

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.

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Even if your car is laid up, or you have to skimp on gas and save your tires, Field Museum is still easy to reach, and always worth a visit. Busses, street cars, "L," Illinois Central, Aurora-Elgin and North Shore Lines all provide close transportation.

MAN, THE UNKNOWN

In these days when everybody's efforts are directed towards helping to win the war, one may well ask "What role does anthropological research play?" It may seem a far cry from research to war, but actually it is not.

We are living in a very sick world. If civilization is to endure, we must push forward the study of Man. Therefore, anthropology, although a young science, is one of the most important to the world today. So much is known of the world outside of man, and so little is understood about man himself. Man has narrowed his world by communication and speed. But it is about his relationship to other men that he knows least—a fact which is partly responsible for our present world difficulties.

The general problem toward the solution of which anthropological investigations are directed is precisely to clarify man's social relationships. Anthropology aims to make contributions to the understanding and control of life. The workshops of the anthro-

pologist are the cultures of primitive peoples; the ancient towns and cities long since abandoned and buried by an accumulation of dirt and vegetation; the unwritten languages spoken by peoples all over the world; and the various races and sub-races and their inter-relationships. But from these workshops, anthropologists seek to derive some general knowledge of human ways, not to collect miscellaneous and curious information. The changes that go on in our complex culture are more easily understood in simpler primitive societies where there are fewer obscuring factors and intricate situations.

Raw data must be collected and studied in order to produce a significant synthesis of human history. Mere collecting of specimens and data is not enough; that is antiquarianism, not research, and is a sterile waste of time, effort and money.

It should be clear, then, that research is more vitally needed than ever. We must know more about that puzzling and frightening creature, Man—about his desires and contradictory impulses which, on the one hand, cause him to make progress and to strive upwards and, on the other hand, to pull down and to destroy by wars and conquest much of the good he has achieved. We must know also more about the world in which he lives and which influences him.

—P.S.M.

APRIL 24 LECTURE SUBJECT AND SPEAKER CHANGED

The Saturday afternoon lecture, "Fabulous South America," scheduled for April 24, has been canceled, due to the fact that the lecturer, Mr. Sullivan C. Richardson, has been summoned to carry out a special war mission for the Co-ordinator of Inter-American Affairs.

Mr. C. J. Albrecht, of Field Museum's taxidermy staff, will appear instead, presenting his lecture "Adventures on Land and Sea." Mr. Albrecht will show natural color motion picture films made during his most recent expeditionary experiences while collecting material and data for projected habitat groups. The pictures include scenes at sea while trailing whales and porpoises, intimate views of rare sea otters, travel on the Tamiami Trail in Florida, and across the Mojave Desert and Death Valley in California, mountains and canyons of Wyoming and adjacent states, and many scenes showing the lives of American game animals and of Indians.

The lecture will begin at 2:30 P.M., and will be the closing event in the series presented each Saturday during March and April. No tickets are necessary for admission. A section of the James Simpson Theatre is reserved for Members of the Museum, each of whom is entitled to two reserved seats upon presentation of membership ticket to the Theatre attendant

before 2:30 on the day of the lecture, or by writing to the Museum (or telephoning WABash 9410) for reservations. Seats will be held in the Member's name until 2:30 o'clock. All reserved seats unclaimed by that time will be made available to the general public.

It is probably not so well known that Edgar Allan Poe, the eminent writer of fiction and poetry, was interested in natural science and even wrote a book, by no means technically bad for its time, on his favorite subject, shells. The title of this publication, which appeared in Philadelphia in 1839, is *The Conchologist's First Book*.

FIELD MUSEUM HONOR ROLL

Now in the Nation's Service

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1943. "Radio Shadow-graphs." *Field Museum news* 14(4), 7-7.

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