

to such extremes that he even rolled, moistened with his lips, and lit cigarettes for us. Divertissement was provided by two colored dancing girls who constantly swayed and pirouetted around the table. On the way back to camp, confusion was produced when the donkeys and mules scented hyenas. My donkey put his heels high and his head low suddenly, and I sailed over his ears."

#### SWIMMING ON A SUMMER CHRISTMAS DAY

Mr. Elmer S. Riggs, Curator of Paleontology, arrived one Christmas morning in southern Argentina, to collect fossil animals. At that latitude the heat of summer was just coming on, and he and his companions spent part of Christmas Day swimming in the sea—it seemed like the Fourth of July. Christmas dinner was enjoyed in an adobe building operated by an Italian as a hostelry. Wild goose was served on a table decorated with spring flowers. The host used a large fossil bone as a center-piece in honor of the paleontologists. The prying eyes of small native boys crowded the windows to watch the "gringos" celebrate.

#### EXCAVATING A CITY OF 3000 B.C.

"*'Sitta sa'a wa nuss, Sahib, mai harr* (Six-thirty A.M. sir, your hot water)"—these were the first things I remember of Christmas morning, 1927, as an Arab servant shuffled into my small mud hut at Kish, Iraq," reminisces Dr. Henry Field, Curator of Physical Anthropology. "Breakfast at seven in the cold and damp underground dining room, and a cold drive alone in an open touring car across the windswept desert to the great temple complex dedicated to the Earth Goddess—Harsagkalemma. Two hundred and fifty local Arab workmen were awaiting my starting signal—both hands raised above my head. All day long walls and rooms of buildings 5,000 years old were unearthed. Two human skeletons, and simple grave furniture were recovered. At sunset a horseman galloped up bearing cabled greetings from President Stanley Field of the Museum in Chicago, and from Professor Stephen Langdon, Director of the Field Museum—Oxford University Joint Mesopotamian Expedition, who was in England. After a special dinner in which Shemu, the Armenian cook, excelled himself, we drank a toast to absent friends, and soon retired to our mud huts.

"Overhead *Miazan*, the great Dipper, looked very close. Jackals barked in the distance. Our armed sentries paced the camp with an occasional challenge of '*Menu hadha?* (Who goes there?).' A rifle shot rang out—a jackal, perhaps, had ventured too close to camp. I fell asleep."

#### AN ICY NIGHT IN THE TROPICS

One Christmas was made memorable to Mr. Paul C. Standley, Curator of the Herbarium, during a botanical expedition in Honduras, by the presence of a chained

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## "CHRISTMAS ANIMALS" AMONG FIELD MUSEUM EXHIBITS

The Christmas season is a good one during which to bring young children on a visit to Field Museum. Here they may see some of the most famous of "Christmas animals"—the reindeer, associated for so many years

the American caribou are really reindeer is not generally known, states Dr. Wilfred H. Osgood, Chief Curator of the Department of Zoology, but, he says, they are in fact so closely related to the Old World species



North American Reindeer

That the caribou of Alaska, shown in the above photograph of a habitat group in Hall 16 of the Museum, are really reindeer is not generally recognized. In fact, however, they are so closely related to the Old World species, whence domestic reindeer were derived, that early zoological works did not classify them separately.

with the Santa Claus legend; and also the nearest approximation in nature to the perennially popular "Teddy bear." The "Teddy bear" is a strange anomaly. Inspired by the grizzly-bear hunting exploits of the late President Theodore Roosevelt, and named for him, the toy as usually produced actually resembles the strange and charming little mammal of Australia known as the koala much more than it does any kind of real bear. The "Teddy bear" has remained to the present day one of the most beloved of all types of toys given to small children. At the Museum, children may see the koala to which it bears such a striking resemblance, and also the grizzly bear which may be regarded as its real "ancestor," as well as many other kinds of bears.

In recent years, due to the great publicity achieved by giant pandas, toy representations of that animal have come to rival the "Teddy bear." Children visiting Field Museum may see the first giant panda specimens ever to reach America—those collected by Colonel Theodore Roosevelt and Mr. Kermit Roosevelt, sons of the President who inspired the "Teddy bear" vogue—in a habitat group in William V. Kelley Hall (Hall 17), and also the famed Su-Lin, late of the Brookfield Zoo, now occupying a conspicuous place in Stanley Field Hall.

The reindeer is represented at Field Museum by a habitat group of Alaskan caribou in the Hall of North American Mammal Habitat Groups (Hall 16). That

from which the domestic variety was derived, that in early zoological classifications they were regarded as the same species.

The animals in the habitat group were collected by the Thorne-Graves-Field Museum Arctic Expedition.

The koala is one of the marsupials or pouched mammals, all of which are now confined to Australasia and America.



Nature's "Teddy Bear"

The koala, of Australia, which in appearance more closely resembles the perennially popular Christmas toy than any bear or other animal. When very young the koala's offspring are carried in a pouch, like those of a kangaroo or opossum; a little later they ride their mother's back, as shown in the above exhibit in Hall 15.





1939. "'Christmas Animals" Among Field Museum Exhibits." *Field Museum news* 10(12), 5-5.

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