

Chicago Natural History Museum

FOUNDED BY MARSHALL FIELD, 1893

Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago

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Members are requested to inform the Museum promptly of changes of address.

'OUT OF THIS WORLD!'

Each year during the time of the National 4-H Club Conference in Chicago, the delegates visit the Museum as a part of their carefully worked out schedule. For the ensuing several months, the Director receives letters of appreciation from them. The following enthusiastic letter was written by a visitor from Rhode Island:

"Your Museum of Natural History is simply out of this world. When I went I thought it would probably be very dry, but I quickly changed my mind as soon as I stepped inside the door.

"Your animals are so real and alive. They look as if they're just waiting there for you to come up and pet them. Someday if I ever get to Chicago again I hope to come to your museum and draw some of your animals. Do you mind?

"I want to thank you for the wonderful afternoon in your museum. I enjoyed every minute of it and I only wish I could spend more time there someday. Who knows though, maybe someday I'll be back."

Agate in Ancient Times

Agate was once more highly esteemed than it is at present. Theophrastus, who wrote his *History of Stones* in the 3rd century B.C., says, "The agate is also an elegant stone. Its name is from the river Achate in Sicily. It is sold at a great price."

Books

(All books reviewed in the BULLETIN are available in *The Book Shop of the Museum*. Mail orders accompanied by remittance are promptly filled—*The Book Shop* pays the postage on shipments.)

Trinidad Village. By Melville J. Herskovits and Frances S. Herskovits. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1947, 348 pp., price \$4.75.

For many years Dr. M. J. Herskovits, Professor of Anthropology at Northwestern University, has been well known as a leading authority on problems relating to the physical anthropology and ethnology of American Negroes. In this extensive research in the United States, West Indies, and South America Dr. Herskovits has been ably assisted by his wife.

The interest of these two scholars was first aroused during a temporary stay in Trinidad where they heard of local worship of the African god Shango. Years later they were able to carry out a systematic observation in a selected area of Trinidad.

The book carefully outlines the economic conditions of that area and shows these fundamentals in relation to the family and general social structure. The major portion of the work describes religious beliefs, divination and magic, and the technique of spiritual revivals. Both the lay reader and the scientific man will find great interest in the strange combination of beliefs and rites relating to a remote African religious background now blended with worship as conducted by the "Shouters" sect in some parts of America.

The book is illustrated and has an appendix of additional scientific material relating to Shango, the God of Thunder of the Yoruba people of Nigeria, West Africa. There is an adequate index and a useful bibliography.

WILFRID D. HAMBLY,
Curator, *African Ethnology*.

3 MUSEUM ANTHROPOLOGISTS COLLABORATE ON BOOK

Indians Before Columbus—20,000 Years of North American History Revealed by Archaeology, by Dr. Paul S. Martin, Mr. George I. Quimby, and Mr. Donald Collier, has just been released by the University of Chicago Press. It may be obtained from the Museum Book Shop (\$6).

This, it is claimed, is the first time such a comprehensive account of the history of the North American Indian has ever been gathered together. Much of the information has never before been published. From the remains of the material culture of early Americans (pottery, mounds, cliff houses, and stone tools) the authors have reconstructed history from earliest times until the period of first contacts with Europeans.

Indians Before Columbus contains 122 illustrations, a glossary of archaeological terms, an extensive bibliography, and a full index.

The authors are members of the Museum's Anthropology staff. Dr. Martin is Chief Curator, Mr. Quimby, Curator of Exhibits, and Mr. Collier, Curator of South American Ethnology and Archaeology. They are all also Research Associates of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Chicago.

The book will be reviewed in the next issue of the BULLETIN.

Technical Publications Issued

The following technical publications were issued by Chicago Natural History Museum recently:

Anthropological Series, Vol. 33, No. 4. *Changing Kinship Systems*. By Alexander Spoehr. Jan. 17, 1947. 85 pages, 13 drawings. \$1.

Fieldiana—Anthropology, Vol. 36, No. 3. *Cranial Capacities, A Study in Methods*. By Wilfrid D. Hambly. Feb. 4, 1947. 52 pages. \$0.75.

Fieldiana—Zoology, Vol. 31, No. 7. *The South American Rodents of the Genus Neotomys*. By Colin Campbell Sanborn. Jan. 20, 1947. 8 pages, 2 text figures. \$0.15.

GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

Following is a list of some of the principal gifts received during the last month:

Department of Anthropology:

From: Miss Marcia Capps, Minneapolis—a shell lei, Hawaii.

Department of Botany:

From: Mrs. Clifford Stout, Barrington, Ill.—39 herbarium specimens, Illinois; Miss Louise Raddin, Chicago—1,250 herbarium specimens, Illinois, Africa, Chile, and India; M. Acosta Solis, Quito, Ecuador—8,000 herbarium specimens, Ecuador.

Department of Zoology:

From: N. L. H. Krauss, Summit, Canal Zone—27 specimens of lizards, snakes, and amphibians, and 7 sea shells, Panama; Chicago Zoological Society, Brookfield, Ill.—2 capybaras and a black bear cub; H. S. Ducoff, Chicago—112 coral reef fishes, Saipan; G. S. Cansdale, Oda, Gold Coast, Africa—a flying mouse, Gold Coast; United States National Museum, Washington, D.C.—9 lizards, Syria.

Library:

From: Mrs. Frank W. Carson, Pasadena, Calif.; Dr. Henry Field, Cuernavaca, Mexico; Stuart H. Perry, Tucson, Ariz.; Stanley Field, Lake Forest, Ill.; and Donald Collier, Boardman Conover, and Rupert L. Wenzel, all of Chicago.

Raymond Foundation:

From: George W. Parker, Bloomington, Ill.—47 color slides; S. L. Gibbons, Chicago—13 color slides.



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