Chicago Natural History Museum

FOUNDED BY MARSHALL FIELD, 1893

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THE BULLETIN

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

STAFF NOTES

Dr. Alexander Spoehr, Curator of Oceanic Ethnology, has been granted leave of absence for next summer to teach anthropology at Harvard University. Currently, he is engaged in research at museums and libraries in Washington, New York, and New Haven in connection with collections made on his recent expedition to Micronesia. ... Dr. Paul S. Martin, Chief Curator of Anthropology, Mr. Donald Collier, Curator of South American Ethnology and Archaeology, Mr. George I. Quimby, Curator of Exhibits, and Dr. Spoehr all have recently lectured before anthropology classes at the University of Chicago. ... Dr. Hugh C. Cutler, Curator of Economic Botany, gave a seminar, "Diversity in Useful Plants of Bolivia," at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, last month. He and Mr. Collier together participated in a recent "Flying Reporter" radio program over WAIT, telling of their expeditionary activities. ... Dr. Theodor Just, Chief Curator of Botany, gave a seminar at the University of Chicago on "Hartmann's Theory of Sexuality." ... Mr. Colin Campbell Sanborn, Curator of Mammals, has been elected a Corresponding Member of the Zoological Society of London. ... Mr. Karl P. Schmidt, Chief Curator of Zoology, attended a recent meeting of the American Society of Icthyologists and Herpetologists in New Orleans. ... Dr. Julian A. Steyermark, Associate

Curator of the Herbarium, has been appointed Honorary Research Associate of the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

CUBA BOTANICAL EXPEDITION

Dr. B. E. Dahlgren, Curator Emeritus of Botany, and Dr. Hugh C. Cutler, Curator of Economic Botany, have returned from an expedition to Cuba where they studied and collected palms.

Although palms provide food, shelter, and clothing for many people in the tropics, little is known about the habits of palms and of the relationship between the various kinds. The date and coconut palms have been studied slightly, but no thorough investigation has been made of the lesser known palms, many of which, like the babassú palm of Brazil, continued to provide essential supplies of oil when the Oriental sources were cut off by the Japanese during the war.

During the survey of the palms of Cuba, material was collected for the exhibits and herbarium of the Museum.

Guatemala Zoological Expedition

The Museum's Guatemala Zoological Expedition, 1948, will leave on April 8 for four and one-half months work in the field. The main purpose of the expedition is to collect certain insects that were described in the monumental publication, Biologia Centrali-Americana, and that have since presented many problems in classification, and to collect mammals and their ectoparasites. Work will center chiefly around the Volcan Fuego and the Volcan Agua, the Sierra de las Minas, and the caves in the Lanquin area. The party consists of two entomologists, Mr. Rupert L. Wenzel, Assistant Curator of Insects, and Mr. Rodger D. Mitchell, of Wayne, Illinois, and a mammalogist, Mr. Luis de la Torre, of Highland Park, Illinois.

'Children's Corner' on Radio Features Museum Stories

Museum stories on natural history, supplied through the co-operation of the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures, are currently being featured as part of the program called "The Children's Corner." The program is presented each Saturday on Station WCFL at 5:15 P.M. and again each Sunday morning at 9 A.M.

Museum Aids Surgery Class

On February 12 and March 9 a group of twenty-four plastic surgeons taking advanced graduate work at the University of Illinois Medical School visited the Museum for a special demonstration by Mr. John Pletinckx, Ceramic Restorer in the Department of Anthropology, of plaster casting.

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.)

ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN-

PANUCK, ESKIMO SLED DOG. By Frederick Machetanz. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 95 pages, illustrations by author. Price \$1.75.

This is the story of an Alaskan Eskimo boy and his dog. The Eskimo boy, Andy, raises his puppy, Panuck, to be a sled dog. With his own sled and dog team with Panuck as lead dog, Andy has adventures, one of which is particularly exciting and proves the abilities of the boy and his dog team. The story is laid against a background of modern Eskimo life in Alaska. The duration of the story, four seasons, enables the author to show modern Alaskan Eskimo life in spring, summer, autumn, and winter.

The text is abundantly supplemented with excellent illustrations by the author. These are not only entertaining but also instructive. There are, for instance, drawings showing the form and construction of sleds and the style and method of harnessing dogs.

GEORGE I. QUIMBY Curator of Exhibits, Anthropology

GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

Department of Botany:

From: Dr. Walter Kiener, Lincoln, Neb.—
180 specimens of algae, Nebraska; Dr. Ramón Ferreyra, Lima, Peru—29 specimens of algae, Peru; Dr. E. Yale Dawson, Los Angeles—90 specimens of algae, Mexico, Costa Rica, and Galapagos Islands; Herman Silva, East Lansing, Mich.—192 specimens of algae, Tennessee and North Carolina; Facultad Nacional de Agronomía, Medellín, Colombia—342 herbarium specimens, Colombia.

Department of Zoology:

From: John Q. Burch, Los Angeles—2 specimens of sea shells, West Mexico; Mrs. Dorothy Foss, Chicago—a golden hamster; Rupert L. Wenzel, Oak Park, Ill.—404 specimens of insects and allies, Tennessee and Georgia; Hugh B. Leech, San Francisco—2 beetles, British Colombia; Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.—a freshwater snail, Philippine Islands; Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago—a hutia (Plagiodontia), Haiti; Chicago Zoological Society, Brookfield, Ill.—19 birds and a male drill; Bro. Niceforo Maria, Cucuta, Colombia—a turtle; Miss Dawn Davey, Chicago—22 specimens of sea shells, Florida; Claudio Ciferri, Caracas, Venezuela—6 birdskins, Venezuela.

Library:

From: Caribbean Research Council, Caribbean Commission, Washington, D.C.; Col. Clifford C. Gregg, Valparaiso, Ind.; Dr. Fritz Haas and Rupert L. Wenzel, Chicago.



1948. "Cuba Botanical Expedition." Bulletin 19(4), 6-6.

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