

## Field Museum of Natural History

Founded by Marshall Field, 1893  
Roosevelt Road and Field Drive, 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:

November, December, January, February	9 A.M. to 4 P.M.
March, April, September, October	9 A.M. to 5 P.M.
May, June, July, August	9 A.M. to 6 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.

## ACTING CURATOR APPOINTED FOR HARRIS EXTENSION

At a meeting held December 20, the Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Mr. John R. Millar as Acting Curator in charge of the Department of the N. W. Harris Public School Extension.

Mr. Millar has been a member of the Staff of the Museum since 1918. Previous to this appointment, he has been engaged in the Department of Botany in work of a type which, with his natural qualifications, especially fits him for important branches of the work in his new position. Techniques which he developed in preparation of botanical exhibits are applicable to use by his assistants in the creation of the traveling exhibits circulated by the Harris Extension among 434 Chicago schools with an enrollment of more than half a million pupils.

Mr. Millar was born and has lived most of his life in Chicago. He is a graduate of the Crane Technical High School, and furthered his education at the Armour Institute and the University of Chicago. He has been a member of three important botanical expeditions of the Museum: one to southern Florida in 1918-19; the Stanley Field Expedition to British Guiana in 1922, and the Marshall Field Expedition to Brazil in 1926.

The former Curator of the Harris Extension was the late Stephen C. Simms, who was in charge of the Department from its establishment in 1912 until his death last year, continuing to supervise it even after he became Director of the Museum in 1928.

## THINGS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

(It has been the policy of FIELD MUSEUM NEWS to feature chiefly articles and photographs pertaining to large exhibits of current or recent installation. While this will be continued, there are many items high in interest which, either because they are not outstanding in size, or perhaps because they were installed years ago, may have failed in recent years to attract the attention they deserve. The series of which this article is the first has been begun, therefore, to bring to notice some of these "things you may have missed.")



The Duck-billed Web-footed Platypus, a Mammal That Lays Eggs

Definitely a mammal, although it has a bill like a duck, webbed feet, and lays eggs, the platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus* Shaw), of eastern Australia and Tasmania, is indeed a curious animal. The only other egg-laying mammals are the echidnas, of Australia and New Guinea. These and the platypus form the order Monotremata.

The platypus lives in rivers, and digs burrows in the banks. It feeds on shellfish, water insects and their larvae, and other small aquatic creatures which it procures from the mud of the river bottoms. It is especially adapted to this mode of life by the duckbill-like development of its mouth, and by its broadly webbed feet.

The burrows are from twenty to thirty feet long, and have a nest chamber at the

end or at the side of the tunnel. In the nest, lined with grass or reeds, the female lays from one to three eggs, which she alone incubates. The young are not nursed for some days after hatching, but are held against the mother's abdomen by her tail.

The platypus was first described from a single specimen in 1799, but it was not until more specimens were secured that the existence of such a curious mammal was fully accepted.

—C.C.S.

## VOLUNTEER WORKERS ASSIST MUSEUM STAFF

A great deal of important work currently is being done in the Museum by volunteer workers in co-operation with members of the Museum Staff. Mr. Clarence Mitchell, expert photographer, is engaged on a project of making color pictures of outstanding material in the collections. Mr. P. G. Dallwig, "the Layman Lecturer," is conducting large parties of visitors on Sunday lecture tours. Mrs. Edna Horn Mandel is working with Curator C. Martin Wilbur in studies of Chinese paintings, and she has designed a special storage system to facilitate the use of this collection by students. Miss Elizabeth Hambleton, who has a degree in anthropology from the University of Chicago, is assisting Dr. Paul S. Martin, Chief Curator of Anthropology, in classifying pottery collected by the 1937 Field Museum Archaeological Expedition to the Southwest, in editing manuscripts, and in proofreading. Miss Fanny Sibley, for several years an American resident of Turkey, is assisting Curator Richard A. Martin in cataloguing potsherds from the Near East. Mrs. Hermon Dunlap Smith is engaged in a research project on plumage variation in wood-warblers, working in co-operation with Curator Rudyerd Boulton.

## ANCIENT HAIRNET

Hairnets such as were used by women in Egypt some 1,600 years ago are typified by one on exhibition in the hall of Egyptian archaeology (Hall J). Of Roman type, this net is estimated to have been fashioned between the third and fifth centuries after Christ. No attempt was made to achieve invisibility as in modern hairnets. This net is a heavy, knitted, ornamental cap-like item in bright red wool. According to archaeologists, the hair was swathed in linen veils until the head was about twice its natural size. Then the net was stretched over the wearer's already wrapped and covered hair. It was fastened by tying strings attached to it.

Displayed also are a bonnet and cap, both of linen, with plaid designs. In the bonnet, which resembles in cut what would today be termed a sunbonnet, there are embroidered lines in dark brown silk criss-crossing the tan linen. It is edged with blue-striped linen. The cap is interwoven with lines of blue silk. Both bonnet and cap consist of two halves stitched together, each half being lined with a coarser linen than that which showed when worn.

## Ferns of the Indiana Dunes

Mr. R. M. Tryon, Jr., published recently in the *Midland Naturalist* a list of twenty-six species of ferns from the Indiana Dunes at the southern end of Lake Michigan. In view of the fact that the Chicago region is considered rather poor in its fern flora, the number reported in this paper, based upon exploration extending over several years, is remarkably large. Mr. Tryon has presented to Field Museum a set of specimens.





Sanborn, Colin Campbell. 1938. "The Duck-billed Web-footed Platypus that Lays Eggs." *Field Museum news* 9(1), 2-2.

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