

THINGS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

A Gold Earring from Kish

An elaborate gold earring found in a grave belonging to the period of Nebuchadnezzar II, who ruled over the great Neo-Babylonian Empire about 2,500 years ago, is on exhibition in the new Hall of Babylonian Archaeology (Hall K—see page 1). Until recently, pending completion of Hall K, it was exhibited in Stanley Field Hall.

The earring was unearthed in 1931 by the Field Museum-Oxford University Joint Expedition to Mesopotamia, and observations by the expedition personnel make plausible the suggestion that it may have been worn by a lady at the court of King Nebuchadnezzar.

This earring is one of the most beautiful objects ever found in Mesopotamia, and bears eloquent witness to the artistic ability of the Babylonian craftsmen. The upper part is composed of a wire gold loop for attachment to the ear lobe. The remaining portions of the earring are hollow and were fashioned separately from thin gold sheet and then delicately fused together. One end of the loop is attached to a lunate ornament decorated with three rows of tiny repoussé beads. Below this is a fluted ball fastened to a plain collar, decorated around the base with the small bead motif; and beneath that is a larger fluted ball, from which hang two rows of six globes. At the base of each small globe is a pyramidal ornament of six round beads in the shape of a grape cluster. The central lower portion of the earring consists of two larger beads placed one above the other and terminated by a cluster of ten small beads.

Many other earrings of gold, silver, and bronze are also on exhibition, representing various periods from 3000 B.C. to A.D. 400.



Ancient Earring

SOME WIND CUT PEBBLES OF THE GLACIAL EPOCH

BY BRYANT MATHER
ASSISTANT CURATOR OF MINERALOGY

The erosional action of water is well known. Not so well known is the action of wind-blown sand and dust. The Department of Geology of Field Museum has received, as a gift, a series of six pebbles which show that there was intense wind erosion taking place in western Cape Cod and contiguous areas of eastern Massachusetts at the time when the last of the ice of the

glacial epoch was melting. The pebbles represent several types of rock, and show several sorts of wind abraded forms. They were obtained from Dr. Lincoln R. Thiesmeyer, Assistant Professor of Geology at Lawrence College, Appleton, Wisconsin.

These pebbles are of especial interest not only because they show modification in shape by wind cutting, but also because they were found in undisturbed deposits of till and outwash, two forms of glacial debris. From this fact, it can be shown that their cutting took place during the later substages of Wisconsin glaciation during recession and local readvance of the ice, and was completed before the entire disappearance of ice blocks.

They show a less high polish than most recent wind-cut pebbles or *ventifacts*, as they are called. It is not determined whether this is due to the removal of original polish during the thousands of years throughout which they have lain in the ground, or to their never having had a high polish developed on them.

The pebbles were collected by Dr. Thiesmeyer and his colleagues, Dr. Richard P. Goldthwait and Dr. Kirtley F. Mather, on an expedition under the auspices of the United States Geological Survey in the summer of 1939. A paper written by these three geologists, describing the forms and occurrence of the pebbles, was read at the December, 1939, meeting of the Geological Society of America in Minneapolis.

This group of six pebbles not only shows the effects of the wind as an erosional agency, but also serves to illustrate one of the ways in which we may reconstruct conditions as they existed thousands of years ago. Our understanding of past conditions is based on the effects which these conditions had upon the objects which survive today from those distant times. Since this understanding depends, in this case, upon our having correctly understood the evidences of wind abrasion on modern pebbles, these glacial ventifacts have been placed on display in Clarence Buckingham Hall (Hall 35, "Weathering" Case) in association with the collection of recent ventifacts brought together from many parts of the world.

Up-to-date Egyptology

Two little boys were in the Egyptian section of Field Museum gazing at a mummy. Over it hung a card bearing the inscription, "1187 B. C." "Gee, Jimmie," said one, "what do you suppose that sign means?" "Aw," said Jimmie, "that's the license number of the car that killed him."—Mrs. J. Semrau, 3652 Christiana Avenue, Chicago.—*Chicago Sunday Times*.

Of special significance in demonstrating the theory of evolution is a "family tree" of amphibian and reptile skeletons on exhibition in Hall 19.

SOUTH DAKOTA FOSSIL DEPOSITS YIELD NOTABLE SPECIMENS

A collection that gives promise of being one of the best representations of the fossil mammals of the Rosebud Beds in South Dakota has been obtained by Field Museum's current paleontological expedition, according to reports received from Mr. Paul O. McGrew, of the Department of Geology staff, who is the leader.

The specimens collected are of early Miocene age (about 18,000,000 years ago), and among them are a number of skeletons and skulls of the extinct ungulates known as oreodonts, extinct peccaries, camels, and horses. Also included is an especially fine representation of extinct species of rodents, some of which are believed to be of kinds hitherto unknown to science. Nearly all of the material obtained represents mammals not previously represented in Field Museum's collections.

The excavations have been principally in the vicinity of Wounded Knee, famous as a battlefield during the later Indian wars of the nineteenth century. The expedition has now shifted its operations to northwestern Nebraska where the skeletons of small prehistoric camels are being excavated. Mr. McGrew is accompanied by Messrs. John Schmidt and Ellsworth Shaw, and by local collectors.

Gift to Museum Library

From Dr. Embrik Strand, of the Sistematiskas Zoologijas Institut, Riga, Latvia, the Library has received a much appreciated gift—the five volumes of the *Festschrift* dedicated to Dr. Strand's sixtieth birthday.

A HANDY MANUAL FOR IDENTIFYING TREES

"For the would-be arborealist who knows little or nothing about common trees and shrubs, and yet wishes to be able to name them easily, the simplest and most readily usable pamphlet is *Learn the Trees from Leaf Prints*," says Dr. Julian A. Steyermark, Assistant Curator of the Herbarium at Field Museum. "Large illustrations of 194 common trees and shrubs are included, enabling the beginner to match easily a majority of the leaves he may encounter in a single season in any of the central or eastern states. All that he needs to do is to pick a leaf and then match it with one of the prints shown in the booklet. This manual should be especially useful for boy scouts and high school students who regularly make collections of leaves."

On sale at THE BOOK SHOP of FIELD MUSEUM—\$1.



Mather, Bryant. 1940. "Some Wind-Cut Pebbles of the Glacial Epoch." *Field Museum news* 11(8), 7-7.

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