

Field Museum of Natural History

FOUNDED BY MARSHALL FIELD, 1893

Roosevelt Road and Field Drive, Chicago

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FIELD MUSEUM NEWS

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Members are requested to inform the Museum promptly of changes of address.

IN MEMORIAM

Albert Buell Lewis

June 21, 1867 - October 10, 1940

For a long time the failing health of Dr. Albert B. Lewis had been a matter of deep concern to all who knew him. But, with characteristic fortitude, he had remained at work until a few days before his death in October.

Anthropology, particularly in those of its branches involving museum technique, is a junior science; and with the passing of Dr. Lewis, who had held the position of Curator of Melanesian Ethnology at Field Museum since 1908, science

has lost a pioneer. His colleagues are mourning a sincere friend and kindly adviser.

Dr. Lewis was born at Clifton, Ohio, in 1867, and received his early education at Wooster College in the period 1890-1893. A year later he was enrolled as a student of biology in the University of Chicago where he was awarded the A.B. degree in 1894. This graduation was followed by a period as assistant in biology in the laboratory in which he had qualified. In 1897 Dr. Lewis accepted a position as instructor in zoology in the University of Nebraska where he was a stimulating teacher until 1902. He then registered as a graduate student at Columbia University, New York, and in 1907 received his Ph.D. degree.



Dr. Albert B. Lewis

During his preparatory years of biological work the systematic teaching of anthropology was just beginning, and the science of physical anthropology was not much more than a subsidiary of zoology. The Darwinian controversy was raging in fierce scientific and theological debate, and punches were not pulled either by scientists or theologians. Such was the formative period of Dr. Lewis's career prior to his appointment on the staff of Field Museum in 1907.

Dr. Lewis's leadership of the Joseph N. Field South Pacific Expedition (1909-1913), was a remarkable achievement of endurance in the malignant regions of New Guinea, New Britain, and New Caledonia. He also visited many other areas and was thus enabled to bring to Field Museum an ethnological collection which has few rivals anywhere in the world. Moreover, Dr. Lewis was instrumental in obtaining a collection of Melanesian crania that are of primary importance in the studies of comparative physical anthropology and craniometry.

Many publications issued by Field Museum Press attest the scrupulous accuracy and cautious judgments of Dr. Lewis. *Decorative Art in New Guinea*, *New Guinea Masks*, *Block Prints from India*, *Melanesian Shell Money*, and a charmingly written *Guide to Ethnology of Melanesia*, are a few of the works by which he is best known. To these may be added book reviews, a monograph on *Tribes of the Columbia Valley*, and many contributions to various noted encyclopedias and dictionaries.

Dr. Lewis held fellowships in the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Anthropological Association, and was a member of Sigma Xi.

To those who had the privilege of intimate acquaintance with Dr. Lewis, the word "bibliophile" acquired a richer meaning. And many colleagues who were entitled to the description of "well informed men" were astonished by the extent, versatility, and accuracy of Dr. Lewis's reading. His careful choice of literature has resulted in the addition of many valuable works to the Library of Field Museum.

Many who, with deepest regret, read this obituary will feel that no eulogy is required, for colleagues were well acquainted with the scientific earnestness, critical ability, and kindly helpfulness of Dr. Lewis. All members of Field Museum's staff, and particularly Dr. Lewis's associates in the Department of Anthropology, realize their bereavement, but cherish many kindly recollections of stimulating contacts.—W. D. H.

Library Receives Rare Books

A notable gift of rare and valuable books, including some very old ones, has been received by the Library of Field Museum from Dr. Henry Field. Among them is an edition of Plutarch published in 1599. Also outstanding are the complete works of Isaac

Newton in nine volumes (1779-85), Rapin's *History of England* (1732-33), *The Natural History of Norway* by Erich Pontoppidan (1755), and *Ruines de Paestum ou de Posidonie dans la Grande Grèce*, by T. Major.

NEW MEMBERS

The following persons became Members of Field Museum, in the classifications indicated, during the period from September 16 to October 15:

Patrons

Charles J. Calderini, Frederick C. Hack, Colonel Albert A. Sprague.

Contributors

Charles K. Knickerbocker,* Charles H. Schweppe.

Associate Members

Dr. Henry Christiansen, Ellis H. Denney, Miss Agnes J. Olsen, Herbert J. Taylor.

Annual Members

H. D. Agnew, Dr. Julius M. Amberson, John Potts Barnes, Miss Harriet Benner, Edward D. Brown, Jr., Robert Neil Cowham, Mrs. Lucius A. Crowell, Al Martin Curtis, Mrs. William A. Elliott, George J. Farnsworth, Norman D. Fraser, John J. Gorman, John H. Grace, Jr., William F. Hochfeldt, Mrs. Robert M. Hoffman, Jr., S. S. Hollender, Mrs. Thomas J. Houston, Louis J. Janata, Norman V. Karstens, Samuel Kart, Mrs. Charles E. Linebarger, Charles L. Marsh, John B. McDonnell, William McEwen, Willis D. Nance, John G. Nardin, Alexander W. T. Ogilvie, Albert K. Orschel, Mrs. Ellard L. Pfaelzer, Stephen A. Poyer, Mrs. S. W. Ranson, Miss Irene K. Reiser, James G. Shakman, Mrs. Charles C. Shedd, John F. Smith, Jr., Mrs. Kenneth Gladstone Smith, Mrs. George A. Spicer, Mrs. June M. Starrett, Miss Cornelia C. Steckl, Mrs. Arthur J. Utter, H. C. VanPelt, Mrs. Louis Vierling, Robert W. Wadsworth, John Watling, Aaron Weinraub, Miss Florence S. Winship.

* Deceased.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT FIELD MUSEUM

Field Museum is open every day of the year (except Christmas and New Year's Day) during the hours indicated below:

November, December,
January, February . . . 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.
March, April, and
September, October . . . 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.
May, June, July, August. 9 A.M. to 6 P.M.

Admission is free to Members on all days. Other adults are admitted free on Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays; non-members pay 25 cents on other days. Children are admitted free on all days. Students and faculty members of educational institutions are admitted free any day upon presentation of credentials.

The Museum's Library is open for reference daily except Saturday afternoon and Sunday.

Traveling exhibits are circulated in the schools of Chicago by the N. W. Harris Public School Extension Department of the Museum.

Lectures at schools, and special entertainments and tours for children at the Museum, are provided by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures.

Free courses of lectures for adults are presented in the James Simpson Theatre on Saturday afternoons (at 2:30 o'clock) in March, April, October, and November.

A Cafeteria serves visitors. Rooms are available also for those bringing their lunches.

Chicago Motor Coach Company No. 26 busses provide direct transportation to the Museum. Service is offered also by Surface Lines, Rapid Transit Lines (the "L"), interurban electric lines, and Illinois Central trains. There is ample free parking space for automobiles at the Museum.



1940. "Albert Buell Lewis June 21, 1867-October 10, 1940." *Field Museum news* 11(11), 6-6.

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Field Museum of Natural History Library

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