

## FEBRUARY LECTURE TOURS, DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAYS

Tours of exhibits, under the guidance of staff lecturers, are conducted every afternoon at 2 o'clock, except Sundays and certain holidays. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, general tours are given covering all departments. Special subjects are offered on Wednesdays and Fridays; a schedule of these follows:

**Wed., Feb. 2**—Winter in the Wilderness—Animals of Our Western Parks (*Lorain Farmer*).

**Fri., Feb. 4**—Animal Pets of Other Countries. Illustrated introduction in Meeting Room (*June Buchwald*).

**Wed., Feb. 9**—Circus Animals (*Jane Sharpe*).

**Fri., Feb. 11**—Nature's Medicine Cabinet—Medicinal Plants. Illustrated introduction in Meeting Room (*Marie Svoboda*).

**Wed., Feb. 16**—Headline Exhibits in the Museum (*June Buchwald*).

**Fri., Feb. 18**—Natural Storage of Food—Seeds, Roots, and Other Plant Parts. Illustrated introduction in Meeting Room (*Miriam Wood*).

**Wed., Feb. 23**—Adjusting to Winter—How Animals and People Adapt to Winter Conditions (*Harriet Smith*).

**Fri., Feb. 25**—Animals in Action. Illustrated introduction in Meeting Room (*Jane Sharpe*).

## EMPIRE BUILDERS OF THE ANDES

BY DONALD COLLIER  
CURATOR OF SOUTH AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY  
AND ARCHAEOLOGY

A recently installed exhibit in the Hall of American Archaeology (Hall B) deals with the Incas of Peru and their Andean empire. The Incas were originally a small but powerful tribe living in the valley of Cuzco in the mountains of southern Peru. Beginning about A.D. 1440, they embarked on one of the most remarkable campaigns of military and political expansion in the world's history. Thirty years later, the empire extended from Quito on the north to central Chile on the south, a distance of 3,000 miles. The empire fell to the Spaniards in 1532.

A part of the new exhibit is devoted to maps showing the stages of territorial growth of the Inca empire and the Inca highway system, which made possible the control and administration of such a vast area. Included are charts and drawings explaining the Inca governmental hierarchy and illustrating such engineering accomplishments as terrace and irrigation systems, suspension bridges, and government buildings that were the products of the Incas' ability for organizing the productive efforts of large groups of people. It

was this genius for planning and organization rather than technological superiority over the conquered peoples that enabled the Incas to create and maintain their empire.

In the remainder of the exhibit are shown typical examples of Inca tools, weapons, utensils, and ornaments.

This new exhibit complements the previously installed diorama of an Inca village of A.D. 1450, shortly after the Inca expansion was well under way, in which are shown the domestic and agricultural activities of the people, and examples of architecture and public works.

The new exhibit was designed by Mr. Gustaf Dalstrom, artist in the Department of Anthropology, and the writer.

### STAFF NOTES

**Mr. Julius Friesser**, Staff Taxidermist, has retired from the service of the Museum after nearly 44 years of service. He joined the staff in 1905. Mr. Friesser was born in Marburg, Austria. His interest was first



JULIUS FRIESSER AT WORK

aroused in collecting zoological specimens as a schoolboy. At the age of 19, in 1892, Mr. Friesser came to Chicago as a commercial taxidermist. In 1902 he made a collecting trip to Mexico for the Museum, which led to his joining the staff. Among the great number of individual mounts of large mammals and of habitat groups for which Mr. Friesser was responsible (above 200), he thinks of the Thompson's gazelle, the red-fronted gazelle, the young bull moose in the Alaska moose group, and the noble individual bull bison as representing his finest work. Mr. Friesser traveled to the Olympic Mountains for the materials and specimens of the elk group; to Alaska for the moose group; to British Columbia for Rocky Mountain goats; and to Guadalupe Island for sea elephants. . . . **Mr. Bryan Patterson**, Curator of Fossil Mammals, made a

study trip to Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, to compare fossil mammal specimens from the Oligocene of Texas. . . . **Mr. Robert K. Wyant**, Curator of Economic Geology, spent a week at Joplin, Missouri, examining the field relationships and distribution of chert in lead and zinc mining areas. . . . **Dr. Theodore Just**, Chief Curator of Botany, was appointed chairman of the Membership Committee of the Society for the Study of Evolution and elected a member of the editorial board of *Evolution*, official journal. . . . On January 18, **Dr. Julian A. Steyermark**, Associate Curator of the Herbarium, was Biology Day guest speaker at William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri. He addressed the student body on "Missouri Plant Life" and the biological fraternity's annual banquet on "Exploring for Plants in Guatemala." . . . **Mrs. Eunice Gemmill** has been promoted from Assistant Librarian to Associate Librarian. **Miss Louise Boynton**, who will continue her duties as secretary of the Library, has been appointed Assistant Librarian. . . . **Mr. Melvin A. Traylor, Jr.**, for some years an Associate in the Division of Birds, has been appointed Research Associate. . . . **Mr. George Langford** has been promoted from Assistant to Assistant Curator of Fossil Plants. . . . **Mr. George Woodward**, of the guard force, has been promoted to Senior Sergeant, and **Mr. David Dunsmuir** and **Mr. Truman Bentley** have been appointed Sergeants.

## SUPPOSEDLY EXTINCT BIRDS REPORTED ALIVE

Naturalists in New Zealand have recently captured, photographed, and released two living specimens of a species of bird that has been considered extinct for fifty years, according to the *Illustrated London News* for December 11, 1948. It is a rail or gallinule, known to the Maoris as *Takahe* and to science as *Notornis hockstetteri*. It is flightless, about the size of a domestic fowl, generally blue with a greenish back, a heavy red bill, and a shield on its forehead like that of a coot, to which it is rather closely related.

Between 1849 and 1898, four specimens were taken and found their way into museum collections. Since then, nothing has been heard of the *Takahe* until last November when the above observations were made.

Recent news of another supposedly extinct species, the Eskimo curlew, is contained in the *Wilson Bulletin* for December, 1948. The Eskimo curlew once migrated northward through the Mississippi Valley in great numbers on its way to its breeding grounds on the Arctic barrens. There are three Chicago region records for the period 1872-80. Its return flight was along our Atlantic coast and southward to its wintering grounds on the pampas from the Argentine to Chile. The immense numbers killed



by market gunners in the latter part of the last century are supposed to be responsible for its virtual disappearance. Textbooks date the last specimens taken as 1915 in the United States, 1925 in Argentina. Since then there have been occasional sight records of a "small curlew," possibly the Eskimo curlew, but the close resemblance of the Eskimo curlew to the larger, more common Hudsonian curlew makes sight records uncertain. Now we have a record of one of a pair of birds killed in Newfoundland-Labrador, in 1932, indicating that the species is perhaps still extant. Since there is no shore-bird shooting in the United States and Canada, we may entertain hope that the Eskimo curlew may become abundant again.

—A. L. RAND

## TWELVE EXPEDITIONS SLATED IN 1949

Chicago Natural History Museum will have twelve expeditions in the field during 1949—four in foreign countries and the others in various parts of the United States. The expeditions are as follows:

Cuban Botanical Expedition, which left in January, conducted by Dr. B. E. Dahlgren, Curator Emeritus of Botany, assisted by Dr. Hugh C. Cutler, Curator of Economic Botany.

Mexican (Sonora) Archaeological Expedition, which left in January, conducted by Mr. Donald Lehmer, holder of Museum fellowship from the University of Chicago.

Middle Central American Botanical Expedition, begun in 1948 and continuing this year, conducted by Dr. Paul C. Standley, Curator of the Herbarium.

Colombian Zoological Expedition, begun in 1948 and continuing this year, conducted by Mr. Philip Hershkovitz, Assistant Curator of Mammals.

Gulf States Botanical Expedition, begun in 1948 and continuing this year, conducted by Dr. Francis Drouet, Curator of Cryptogamic Botany.

Eastern States Botanical Field Trip, March, to be conducted by Dr. Julian A. Steyermark, Associate Curator of the Herbarium.

Southwestern Paleontological Expedition, May, June, and July, to be conducted by Dr. Robert H. Denison, Curator of Fossil Fishes.

Southwest Archaeological Expedition (16th season), to be conducted by Dr. Paul S. Martin, Chief Curator of Anthropology.

Eastern States Invertebrate Paleontological Expedition: First Section, June and July, under the leadership of Mr. Eugene S. Richardson, Jr., Curator of Fossil Invertebrates; Second Section, August and September, under the leadership of Dr. Sharat K. Roy, Chief Curator of Geology, accompanied by Mr. Henry Horback, Preparator.

Southeastern States Zoological Field Trip,

June, July, and August, to be conducted by Mr. Clifford H. Pope, Curator of Amphibians and Reptiles.

Southeastern States Zoological Field Trip, August and September, to be conducted by Mr. Henry S. Dybas, Assistant Curator of Insects.

New York State Botanical Field Trip, September, to be conducted by Dr. Hugh C. Cutler, Curator of Economic Botany.

## 1948 Attendance 1,134,643

For the 22nd successive year, attendance at the Museum exceeded a million in 1948. The total number of visitors was 1,134,643.

## FIFTY YEARS AGO AT THE MUSEUM

Compiled by MARGARET J. BAUER

The attendance for the year ending September 30, 1899, was 223,304.

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"Under appointment as Honorary Special Agent of the Department of Mines and Metallurgy of the United States Commission to the Paris Exposition of 1900, Assistant Curator Henry W. Nichols spent about six weeks during the early summer in visiting the zinc and lead mining regions of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, . . . About 300 specimens were thus collected, besides many choice specimens of the minerals which accompany the ores. After being exhibited at the Paris Exposition, the collection so obtained will become the property of the Museum. . . ."

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One of the groups executed and installed in the Field Columbian Museum building by Carl Akeley. This group of striped hyenas may now be seen in Carl E. Akeley Hall (Hall 22).

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"The growth of the collections [herbarium] has been so large and the character so excellent that this section of the Department of Botany now takes high rank as the largest

## NATURE PHOTOS ON EXHIBITION FEB. 1—28

Beginning February 1 and continuing through February 28, the Museum will be the scene of the Fourth Chicago International Nature Photography Exhibition, under the auspices of the Nature Camera Club of Chicago. The accepted photographs, numbering several hundred black-and-white prints and color transparencies, will be displayed in Stanley Field Hall. These were selected by the judges as the best from more than 2,000 pictures received from many parts of the United States and a number of foreign countries. In order to provide a better view of the small color pictures, there will be two showings in which they will be projected on the screen in the James Simpson Theatre, on the Sunday afternoons of February 13 and 20 at 3 o'clock.

In each of the two divisions of the exhibition—prints and color transparencies—there are three classifications of pictures: *Animal Life*, *Plant Life*, and *General*. The general section includes scenery, geological subjects, clouds, and other nature manifestations outside the two specific classifications. Silver medals have been awarded the prize winners, and ribbons and other awards were made in each classification of each division. The judges were: Dr. Alexander Spoehr, the Museum's Curator of Oceanic Ethnology; Mr. Eugene S. Richardson, Jr., Curator of Fossil Invertebrates; Mr. G. E. Dahlby, photographer; Mr. Ralph Graham, Assistant Director, Chicago Zoological Park; and Mr. J. Philip Wahlman, photographer and associate of the American Photographic Society.

The names of the winners will be inscribed on the Myrtle R. Walgreen bronze plaque. Special awards and publication of pictures will be through the Photographic Society of America and various photographic magazines. An illustrated catalogue of the exhibit, to be available early in March, will be published by the Nature Camera Club of Chicago. A list of the winners and reproductions of some of their entries will be a feature of the March BULLETIN.

herbarium in the Central United States, while the methods of installation and recording of specimens establish its usefulness. Over 5,000 plants have been mounted, poisoned, and installed in the cases, and over 2,000 identified, classified, and prepared for publication."

[In 1948 the number of specimens in the Herbarium exceeded 1,250,000.]

Mammals of Illinois are exhibited in four cases in Hall 13.





Rand, Austin Loomer. 1949. "Supposedly Extinct Birds Reported Alive." *Bulletin* 20(2), 6–7.

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