



"COSTUME JEWELRY" OF ANCIENT PERSIA—See preceding page

Special exhibit currently in Stanley Field Hall shows the remarkable resemblance between the motifs of ancient personal ornamentation and some of the popular types used today such as bangle bracelets with figures of animals, human heads and feet, and miniature footballs, pianos, and hundreds of other odd and unrelated objects.

VENOMOUS OKINAWA SNAKES REACH MUSEUM ALIVE

On November 9, 1945, two rare Okinawa pit vipers arrived at the Museum. These snakes were flown in two days from Okinawa to San Francisco by Dr. R. D. Callison, U.S.N.R.; from San Francisco they were sent to Chicago by rail express. Lieut. James R. Slater of Chicago, while in charge of a malaria control team on Okinawa, secured the snakes.

One of the two species is called *habu* by the Japanese and is found only on Okinawa and neighboring islands where it has an especially bad reputation. The Japanese have long prepared an antivenin against the bite of this reptile, which reaches a length of six feet and is more or less arboreal in habits. This is the first live specimen to reach Chicago and one of the first to reach this country. The other species, called *kufah* on Okinawa, is extremely rare in museum collections. So far as we know, no living specimen has reached this country before. It is smaller and less dangerous than the *habu*. The *habu*'s scientific name is *Trimeresurus flavoviridis*; the *kufah*'s is *Trimeresurus okinavensis*.

The two pit vipers have been sent to the Lincoln Park Zoo where Director Marlin Perkins is attempting to feed them on mice. So far they have refused to eat; one of them has been without food at least since August 20, the other since October 10. If they can be persuaded to feed, they will be exhibited

at the zoo until their death when they will be carefully preserved, returned to the Museum, and entered in the study collection of reptiles.

—C.H.P.

Museum Authorities Meet

The eighteenth annual meeting of the Midwest Museums Conference was held at Cleveland, Ohio, December 6-8, 1945. The three-day session was devoted to the discussion of museum problems, plans, and achievements, and to the inspection of the several Cleveland museums.

The Conference, which is affiliated with the American Association of Museums, is composed of staff members from art, historical, and natural history museums, principally in the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Mr. John R. Millar, Deputy Director, attended as a member of the group and representative of Chicago Natural History Museum.

The relationships between modern elephants and their extinct relatives such as the mammoths and mastodons are illustrated by an exhibit in Ernest R. Graham Hall.

Contributions to the Chicago Natural History Museum, up to 15 per cent of a taxpayer's net income within the taxable year, are allowable as deductions in computing net income for federal tax purposes.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY SALON OPENS JANUARY 28

The First Chicago International Salon of Nature Photography, for which both amateur and professional photographers have been making and entering pictures during the last several months, will open at the Museum on Monday, January 28.

Displayed will be the best of the hundreds of photographs submitted, both black and white and in colors. The judges to select those for prizes, honorable mention, and display are: B. D. Holley, of Downers Grove, Ill., an associate of the Photographic Society of America; A. H. Longwell, Chicago, professional photographer; James H. Burdett, Garden Editor of *The Chicago Sun*, and representative of the Chicago Horticultural Society; and Dr. Paul O. McGrew, Acting Chief Curator of Geology, and Karl P. Schmidt, Chief Curator of Zoology of the Museum.

After the exhibit, which will continue until February 28, it is expected that some of the color slides may be obtained for use in educational projects for the school children of Chicago through the Museum's James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation.

The salon is held under the auspices of the Chicago Nature Camera Club, with the participation of the Chicago Color Camera Club, and the Chicago Horticultural Society and Garden Center. Each of these organizations is awarding prizes. Associated camera clubs throughout this country and other nations were invited to participate, but entries were accepted from any photographers regardless of affiliation with such clubs. While most of the pictures will be outdoors subjects made in woods and along streams throughout the Middle West and to some extent throughout the world, there may be some also of outstanding Museum material, as the camera clubs staged a field day for this purpose at the Museum on Sunday, December 9.

The photographs and color slides are classified in six divisions:

Plant life—flowers, trees, shrubs, fungi, etc.

Animal life—mammals, birds, insects, reptiles, tracks, etc.

Scenery—with particular emphasis on geological aspects and natural phenomena.

Gardens—especially Victory Gardens and their products.

Anthropology—ethnological and archaeological subjects; primitive man, native habitations, sites of ancient cultures and civilizations, etc.

Color slides—any subjects in the foregoing classifications.

A number of accepted pictures will be reproduced in the *Journal of the Photographic Society of America*, and elsewhere.



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