

ANCIENT HORSESHOES

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On exhibition in Case 15 in the Hall of the Stone Age of the Old World (Hall C) is a pair of small iron horseshoes. These relics of the latest cultural phase of the Lake-Dweller period were excavated on the shore of Lake Neuchâtel in Switzerland by Dr. J. Thiessing, some fifty years ago. No accurate date can be assigned to them.

In ancient times socks or sandals were devised to protect the horny casing of a horse's hoof against wear and tear, but there is some evidence that iron horseshoes were used as early as 333 B. C. at the Battle of Issus. They were commonly known by the fifth century and in regular use in the Middle Ages. It is said that William the Conqueror introduced into England the custom of shoeing horses, and the importance he attached to the practice is shown in a story to the effect that he gave the town of Northampton to the inspector of the farriers, and bestowed upon that gentleman the name Ferrers. The coat of arms of the Earl of Ferrers is still adorned with a horseshoe. Northampton is famous today for the manufacture of boots and shoes.

The origin of the belief that "a horseshoe brings good luck" is not known. There is one theory that it grew out of the use of charms; another, that it is connected with the belief that there is good luck in the crescent moon, owing to the similarity in shape. The Irish say that a horse was in the stable where Christ was born and that the magic came from this circumstance; and some people believe that the superstition originated at the time of the feast of the Passover, when blood sprinkled over doors in the pattern of an arch saved the children of the Jews from the wrath of God. There are many other theories. At any rate, as early as the first century of our era the horseshoe was being recommended by Pliny as a protective charm and even as a healing agent.

It is common in country places to-day, in different parts of the world, to see a horseshoe nailed on a stable door, hung on the ceiling over the horses, or fastened to the wall of a cow-barn, "to keep off the pixies." Even in our urban world the custom of wearing a miniature horseshoe on a chain or watchfob is not unusual, and the door of many an inn bears this emblem of a superstition based, in modern times, on the vague tradition that a horseshoe brings good luck.

Adult Graduation in Simpson Theatre

The adult department of the Chicago Public Schools held its graduation exercises in the James Simpson Theatre of Field Museum on June 13. More than 1,000 men and women, mostly foreign born, received certificates and diplomas.

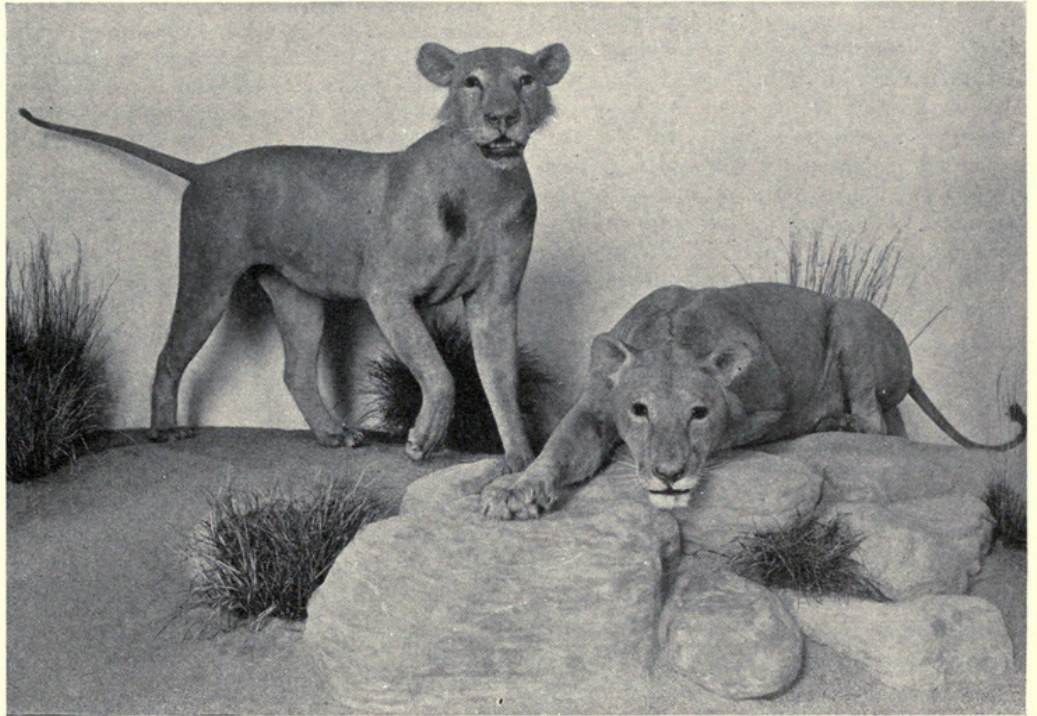
A FAMOUS GROUP—THE MAN-EATING LIONS OF TSAVO

The lions shown in the group illustrated here are known as "the man-eaters of Tsavo." Of all records of man-eating lions, theirs is the most extraordinary. They were known to have killed twenty-eight coolie laborers, several white men, and many African natives, and were thought to have been responsible altogether for the deaths of more than one hundred human beings.

Lions usually prey upon game animals, especially zebras and antelopes, and they

rule rather than the exception. In fact, wild lions never have such fully developed manes as do those kept in captivity.

The group, a gift to the Museum from President Stanley Field, is on exhibition in Carl E. Akeley Memorial Hall (Hall 22). The lions were shot by Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Patterson, of the British army, engaged as a civil engineer during the building of the Uganda railroad, whose laborers were the lions' victims. An illustrated leaflet by Colo-



Killers of More Than One Hundred Men

The "man-eating lions of Tsavo" as now exhibited in Carl E. Akeley Memorial Hall at Field Museum. For many months they were a terrific problem to the builders of the Uganda railroad. After they had carried off scores of laborers, they were finally shot by Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Patterson from whom the specimens were obtained for the Museum by President Stanley Field. Although they are without mane, both of these animals are males.

rarely develop the man-eating habit where these are abundant, as in East Africa. When they do, however, their cunning and ferocity are almost beyond belief.

Although both these lions are males, they have no manes. In many parts of Africa, especially the more arid ones, this is the

nel Patterson, *The Man-Eating Lions of Tsavo*, published by Field Museum Press, is available at The Book Shop of the Museum. Colonel Patterson is author also of a larger book telling in detail the complete story of these famous lions, how they were hunted, and how they were finally killed.

EXHIBIT SHOWS ARCHAEOLOGY OF SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

A collection of artifacts representing the archaeology of southern Illinois and Arkansas is on exhibition in Hall B of the Department of Anthropology. The archaeology of the middle Mississippi River area, of which these regions are parts, is characterized chiefly by mounds and excellent pottery. Many of the smaller mounds are conical and were used for mortuary purposes. Large rectangular platform-mounds served mainly as substructures for public buildings, although burials were often placed beneath the floors of these structures. There is good evidence for believing that the prehistoric Indians of this

area were influenced in building these mounds by cultural influences from the Mexican area.

The pottery of this area, which ranks among the best of all the mound region, and which is well represented in the Museum exhibit, is generally shell-tempered, and is made in diverse forms, such as bottles, bowls, vases, dishes and effigy-shapes. Uncolored ware predominates, although red-and-white vessels are common. Most of this material was made about the tenth century of the Christian era. The material in the Museum collection is chiefly from Union County, Illinois, and from Cross and St. Francis Counties, Arkansas. Many pieces portray human and animal forms in varying degrees of conventionalization.



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