

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.

CURATOR C. C. SANBORN RETURNS FROM PERUVIAN EXPLORATION

The Field Museum Expedition to Peru has been completed with the return to Chicago early in April of Mr. Colin C. Sanborn, Curator of Mammals, after nearly nine months of zoological collecting.

Mr. Sanborn obtained some 400 specimens of mammals, approximately 900 reptiles, 300 fishes, 100 birds, and numerous insects. A large part of these were successfully shipped to the Museum through the submarine zone prior to January; the balance of Mr. Sanborn's collections are temporarily stored at Callao awaiting favorable shipping conditions. Mr. Sanborn himself flew from Lima to Miami, Florida.

The collections obtained by the explorer, together with previous collections obtained by the Magellanic Expedition of which he was a member in 1939-40, give Field Museum the largest representation of the fauna of southern Peru that has ever been brought out of that country.

Through the courtesy and hearty co-operation of officials of the Peruvian government, the University of San Marcos at Lima, and the Museo Javier Prado connected with the university, arrangements were made whereby Field Museum will continue to make a specialty of the zoology of Peru, and will have the collaboration of the Peruvian institutions in research projects connected with this subject. Señor Enrique Zúñiga, a member of the Javier Prado Museum staff, spent several months with

Mr. Sanborn in the field, collecting specimens on the southern coast of Peru, in the mountains up to elevations of 16,000 feet, and in the jungles of the eastern part of the country where the explorers had some rather annoying experiences with great swarms of flies and red bugs.

Mr. Sanborn collected many animals necessary for rounding out the Field Museum collection, including two important species of wild Peruvian guinea pigs, and a number of species of small mammals new to science. The expedition was jointly sponsored by Field Museum and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

Museum Workers Study First Aid

In preparation for possible eventualities due to the war, a group of about thirty Field Museum employees, both men and women, are training for first aid under the direction of an instructor assigned by the Red Cross. Classes are being held at the Museum twice a week for two-hour periods. Employees of the Shedd Aquarium and other neighboring institutions are participating in the same classes.

Albino Natives in Africa

White Negroes and Negresses (albinos) are not uncommon in Africa. Sometimes the albinism is complete, sometimes piebald. The skin is, however, pinkish and not white. In former days, before European control, an albino male was executed at the conclusion of peace terms, following warfare. This was at Onitsha in Nigeria, and there is no evidence to show that the practice was common. There is a record that the Bokongo tribe required an albino or some hair from one before they could form a new branch of a secret society. Some writers refer to albinos being regarded as reincarnations of deceased chiefs. Literature contains references to the matrimonial difficulties of albino males, who are held in disfavor by women. There is an instance of the usual tribal marks, which are incisions in the skin, being denied to an albino.

Staff Notes

Mr. Rudyerd Boulton, Curator of Birds, has been granted indefinite leave of absence from the Museum to accept an appointment to the staff of the Co-ordinator of Information at Washington, D.C.

Mr. A. A. Miller, the Museum's colli-typer, has retired on pension after long and faithful service to this institution.

Mr. Karl P. Schmidt, Chief Curator of the Department of Zoology, was recently elected president of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, at the annual meeting held in New York. Mr. Schmidt has been honored also by an

appointment as a special lecturer in the Department of Zoology at the University of Chicago. This appointment was recently confirmed for a three-year term by the board of trustees of the university, and becomes effective October 1 of this year.

Dr. Wilfred H. Osgood, Curator Emeritus of Zoology, has returned from his collecting trip in Arizona and California, bringing a number of specimens needed for the Museum collections. While in San Diego he made an address before the annual meeting of the Cooper Club, an ornithological organization of which he was one of the original founders forty-nine years ago.

Mr. Loren P. Woods, Assistant Curator of Fishes, left April 15 for a brief field trip to southwestern Indiana.

Mr. C. J. Albrecht recently returned from a brief visit to the Marineland Aquarium, Florida, where he made studies of living porpoises in connection with his preparation of models of whales and their relatives.

FIELD MUSEUM HONOR ROLL

Now in the Service of their Country:

Theodore Roosevelt, Trustee—Brigadier-General, U.S. Army.

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Dr. John Rinaldo, Associate, Southwestern Archaeology—Private, U.S. Army.

Dr. Alexander Spoehr, Assistant Curator, North American Ethnology and Archaeology—Private, U.S. Army.

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Clyde James Nash, Guard—Chief Gunner's Mate, U.S. Navy.

Nicholas Repar, Printer—First Class Seaman, U.S. Navy.

IN A CIVILIAN STATUS

Rudyerd Boulton, Curator of Birds—Staff of Co-ordinator of Information, Washington, D.C.



1942. "Albino Natives in Africa." *Field Museum news* 13(5), 6–6.

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