

## HUMAN TWINS AS GUINEA PIGS IN COFFEE AND TEA TESTS

BY B. E. DAHLGREN  
Chief Curator, Department of Botany

Except for reports by early travelers, the tea of China and the coffee of Arabia remained unknown in western Europe until the first part of the seventeenth century. The story of their introduction is lengthy and complicated. Appearing almost simultaneously, both found enthusiastic devotees, and both aroused lively opposition, often from official quarters. At first the new beverages were condemned as vain and useless affectations, then as insidious and dangerous foreign luxuries threatening the business of wine growers and brewers. It was said they dried up the juices of the body, deranging its natural functions, producing wakefulness and sedition, and causing early death.

As, in the course of time, both became firmly established in spite of opposition, the arguments for and against coffee and tea became chiefly those of partisans and promoters of one or the other. The controversy in the end was generally resolved in accordance with predominating national interests. England with its Oriental trade and tea plantations became a tea drinking country. Holland and France, with coffee plantations in the East and West Indies, became consumers principally of coffee.

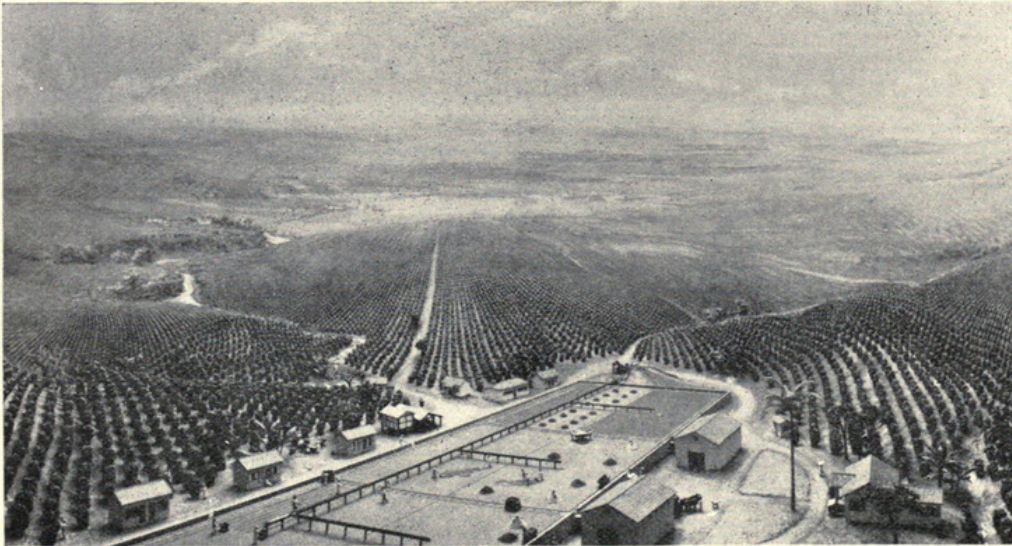
In the Scandinavian countries, where coffee and tea arrived rather late, both sides contended for a market. In the latter part of the eighteenth century the rival propaganda became so absurd and fantastic that the king of Sweden, Gustaf III, a liberal-minded and original monarch, became annoyed and sought means of putting an end to the extravagant and unsubstantiated claims of both parties.

Opportunity came when a pair of twin brothers, alike in every physical respect, were convicted of a murder and condemned

to death. Deciding to use them for an experiment which would forever settle the dispute over tea and coffee, the king commuted their sentences to life imprisonment with the provision that one of them should be made to consume daily a powerful potion of tea, the other an equivalent potion of coffee. Physicians from the two rival camps were appointed to follow the experiment and to watch and record its progress. For some time expectations ran high among both the tea and coffee factions, but the harmful effects predicted were so slow in manifesting themselves that public interest lagged, and even the physicians grew weary of watching. After some years one of the medicos died. The death of the other soon followed. Then, in 1792, the king was assassinated. But the punishment of the prisoners went on. For years after they had been forgotten by the outside world, they continued to consume their prescribed daily potion, which instead of bringing them the speedy death predicted had come to be their chief delight, serving to sustain their old age in prison. Finally one of the twins—the tea drinker—died at the age of 83, and the circumstances of their life imprisonment were recalled. The king's experiment was ended. Its outcome unquestionably was as if made to order for his subjects, for coffee has grown steadily in popularity in Sweden until its per capita consumption exceeds that of any other country of the world, the United States ranking second.

To King Gustaf III appears to belong the distinction of having been one of the earliest, if not the very first, to use for a well-conceived scientific experiment, what, according to description, must have been a pair of identical twins.

In Hall 25 of the Museum are models of coffee and tea plantations, a reproduction of a tea bush in flower and fruit, and an exhibit pertaining to the production and grading of coffee and tea.



Miniature of a Brazilian Coffee Plantation

One of the plant economics exhibits in Hall 25. Prepared in the Plant Reproduction Laboratories of the Department of Botany by Assistant John R. Millar, with a background by Staff Artist Charles A. Corwin. Accurately scaled, it shows in detail the activities connected with the commercial cultivation of coffee.

## Ancient Salt Block Recalls Story of Lot's Wife

A block of transparent rock salt like that into which Lot's wife was changed, according to the story in the Bible, and old enough to have been contemporary with her, has been presented to the Museum by Mr. Morris G. Morrison, of Evanston, Illinois, who lived for many years in Palestine. This

salt comes from the Jeban Usdum, meaning Mountain of Salt, on the shore of the Dead Sea. A cave in this mountain contains many stalactites of rock salt, one of which, also presented by Mr. Morrison, has been added to the collection of cave products in Clarence Buckingham Hall (Hall 35). The rock salt is exhibited in the salt collection in Frederick J. V. Skiff Hall (Hall 37).

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION REPORTS PROGRESS

In the first few weeks of operation, the Field Museum Archaeological Expedition to the Southwest, under the direction of Dr. Paul S. Martin, Chief Curator of Anthropology, has made a reconnaissance of ten square miles in the vicinity of Lowry Ruin. This is in the extreme southwestern portion of Colorado, close to Mesa Verde National Park and the Ute Indian Reservation. About 200 sites have been charted. Most are of the earliest horizon for this region and have never before been reported.

The searchers have been strung out along a half-mile front, about 100 feet apart, and have proceeded directly across country. In this way even the smallest, one-room dwellings have been reported. Each searcher is equipped with pottery sacks and identification tags for the specimens collected. When a site is discovered it is numbered, noted on a special map, and a careful collection is made of the broken pieces of pottery.

More than 3,500 broken bits of pottery have been brought into camp for washing, sorting, and classification. The locations of new sites are indicated on a large map of the entire region as soon as this work is completed.

Marked differences in types of culture have been noticed in the six-mile east-to-west stretch of the reconnaissance. In the eastern section, which is rolling country covered with sage and piñons, there are found ruins of "Basket Maker" dwellings only. No "Basket Maker" site has been dated at later than A.D. 650.

To the west, where there are deep canyons, barren ledge rock, and sand, there is an intermixture of "Basket Maker" and "Pueblo" or "Cliff-dweller" sites. The cliff-dwellings and pueblos probably date at A.D. 900 to A.D. 1100.

There is good chance of obtaining accurate dates for some of the sites discovered in this survey. A few are burned, with brick-hard adobe and charred roof-beams scattered over the surface of the ground. It is possible, by comparing the tree rings of these burned timbers with a master series for this region which dates back to the year A.D. 1, to obtain dates that are within plus or minus one of being the building dates of the sites.

Excavation has already begun on one of the "Basket Maker" sites.

## "ENDS OF EARTH" BROADCASTS LURE BOY FROM MISSOURI

Of the many visitors attracted to the Museum by the current radio series, "From the Ends of the Earth," the most enthusiastic thus far is Robert Kroening, 12-year old boy of Kirkwood, Missouri. Robert, on July 23, traveled all the way to Chicago from his home, a distance of several hundred miles, to join the special tour presented as a followup to the broadcast based on the Straus West African Expedition (on the air July 21).

Robert, who is a seventh-grade pupil at school, found it very exciting to see the habitat groups of African birds, the hunting of which had been dramatized on the radio, and to meet Curator Rudyerd Boulton, leader of the expedition. He told Director Clifford C. Gregg that he had listened to and enjoyed every one of the weekly programs since the series began on May 19, and intended to hear all that are to follow. He was especially interested in the program of adventures in the Philippines, and the experiences of Dr. Wilfred H. Osgood, Chief Curator of Zoology, in hunting the spectacled bear in Peru.



Dahlgren, B. E. 1937. "Human Twins as Guinea Pigs in Coffee and Tea Tests." *Field Museum news* 8(8), 7-7.

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