

## 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 (except Christmas and New Year's Day) 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.

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 for federal income tax purposes.

Endowments may be made to the Museum with the provision that an annuity be paid to the patron for life. These annuities are guaranteed against fluctuation in amount, and may reduce federal income taxes.

## THE FOREIGN TRADE OF ANCIENT KISH

BY RICHARD A. MARTIN

Archaeological evidence from the Field Museum-Oxford University Joint Expedition to Kish has added to our knowledge of the early foreign contacts of Sumer with the Indus Valley, Elam, and Anatolia.

Among the objects found at Kish are two stamp seals which depict the urus-ox before a symbolic standard, and are inscribed with the as yet undecipherable Indus script. These are undoubtedly imported pieces from the later phase of the Harappa culture in the Indus Valley. They are identified with the Early Dynastic Period III (circa 2700-2530 B.C.). Another evidence of contact at this time is the occurrence of many etched carnelian beads so characteristic of Indus sites, and probably of Indian manufacture. During this same pre-Sargonic period, relation with the north is shown by a rare find at Kish, a stone ax of typical Anatolian type.

In the Early Dynastic Period I (circa 3000-2800 B.C.), Kish was also at least in indirect touch with the early Harappa culture, as fragments of decorated steatite bowls similar to those of Susa have been found at Kish and Mohenjo-daro. Twin cosmetic jars of alabaster and beak-spouted stone vessels are also links respectively between Elam and Anatolia.

The earliest contact, in the Jemdet Nasr Period (before 3000 B.C.), is northward as indicated by the presence of highly polished fine black ware identical to the Chalcolithic of Anatolia and North Syria.

### Change in Visiting Hours

Effective November 1, and continuing until March 31, winter visiting hours—9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.—will be observed on weekdays at Field Museum; 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. on Sundays.

### THE "GOD OF BARBERS"

An imperial silk robe used to drape during periodic ceremonies the image of a strange and ancient Chinese god—the god of barbers, actors, jugglers and magicians—is on exhibition among the Chinese collections in Hall 32 (Case 36). It is believed to be the only robe of its kind ever brought from China to the United States, and was presented to the Museum jointly by Messrs. Henry M. Wolf and Martin C. Schwab, of Chicago.

The robe is made of the finest silk, woven exclusively for the emperors of old China. It is purple, with a black border, and a lining of Chinese imperial yellow. The purple is decorated in tapestry weave with an ornamental form of the character "shou" denoting "long life." This design is repeated about a thousand times.

The lining is stamped with four characters which translate into "made for the palace of Lü Tsu." Lü Tsu is the god for whom the robe was made. He was a sort of patron saint of Chinese barbers, actors and others, his godhood resulting from the deification of the Patriarch Lü or Lü Tung-pin, a historical personage of the eighth century A.D., famed as a sage, recluse and performer of miracles.

After his death Lü was worshipped by many people, but according to custom his deification required official recognition by an emperor. This did not come until several centuries later, when an emperor who had suffered much at the hands of careless bar-

bers was visited by the shade of Lü and given a painless shave, according to a legend. In gratitude the emperor extended recognition of Lü as a god, and he became one of the "Eight Immortals" of Taoist religion, and the patron of the Chinese tonsorial profession. The robe which the Museum now possesses was used to drape his statue for his birthday festivals in the temple erected for him at Peking (Peiping).

Lü's temple is even today frequented as a shrine by the sick. The patients shake a receptacle filled with bamboo rods, each numbered, until one drops out of the container. The number of this rod corresponds to a printed prescription which the priest in attendance hands to the supplicant. The latter has it filled by an apothecary. There are a hundred prescriptions for men, a hundred for women, and a hundred for children, displayed on the wall of the temple, and they are supposed to include remedies for all diseases.

### BABASSU

Babassu "nuts," and the oil obtained from them, have recently attracted some attention in the daily press due to economic and political discussions. The so-called "nuts" are the kernels of a large feather-leaved palm of northern and central Brazil, especially of the state of Maranhão where they exist in large quantities. For the last twenty years the kernels have been gathered for their oil content and exported, mostly to Europe. Germany and Holland have been the chief consumers, presumably using the edible fat in the preparation of soap and of butter substitutes, for both of which purposes it is said to excel coconut oil. The United States has until recently taken very little of the supply, but the rapid increase in its importation would indicate that the excellent qualities of this vegetable oil are becoming well known.

An entire bunch of the fruit of a babassu palm, dried fruits collected last year in the state of Piahy and cut in various ways to show their structure, variation in size and number of kernels, as well as a sample of babassu oil, are displayed by the Department of Botany in the palm collection in Hall 25 on the second floor.

### Staff Appointments

Mr. C. Martin Wilbur has been appointed Assistant Curator of Sinology in the Department of Anthropology. Mr. Wilbur, a graduate of Oberlin College, holds a master's degree from Columbia University for extensive studies and research in Sinology and anthropology. He has spent a large part of his life in the Orient, and is highly qualified in the Chinese language, and in Oriental archaeology and ethnology. As a fellow of the Social Science Research Council he gained practical experience in museum work at the United States National Museum. Last summer he was engaged in field work with a University of Chicago expedition making archaeological excavations in southern Illinois. Field Museum's Oriental collections and researches, developed so notably by the late Dr. Berthold Laufer, will be placed in Mr. Wilbur's hands for continuation.

Miss Marie B. Pabst has been appointed as a guide-lecturer on the staff of the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures. This appointment brings the number of lecturers to five, the maximum ever employed.





1936. "Babassu." *Field Museum news* 7(11), 2-2.

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