

BOTANICAL EXPEDITION LEAVES FOR GUATEMALA

A botanical expedition, led by Mr. Paul C. Standley, Curator of the Herbarium, left Chicago September 30, to continue the explorations in Guatemala conducted by Curator Standley and Assistant Curator Julian A. Steyermark on two similar expeditions (1938-40). The ultimate purpose is preparation of a descriptive and illustrated account of the plants of Guatemala, whose flora is more varied than that of any other country of Central America, and quite possibly richer in number of species. Mr. Standley will sail from New Orleans for Puerto Barrios aboard the steamship *Zacapa*.

During the winter of 1938-39 Mr. Standley spent seven months in Guatemala, visiting all except two of the departments. Dr. Steyermark collected intensively in many departments also. However, because of the exceedingly varied topographic features, there still remain important areas whose flora has not yet been investigated. Some of these, such as the great Department of Petén whence comes much of the chicle used in a Chicago industry, are so difficult of access that their flora is not likely to be well explored for many years. However, the government at present is extending a long road into Petén, so that during the coming winter it may be possible to reach even that region by automobile.

Exploration of any sort in Guatemala is greatly facilitated by the splendid system of roads built and well maintained by the present government, says Mr. Standley. The effectiveness of botanical exploration is greatly enhanced also by the cordial attitude of the people, whether public officials or private citizens, he states.

The present expedition is leaving early in the season in order to reach Guatemala before the summer rains and their effects have ended. The country has approximately six wet and six dry months, the latter coinciding with the autumn and winter of the north. In many parts of the country there always is sufficient moisture to support a continuous abundance of growing plants, but in other parts the vegetation during winter months is almost as greatly reduced as in the United States. It is necessary to visit these areas before too many of the plants have been killed by cold and drouth.

Mr. Standley expects to spend about seven months in the field. Work will be conducted primarily in the numerous regions from which collections still are needed, and these will be covered system-



Paul C. Standley

matically. The first work, however, is planned for the high, non-volcanic mountains of Huehuetenango, along the Mexican frontier, whose flora is decidedly Mexican, and conspicuously unlike that of other parts of Guatemala. Intensive collecting is planned also for extreme eastern Guatemala, where the climate is relatively dry. Dr. Steyermark's collections from this region, known as the Oriente, have proved surprisingly rich in new or rare plants.

The expedition will also visit the plains of the Pacific coast, in which so far no collecting has been done. Much of this plains region has abundant moisture during the winter, quite unlike the corresponding areas from Salvador to Costa Rica which are intensely dry at the same season. Extensive collecting is planned near Alta Verapaz, in the region of Cobán, noted for its rain forests, its great variety of orchids, and as a center of coffee production.

It is expected that the present expedition will obtain numerous species new to science, and many others that have never been recorded before from Guatemala. Thus data will be provided for completing the descriptive account of the plant life of this relatively small but highly varied and exceptionally interesting country.

OCTOBER GUIDE LECTURE TOURS

Conducted tours of exhibits, under the guidance of staff lecturers, are made every afternoon at 2 o'clock except Saturdays, Sundays, and certain holidays. Following is the schedule for October:

Tuesday, October 1—General Tour; Wednesday—The People of Our World; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Impressions of the Past.

Week beginning October 7: Monday—Wild Life Conservation; Tuesday—General Tour; Wednesday—Plants the Indians Used; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Stories of Famous Gems.

Week beginning October 14: Monday—China and Its Past; Tuesday—General Tour; Wednesday—Animal Life of the Seacoast; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Plants in Our Modern Life.

Week beginning October 21: Monday—Ambassadors from Space; Tuesday—General Tour; Wednesday—America's Early Civilizations; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—The Evidence of Evolution.

Week beginning October 28: Monday—Trees of the Chicago Region; Tuesday—General Tour; Wednesday—Primitive Man as an Artist; Thursday—General Tour.

Persons wishing to participate should apply at North Entrance. Tours are free. Guide-lecturer's services for special tours by parties of ten or more persons may be arranged for with the Director a week or longer in advance.

The armor and peculiar tooth-edged weapons of the Gilbert Islanders are features of special interest among the Micronesian collections in Hall F.

LAYMAN LECTURE RESERVATIONS MAY BE MADE THIS MONTH

Mr. Paul G. Dallwig, who in recent years has won a notable reputation in Chicago as The Layman Lecturer of Field Museum, is returning in November to present his fourth annual season of Sunday afternoon lectures in the exhibition halls.

The heavy demand by the public for Mr. Dallwig's lectures, and the necessity of limiting each audience to 100 adults (*children cannot be accommodated*), make it necessary to require advance reservations. Persons desiring to attend are advised to apply several weeks in advance. Mr. Dallwig's first appearance will be on November 3, and reservations for that date and succeeding Sundays will be accepted by mail or telephone (Wabash 9410) throughout the month of October. A new lecture subject, "Mysterious 'Night-Riders' of the Sky," has been added to Mr. Dallwig's program. This lecture, to be presented in December, will tell the story of meteors, meteorites, and the moon, and will be illustrated by exhibits in Hall 34 of the Department of Geology, where there is displayed the world's most comprehensive exhibit of meteorites.

Other subjects which have proved extremely popular in the past several years will be repeated by Mr. Dallwig in other months. The opening lecture, to be given each Sunday afternoon in November, will be "The Parade of the Races," illustrated by Malvina Hoffman's Races of Mankind sculptures in Chauncey Keep Memorial Hall. On Sundays in January the subject will be "Digging Up the Caveman's Past," illustrated by the life-size dioramas in the Hall of the Stone Age of the Old World; in February, "Nature's 'March of Time,'" illustrated by the prehistoric animal exhibits in Ernest R. Graham Hall; in March, "Gems, Jewels, and 'Junk,'" illustrated by the gem collection in H. N. Higinbotham Hall which by that time will be completely reinstalled with improved methods of display and lighting; in April, "The Romance of Diamonds from Mine to Man." and in May, a repetition of "The Parade of the Races."

The Sunday afternoon lectures begin promptly at 2 P.M., and end at 4:30. During a half-hour intermission midway in the lectures, members of the audiences wishing to do so may obtain refreshments in the Cafeteria, where they may also smoke. Special tables are reserved for the groups.

Mr. Dallwig, a member of the Museum, presents his lectures purely as a public service, without compensation, direct or indirect, from either the Museum or his audiences. He dramatizes his subjects in a unique manner, at the same time interpreting science with a thorough accuracy assured by the great amount of time and research which he invariably devotes to the preparation of every one of his lectures.



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