

## FOSSIL STUDY IN EUROPE

Dr. Robert H. Denison, Curator of Fossil Fishes, left on August 24 to spend a year in Norway, Sweden, and Great Britain. He is on leave from the Museum to study early vertebrates under a Guggenheim Foundation fellowship. The necessity for this trip has resulted chiefly from an effort to make a representative collection of Silurian and Devonian vertebrates of North America for Chicago Natural History Museum. For a clearer understanding of the structure and relationships of these early fishes and pre-fishes, it is necessary to compare them with better-known European material. With this purpose in mind, Dr. Denison will study important collections from Spitsbergen, Norway, and Poland at the Paleontologisk Museum in Oslo and at the Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet in Stockholm, as well as extensive material from classic British Silurian and Devonian localities in the British Museum (Natural History) in London.

Curator Denison will also accumulate information regarding the occurrence of the earliest vertebrates in an attempt to throw more light on their habitat. This is a problem of considerable interest because it may suggest the environment in which vertebrates originated and give a clue to where to search for vertebrate ancestors. The habitat of a fossilized animal, however, is not always easily determined. It may be indicated by the structure or the nature of the sediment in which the fossil is entombed, or it may be suggested by the associated fossils and their manner of preservation.

## STAFF NOTES

**Henry S. Dybas**, Associate Curator of Insects, is on a field trip to the northern Wisconsin shore of Lake Superior where he is seeking insects for the Museum study collections. . . . **Colin C. Sanborn**, Curator of Mammals, spent two weeks last month as a special consultant to the U. S. Public Health Service in a survey of bats in Florida. . . . **John R. Millar**, Deputy Director, appeared on WGN-TV August 19 as the Museum's representative to answer questions about the establishment and purposes of the proposed Channel 11 educational television station for Chicago. . . . **Miss Mary Sue Hopkins** has been appointed Secretary for the Department of Geology. She holds a bachelor's degree with a geology major from Bryn Mawr College. Before graduation she studied at Beirut, Lebanon, and at the School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece. . . . **Dr. Karl P. Schmidt**, Chief Curator of Zoology, was designated as chairman of the United States delegation to the 14th International Zoological Congress that he attended at Copenhagen, August 5 to 12. The Museum was represented at the Congress also by **Mrs. Marion Grey**, Associate

in the Division of Fishes, who participated in a symposium on deep-sea fishes. . . . **Loren P. Woods**, Curator of Fishes, was lecturer on the Sunday television program, "Live and Learn," presented by the Public Service Division of NBC over WNBQ on August 23. . . . **George I. Quimby**, Curator of Exhibits in Anthropology, recently visited archaeological expeditions at Sheguiandah and Killarney in the Manitoulin district of Ontario. . . . **Miss Elaine Blum**, Assistant in Archaeology, has been spending weekends throughout the summer excavating prehistoric Indian artifacts and skeletons on a site in the forest preserve near Thornton, Illinois, just outside Chicago.

## Honolulu Museum Officials Here

Yoshido Kondo, curator of non-marine mollusks at the Bernice P. Bishop Museum in Honolulu, recently spent two weeks studying Pacific land-shells in the collection at Chicago Natural History Museum. Donald Mitchell of the Kamehameha Schools in Hawaii, who directs the education program of the Bishop Museum, also was a recent visitor.

## NEW MEMBERS

The following persons became Museum Members from July 16 to August 7:

### Associate Members

Homer A. Burnell, W. Fred Dolke, Gillette A. Elvgren, Mrs. Henry S. Kahn, Felix Palm

### Annual Members

Warren W. Brown, B. B. Brownell, R. M. Buchanan, David S. Chesrow, Charles C. Cooley, Tilden Cummings, William W. Darrow, S. F. Eagan, Mrs. A. D. Flynn, R. H. Gansbergen, James W. Gee, Albert E. Jenner, Jr., John L. Lehman, Mrs. R. S. Melville, Earle F. Opie, James T. Pettengell, Charles S. Potter, W. J. Reilly, Gerald A. Savage, W. M. Slavik, H. Bowen Stair, Mario Tanzi, Lester W. Tarr, George Tiberius, J. W. Tillotson, Dr. Milton Tinsley, Bruno L. Travelletti, S. M. Vance, Dr. Leroy N. Vernon

## Gifts to the Museum

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

### Department of Anthropology:

From John Ruisecco, Chicago—human head of basalt (Olmec style), Mexico

### Department of Botany:

From: Holly Reed Bennett, Chicago—176 grasses and sedges, Indiana; Herbario Nacional Instituto de Biologia, Mexico City—8 Dioscorea, Mexico; U. S. National Museum, Washington, D.C.—10 seeds of Scrophulariaceae

### Department of Geology:

From: the late J. H. Britts—collection of fossil invertebrates, various localities; Mrs.

## ART STUDENTS—

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the African exhibits they found the relation of modern art to primitive art strikingly illustrated by certain of the Museum exhibit pieces. The line drawing (see illustration) which appears on an African gourd, for example, is remarkably similar in spirit to the line drawings of Paul Klee, noted modernist. This kinship is probably due to the use of primitive art ideas by Klee and other modern artists who have constantly sought for and experimented with new forms of artistic expression.

The primitive culture exhibits of this Museum have proved a mine of ideas for the Art Institute students as well as for their more famous predecessors. In analyzing the use of artistic elements which characterized the different African art works, they have derived ideas which they can use in their own artistic endeavors. The line designs on the gourds have become particular favorites, and at least one student is planning to do enamel work using ideas derived from the gourd designs.

Thus, the Museum exhibits not only enable students and other interested persons to understand primitive art, but they serve as an impetus to the creation of art yet unborn. And if it is true, as one student remarked, that the more they draw the more they see, visitors who walk through the African halls will continue to encounter intent young artists carefully sketching "new" treasures discovered in some hitherto unexplored niche of the African Hall exhibit cases.

D. L. Casey, Yuma, Ariz.—skull and jaws of *Epeorodon occidentalis*, Oregon; Donald M. Johnson, Jefferson City, Mo.—2 plaster casts of fossil mammal teeth

### Department of Zoology:

From: John T. Helton, Troy, Ala.—a snake, Alabama; Harry Hoogstraal, Cairo, Egypt—100 Hippoboscids (bird-louse flies), Egypt; J. E. Johnson, Jr., Waco, Tex.—3 snakes, Texas; N. L. H. Krauss, Honolulu, Hawaii—12 frogs and a snake, Trinidad and Cuba; Dr. Orlando Park, Evanston, Ill.—3,595 insects, Maricopa Co., Ariz.; Dr. Janis A. Roze, Caracas, Venezuela—a frog and 3 snakes, Venezuela; Dr. J. Slater, Ames, Iowa—5 bugs (including two paratypes of 2 species); Lt. Col. Robert Traub, Washington, D.C.—22 slides of fleas, 2 paratypes and a holotype, Africa, Borneo, Korea, Siam and Mexico; U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pascagoula, Miss.—21 lots of fishes, Gulf of Mexico; Dr. Fred R. Cagle, New Orleans—6 turtles (paratypes), Alabama and Mississippi; W. E. Kelley, Elyria, Ohio—collection of cave crayfish, Indiana; K. Matsubara, Kyoto, Japan, 7 fishes, Japan; Dr. Fred Medem, Chicago—80 crocodilian skulls, Colombia; T. Pain, London—collection of fresh-water shells, Mexico

### Library:

From: Peder A. Christensen, Cleveland





1953. "Fossil Study in Europe." *Bulletin* 24(9), 8–8.

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