Many of the bottles and other vessels of various shapes were designed to hold cosmetics and perfumes, and are comparable to modern vanity equipment. Others were used for beverages, and some as amulets. Articles with Christian symbolical motifs

as well as pagan art are included, among them decorative vases, jars, cups, flagons, pitchers and other vessels.

Glass was invented in Egypt, whence its manufacture spread to Syria. Two cities in the latter country, Sidon and Tyros (Tyre), achieved a great reputation all over the ancient world for the quality of their glassware, which was traded to Asia Minor, Greece, Italy, Persia, China, and other countries. By the first century A.D. glassware was common in Italy, and glass drinking cups had superseded those of gold and silver. Glass factories were then established in Italy and in the Roman colonies in Spain, Gaul, Belgium, and the Rhineland. One of the chief attractions of ancient glass, as shown in the Museum's exhibit, is its iridescence, which is produced by chemical action under ground, exposure to dampness, and oxidation of metals used in producing colored glass. Nearly all technical processes of essential importance in glass manufacture were mastered in ancient times.

### Oldest Pewter Piece

What is believed to be the oldest piece of pewter in existence is on exhibition in the Edward E. Ayer Pewter Collection in Hall 23. It is an inscribed tablet bearing in Chinese a date indicating the year A.D. 85. It was found in a tomb in Lo-yang, province of Honan, China. This pewter document is a relic of the Han dynasty, and is executed as a deed or grant of land for the burial place of the governor of Tung-kün, who was a great scholar highly esteemed by his contemporaries.

### Preparator Abbott Dies

Mr. John B. Abbott, highly skilled preparator of fossil skeletons in the Division of Paleontology of the Department of Geology, died on August 6. Mr. Abbott, who was 61 years old when he died, had been employed at Field Museum since 1901, and, except for a few intervals on leave of absence, had worked here continuously since that time. He was a member of several Museum expeditions to the western United States, Canada and South America. A great number of the articulated skeletons and other specimens of fossil animals in Ernest R. Graham Hall were prepared for exhibition by him.

### Death of F. J. W. Schmidt

With deep regret news has been received of the tragic death of Mr. F. J. W. Schmidt, and Mrs. George W. Schmidt, his mother, in a fire which destroyed a farmhouse belonging to the Schmidt family near Stanley, Wisconsin, on the night of August 7. Mr. Schmidt was mammalogist of the Leon Mandel Guatemala Expedition of Field Museum in 1933-34, and was a brother of Mr. Karl P. Schmidt, Assistant Curator of Reptiles, who was leader of the expedition. In recent years Mr. F. J. W. Schmidt had been employed in special work for the Wisconsin Conservation Commission and the Department of Game Management of the University of Wisconsin. He had specialized in the study of mammals and was an authority on those of his own state. In 1924-25-26 he was employed as a special assistant in the Division of Reptiles at Field Museum.

A large collection of highly artistic fans, made of peacock, goose and eagle feathers, of painted and gilded gauze, and of other materials, is an interesting feature of the Museum's Chinese exhibits.





1935. "Exhibit of Ancient Glass." *Field Museum news* 6(9), 2-2.

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