

WHEELS AID TIBETANS IN SAYING PRAYERS

Saying one's prayers is made easy in Tibet by the use of "prayer wheels." The prayer is written or printed on long strips of paper resembling stock market ticker tape, on which the formula may be repeated a thousand times, thus supposedly adding to the efficacy of the prayer. The suppliant merely inserts the paper in the hollow cylinder of the wheel, and spins it around.

Each time the wheel revolves is equivalent to reciting the prayer aloud, and with the tape containing a thousand repetitions, the effect of saying the prayer a thousand times a second is accomplished, the Tibetans believe. The more often repeated, the more likely the prayer is to be answered by the gods, think these people, and often they will spin their wheels constantly at a rapid rate for several days.

A collection of such wheels is exhibited in Hall 32 (Case 3). They were obtained by the late Dr. Berthold Laufer, former Curator of Anthropology, while leading an expedition in Tibet. Most of the wheels exhibited are designed to be revolved by hand, but there is one equipped with a tin propeller to be spun by the wind, thus relieving the person seeking divine aid of still more of the effort involved in prayer.

The hand operated prayer wheels are made variously of brass, copper, silver and ivory. They are artistically decorated, and mounted on axles of wood or iron. To be effective, they must be turned from left to right, the Tibetans think. Every Lama priest and layman carries one of these instruments and keeps it in almost perpetual motion, Dr. Laufer observed.

Besides the hand wheels and small wind-propelled wheels, there are huge barrels turned by windmills or water power, which are set up in rows in the open air near villages or in the galleries of temples. These are sometimes thirty to forty feet high, and fifteen to twenty feet in diameter. In them is placed a complete collection of the canonical books of Lamaism. From a psychological point of view it is interesting to note that it is the mechanical process of motion which renders written prayer efficient—an idea which might more logically be expected to spring from our western civilization of machinery and rapid motion than from the ancient and slow-moving culture of Tibet.

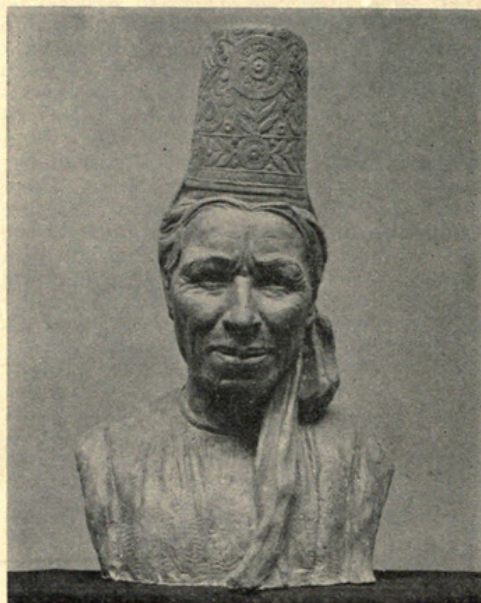
BRETON AND LAPP TYPES DEPICTED IN BRONZE

Among the European peoples represented among the Races of Mankind sculptures by Malvina Hoffman in Chauncey Keep Memorial Hall (Hall 3) are the Bretons and the Lapps.

The Bretons, who belong to the Alpine race, are natives of Brittany in the north-western part of France. In the Museum exhibit their physical characteristics are illustrated by a bronze bust of a Breton woman with her picturesque head-dress. The Bretons of the mountains are a broad-headed people. Their language, which is of the Celtic group, is spoken by approximately a million inhabitants. In clothing and habits the Bretons are very conservative; their costumes, which vary locally, are peculiar in cut and color. Bright red, violet and blue are much used. The Bretons cling with great attachment to their ancient customs, of which many are connected with seafaring and fishing.

The Lapps, represented among the sculptures by the bust of a man, are a people of Mongolian type having broad faces, and

round heads. They are short in stature, standing slightly above five feet. The skin is sometimes yellowish, and the nose broad although not so wide as in true Mongolians. Several types of Lapps are recognized, and



Breton Woman

Sculpture in bronze of a picturesque European type, among the Races of Mankind series.

these differ considerably in the degree to which they have inherited Mongoloid features. Some have a fair complexion and blue eyes, perhaps the result of a mixture of Mongolian and Nordic strains. The Lapps extend from the north of Norway, Sweden and Finland to the Kola Peninsula in Russia.



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Lapp

Representative of a sturdy seafaring folk of Mongolian type who inhabit parts of northern Europe.

In culture they are variable, but the typical Lapp is a wanderer and herder of reindeer.

Photogravure post cards, as well as larger photographs, of the sculptures depicted here, and of nearly all of the other racial types in Chauncey Keep Hall, 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 answer inquiries on this subject.

GUIDE-LECTURE TOURS

During August the conducted tours of the exhibits, under the guidance of staff lecturers, will be given on a special schedule, as follows:

Mondays: 11 A.M., Halls Showing Plant Life; 3 P.M., General Tour.

Tuesdays: 11 A.M., Halls of Primitive and Civilized Peoples; 3 P.M., General Tour.

Wednesdays: 11 A.M., Animal Groups; 3 P.M., General Tour.

Thursdays: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours.

Fridays: 11 A.M., Minerals and Prehistoric Exhibits; 3 P.M., General Tour.

There are no tours given on either Saturdays or Sundays.

Persons wishing to participate in the tours should apply at the North Entrance. The tours are free, and no gratuities are to be proffered. 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 Dr. A. B. Lewis—a betel-nut box of woven strips of bamboo, covered with lacquer and painted designs, Burma; from Dr. H. Sydow—100 herbarium specimens, Costa Rica; from University of Texas—238 herbarium specimens, western Texas; from Dr. Earl E. Sherff—20 specimens of *Bidens*, Pacific Islands; from Museo Nacional—1,019 specimens of orchids, Costa Rica; from Dr. F. C. Hoehe—17 herbarium specimens, Brazil; from Rev. Brother Cletus—310 herbarium specimens, Colorado; from C. I. Westbrook—one Kirkland's water snake, Chicago area; from Tom Birks—8 tiger salamanders, Chicago area; from John R. Schmidt—a box turtle, Kentucky; from Walter A. Weber—2 frogs, 2 lizards, and 2 snakes, Texas; from Henry Trellisch—a juvenile chimpanzee, Africa; from Lincoln Park Commissioners—2 oranges, Borneo, and one Burchell zebra, Africa; from Chicago Zoological Society—one Matschie's tree kangaroo, New Guinea; from Donald Farquhar, Jr.—one cephalopod, Illinois; from G. W. Wharton—one specimen cycad leaf in matrix, Oregon; from Sir Frank Colyer, from Dr. Earl E. Sherff, and from the Japan Society of New York—valuable books for the Library.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Associate Members

Mark A. Brown, Mrs. Grace L. Cowan, Mrs. Milton F. Goodman.

Annual Members

Henry T. Adamson, Mrs. V. J. Bert, John F. Bolton, O. S. Caesar, G. J. Cassells, Ralph Chapman, Miss Marian Fairman, Mrs. Carl Gallauer, Miss Edith K. Hammill, George H. Hempe, Lewis W. Hunt, Mrs. Leonard D. Karcher, Ambrose J. Krier, Mrs. S. W. McArthur, J. Ralph Pickell, Edward S. Rogers, Arnold C. Schuere, Frank E. Swanson, Raymond Yates, Arthur C. Youngberg, Irving Zimmerman.

Church Dignitaries Visit Museum

A recent visitor to Field Museum was His Excellency, the Archbishop of the Dubuque (Iowa) Diocese, the Most Rev. Francis J. L. Beckman, S.T.D. He was accompanied by Father William G. Kesler, Curator of the Columbia Museum, Dubuque. The purpose of the visit was to study the methods of this institution for suggestions in connection with the Dubuque museum which is in process of expansion under Father Kesler's curatorship.

New Marsupial Specimens

Several new and excellent specimens have been added to the exhibit of marsupials in the systematic collection of mammals in Hall 15. They were received at the Museum as a gift from the Chicago Zoological Society. Notable among them are an example from Australia of the gray kangaroo, largest species, and of the tree kangaroo, a curious variety from New Guinea.



1936. "Breton and Lapp Types Depicted in Bronze." *Field Museum news* 7(8), 4-4.

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