Chicago Natural History Museum

FOUNDED BY MARSHALL FIELD, 1893

Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive, Chicago 5
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THE BULLETIN

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

WHY WE NEED MUSEUMS

The basic reason for maintaining museums and for the pursuit of knowledge through the research conducted in them was succinctly stated by Benjamin Franklin when he wrote in *Poor Richard's Almanack:* "What signifies knowing the Names, if you know not the Natures of Things."

'Mayan Fire Plant' Wins in Name Contest

Responding to an invitation to send in

of the flowers and the fiery volcanoes of this section of Guatemala. Announcement of the decision was made on the Ott program on Sunday, March, 21.

Annual Report of Director Going to All Members

The Annual Report for 1953 of the Director of the Museum to the Board of Trustees was published in April and distribution of copies to all Members of the Museum has begun. In the report, which fills a volume of 139 pages and contains 24 illustrations, Colonel Clifford C. Gregg, Director, gives detailed information on all phases of Museum activities during the year—expeditions, research, new exhibits, accessions, maintenance, financing, etc. It was printed by Chicago Natural History Museum Press.

Field Trip to Study Ants

A field trip to Louisiana combining research on insects and reptiles will be made early in May by Henry S. Dybas, Associate Curator of Insects, and Hymen Marx, Assistant in the Division of Amphibians and Reptiles. Dybas will devote himself particularly to investigation of the nesting system of the leaf-cutting ant, and Marx will make observations on vertebrate fauna associated with the nest colonies.

Fossil Collecting in Indiana

Dr. Rainer Zangerl, Curator of Fossil Reptiles, and William D. Turnbull, Preparator in the Division of Vertebrate Paleontology, made the first of a series of trips to a locality near Mecca, Indiana, in April. The site is an exposure of fossil-bearing black shale of Pennsylvanian age.

Important Shell Collection Revised by Dr. Haas

The Webb Collection of non-marine shells, which Chicago Natural History Museum purchased from Walter F Webb in 1942

-THIS MONTH'S COVER-

The fast-stepping gentleman on our front cover is a Chinese shadow figure that has probably entertained many audiences in the courtyards of China. For the story of the ancient folk-art that he represents and the effects of the social and political changes of the 20th century upon this art, see the article on page 3.

John Ritchie, Jr., of Boston. The acquisition of such rich and precious material has raised this Museum's collection of shells to the level of the collection of the principal museums on the East Coast.

NEW MEMBERS

The following persons became Museum members from March 15 to April 15:

Associate Members

Miss Edna T. Cowen, Carlton Hill, Harold R. Ray, Miss Mary Louise Tockstein, George H. Watkins

Annual Members

Edwin W. Ahern, Herbert R. Anderson, Carl Baechle, John T. Barlow, John H. Baxter, Charles M. Bell, R. D. Brizzolara, Mrs. Daniel C. Bryant, Homer J. Buckley, LeGrand Cannon, E. F. Chambless, Roswell H. Chrisman, Herbert B. Clark, I. Milton Cohn, John R. Cowan, Curt H. Dechert, John L. Dole, James M. Dow, Carl Dry, J. E. Duty, Mrs. Angela Ebzery, Miss Alice Eiberg, Miss Olga Eiberg, William L. English, Livingston Fairbank, Jr., Miss Mariana Field, C. R. Freeman, Miss Alice H. Gallagher, Edward Gudeman, Jr., Mrs. Virginia C. Halle, Dr. Ralph C. Hamill, Donald W. Hansen, Miss Margaret Higgins, Joseph H. Hinshaw, Cyrus E. Holland, John B. Holmes, Hjalmar W. Johnson, Clyde Kelly, Louis Kohn, Walter C. Krause, Dr. Henry E. Kritzer, Edwin A. Locke, Jr., Thomas E. Maddock, M. L. Magee, Arnold D. K. Mason, Richard McClung, William McDonnell William R McIlyaine Dr



1954. "Field Trip to Study Ants." *Bulletin* 25(5), 2–2.

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