

## AFRICAN BUSHMAN FAMILY DEPICTED IN BRONZE SCULPTURE

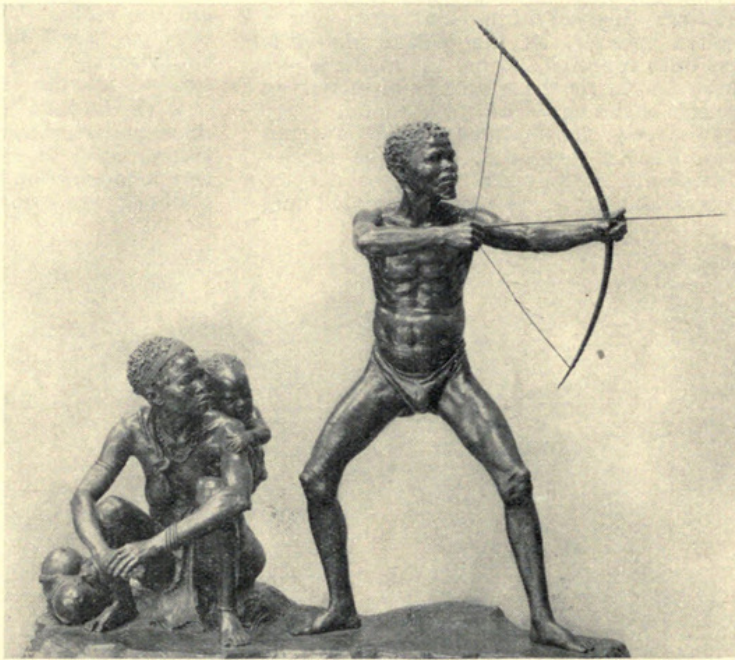
From a racial standpoint the Bushmen are the most interesting people south of equatorial Africa. These nomadic hunters, small in stature, are represented in Chauncey Keep Memorial Hall (Hall 3) by several notable bronzes among the Races of Mankind sculptures by Malvina Hoffman. Outstanding is a family group consisting of full length figures of a hunter and his wife and baby, the last being strapped to the mother's back. From this group, and from the head of a man and the bust of a woman also on exhibition, the visitor to the hall is able to obtain a splendid idea of the racial characters of this extremely primitive people.

At present the Bushmen are confined to the Kalahari Desert. They have a simple hunting culture comparable to that of Stone Age men in Europe some 50,000 years ago. They do not practise agriculture, but the women gather wild vegetable produce. They build crude huts for temporary shelter, and their arts and handicrafts are poorly developed. However, they have made some rock paintings and engravings which are remarkable for realistic depiction of animal life. They excel in the hunting arts—camouflaging themselves, making traps, marksmanship with bow and arrow, and in finding water in regions where the quest would seem hopeless. They have only the most elementary religious beliefs, interwoven with crude magical practices, and their social organization is of the simplest sort. They have a peculiar language in which clicks, variously inflected, play a large part.

The Bushmen have on their heads short frizzly hair which grows in separate tufts coiled into balls, and because of its appearance is known as "peppercorn" hair. There is very little hair on the face and body. The skin ranges in color from yellow to olive, and becomes markedly

wrinkled at an early age. The low-crowned head is extremely small, and in shape is intermediate between long and round. The face has a lozenge-shaped appearance due to the width of the cheekbone and the narrowness of the forehead, which is slightly protruding. The Bushmen have broader and flatter noses than are found in any other race. Their eyes are dark, often narrow, and slightly oblique. The average male is below five feet in height, and the women even shorter. In both sexes there is a peculiar development of the buttocks which is often extremely accentuated among the women.

Photogravure post cards, and larger size photographs of the Bushman group, and most of the other sculptures in the Races of Mankind series, are sold at the Museum. Mail orders are also handled. Institutions



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### Africans of Small Stature

Bushmen, one of the most primitive of peoples living today, as represented in bronze group by Malvina Hoffman in Races of Mankind series.

or individuals so desiring may make special arrangements to purchase reproductions in bronze, either in full or reduced size. Communications on this subject should be addressed to the Director of Field Museum of Natural History.

### Volcanic Vapor Vent

A vapor vent from the floor of the crater of Kilauea has just been added to the volcanic collection in Clarence Buckingham Hall (Hall 35). Much of the liquid lava in this crater is covered by a crust of cooled lava as the water of a lake in winter is covered by a crust of ice. This crust is penetrated by vents through which jets of steam and hot gases are flung high in the air. This steam and hot gas has so corroded the lava with which it came in contact that the vent appears to be lined with light gray in strong contrast with the almost black lava of the crust.

### Intaglios and Cameos

A very interesting collection of engraved gems, acquired in the early days of Field Museum's history, has recently been attractively reinstalled in H. N. Higinbotham Hall (Hall 31). Many of these gems are

intaglios or seals from signet rings. Because of their interest, excellent impressions which facilitate their enjoyment and study, have been made of each of the intaglios.

The remainder of the collection consists of cameos, some of which show delicate workmanship, rare beauty, and exquisite detail.

These engraved gems were cut from several varieties of quartz, such as smoky quartz, citrine, chalcedony, carnelian, chrysoprase, plasma, bloodstone, agate, onyx, sardonyx, and jasper. There are also some of topaz and lapis lazuli.

### Summer Visiting Hours Begin

Beginning May 1 summer visiting hours, 9 A.M. to 6 P.M., go into effect. The Museum will be open during these hours up to and including September 7 (Labor Day).

## MAY GUIDE-LECTURE TOURS

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

Friday, May 1—Birds of Beautiful Plumage.

Week beginning May 4: Monday—Races of Mankind; Tuesday—Native American Plants; Wednesday—Crystals and Their Uses; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Animals at Home.

Week beginning May 11: Monday—Musical Instruments; Tuesday—Plants and Their Blossoms; Wednesday—Moon and Meteorites; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Egypt.

Week beginning May 18: Monday—Asiatic Animal Life; Tuesday—Makers of Totem Poles; Wednesday—Native Philippine Exhibits; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Bows and Arrows.

Week beginning May 25: Monday—Cave Dwellers of the Old World; Tuesday—Palms and Cereals; Wednesday—Fishes and Reptiles; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Prehistoric Hall.

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 Rev. Brother Elias—35 herbarium specimens, Colombia; from Directoria de Plantas Texteis—34 specimens of textile plants, Brazil; from Museo Nacional—400 herbarium specimens, Costa Rica; from O. A. Oakes—21 study samples of woods, Hawaii; from Mrs. Ynes Mexia—18 herbarium specimens, Brazil; from School of Forestry, Yale University—65 herbarium specimens, Ecuador; from Professor Martin Cárdenas—80 herbarium specimens, Bolivia; from H. G. Metcalf—9 specimens upland diamond bearing ground, Brazil; from Walter J. Flesch—25 specimens of minerals; from William J. Chalmers—a kunzite crystal and a twenty-eight carat gem kunzite, California; from Chicago Zoological Society—a Galapagos turtle and 2 kangaroos, Galapagos Islands and Australia; from Arthur Patterson—a glass-snake, Indiana; from General Biological Supply House—sets of developmental stages of meadow frog and tiger salamander, Illinois; from Museo Nacional de Historia Natural—a coral snake, Argentina; from Leslie Wheeler—a red-tailed hawk, Illinois; from J. M. Simpson and A. W. Armour—a markhor, India; from Henry Dybas—a newt, Illinois; from Robert L. Fleming—a gavia skull, India; from Comte A. de la Chevasserie and from Walter Necker—valuable books for the Library.

### NEW MEMBERS

The following persons were elected to membership in Field Museum during the period from March 17 to April 15:

#### Life Members

Oscar Heineman.

#### Associate Members

Paul E. Darrow, Bernard H. Heide, Edward R. Hills, O. J. Schafer, H. Belin Voorhees, E. Frank Young.

#### Annual Members

Mrs. James S. Baley, L. H. Barkhausen, Mrs. Walter F. Beachy, V. D. Berry, Archie H. Cohen, Dr. Israel Davidsohn, Walter H. Flood, P. Martin Granstrom, Dr. Paul Headland, Mrs. Samuel H. Holland, Isidore Horween, A. C. Kussman, E. F. McDonald, Jr., Mrs. Paul Scott Mower, Leslie F. Muter, Guy L. Noble, Jacob S. Pohn, David Rockola, C. D. Ryan, Mrs. Flora Warren Seymour, Roger A. Simonson, Mrs. F. B. Steece, Gray B. Tuthill, Miss Mary E. Westphal.

### Wood Exhibits Aid Builders

Persons interested in the construction of buildings, or the manufacture of products involving the use of woods, find much assistance in selecting the woods best suited to their purposes by consulting the exhibits of American and foreign woods occupying two halls in the Department of Botany.





1936. "African Bushman Family Depicted in Bronze Sculpture." *Field Museum news* 7(5), 4-4.

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