

BOTANICAL EXPEDITION ON GULF COMPLETED

On February 7, Dr. Francis Drouet, Curator of Cryptogamic Botany, returned from three and one-half months of botanical exploration of the northeastern coast of the Gulf of Mexico from Louisiana to Florida. The principal object of the expedition was to collect the algae that hitherto have been as unknown in most of this region as in the least accessible parts of the world. Because of the low salinity of the Gulf waters and the absence of rocks and reefs, the larger seaweeds proved to be scarce. On the other hand, the smaller algae—especially the blue-green algae—were abundant everywhere, in fresh, brackish, and salt water, on the soil, and on trees.

The first month was spent in southern Louisiana, from Lake Charles to New Orleans, in the marshes and bayous and on the more easily accessible beaches. For a week Mr. Robert P. Ehrhardt, of Seattle, collected with Dr. Drouet. In the Mississippi River delta area, the success of the work was due largely to the enthusiastic co-operation of Mr. Percy Viosca, Jr., author of *Louisiana Out-of-Doors*. Several days were spent in the pine hills and flats of the Florida parishes of eastern Louisiana and in southwestern Mississippi with Dr. Lewis H. Flint, of Louisiana State University.

During three weeks the cryptogams of the maritime region of Mississippi and Alabama were studied, partly with the assistance of Dr. R. L. Caylor, of Mississippi Delta State Teachers College, Dr. A. D. Bajkov and Dr. A. E. Hopkins, of Biloxi Oyster Laboratory, and Mr. Harold B. Louderback, of Argo (Illinois) High School.

At the invitation of Dr. Chester S. Nielsen, headquarters were established at Florida State University at Tallahassee for the exploration of the Florida coast from Pensacola to Cedar Keys. Through the co-operation of Dr. Herman Kurz, Dr. Nielsen, Dr. Grace Madsen, Miss Eva May Atwood, and Miss Dorothy Crowson, the entire coastal region was rather thoroughly examined during five weeks. A short trip through central Florida as far south as Lake Wales was made with Dr. M. A. Brannon, of the University of Florida. Collections were also made for comparative purposes at several points on the Atlantic coast of Florida.

It is estimated that from 10,000 to 15,000 specimens of cryptogamic plants were accumulated and sent to the Museum during the course of this expedition.

Contributions of Funds

Mr. Elmer J. Richards and Mr. Donald Richards, Research Associate, both for years associated with the Museum as volunteer workers in the Department of Botany, have each contributed \$5,000 for Museum

purposes. Other recent cash gifts include \$200, from Mrs. Hermon Dunlap Smith, Associate in the Division of Birds, and \$100, from Mr. Karl P. Schmidt, Chief Curator of Zoology.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AT THE MUSEUM

Compiled by MARGARET J. BAUER

"In Halls 35 and 36 the vertebrate fossils collected by the Bad Lands expedition of 1898 have been installed as fast as they were made ready. The specimens now on exhibition include a magnificent skull of *Titanotherium ingens*, being one of the largest and most perfect ever found...."

[This skull is still considered one of the finest of its kind. Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn, a leading authority on these animals, called it a "superb" example of the species. It may now be seen on exhibition in Ernest R. Graham Hall (Hall 38) under the scientific name *Menodus giganteus*.]



Former Curator E. S. Riggs with *Menodus giganteus*

"During April... Mr. George A. Dorsey, Curator of the Department of Anthropology, accompanied by Mr. Phillips, of Evanston, visited Mill Creek, Union County, Illinois, and collected a very large number of stone implements and rejects. More recently Mr. Dorsey visited the Pomo Indians of California, and had a most successful trip. From California he went to Tacoma, where he was joined by the modeling force, and casts of Indians of that section, intended to represent the principal aboriginal industries and customs, were obtained. From Tacoma the expedition went to Vancouver Island, for the purpose of taking of several Kwakiutl Indian casts intended for a large ceremonial group illustrating certain phases of religious life."

African Serpent Deity

Aido Hwedo is a serpent deity of Dahomey, West Africa. He is the god who carries thunderbolts to earth and lies under the crust of the earth to support its weight. There is a belief, here and there, that earthquakes are due to the wriggling of the serpent god.

GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM IN LAST MONTH

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

Department of Anthropology:

From: Mrs. R. C. Wheeler, Chicago—a fabricated shrunken head, Ecuador; Mrs. L. Byron Nash, Highland Park, Ill.—75 ethnological specimens and a case of Koa wood, Hawaii and Samoa; E. A. Haeger, Palos Heights, Ill.—a carved wood statue, Tabar Island, Melanesia.

Department of Botany:

From: Ecuadorian Balsa Export Co., S. A., Guayaquil, Ecuador—17 boards of tropical woods, Ecuador; Fred Meyer, St. Louis—74 herbarium specimens, chiefly Missouri; Silvio Yepes, Popayán, Colombia—300 herbarium specimens, Colombia; Grand Rapids Public Museum, Grand Rapids, Mich.—187 fern specimens, Hawaii.

Department of Zoology:

From: Comm. George R. Salisbury and Col. Sam T. Salisbury, through the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.—45 bird skins, Laysan Islands; Col. Clifford C. Gregg, Valparaiso, Ind.—16 mammals, Germany, and 39 reptiles and amphibians, South Africa; U. S. Naval Medical Science Group African Expedition, Naval Medical Research Institute, Bethesda, Md.—2 elephant shrews, Torit, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan; Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago—a mammal specimen, Peru; Walther Buchen, Chicago—19 bird skins, Tanganyika Territory; Boardman Conover, Chicago—a Florida fox squirrel, Florida.

Library:

From: Col. Clifford C. Gregg, Valparaiso, Ind.; Dr. Henry Field, Washington, D.C.; Natural History Museum, San Diego, Calif.; Karl P. Schmidt, Homewood, Ill.; Eugene S. Richardson, Jr., Winnetka, Ill.; and Boardman Conover and Walter L. Necker, both of Chicago.

NEW MEMBERS

(January 16 to February 15)

Associate Members

Dr. John H. Gilmore, Miss Olive Mazurek, Edward Foss Wilson.

Annual Members

Mrs. Henry G. Barkhausen, William T. Cameron, Thomas B. Chace, David E. Davidson, Robert Sidney Dickens, Raymond W. Dosé, A. J. Egan, George E. Fox, Dr. W. F. Geitmann, John C. Gekas, Theron G. Gerow, Lawrence E. Goble, Maxwell A. Goodwin, Dr. Charles F. Greene, William J. Hagenah, Jr., Mrs. Thomas M. Howell, L. R. Howson, Andrew V. Huber, Herbert F. Huch, Dr. Elizabeth Jager, Leslie H. Klawans, Dr. Ernest L. Klein, M. L. Kresge, Herbert F. Lello, Arthur G. Lindell, Joseph M. Linn, Frank J. McNerney, Ernest P. Miller, Miss Constance L. Peck, L. J. Quetsch, T. C. Ragland, William D. Reese, Frank S. Sims, W. Ellis Stewart, A. H. Van Kampen, V. R. Van Natta, Norman E. Watson.



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