



Figure 4. The finishing touches. The whiskers must be reset, and faded spots in the skin must be retouched.

like contours, so essential to a good exhibit.

In Figure 4, Mr. Eigsti is seen applying the finishing touches. The whiskers, removed before tanning to prevent their being spoiled or broken, are reset by the taxidermist. Any spots in the skin where the color may have faded are retouched. *Dinomys* is then ready to make his debut in the exhibition hall where, for years to come, he will be seen by thousands of people.

EXPEDITION'S HERPETOLOGIST RETURNS FROM PERU

Bringing extensive collections of the animals of Peru, Mr. Karl P. Schmidt, Curator of Amphibians and Reptiles, and a member of the Magellanic Expedition of Field Museum, returned to Chicago last month.

Other members of the expedition—the leader, Dr. Wilfred H. Osgood, Chief Curator of Zoology; Mr. Colin C. Sanborn, Curator of Mammals, and Mr. John Schmidt, field assistant—are remaining in the field, with several months more of work before them. The last reports indicated that they would be collecting in extreme southern regions of South America, along the Straits of Magellan, at the time this is published. There they will continue the research begun in 1834 by Charles Darwin on the famous cruise of the *Beagle*.

Mr. Schmidt brought back approximately 500 specimens of mammals, 250 birds, 1,200 reptiles and amphibians, 400 fishes, and a number of insects and invertebrates. The great majority are of species entirely new to the collections of Field Museum, and therefore of great importance to zoological research. Of special interest are specimens of a chocolate-red mouse whose scientific name is *Akodon pulcherrimus* meaning "most beautiful akodon," and another somewhat larger rodent, known locally in Peru as the "rata Andina." These were collected in the Andes at altitudes above 15,000 feet, which represents perhaps the pinnacle of rodent habitats. No examples of these species have reached the United States before, and the present collection is more extensive than any other in the world, Mr. Schmidt says. Another

noteworthy rodent collected, called the vizcacha, is about the size of a rabbit, and similar to it except for the presence of a long tail. By special permission, the expedition obtained a specimen of the vicuña, one of the South American members of the camel group, which is strictly protected by the Peruvian government.

The reptiles and amphibians in the collection represent specialized species which have been adjusted in the evolutionary process to withstand the severe climate of high altitudes (up to the snowline) in the mountains. Included are many lizards, and frogs of large varieties which inhabit Lakes Titicaca and Junin. Especially noteworthy are a moderate sized lizard, and numerous frogs of the genus *Telmatobius*.

Mr. Schmidt collected lizards also on the Chincha Islands off the Peruvian coast. These islands are of particular biological interest. The co-operation of Mr. William Vogt, biologist in charge of research for the Guano Company, contributed much to the success of this part of the expedition.

Mr. Schmidt, and his son John, were the first Americans to travel by truck on new roads which have just been opened between Lima and Arequipa, and on connecting roads which lead into regions that were formerly inaccessible. They conducted biological reconnaissance over most of the coastal desert, a region remarkable for its characteristic lack of vegetation in all but the narrow valleys crossing from the mountains. The latter are the habitat of an abundant fauna of lizards and snakes in northern Peru, which dwindles to only two species toward the south.

LEAFLET ON HOUSE PLANTS

For the benefit of city dwellers who enjoy gardening, but whose activity is restricted by their residence in hotels and apartments, Field Museum Press has published a leaflet entitled *House Plants*. Mr. Robert Van Tress, well-known horticulturist on the staff of Garfield Park Conservatory, is the author. The leaflet lists, describes, and illustrates in collotype plates twenty-nine of the principal plants and flowers available, and practical, for cultivation in window boxes and flower pots. The characteristics of each of these plants are set forth, and suggestions are given for their care. Included also is a supplementary list of fifty-six other plants suitable for window gardening. (Price 35 cents.)

Physical Anthropology Exhibit

Supplementing the sculptured racial studies by Malvina Hoffman, in Chauncey Keep Memorial Hall, are exhibits illustrating phases of physical anthropology. These include an analytic display of skulls, skeletons, and models of brains; color charts of skin and eyes; casts of hands and feet, and colored transparencies depicting further characteristics of some of the racial types shown by the sculptures.

MUSEUM ANTHROPOLOGIST FINDS NEW WHITE RACE GROUP

A new fundamental division of the white race, not hitherto known to anthropologists, has been discovered among the inhabitants of Iran (Persia) as the result of an expedition of Field Museum.

This was revealed with the publication on December 15 of a book, *Contributions to the Anthropology of Iran*, by Dr. Henry Field, Curator of Physical Anthropology. This work, in two volumes containing 706 pages of text accompanied by twenty-three maps and text figures, and 144 full-page collotype illustrations, is based upon data collected during the Field Museum Anthropological Expedition to the Near East, which was led by Dr. Field, and sponsored by Mr. Marshall Field, a Trustee of the Museum.

The book is the first comprehensive account of the ancient and modern inhabitants of Iran, and represents five years of compilation and intensive research. Many other new facts about these people, of importance to anthropologists and archaeologists, are made known in it.

The new division of mankind, which Dr. Field has labeled the "Iranian Plateau Race," appears to be of equal importance with the well-known classical Nordic, Mediterranean and Alpine divisions of humanity, in the anthropologist's opinion. The main physical characteristics of these people, as described in the book are: light or slender body; light to medium brown skin; dark brown, wavy hair; long and narrow head; elongated and narrow face; brown eyes; large, high, moderately broad convex nose; square jaw and prominent chin.

Of special interest is Dr. Field's theory that this Iranian Plateau race may well be the original source from which the large convex type of nose became diffused among many racial stocks, including the Jews of southwestern Asia.

In addition to a detailed study of the racial composition of the modern inhabitants and their general relationships to the adjoining peoples, the book contains a description of the geography of each province, with lists of the tribes and sub-tribes found inhabiting each. One chapter is devoted to historical references to the peoples of Iran from Herodotus (circa 445 B.C.) down to 1938.

Chinese Jades

More than a thousand examples of carved jade from China are exhibited in Hall 30—a collection which alone is worthy of a special visit to the Museum. The pieces are arranged in chronological order from the early archaic period (about 2000 B.C.) down to the end of the nineteenth century. On the walls of the hall are an embroidered screen of the K'ang-hi period and an imperial tapestry of striking beauty.



1940. "Chinese Jades." *Field Museum news* 11(1), 5-5.

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