

THE VARIED PEOPLES OF THOUSANDS OF PACIFIC ISLES

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THE YEAR 1959 will be remembered for the admittance of seven small islands, situated 2,000 miles west of the coast of California, as our 50th state. The Hawaiian Islands of today are vastly changed from what they were when Captain James Cook, the great English explorer, landed there about 180 years ago. Honolulu is a modern 20th century city with thriving industries, beautiful homes, wide boulevards, schools, museums, and all the trappings of a contemporary metropolis. In the years following their discovery by Captain Cook, the Hawaiian Islands became the crossroads of the Pacific even though they were among the last islands to be discovered by Europeans.

The so-called age of discovery in the Pacific began with Magellan's ill-fated initial crossing of the ocean in 1520 and culminated with Cook's three voyages (1768-79). The most restricted view of the Pacific was probably that of Balboa. Seven years before Magellan's voyage, Balboa stood on a peak in Panama and looked out over what he termed the South Seas. The most panoramic view of the Pacific was probably Cook's. On his voyages he and his men touched the Society Islands, New Zealand, the Hervey Islands, eastern Australia, the Tuamotus, the Marquesas, Niue, New Caledonia, Norfolk Island, Tubuai, many other smaller islands, and, of course, Hawaii. He used the newly developed chronometer and sextant to chart the Pacific so expertly that little revision in the maps he made has been necessary. Plants were collected, natives sketched and described, notes were taken on natural resources, harbors were listed, currents were noted, and, in general, exhaustive information of all descriptions was collected.

Of especial importance to anthropology is the fact that Cook also collected ethnographic specimens on many of the islands he visited. All in all, this man and his sailing companions solved most of the major mysteries of the Pacific and, as one author has put it, left little for voyagers who followed him to do but admire. Some who followed in his footsteps found much to do, however. The traders, missionaries, whalers and others who ventured into the newly discovered island world, either inadvertently or deliberately, caused the Pacific cultures to change. Disease and warfare as well as blackbirding took their toll of islanders' lives. Those who survived these plagues were influenced by the teachings offered and the examples set by the newcomers. The wheels of cultural change were set in motion and the process of sweeping cultural alteration, which is still in progress, was initiated—the Pacific of old was destined to be lost.

Of all the points worth stressing about the Pacific, there are two which stand out. One is *size*. The Pacific is a vast region compos-

ing approximately one-third of the earth's surface. The second point worthy of stress is that of *contrast* and *variation*, brought about in part by vastness and isolation. This great area of the world stretches from Southeast Asia to the west coasts of North and South America. Ten thousand islands lie

Principal feature for Members' Night (Friday, May 8) will be a special exhibit of objects from the recently acquired Fuller Collection of Pacific Islands Material Culture. In the accompanying article, Dr. Force summarizes the historical and ethnological background of the South Sea islands that the Fuller collection documents.

scattered over the face of what we also call Oceania. They vary from tiny atoll islets barely visible above the pounding surf to continental Australia, three million miles large. Contrast and variation in the Pacific are greater than most suspect. There are deserts in Australia, muggy, insect-ridden equatorial mangrove swamps in coastal Melanesia, and snow-capped "alps" towering 12,000 feet in New Guinea. There is contrast and variation in climate, island size, elevation, soil, resources, fauna, flora, and in people.

MAGMA AND MIGRATIONS

The Pacific and the people who live and have lived there can be understood only when viewed against a backdrop of geography and geology. Great tectonic shifts in the corpus of the earth occurred about a hundred million years ago in the western Pacific. Intense folding and faulting thrust up great ridges which rose from the floor of the Pacific mostly in an east-west direction. Mountains were raised above the surface of the water, basaltic magma erupted, and volcanoes formed even higher peaks. Later the great ridges submerged thousands of feet and left only the peaks of the great sub-aquatic cordilleras exposed.

Another kind of eruption took place in this part of the world about the end of the Ice Age, or roughly some 25,000 years ago. It was a gradual eruption and was composed of people. Perhaps trickle is a better adjective than eruption if we view the events of history in Pacific settlement in proper perspective. Small bands of relatively primitive

people with few possessions and even fewer ideas of where they were going began to trickle out of Southeast Asia. They moved relatively short distances—they had only flimsy water craft and many were lost. Perhaps in a score of generations only a few islands might be traversed, but constant population pressures, inter-tribal wars and accidents of weather and navigation resulted in a steady, if slow, eastward migration into the Pacific. Later some peoples became skilled boat builders and intrepid sailors. Techniques of food and water storage and star navigation were improved and learning from experience—some of it disastrous—enabled these dauntless mariners to penetrate into virtually all parts of Oceania. The Pacific at last had people.

With their bare feet they scuffed through beach rubble, trod on red volcanic soil or bleached coral sand to gain a toehold. They built simple thatched houses, fished the lagoons, and farmed marshy plots, sometimes fertile, sometimes awesomely sterile.

With them, these voyagers brought their customs, their ways of life, their values, their beliefs in God and nature, their languages and, of course, they also brought their skin colors, their hair and nose forms, their stature and all of the other physical characteristics with which their ancestors had provided them.

They traded their ways of life and customs as well as their racial characteristics with other people they met and then became isolated and developed in ways peculiar to themselves. For example: many Pacific peoples ornamented their persons by tattooing, but patterns, techniques, and special features became highly stylized and representative of only one area. The Maori of New Zealand concentrated on facial tattooing and curvilinear designs. The Marquesans, on the other hand, tattooed the entire body—even to the eyelids and soles of the feet—in designs strikingly different from their Polynesian neighbors in faraway New Zealand.

WHO AND WHERE

In each little island enclave, people built a distinctive culture which shared a common core with many others but was still remarkably different from that of any other group. Isolation for long periods of time tended to promote cultural, linguistic and racial differences. However, the Pacific may be broken up into several larger enclaves in which there are basic similarities.

Polynesia (which means many islands) is a great triangle in the east. It has at its apexes Easter Island on the east, Hawaii on the north, and New Zealand on the south. Micronesia (small islands) forms a belt across the northern Pacific from the Marshalls to Palau in the west. It is bordered on the south by the equator.

South of this median line on our globe in-

(Continued on page 8, column 1)

MUSEUM MEMBERS' NIGHT
Friday, May 8

NATURE-ART STUDENTS DISPLAY CREATIONS

The lively imagination of the young child, and the more advanced artistic skill of the adult combine to produce a colorful and refreshing show of art work by students of the School of the Art Institute in a special exhibit at Chicago Natural History Museum.

The special exhibit, which will continue from May 1 through May 31, includes nearly 100 paintings and drawings in many mediums by junior school students (first through twelfth grades) and adult day students based on exhibits in this Museum. The exhibits provide the students with new forms and subject matter to observe and paint. The wide range of the students' ages affords an interesting representation of the progressive stages in the development of an artist.

Forty paintings by students in the junior school, under the direction of Edith Jane Cassady, will be displayed in the north corridor of the ground floor. Delightful interpretations of Museum exhibits, particularly of the animal habitat groups, are exhibited in the children's works. Not yet restricted by the confines of reality, they have injected life and action into their subject matter—even to the extent in one painting of animating a skeleton and placing it amidst a field of flowers.

Art work by first-year adult students in basic drawing classes, instructed by Richard



IT'S ALL ONE TRANSPARENT EAGLE

A multiple-image drawing showing the bird from different points of view, stressing linear relationships. Included in this month's special exhibit at this Museum from the School of the Art Institute, it is the work of Richard Chen, a first-year student in the adult basic painting and drawing class.

Keane and Ethel Spears, and the second-year adult classes, conducted by Tom Kap-salis, will be located in Albert W. Harris Hall (Hall 18). These drawings and paintings are representative of the adults' approach to subject matter which they cannot come into contact with inside the classroom. Naturalistic studies of animals and birds, and abstract works based on realistic forms predominate in the exhibit. Multiple image drawings of the same figure from different

angles, emphasizing linear relationships, comprise a smaller portion of the works.

Selecting the paintings and drawings to be exhibited this year were Marion Pahl, Staff Illustrator, and Phillip Lewis, Assistant Curator of Primitive Art, at the Museum.

The instructors in the junior school whose students are represented are Mrs. Berta Caul, Joseph S. Young, Mrs. Donald Novotny, Mrs. Martha Larson, Barbara Aubin, Herb Forman, Eugene Szuba, Diane Von Eitzen, Alvin Nickel, Adelheid Hirsch and Constance Racht.

MUSEUM MEMBERS' NIGHT Friday, May 8

NEW MEMBERS

(March 17 to April 15)

Non-Resident Life Member
Mrs. Vera Lash Smith

Associate Members

Dr. Irving Blumenthal, Dr. Milton Braun, A. C. Buehler, Jr., Mrs. Robert F. Carr, Robert Diller, W. J. Foell, Lester E. Frankenstein, George D. Hardin, William P. Hypes, Floyd E. Jessen, William J. Keene, Dr. M. J. Kostrzewski, Frank B. Kozlik, L. S. Larson, John A. Leith, Robert J. Ley, Mrs. Mason A. Loundy, Mrs. John A. MacLean, Jr., Arnold D. K. Mason, Raven I. McDavid, Jr., Oscar L. Moore, Wilbur C. Munnecke, Carroll Dean Murphy, Jr., Mrs. Fentress Ott, Robert E. Pflaumer, Robert C. Preble, Mrs. John A. Prosser, Douglas K. Ridley, Mrs. George P. Rogers, Miss Marion H. Schenk, Mrs. Vaughn C. Spalding, Jr., Allen P. Stults, Roy E. Sturtevant, Carroll H. Sudler, Jr., Leon F. Urbain, M. P. Venema, Mrs. Maurice Weigle, Dr. Emanuel C. Wilhelm, Howard L. Willett, Jr.

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Arthur Joel Bell, R. J. Hepburn, Francis M. Rich

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Dr. Arthur C. Albright, John E. Alden, Mrs. John W. Allyn, Max Alper, Donald W. Alshire, Dr. Erwin Angres, Dr. Charles H. Armstrong, Mrs. John E. Armstrong, Mrs. Paul L. Armstrong, Mrs. Homer Askounis, William F. Austin III, Mrs. L. C. Ayshford, Dr. Bernard Baker, Gerald A. Barry, Dr. Edward W. Beasley, Irving L. Berkson, Arthur J. Bernstein, Irwin S. Bickson, Richard J. Billik, T. S. Bird, Vincent J. Bolger, Gerald G. Bolotin, Palmer C. Boothby, John J. Bransfield, Jr., Merton B. Brody, Ralph E. Brown, William E. Cahill, Charles D. Callahan, L. Yager Cantwell, Howard W. Clement, James W. Clement, Franklin A. Cole, Dr. Lorne Costello, Miss Bernice Dahl, Mrs. Dino D'Angelo, Mrs. Jack Davidson, Mrs. Landon DeLove, James P. Economos, Thomas S. Edmonds, Irving W. Eiserman, Walter Erman, George J. Fox, Maurice A. Frank, Sidney S. Gorham, Jr., Gerald J. Graham, Robert C. Gunness, Mrs. Bessie Neuberg Heinze, John Howard, Robert Ire-

HALL OF TREES REOPENS WITH NEW EXHIBITS

AS THEY STROLL through the newly remodeled Charles F. Millsbaugh Hall of North American Trees (Hall 26), visitors can choose their summer vacation spot in a woodland region, pick out the proper wood for furniture, and learn the natural history of North American trees. The Hall of North American Trees is to be reopened on Members' Night, Friday, May 8.

Designed to present the natural history of North American trees, particularly those of the United States, the hall contains cases exhibiting 84 species of hardwood and softwood trees. A large fossil tree stump 250,000,000 years old, found in a Pennsylvania coal mine, rests in the center of the hall. On the walls surrounding it are four entirely new exhibits.

The standing cases, each devoted to a single tree species, contain a section of the trunk with bark, a branch, large pieces of lumber showing the wood structure, a distribution map, and summer and winter photographs. In addition, explanatory labels stress interesting aspects of the natural history of the tree, and list important fungus diseases, insect pests, and characteristics and uses of the wood.

One of the new exhibits illustrates the principal forest areas of the United States; smaller maps show the change in original forest coverage from the time of the arrival of the white man to the present, and the fact that one-third of the land area of the United States is still covered with woodland. Of unusual interest are the colorful and highly polished large sections of petrified wood which document eloquently "Forests of the Past" in another new exhibit.

Details of the major structural elements and principal functions of a tree, and the mystery of plant reproduction are illustrated and explained by "How a Tree Works." The fourth new exhibit shows the complex aggregation of tree and other plant species in an Illinois forest and also how the composition of forests varies at increasing elevations on a mountain side.

A new arrangement of cases and the beautifully painted transparencies give a feeling of outdoor spaciousness in the Museum's indoor "forest."

land, Miss Barbara Jacobs, Albert J. Jantorni, Samuel Jastromb, Howard F. Jeffers, Ray T. Johnson, Loring M. Jones, Mrs. Ramonda Jo Karmatz, Samuel N. Katzin, Mrs. Arthur J. Leighton, Julius Loeffler, Maurice D. Mangan, Fred B. Mattingly, Edward H. McDermott, Wyllys K. Morris, William S. North, A. E. Paxton, Mrs. Phyllis Rossow, Mrs. Thomas J. Salsman, Robert L. Sanders, Harry Schaden, Dr. I. Joshua Speigel, Henry Stefany, Arthur Sturm, Richard B. Trentlage, Paul W. Weber, David Maxwell Weil, R. L. Wenger, Mrs. Ednyfed H. Williams, Martin Zitz.

PEOPLES OF THE PACIFIC—

(Continued from page 6)

cluding most of New Guinea and myriad islands to the east and northeast, lies Melanesia (the black islands). Still farther south is Australia.

Farther west is Malaysia or, as it is sometimes called, Indonesia. Here are the islands which cluster about the feet of Asia—lands which have felt the impact of countless waves of Asiatic peoples who have surged out of the great continent in search of new homes. Influences have been received from the high cultures of Asia—from India and even from the Near East.

Melanesians are darker-skinned people with bushy or frizzly hair, somewhat larger than Malaysians and with distinctive nose and head forms. Variation is extremely great between island groups however, and the heterogeneity is present even between lowland or coastal peoples and their highland neighbors in diverse New Guinea.

Polynesians are relatively tall, well-muscled, straight- or wavy-haired and light-skinned. The racial affinities with the major Caucasoid or white stock are apparent. Malaysians generally show racial affinities with the peoples of Asia.

As we might expect because of their geographic position between the Polynesians and the Malaysians, Micronesians range between the two in their physical characteristics. The Australian aborigines are an additional variant in physical type and represent the earliest migrants into the Pacific.

Variation within each of the major areas is extremely great and it is not at all uncommon to discover an individual in one area who, if he were in another, would pass as any "native on the street." Variation in culture and language is also exceedingly great. Ways of thinking with respect to family organization in one island may relate to the mother's line—in another, the father's. Some people eat dogs; others eschew this tasty dietary supplement. For one island there is a supreme deity—on another a pantheon of nature deities—on still another there are both.

Linguistically, the peoples of the Pacific appear to substantiate the Biblical story of the Tower of Babel. Many languages of the world may be traced to a common antecedent stock. So it is with numerous Pacific languages which may be traced to Malayo-Polynesian or Austronesian—a root or main-stem language family such as Indo-European. We have much yet to learn about the languages of the Pacific and this fact holds as well for other features of Pacific culture.

REMNANTS AND RESEARCH

The fact remains that while we understand a good bit about Pacific peoples, there is still much to know and as time goes by and contact between the Pacific and the rest of the world increases in frequency and intensity, there is less and less opportunity for under-

standing this remarkably variable and vast region. Just as the Hawaii of today is vastly changed from what it was in Captain Cook's day, so are other island cultures changing.

It is with this realization in mind that the true worth of the Fuller Collection of archaeological and ethnological materials from the South Seas can be appreciated. More than 60 years of discriminating collecting of objects brought back from the Pacific by early explorers, missionaries, and government officials has resulted in one of the most important collections of Oceanic materials ever made. Captain and Mrs. A. W. F. Fuller of London have devoted their lives to the task of preserving the physical remnants of island cultures now either extinct or very different from their aboriginal state. The collection, brought here from England last fall, consists of materials from Australia and Tasmania, Melanesia, and Polynesia and provides numerous opportunities for scholarly research and exhibition. In and of itself, the Fuller Collection stands as a testimonial to the great breadth, the variation, and the contrast of an island world which is fast becoming submerged by Western World culture. In short, it provides a panorama of the Pacific of yesteryear.

MUSEUM MEMBERS' NIGHT

Friday, May 8

GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

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

Department of Zoology

From: Dr. Reznear M. Darnell, Milwaukee—41 lots of invertebrates, Lake Pontchartrain, La.; Richard Graybeal, Great Lakes, Ill.—25 lots of non-marine shells, Idaho and California; Philip Hershkovitz, Riverdale, Ill.—180 reprints of scientific articles; Harry Hoogstraal, Cairo, Egypt—35 bird skins; Leslie Hubricht, Catonsville, Md.—collection of land shells, Sharon, N. Y.; Dr. Paul D. Hurd, Jr., Berkeley, Calif.—11 Xylocopid bees, U. S., Central America and South America; Dr. Karel F. Liem, Urbana, Ill.—46 frogs, Java; Dr. Reinaldo Pfaff, Colombia—collection of shells; Ray Summers, Petaluma, Calif.—two species of cowrie shells, Easter Island and Philippines; John A. Wagner, Riverside, Ill.—454 butterflies and moths, U. S. and Mexico; Dr. H. B. Sherman, Gainesville, Fla.—bat parasites; Dr. Alan Solem, Oak Park, Ill.—12,000 shells; Tarpon Zoo, Tarpon Springs, Fla.—2 snakes, Colombia; Lt. Col. Robert Traub, Kuala Lumpur, Malaya—310 batflies, Malaya, Madagascar, India; Tom Whisnant, New Orleans—a turtle, Libya; William Abler, Chicago—a butterfly; Animal Welfare League, Chicago—a snake; Bernard Benesh, Burrville, Tenn.—321 insects; University of California, Los Angeles—48 lots of fishes; Robert J. Drake, Tucson, Ariz.—land snails, Mexico; Dr. Robert E. Kuntz, APO 63, San Francisco—a bat, 462 reptiles and amphibians, Formosa.

BIOLOGICAL EDITORS MEET

The Conference of Biological Editors held its second annual meeting in Chicago on April 11 and 12, with Chicago Natural History Museum functioning as host. More than 60 editors of the country's leading biological journals participated in the program. The local arrangements were made by a committee consisting of Dr. Theodor Just, Chief Curator of Botany, and Miss Lillian Ross, Editor of Scientific Publications at the Museum. Dr. Just was elected Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

Journeys for Children Continue

May is the final month for children desiring to participate in the spring Museum Journey on "Life of Ancient Seas."

The summer journey, which will be offered through the period from June 1 to August 31 will be entitled "Goin' Fishin'." Details will be announced in the next BULLETIN.

Children wishing to participate in any of the Journeys will be given instructions and questionnaires at either the north or south entrances. Those who successfully answer the questions in four Journeys become Museum Travelers. After eight Journeys there are awards as Museum Adventurers, and twelve as Museum Explorers.

Collecting Birds in Egypt

Melvin A. Traylor, Jr., Associate Curator of Birds, left early in April for a field trip to Egypt. Flying to Cairo, Traylor joined Harry Hoogstraal, Museum Field Associate, who has been stationed there for several years as a member of a U. S. Navy medical research unit. Together with Hoogstraal, Traylor will collect bird specimens and make studies of ornithological problems. For the past three years, Traylor has been engaged in research on birds sent to the Museum by Hoogstraal. After completing his field work, he will probably stop in London, en route homeward, for studies of collections at the British Museum (Natural History).

Visiting Hours Extended for Summer Season

Effective May 1 and continuing through September 7 (Labor Day) visiting hours at the Museum are extended by one hour. The Museum will be open daily, including Sundays and holidays, from 9 A.M. to 6 P.M.

Botanist from Indonesia Here

Dr. A. J. G. H. Kostermans, professor of botany at the University of Indonesia at Bogor, and head of the botanical department of the Indonesian Forest Research Institute, spent a week last month in research on collections in this Museum.



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