

found the undescribed fauna of the expanding frontiers more than enough to occupy their energies. Hence, of the relatively few large collections that were formed, most were of United States insects.

Since World War I and, especially, World War II, the United States has undertaken to share or take over many technical commitments and interests in undeveloped countries that were previously almost exclusively the province of European powers. This has been true in systematic entomology too, in part because of the close dependence of many phases of economic and medical entomology upon systematics. Our horizons have broadened, apart from these commitments also. Unfortunately, although United States entomologists have been orienting their interests outwardly for some time, the basic world-wide collections that they need are, with a few notable exceptions, largely lacking. Our largest museum collections are still very small by comparison with those of even the smaller European museums, to say nothing of the British, Paris, Berlin, and Vienna museums.

#### HUGE COLLECTIONS

The largest museum collection in the United States numbers several million specimens. Several other collections—including those of several of the university museums—number between a million and a half and two million specimens. Chicago Natural History Museum's collection numbers a little more than a million specimens, of which about 600,000—or a little more than their proportional representation in nature—are beetles. In contrast, the British Museum collections total more than 10 million specimens, of which 4 to 5 million are beetles. No exact figure is available for the Paris Museum. Its beetle collection was about the size of that of the British Museum until recently, when Paris acquired the René Obertür collection. This fabulous collection alone numbered almost 5 million specimens, most of them beetles. Because of the combination of circumstances that produced the large basic insect collections in Europe, as well as of certain cultural factors currently at work on the American scene, the insect collections of the principal United States museums can probably never be the equal of those in European museums.

It will be a long time before we will have collections that are comprehensive enough to enable American systematic entomologists to fulfill that part of the world role that is their inheritance. These basic collections cannot be formed as easily as they were in Europe during the 19th and early 20th centuries, but energetic field work and acquisition of collections, when they are available, will help to overcome this lag. Recent acquisitions from abroad of several important beetle collections by Chicago

Natural History Museum, the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard, and the U. S. National Museum are steps in this direction.

#### Technical Publications

The following technical publications were issued recently by the Museum:

Fieldiana: Geology, Vol. 10, No. 26. *Fauna of the Vale and Choza: 12. A New Trematopsid Amphibian from the Vale Formation.* By Everett Claire Olson. 6 pages, 2 illustrations. 15c.

Fieldiana: Geology, Vol. 10, No. 27. *Fauna of the Vale and Choza: 13. Diadectes, Xenacanthus, and Specimens of Uncertain Affinities.* By Everett Claire Olson. 6 pages, 2 illustrations. 15c.

#### STAFF NOTES

**Matthew S. Moroney**, a member of the Museum Guard force since September 1, 1952, has been appointed Captain of the Guard to succeed Captain Frank Meinke, who retired in September. Captain Moroney is a native Chicagoan who retired from the Illinois Bell Telephone Company in 1948 after more than 40 years of service . . . . As official delegate of the American Anthropological



Matthew S. Moroney

Association, **Phillip H. Lewis**, Assistant Curator of Primitive Art in the Department of Anthropology, participated last month in a symposium, "The Artist in Tribal Society," at the Royal Anthropological Institute, London, where he presented a paper entitled "The Artist in New Ireland Society." The paper was one of five papers that described activities of primitive artists of various parts of the world, and discussion was directed toward abstracting theoretical knowledge of primitive art . . . . **Loren P. Woods**, Curator of Fishes, left for Trinidad, where he will board the U. S. Fish and Wildlife motor vessel *Oregon* for a four-week exploratory fishing cruise in the offshore waters along the coast of the Guianas and Brazil . . . . **George I. Quimby**, Curator of North American Archaeology and Ethnology, recently returned from a study trip in northeast Wisconsin and upper Michigan, where he examined museum collections and archaeological sites . . . . **Dr. Eugene S. Richardson, Jr.**, Curator of Fossil Invertebrates, last month spoke on "Natural Science as a Career" before a seminar at Lake Forest Academy, Lake Forest, Illinois.

#### ALBERT J. FRANZEN 1901-1957



The Museum regrets to report the death of Albert J. Franzen, Preparator and Taxidermist for the Department of the N. W. Harris Public School Extension of the Museum. He died on October 22 at a Chicago hospital after a lingering illness.

Born June 17, 1901, at Darien, Wisconsin, Mr. Franzen joined the staff of Harris Extension as a taxidermist in 1927, and in 1944 he was appointed Preparator and Taxidermist. He devoted thirty years of faithful service to the Museum before he became ill several months ago. He is survived by his wife, Frieda, and two daughters, Marilyn and Arlene, all of Chicago.

#### 'Wanderland' Is Next Audubon Screen-Tour

"Wanderland," the second screen-tour of the Illinois Audubon Society's 1957-58 season, will be presented at 2:30 o'clock on Sunday afternoon, November 10, in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum. William H. Wagoner, Jr., lecturer for the National Audubon Society, and his wife, June, will bring to the audience scenes and stories of the wonders of the outdoors—of animal and plant life on mountain peaks, beneath the sea, in the desert, and in jungles, forests, and swamps.

The remaining three Audubon Society screen-tours will be given at the Museum in January, February, and March. All programs are free.

#### Winter Visiting Hours at the Museum

Winter visiting hours, 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. (5 P.M. on Sundays), went into effect at the Museum on October 15 and will continue in effect until February 28.

Some amazing anatomical structures found in bats are illustrated by models on exhibition in Hall 15.





1957. "Albert J. Franzen, 1901-1957." *Bulletin* 28(11), 7-7.

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