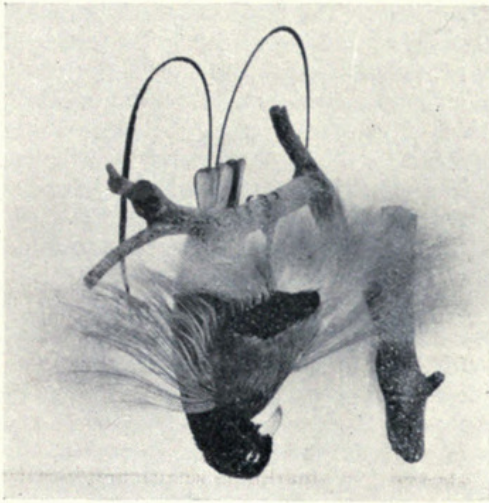


expand greatly in times of war. It is to be hoped that a return of tranquillity to such far-off islands as those of the Coral Sea may be under a world peace of enduring



#### TOPSY-TURVY COURTSHIP

The blue bird-of-paradise assumes an upside-down position for its colorful nuptial display, as shown in this Field Museum exhibit. These birds are found only in New Guinea and its neighboring islands.

conditions in which museum exploration, and the internationalism of scientific research, will again flourish.

#### HAIL AND FAREWELL—

##### A Tribute to Director Gregg

(Editor's Note:—The June issue of FIELD MUSEUM NEWS contained a factual account of Director Gregg's departure for war service. The following tribute, penned by Mr. Karl P. Schmidt, Chief Curator of Zoology, voices the feelings of the Staff in general.)

Through a period of great difficulty Field Museum has maintained the high standards of its exhibition halls, and the steady growth of its exhibits. The researches of its scientific staff have gone forward, and the results have been published. The relations of the Museum with other educational institutions have been developed. A great program of expeditions has been carried on and has contributed vitality and freshness to the exhibition halls, the reference collections, and the research laboratories. These continuing activities are the outward signs of a well-administered institution, forming a real tribute to its Director and its Trustees under whom he serves.

The inward signs of a museum in good institutional health must have been most gratifying to Lieutenant Colonel Clifford C. Gregg at the time of his recent departure for service to the nation. His ability to command the loyalty and respect of his staff had unlocked all doors to him and placed the sum of the staff intelligence at his service. Accompanying respect has been a growing trust and affection on the part of his Museum colleagues. All who have had occasion to "see the Director" have left his office encouraged and determined to

make their best contribution to the Museum. If more difficult times are ahead, we shall face them with courage and optimism as a result of his example.

In the national emergency of a world war, it was singularly appropriate that the first of our staff to be drawn upon should be the Director himself, whose present period of service with the United States Army began in September, 1940. Since that time, various younger members of the staff have been drawn into governmental services. For them, those who remain will carry on "for the duration."

#### TURTLE "MYSTERY" SOLVED

(A nature lesson, as told in June Provinces' Column in *The Chicago Sun*, June 11, on the basis of information supplied by Field Museum.)

A resident of Dundee Road, Barrington, Illinois, Mr. Sidney H. George, called up his friend, Mr. Orr Goodson, Acting Director of Field Museum of Natural History, for aid in the solution of a turtle mystery.

"Yesterday I drove out of my garage and found a large turtle had stationed itself in my driveway," said Mr. George. "I managed to get past it without hurting it and when I got back in the evening there it was in exactly the same spot. The next morning it was gone, but in the sand and gravel where it had been were marks indicating that a hole had been dug and covered over. It was as though a murderer had concealed a corpse. Perhaps you had better send a squad car full of herpetologists to investigate."

The case was referred to Mr. Karl P. Schmidt, Chief Curator of Zoology and a specialist in reptiles and amphibians.

"It's not a murder, it's a blessed event," said Mr. Schmidt. "It undoubtedly was a pond turtle laying a couple of dozen eggs, and burying them in the approved turtle fashion. The heat of the ground should hatch them eventually."

If Mr. George will wait until August, and be careful not to drive over the spot, Mr. Schmidt added, a dozen or two baby turtles may emerge from his driveway to face the world.

Mr. Goodson invited Mr. George to visit Field Museum and inspect a habitat group showing a giant loggerhead turtle of Florida laying and burying its eggs on a beach.

#### Strategic Quartz

Rock crystal, the transparent variety of crystal quartz, is so abundant that tons are thrown away every year as worthless by quarriers of other minerals. Yet one variety, of such great industrial importance that it is classed as a strategic mineral, can be found in commercial quantity only in Brazil. It is used to control the length of radio waves, and of radio frequency oscillations, wherever their accurate control is required.

#### HOW BIG IS A DINOSAUR?

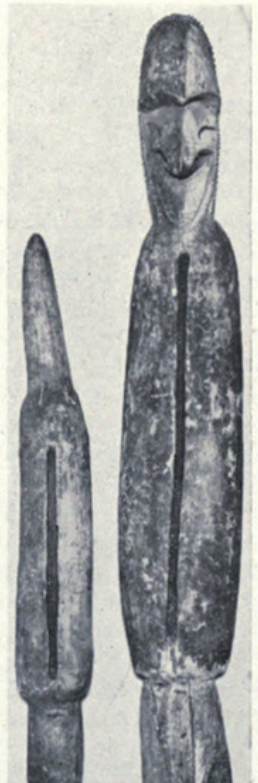
This innocent question is sometimes asked and not always by children. The name "dinosaur," signifying "gigantic lizard," is misleading. Almost all animals, however large they may be, were once small. This is almost always true of the race as well as of the individual. Large kinds of animals do not suddenly spring into being as an offshoot from other large animals, but arise from opportunity coming to modest and inconspicuous kinds of animals and their adaptation to this new opportunity, whether it be a new supply of food, a favorable climate or other beneficent conditions.

In fact, at the heyday of dinosaurian life there were small dinosaurs as well as large. Some were slender and active tree-climbers and evidently lived from robbing birds' nests, while others, notably one, *Brachiosaurus*, carried his head thirty-odd feet high, looking over treetops to cull his land and to gain his outlook upon life. And there were intermediate plodders who took what came and were satisfied. —E.S.R.

#### ETHNOLOGY OF MELANESIA

by Albert B. Lewis

Especially noteworthy in these times when so much fighting is going on in the waters and islands of the South Pacific, is Field Museum's copious handbook on Melanesia. This most readable book was written by the late Dr. Albert B. Lewis, who for many years was Curator of Melanesian Ethnology. It deals with the geography and climate of the islands of that area, and especially with the different groups of peoples and their varied cultures. Written in popular style, it is especially suitable for the general reader.



TREE-FERN DRUMS OF NEW HEBRIDES

(Hall A)

On sale at THE BOOK SHOP of FIELD MUSEUM. 210 pages, 64 plates, 2 maps. \$1.75. Mail orders accepted.





1942. "How Big is a Dinosaur?" *Field Museum news* 13(7), 3–3.

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