

EXHIBIT ILLUSTRATES LIFE OF CHINESE CHILDREN

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What does a Chinese school child look like, and what does he study today?

To answer these questions, particularly when asked by Chicago school children, Field Museum recently placed a new exhibit in Hall 32 (Case 38). To assure that the exhibition material would be authentic, the Museum asked Mrs. Elizabeth S. Stelle, who has lived for fifty years in intimate contact with the Chinese near Peiping, to secure complete outfits of used clothes, textbooks, and toys, together with class work and photographs, of two Chinese school children from middle-class families. Everything was in actual use when obtained.

The central characters of the new exhibit are Shih-pin Wu, a sixth-grade boy, and Chih-ping Wen, a fourth-grade girl. Both are natives of T'ung hsien, a typical old Chinese town about ten miles east of Peiping. Their art work—typically Chinese in its viewpoint—is shown in the back of the case. Small manikins are dressed with their clothes, while their illustrated school books, exercises, and native writing materials are all displayed. In the sixth grade Shih-pin Wu studies history, geography, reading in the Chinese classics, writing, nature study, and art. The Chinese girl in fourth grade concentrates on learning to read and write the difficult Chinese characters, but also studies hygiene, arithmetic, nature study, and art. T'ung hsien is in Japanese-occupied territory, yet it is entirely characteristic that the education of Chinese children continues as it has always continued in China during periods of economic and political stress. Photographs accompanying the exhibit show the children in their class rooms.

THINGS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

Hummingbirds

Hummingbirds have long held popular appeal as the jewels of the bird world. Few birds equal them in brilliance of color and variety of form. Their minute size, dazzling hues, speed of flight, and courage in the defense of their nests all combine to increase their fascination.

More than six hundred species and races of hummingbirds are known to science. These range in size from the delicate vervain hummingbird of Jamaica, smallest of all birds, whose total length is just over two inches, to the giant hummingbird of the southern Andes, which attains eight and one-half inches. All are characterized by slender mandibles, weak feet, and rapidity of wing movement in flight which gives rise to the buzzing noise from which their name is derived.

Hummingbirds are most closely related anatomically to the swifts, but superficially

resemble the Old World sunbirds by which they are rivaled in iridescence. The former, however, are restricted to the Americas, being most abundant in the Andes of Colombia and Ecuador. Only nineteen varieties occur north of Mexico, and of these only one, the ruby-throated hummingbird, is found east of the Mississippi River.

Twelve North American hummingbirds, including the colorful Anna's hummingbird of California shown in the accompanying illustration, may be seen in Hall 21 where more than one thousand North American birds are on display.

—E.R.B.



Tiny Birds

Hummingbirds and nest as displayed in Field Museum's systematic ornithological collection in Hall 21.

Staff Notes

Mr. Henry Herpers has been appointed Assistant Curator of Geology, and will assume his duties in July. He is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and specializes in chemistry.

Dr. Henry Field, Curator of Physical Anthropology, presented a paper on "Ancient and Modern Inhabitants of Iran" before the meeting of the Anthropology Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at Milwaukee, on June 21.

Mr. L. Bryant Mather, Jr., Assistant Curator of Mineralogy, presented a paper before the convention of the Rocks and Minerals Association held at Peekskill, New York, on June 17. Recently Mr. Mather was elected a junior member of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers.

FIELD MUSEUM CO-OPERATES IN RECREATION PROGRAM

Field Museum participated in a conference on industrial recreation, sponsored by University College of Northwestern University, with the co-operation of the Adult Education Council and numerous other organizations interested in the better use of leisure time, held at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, June 14 and 15. The conference was organized in three main divisions: sports and athletics, social activities and hobbies, and cultural activities.

Under the division of cultural activities, in a section devoted to museums, Field Museum was represented by a display of photographs and printed material designed to outline briefly the story told by its exhibits, and to suggest that in this institution there exist resources and facilities for recreation and fascinating studies in the arts and sciences.

Mr. Loren P. Woods, of the Museum staff, was in attendance during the period of the conference to answer questions and distribute information about the Museum.

EGYPTIAN BOAT IN MUSEUM AMONG FIVE OLDEST

Some of the fine points of marine architecture and shipbuilding, used to this day in the construction of yachts, were known and used by the ancient Egyptians 4,000 years ago. This is revealed by inspection of an ancient Egyptian boat on exhibition in the Hall of Egyptian Archaeology (Hall J) at Field Museum.

So far as is known, this boat is one of the five oldest now in existence. It was built during the Twelfth Dynasty, and was used in an important mortuary ceremony. Cedar, still considered one of the finest of woods for the building of small craft, was used in its construction, and its preservation through all these years is considered largely due to the selection of this timber. The boat is just a few inches under 32 feet in length, and it has a beam of 8 feet, and draft of 4 feet. These proportions are close to popular average sizes of modern motor cruisers and sailing yachts. In design of underwater body, midship section, and rake of the stern, the Egyptian vessel resembles closely many modern racers.

The boat was excavated near the Dahshur pyramid of Sesostri III, about twenty miles above Cairo, and several miles from the Nile. It had been buried after use in the mortuary ceremony.

Mr. Rudyerd Boulton, Curator of Birds, last month attended the annual meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union, held in Berkeley, California. Mr. Boulton is Treasurer of the organization, and Business manager of its quarterly journal, *The Auk*.



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