

ROSE QUARTZ BOWL

A bowl, beautifully cut from an extremely large and flawless piece of rose quartz, is on exhibition in H. N. Higinbotham Hall (Hall 31, Case 14). Rose quartz is a stone much in vogue at present for necklaces and other jewelry. The bowl, which is translucent and beautifully marked, is of high value because of the extreme rarity of so large a block of this material as that from which it is cut, and because of the delicate quality of artistry in cutting which it exemplifies. It is twelve inches in diameter and six inches high.

The rose quartz from which the bowl was cut was obtained in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The cutting was done about sixty-five years ago by skilled artisans at Idar, Germany. So skillfully was this work performed that there is not the slightest fracture in the piece, although the walls have been ground down and polished to less than an eighth of an inch in thickness. The rose color of the quartz is unusually deep in this specimen, and the bowl is a remarkable example of the workmanship of the Idar lapidists, especially when it is considered that at the time it was made they worked only with wooden grinding wheels driven by water power. By using wheels of special shapes, and exerting the pressure of their whole bodies against them for many hours a day, the rough mass of quartz was converted into this delicately rounded and designed, symmetrical thin-walled bowl.

The bowl was received at the Museum as a gift from the late Richard T. Crane, Jr., former Trustee of the Museum. Mr. Crane contributed other valuable specimens also.

CHINESE TYPES PORTRAYED IN HALL OF RACES

Physical anthropologists have established various characteristics which distinguish the northern and southern Chinese from each other, although they belong to the same general racial group. Both are represented among the Races of Mankind series of sculptures by Malvina Hoffman in Chauncey Keep Memorial Hall (Hall 3), the northern by a full length figure of a Chinese coolie posed in the shafts of a jinricksha, and the southern by a bust of a Cantonese woman of the peasant class upon whose shoulder is seen a bamboo pole which is used for carrying loads.

The northern Chinese are further divided by anthropologists into two types, one of which appears to be allied to the southern Chinese, and the other to the eastern Tibetans. Although the Chinese as a whole are medium in stature, statistical data show that there is a tall element in the population paralleled only among the neighboring Tibetans, and to this element belongs the jinricksha coolie portrayed in one of the accompanying illustrations. In southern China the people are usually shorter in stature, and their heads are usually shorter, although the breadth remains fairly constant. The nose in the southern type usually appears slightly greater in width, and the color of the skin appears to be darker.

In spite of minor physical divergences as sketched above, the Chinese form a single racial unit, which has had sufficient strength to maintain its culture and traditions in the face of numerous invaders. Characteristic of the race are a head shape intermediate between long and round; yellowish-brown skin; oblique eyes with the Mongolian fold; and straight, black hair. The present republic of China extends over an area which may exceed 4,000,000 square miles, with a population of about 400,000,000.

There are several other Chinese types shown among the sculptures in the Museum. One shows an attractive Chinese woman in ornamented robes, and another a Chinese man of Shanghai. Both of these are busts carved in stone. In bronze are busts of a Chinese student, a Manchu man of Peiping,



Cantonese Woman

The physical type of the southern Chinese is exemplified by this bust of a peasant woman.

and of two types of scholars, one typifying the southern Chinese, and the other the central Chinese.

Photogravure post cards, as well as larger size photographs, of the sculptures of Chinese depicted here, and of nearly all of the other racial types in this series, are available at the Museum. They may be ordered by mail, if desired. Institutions or individuals may obtain also, under special arrangement, reproductions in bronze, either full or reduced size. The Director of the Museum will gladly furnish information on this subject to inquirers.



Jinricksha Coolie

Representative of the northern type of Chinese is this sculpture in the Races of Mankind series.

CAVE SALAMANDERS

BY KARL P. SCHMIDT
Assistant Curator of Reptiles

In a number of regions in various parts of the world systems of caves and of underground waters have existed for so long that there has been time for animals which enter them to become adjusted to life in such dark subterranean situations, and to have acquired striking modifications of structure associated with this unique environment. The most conspicuous of such modifications are the loss of pigment and the reduction or loss of eyes; and there is often a development of the tactile sense to replace the no longer useful sight.

A host of insects, spiders, crustacea, and other invertebrates have become cave animals in this way, and with them are found a considerable number of blind cave fishes and a very few salamanders. Of true cave salamanders only three are known—the well-known olm of the eastern Alps, the Ozarkian cave salamander of the cave region in Missouri and Arkansas, and the Texan cave salamander of underground waters in Texas, which first came to the surface in an artesian well at San Marcos.

The olm (*Proteus anguineus*) is a white creature, pink from the blood which shows through its skin, with an elongate body and much reduced limbs. A specimen is on exhibition in Albert W. Harris Hall (Hall 18). It has tufts of bright red external gills at the sides of the neck, and it is clear that it is a "permanent larva"—that is, a salamander in which the larva has acquired the ability to breed without transformation into the adult stage. The usual adult form is thus lost. This is a phenomenon otherwise well-known in salamanders, as in the American mud-puppy (*Necturus*), for example, and most conspicuously in the famous axolotl of the Mexican lakes, which may or may not reach adult form.

The two American cave salamanders represent distinct stages of progress toward the loss of eyes and of adaptation to the cave environment. The Ozarkian cave salamander, *Typhlotriton spelaeus*, described by Dr. Leonhard Stejneger in 1892, is a completely normal salamander in form, which has become nearly white, and whose eyes are recognizable only as dark spots in depressions on the head. It has a well defined larval stage, which loses its gills upon transformation into the adult form.

The Texan species (*Typhlomolge rathbuni*) was also made known by Dr. Stejneger. It is a much more remarkable, completely white and eyeless creature, a permanent larva with external gills, like the olm, but not much elongated. The limbs are of about normal length, but are so much reduced in diameter that they are entirely useless for locomotion. Apparently they are retained as tactile organs. The skin is completely colorless. On account of the presence of external gills it was at first thought that this species could be grouped with the olm and the mud puppy. A comprehensive examination of its anatomy has proved, however, that it is directly allied to the family Plethodontidae, which contains the majority of the American salamanders. It may be seen that the three cave salamanders are not directly allied, but represent three distinct offshoots of the salamander stock, which have become modified with their adoption of a completely subterranean life.

A collection of wooden masks and ornaments from Cameroon, West Africa, is on exhibition in Hall D (Case 4).

Photographs copyright Field Museum of Natural History



Schmidt, Karl Patterson. 1936. "Cave Salamanders." *Field Museum news* 7(7), 3-3.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/25711>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/355769>

Holding Institution

Field Museum of Natural History Library

Sponsored by

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the Chicago Field Museum.
For information contact dcc@library.uiuc.edu.

Rights Holder: Field Museum of Natural History

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.