



GANGES RIVER CARGO BOAT

Model, included in "Theatres of War" exhibit, of one of the many types of craft used in India. Similar vessels now probably aid transport of supplies to U. S. troops.

credit for the assistance rendered. If the Museum can teach these things to some of our boys, it will supplement the Army's and Navy's "indoctrination courses" just as surely and usefully as it is supplementing the school system by its various educational activities for children. Likewise, if it can also help in bringing a similar understanding and appreciation of these peoples by the families and friends of the fighting men, and all the other elements of our civilian population, it will be accomplishing a step toward the promotion of a post-war world attitude that should aid in bringing about the kind of peace we want and the removal of the causes of future wars.

The areas represented in the first assemblage of exhibits in this hall are: the Solomon Islands, New Guinea, the islands of the Bismarck Sea (Admiralty Island, New Britain, and New Ireland), North Africa, West Africa, India, northern Australia (Port Darwin area), and northern Alaska and the Aleutian Islands. Included in the display are weapons, ornaments, costumes, musical instruments, ceremonial objects, hollow log drums such as are used in "jungle telegraph," and other ethnological material illustrating how these people live, together with photographs of many of the men, women, and children themselves, employing some of these objects in their daily tasks. From this background material, the soldier, sailor, coastguardman, or marine bound for far fields of battle action may gain in advance some background and familiarity with the conditions he is going to meet, and the types of people who may by their co-operation assist him in important ways.

Space for this special exhibit has been made without seriously disturbing the Woodlands and Southeastern North American Indian exhibits which regularly occupy Hall 4. These exhibits all remain in the hall, but have been spaced a little more closely so that they may all be accommodated in the other end of the hall.

The special exhibit was arranged by Dr. Paul S. Martin, Chief Curator of Anthropology, assisted by Curators Donald Collier

and George I. Quimby. The keynote of the spirit in which the Museum administration and the members of the staff are presenting this special war exhibit was expressed by Mr. Collier on the day it was opened to the public, when he said:

"I confidently look forward most especially to two days—the day when we will add exhibits of the Philippines to this hall because our forces have retaken those islands and are well on their way to the shores of Japan itself—and the day when we will disperse all of these war exhibits to their



NEW GUINEA WAR VESSEL

Sailing canoe, with outrigger, of a type used by Papuan natives for many purposes. Some United Nations fliers, and other fighters adrift at sea, have been rescued by such craft. (Photo by Joseph N. Field Melanesian Expedition).

proper places in the systematic ethnological collections because the conflict has victoriously ended for the United Nations in all theatres of the war."

CONSERVATION BRIEFS

III. Birds

BY RUDYERD BOULTON
CURATOR OF BIRDS

(Now serving in Office of Strategic Services)

Chicago is unique among all the large cities of the United States for the great wealth of water birds and marsh birds that nest at its doors and even within its corporate area. But it is a question whether this condition is properly appreciated by the mass of Chicagoans, and whether they will provide the necessary measures for its continuance. The draining of our marshes has already lowered the water table in the Chicago region appreciably, and every agriculturist and gardener now pays the penalty.

It is only in the last 50 years that conservation has become a living issue of interest and concern to millions of Americans, and millions more still need to be educated in this subject. Widespread public attention first began to be focused upon the waste and destruction of our living natural resources during the last years of the 19th century. Effective at that time in crystal-

lizing public opinion were the efforts of the then newly founded National Association of Audubon Societies, the American Ornithologists' Union, and kindred bodies; and definite action for conservation was instituted under government auspices. Prior to that time there were no effective game laws, and no treaties affecting this problem with Canada or Mexico. Thousands upon thousands of birds were killed on their nesting grounds to obtain feathers for the millinery trade.

Today most states do have effective game laws. Treaties with our neighbors regulate the killing of migratory birds that nest in Canada and fly through the United States to winter in Mexico and farther south. Interstate commerce in game birds for food is prohibited. The killing of birds for their feathers and the sale of feathers of wild birds are prohibited.

Millions of people today take an active interest in clubs, societies, and other organizations primarily concerned with the study, enjoyment and preservation of the natural and bountiful heritage of our wild life. There is, however, much yet to be done to insure that the generations that come after us may see, experience, and enjoy from economic, scientific, and aesthetic standpoints the wild life that we still have. The pace of civilization gets faster and faster with the passing years. Airplanes, automobiles, radio, motion pictures—even telephone, telegraph, postal service, and newspapers—have been developed within a period that represents just a tick of the clock compared to the time required for the complicated adjustment of different types of animals not only to their environment but also to one another.

Conservation as a basic idea is universally agreed to. In the details of execution it is almost always controversial (no wonder the birds and animals have a hard time getting along with the human species, when the humans can't get along even with each other!). The controversies are due to the fact that groups of people with special interests see comparative values from different points of view. One of the greatest barriers to effective conservation measures is ignorance of basic facts. Even the most expert conservationist would hesitate to guarantee that *certain* results would follow specified practices.

(Next issue:—Conservation of Plant Life.)

Museum Hours Extended for Summer Period

Summer visiting hours, 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. daily, including Sundays and holidays, will go into effect at Field Museum on May 1, and continue throughout the period up to and including September 6 (Labor Day).



Boulton, Rudyerd. 1943. "Conservation Briefs III. Birds." *Field Museum news* 14(4), 2-2.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/25717>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/365162>

Holding Institution

Field Museum of Natural History Library

Sponsored by

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the Chicago Field Museum.
For information contact dcc@library.uiuc.edu.

Rights Holder: Field Museum of Natural History

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.