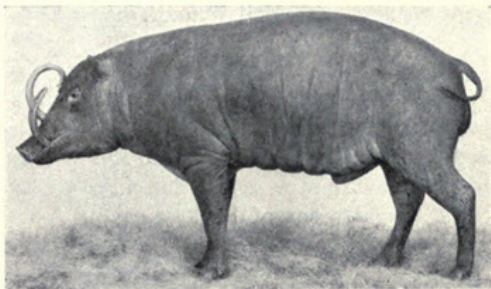


EXHIBIT OF WILD PIGS

BY COLIN CAMPBELL SANBORN
CURATOR OF MAMMALS

True pigs of the family Suidae live in Europe, Africa and Asia. A very pig-like mammal, called the peccary, is found in the Americas, so that Australia is the only continent without some representative of this group. While there are about one hundred slightly different pigs and peccaries, there are only a few basic species. Most of these are now on exhibition in two new cases recently installed in Hall 15.

In one case is included the European wild boar, the probable ancestor of our domestic pig. This specimen was presented (before the war began) by the Polish Government. Shown with it are the Philippine and Papuan pigs of which there are more than forty closely related forms distributed through the Philippines and the East Indies. Almost in the midst of these occurs a very unusual



The Babirusa

A most distinguished species of pig found only on Buru, Taliaboe, and Celebes, islands of the East Indies. The male has four remarkably upturned tusks. The name "babirusa" is Malayan, and means "hog-deer."

species, the babirusa, in which the tusks of both jaws grow upward to great lengths, those of the upper jaw growing through the skin in the center of the face. The babirusa is found only in Celebes and two small near-by islands. The original specimen of this odd pig was presented by the Chicago Zoological Society, and was reproduced for exhibition in celluloid-like material by Staff Taxidermist Leon L. Walters, inventor of a special process for making reproductions. For certain types of animals these are more satisfactory than would be mounts of the actual skins.

The other case contains two related African pigs, the red river hog and the Abyssinian bush pig. The red river hog lives in the heavily forested parts of West Africa. In color it is a rich brownish red, very different from the dull blacks and browns of other pigs. The bush pigs live in eastern and southern Africa where they travel in small herds of from ten to twenty individuals. Native gardens often suffer from their nocturnal visits.

The South American peccaries differ from the true pigs in having a more complicated stomach, a dorsal musk gland, and only three toes on each hind foot; also, the tusks of the peccaries' upper jaw do not turn up.

They differ further in that they have but one or two young in a litter. The collared peccary ranges north into Texas, but the range of the white-lipped peccary only reaches southern Mexico. Both range south to southern Brazil. The white-lipped peccary will make a brave defense when cornered, but stories of deliberate attacks on men are to be doubted.

The cases were prepared for exhibition by Staff Taxidermist Julius Friesser.

CULT OF THE PIG

In the northern New Hebrides, especially the islands of Ambrym, Malekula, and Santo, the pig occupies an important position in the social and religious ideas of the people. There are many ranks or classes in the social scale, and in order to rise in rank a man must kill a certain number of pigs.

Pigs whose tusks form a complete circle and overlap are of special value and, in fact, on certain occasions, only this kind are regarded as valid evidence of a man's right to a certain station in life. The pigs are killed in connection with special ceremonies or *manke*s, which may extend over months. During a *manke*, each of a number of men may kill numerous pigs, so that the total slain may amount to several hundred. The animals are killed by knocking them in the head with special clubs. Twenty or thirty may be slaughtered in one day, and they are immediately cut up and divided among the villagers and their visitors. Thus it is only natural that every *manke* should become an occasion of special feasting.

The lower jaws of all the pigs killed at any particular *manke* are cleaned and arranged in rows on a sloping platform under a shed. There they are left until the flesh decays, whereupon the individual owners take possession, either hanging the bones in their homes, or using the tusks as arm rings.

Because of the significance attached to tusks which form a complete circle, these have become very valuable, and sometimes sell for the equivalent of more than \$200. The value increases with the growth of the tusks. Some have been known to form nearly three complete circles, and natives will not part with these for any price.

To encourage such tusk development, the upper tusks are knocked out of living pigs, and the pigs are then kept tied up near or even in the house, and fed on soft food. A boar is given a separate name for every quarter circle added to the tusk length.

On exhibition in the Melanesian collection in Joseph N. Field Hall (Hall A) are examples of boar's jaws and tusks, the types of clubs used as pig killers, and the special pig rope by which the animals are tied to stakes in or near the house during the period of tusk growth. The rope is fastened on the foreleg just above the hoof.

The pigs are sacrificed at the *manke*s with considerable ceremony, to an accompani-

ment of ritual dances. In front of a large image of a god, one man usually grasps the pig by the forelegs or ears and lifts its forefeet off the ground, while another man wields the club, striking it on the head or over the eyes. One blow is usually sufficient.

FOUR CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS
OFFERED DURING APRIL

The spring series of free motion picture programs for children, presented at Field Museum by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures, will continue through April with a program each Saturday morning. There will be two showings of the pictures on each program, one beginning at 10 A.M., and one one at 11. Children from all parts of Chicago and suburbs are invited, and no tickets are required for admission. The Museum is prepared to receive large groups from schools and other organizations, as well as individual children coming alone or accompanied by parents or other adults. Teachers are urged to bring their classes.

The following schedule shows the titles of the films to be presented on each Saturday:

April 5—THE FOREST (*Celebration of Arbor Day*); and a cartoon.

April 12—BALANCING NATURE'S BUDGET (*A story of conservation*).

April 19—SUDAN (*Story of natives in the heart of Africa*).

April 26—A DAY AT BROOKFIELD ZOO; and a cartoon.

Model of Natural Bridge

The famous Natural Bridge of Virginia is represented by an accurate scale model in Clarence Buckingham Hall (Hall 35). Besides being a faithful reproduction of the bridge, with its associated scenery, the model illustrates a number of details of rock structure which occur on too large a scale to be shown by specimens.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Members of the Museum who have changed residences or plan to do so are urged to notify the Museum of their new addresses so that FIELD MUSEUM NEWS and other communications may reach them promptly. A post card for this purpose is enclosed with this issue.

Members going away during the summer, who desire Museum matter sent to their temporary addresses, may have this service by notifying the Museum.



Sanborn, Colin Campbell. 1941. "Exhibit of Wild Pigs." *Field Museum news* 12(4), 7-7.

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