

STAFF CHANGES—

(Continued from page 2)

(then Field Museum) in 1930 and has been here continuously ever since.

Mr. Copulos was born in Verria, Greece, and came to the United States in 1901. He is a graduate of the School of Applied Art, Battle Creek, Michigan.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Alexander Spoehr, Curator of Oceanic Ethnology, will assume his new duties as director of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum of Honolulu on January 1, 1953. He has been appointed to succeed the late Sir Peter Buck as director of that important museum, which specializes in scientific research in the Pacific area.



Alexander Spoehr

Dr. Spoehr obtained his university education at both Stanford University and the University of Chicago, receiving his Ph.D. in anthropology from Chicago in 1940. Since

that year he has been a member of the anthropology staff of Chicago Natural History Museum. At first he specialized in American Indian ethnology, but his interests later turned to the Pacific islands. In 1947 he conducted an expedition to the Marshall Islands for the Museum, and in 1949–50 he led a second Museum expedition to the Mariana Islands. His scientific writings include monographs and papers on American Indian and Pacific archaeology and ethnology, the more important of which have appeared in the scientific series of this Museum.

Dr. Spoehr is chairman of the National Research Council's Subcommittee on Pacific Archaeology, scientific consultant to the Pacific Science Board, and an editor of the *American Anthropologist*. In 1952 he received a Guggenheim Fellowship to further his ethnological work in Micronesia.

During World War II, Dr. Spoehr was on leave from the Museum to serve as a lieutenant in the United States Naval Reserve and saw duty in the Central Pacific.

Dr. Hugh C. Cutler, Curator of Economic Botany, has resigned from the staff of the Museum, effective December 31. In January he will assume the position of Curator of Useful Plants at the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis. During his five and one-half years with this Museum, Curator Cutler specialized in research on the origin and development of useful plants. He conducted or took part in Museum expeditions to Cuba, Peru, and the Southwest.

Miss Dolla Cox, who has been secretary of the Department of Botany for several months past, has been transferred to the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation where she will be a staff lecturer,

replacing Mrs. Anne Stromquist, who has resigned. Miss Cox will specialize in lectures on geology subjects. She majored in that science at Barnard College (Columbia University), of which she is a graduate. Miss Virginia Sharp, a graduate of Iowa State University, where she majored in horticulture, has been appointed secretary of the Department of Botany.

Luis de la Torre has been appointed Associate in the Division of Mammals, where he will continue his taxonomic and distributional studies of the mammals of Guatemala. The mammals of that country have never been comprehensively studied, and he is well fitted to carry on this important work at the Museum.

Mr. de la Torre, born in Madrid, Spain, entered the University of Michigan in 1942 and specialized in the study of mammalogy. During the summers of 1946 and 1947 he was a temporary assistant at the Museum in the Division of Mammals.

Miss Bertha M. Parker, a teacher of science in the intermediate and high-school grades of the Laboratory School at the University of Chicago, has been appointed to an honorary post on the staff of this Museum as Research Associate in the Department of the N. W. Harris Public School Extension. Miss Parker is the author of many books and pamphlets on science for children and also of science-education books for teachers.

Miss Lillian A. Ross, Associate Editor of Scientific Publications, has been appointed Associate in the Division of Insects of the Department of Zoology in recognition of her interest and accomplishment in the study of spiders.

REPORT ON FOSSIL FAUNA OF AUSTRIAN ALPS

By RAINER ZANGERL
CURATOR OF FOSSIL REPTILES

Western Austria is a country of steep and spectacular mountains, belonging to the eastern sector of the central Alps, which extend from the Riviera through Switzerland to the region south of Vienna. A deep valley, the Klostertal, runs from the famous Arlberg divide westward to the Upper Rhine and marks, unmistakably even for the layman, the junction of two major systems of alpine rocks. North of the Klostertal are the jagged cliffs and peaks of the northern limestone Alps; south of this valley are the more gentle forms of the crystalline central massive composed of granites, shists and gneisses (metamorphic rocks).

The northern limestone Alps in this area consist primarily of rocks formed during the geological middle age of the earth, the Mesozoic Era, some 200 million to 75 million years ago.

Facing the Klostertal are wildly eroded, spectacular, vertical cliffs of limestone and dolomite many hundreds of feet high. These

rocks were deposited at the bottom of a shallow sea during Triassic time, about 180 million years ago.

Such were the geographic and geologic settings of the exploratory paleontological field work carried on for several months last year by the writer. Vertebrate fossils are usually quite rare in formations such as these, but a number of skeletons of reptiles have been found in avalanche tracks and brook beds. One of these, an essentially complete skeleton of a small marine reptile, was first noted on the exposed surface of a large slab of shale by a young lad who, at the time, thought that it looked like the bones of a lizard. He did not, of course, realize the full meaning of the discovery until many years later when he read an account of fossils in a Sunday newspaper supplement. This reminded him of his early boyhood observation, and he went back to take another look. To his great delight, Albert Schwald found his specimen exactly as he had remembered it and he excavated it with the greatest care. The specimen is now in the collection of the University of Munich where it was studied.

Rocks of similar age and character along the southern fringe of the Alps have produced a magnificent fauna of vertebrate fossils, and it seemed worth while to explore the possibilities in the northern limestone Alps. Fossils were known to occur in black shales along the Klostertal, but no one knew how rich this occurrence might be. In order to gain some idea, I quarried out a considerable amount of shale at a convenient place near Mr. Schwald's farm and close to the spot where he had found the skeleton of *Rhaticonia rothpletzi*.

Bones were found in three fossil levels. In the rather restricted area of the quarry, there was unfortunately no complete skeleton, but isolated bones of several different animals were found, and I have little doubt but that entire skeletons could be obtained by large-scale operations. The frequency of occurrence of the isolated bones per cubic yard of rock is far smaller, however, than in the southern Alps—so small, in fact, that systematic excavation would not produce results commensurate with the effort and the cost involved.

Daily Guide-Lectures

Free guide-lecture tours are offered at 2 P.M. daily except Sundays under the title "Highlights of the Exhibits." These tours are designed to give a general idea of the entire Museum and its scope of activities.

Special tours on subjects within the range of the Museum exhibits are available Mondays through Fridays for parties of ten or more persons. Requests for such service must be made at least one week in advance.

Although there are no tours on Sundays, the Museum is open from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. (4 P.M. on weekdays).



Zangerl, Rainer. 1953. "Report on Fossil Fauna of Australian Alps." *Bulletin* 24(1), 6–6.

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