

FOOD FOR THOUGHT IN METEORITES

"Three reasons may be assigned for ascribing peculiar interest to the study of meteorites:

"First. They are our only tangible sources of knowledge regarding the universe beyond us.

"Second. They are portions of extra-terrestrial bodies.

"Third. They are a part of the economy of Nature. No survey of Nature can be considered complete which does not include an account of them."

From the book *Meteorites* by the late Dr. Oliver C. Farrington, former Curator of Geology at Field Museum, who was one of the foremost authorities on the subject.

were included. From these numbers, and the areas of the countries considered, Dr. Nininger has estimated that one meteorite fell during the 125 years for each 55½ square miles. It is not known how many meteorites have fallen unobserved, but assuming arbitrarily that ten may have fallen for each observed one, the figures

become one meteorite to each 5½ square miles of territory in the 125 years. When it is considered how small a part of the earth's surface is covered by living human beings, it is not strange that no one has yet been injured. The area covered by buildings is, of course, much larger, yet even here the proportion is so small that the wonder is not how few but how many buildings have been damaged.

As has been pointed out, the Benld meteorite is only the second one recorded in Illinois. The first was a meteorite that fell July 13, 1927, near Tilden, about 40 miles southeast of St. Louis. It imbedded itself in the ground. The larger part of Illinois Meteorite No. 1 is preserved in the Illinois State Museum, Springfield. A fragment of it, presented by that institution, is on exhibition in Field Museum's collection.



Close-up View of Benld Meteorite*

The size of the celestial stone may be gauged from the scale furnished by section of foot-rule. This photograph shows the black fused coating caused by friction during passage through the earth's atmosphere.

FIELD MUSEUM EXHIBITS AT TWO EXPOSITIONS

Field Museum will be represented in exhibits at two great expositions this year—the Golden Gate International Exposition at San Francisco, and the New York World's Fair.

The material loaned to the San Francisco exposition consists of a collection of ethnological objects from Borneo, Java, New Guinea, Sumatra, Cook Islands, Celebes, and other south Pacific islands. These objects will be displayed in an exhibit illustrating the cultures of the Pacific, and will be located in the exposition's Department of Fine Arts.

To the New York Fair the Museum is sending an Egyptian mummy which will be used in the exhibit of the General Electric X-ray Corporation to demonstrate the application of the fluoroscope in scientific research. An elaborate installation has been arranged whereby visitors will be enabled alternately to view the mummy's exterior and then, through the fluoroscope, its interior. This will be a central feature of the X-ray Corporation's exhibit.

The mummy to be used is that of a man who lived about 900 years before the beginning of the Christian Era. In Egyptian history, the period was that of the Twenty-first Dynasty. From inscriptions on the coffin lid, it is learned that the man's name was "Harwa," and that he was the Overseer of the Magazine (or storage houses) on the great farming estate of one of the temples of Amon, chief god of the empire. This was an important position, comparable to

that today of superintendent of an extensive agricultural or ranching enterprise. As at this time the priests in the temples had political power superior to that of the king, the farm-estate was probably similar to a state-controlled industry. Harwa probably had charge of granaries, fruits and vegetables, stocks of wool and other animal products, and wine cellars. No doubt, he had an army of subordinates and slaves at his command.

Pathological study of the mummy by means of the X-ray indicates that Harwa was probably about 40 years old at the time of his death. It is interesting to note that he had a most uncommon name—Egyptian archaeologists have never before encountered the name Harwa. The inscriptions on the coffin lid reveal very little about Harwa other than his name and occupation. The rest of the hieroglyphics with which it is covered constitute a common form of incantation or prayer for the welfare of the deceased in the after life.

Field Museum was invited to participate because of the pioneer work conducted at this institution, over a period of several years beginning in 1925, in developing, and successfully applying, a technique for x-ray photography on mummies and other types of specimens not previously studied in this manner. The results of these experiments are reported in the book, *Roentgenologic Studies of Egyptian and Peruvian Mummies*, by Professor Roy L. Moodie, Paleopathologist to the Wellcome Historical Museum, London (Field Museum Anthropological Memoirs Series, Vol. III, 1931).

As full credit will be given Field Museum in the exhibits at both expositions, many persons, who later may be visitors to Chicago, will thus become acquainted with phases of the work of this institution.

A Historic Collection of Algae

Mr. Philip W. Wolle of Princess Anne, Maryland, has placed on file in the Herbarium of Field Museum a considerable portion of the algal herbarium of his late grandfather, the Rev. Francis Wolle. Some 2,000 specimens of algae, including most of the material received by the Rev. Mr. Wolle in his exchanges with European workers during the years 1875-92, are thus being made available for study at the Museum. The remainder of Rev. Wolle's collection is in the Herbarium of the University of Pennsylvania.—F. D.

Complicated Curry

Curry powders, used so extensively in the East Indies for seasoning rice and various other foods, are made of a combination of spices. There are approximately forty recipes for preparing curry powder, all of which contain at least the following ingredients: fenugreek, garlic, ginger, peppers, tumeric, coconut, and nutmeg. One form, popular in Ceylon and parts of India, contains as many as forty different spices, and specimens of these are to be seen in the section devoted to exhibits of food products in Hall 25.—L. W.

Feather masks, fourteen and nineteen feet tall, from New Guinea, are displayed on life-size figures in Stanley Field Hall.



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