

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.

FIELD MUSEUM AND MORALE

"These are the times that try men's souls."

Confident of ultimate victory though we are, and must be, through all the "blood, and sweat, and tears," there are periods when the fortunes of war for a time, at least, may go against us, as for other nations engaged in the titanic world struggle. There may be times when our morale will be tested to the breaking point—times when dismay may perhaps nearly engulf us.

When such times come, your Museum is a haven for mental and spiritual rehabilitation. The morale-building virtues of this and kindred institutions are recognized by Army and Navy authorities. Groups of soldiers, sailors, marines, and coast guardsmen when on leave or furlough are constantly directed to the museums by those in charge of recreation activities. They come in large numbers, and they do enjoy their visits. Civilian morale, likewise, can derive great benefits if cultural institutions are permitted and aided to "carry on" as usual in wartime.

The Museum itself has stood and continued its development, a symbol of the American spirit, through two previous major wars of the United States. In the present conflict the administration of this institution has full confidence that it, like the nation to which it belongs, will come through with flying colors, greater than ever before.

Reflecting on this, one is led to new courage by the larger concept of the persist-

ence of the things which the Museum represents in the face of all evil and distress. Science marches on, Man continues to progress. The Museum collections teach that the fundamentals of the earth, the elements of existence, remain solid despite all travail.

Within the walls of Field Museum we have a microcosm of all life through all the ages. The things which the Museum collections stress are the things which are eternal—the things that constitute proof that we shall survive present and future ordeals as we have those of the past, despite all destructive forces let loose against us. Here, while we may be impressed with the fleetness of that instant of geological time which we are permitted as individuals upon this earth and therefore with our own unimportance as single entities, we are equally impressed with the gallant obstinacy of the life force in the race, all races—human, plant, and animal—against all odds. Our paleontological collections and the data our scientists have deduced from them tell us that it took nearly a billion and a half years of life before living creatures evolved through their many stages from the lowest forms of minute one-celled plants through the Ages of Fishes, Reptiles and Mammals to reach what we regard (perhaps fondly) as the ultimate expression of creation—Man. And Man, throughout his brief million years or so on this planet, and despite his almost continuous, illogical and malignant efforts to exterminate his own race, has never succeeded. Instead the human race has grown tremendously in numbers, and to some slight degree, at least, in civilization despite the many plague spots of barbarity which may seem to belie this fact as we gaze around the contemporary world.

When morale is low, science, like religion, offers new courage and new strength. We sincerely believe that any despairing person, visiting the Museum and allowing himself to reflect upon what he sees and learns, will be cheered by it and by the thoughts it will stimulate in him. He will leave this temple of knowledge with restored resolve and renewed strength. This in turn will be effective in stiffening his determination to do his full part in the all-out effort required from every citizen, in uniform or otherwise, to carry America and the principles she stands for to victory over those whose creed is based on the lies and cruelties and slavery of Nazism and its counterparts.

Staff Notes

Mr. James H. Quinn, Chief Preparator in Paleontology, has gone east to spend some weeks in studying preparation and installation methods used in other museums.

Mr. Colin C. Sanborn, Curator of Mammals, who is collecting mammals, birds,

reptiles, and fishes in southern Peru, reports that his work is progressing favorably. He will proceed through two of the coastal valleys and revisit the tropical forest in southeastern Peru before his return to Chicago in March.

Mr. Rudyerd Boulton, Curator of Birds, lectured at Amherst College, Massachusetts, on December 8 to the faculty Science Club on "Speciation In Birds." He also gave a lecture on December 16 before the Humane Society of Baltimore County, Maryland, on "Darwin's Trail in the Galapagos."

Mrs. Leota G. Thomas, of the Raymond Foundation lecture staff, spoke before the general meeting of the Mid-West Section, Science-Mathematics Association (N.E.A.) on "The Use of Museums in the Teaching of Science."

Mr. Emmet R. Blake, Assistant Curator of Birds, recently gave an illustrated lecture at the Chicago Academy of Sciences on the results of last summer's Field Museum Ornithological Expedition to the Southwest.

The Society for Research on Meteorites has appointed Mr. Henry W. Nichols, Chief Curator of Geology, as a member of the Committee on Legal Ownership of Meteorites and the Committee on Terminology.

Remarkable examples of lacquer work, with pictures recording ancient historical events, are included in an Inca exhibit in Stanley Field Hall.

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 admission on other days: Established price 25 cents, Federal tax 3 cents, total 28 cents. 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"), inter-urban electric lines, and Illinois Central trains. There is ample free parking space for automobiles at the Museum.



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