

"Yeti Scalp" Identified

As all Chicagoans know, the so-called "yeti scalp" discovered in Nepal by the World Book Encyclopedia Himalayan expedition was recently brought to Chicago to be identified by scientists at Chicago Natural History Museum. Mr. Philip HersHKovitz, Curator of Mammals, made the first correct identification of this object, which had been the target of much speculation and which was an important good luck charm for the Nepalese villagers to whom it belongs. The headgear was pin-pointed by Mr. HersHKovitz as an artifact made from the hide of a serow, an Asiatic goat-antelope.

After the problem of identification had been solved, Sir Edmund Hillary, leader of the Himalayan expedition, Mr. Desmond Doig, its official reporter, and



Kumja Chumji, Sherpa villager who accompanied the "scalp" to Chicago, toured the Museum. The exotic display from Tibet (see featured exhibit for February, page 8) was a special delight to the Sherpa, who hurried excitedly from case to case, pointing out familiar objects. When he broke into a dance and chant at the sight of one festival costume, he and the other members of the expedition were invited to return to the Museum the next day, when his dance was color-filmed and sound-recorded for the files of the Department of Anthropology.

Scientific Meetings

Mr. D. Dwight Davis, Curator of Vertebrate Anatomy, at the annual meeting

Right

Mr. Philip HersHKovitz (left), Curator of Mammals, and Dr. Kenneth Starr, Curator of Asiatic Archaeology and Ethnology, leave the Division of Photography after filming and recording Kumja Chumji's dance.

Below Left

Kumja Chumji, Sherpa villager who accompanied the antelope cap to Chicago, pays his respects to the Tibetan God of War, February's featured exhibit (see page 8).



of the American Association for the Advancement of Science last month, was elected managing editor of the journal, *Evolution*. In addition, he was appointed chairman of the Morphology Section of the American Society of Zoologists.

An important part of the science meeting was a symposium on "The Evolution of Feeding Mechanisms in Vertebrates," in which Mr. Davis, and Dr. Robert H. Denison, Curator of Fossil Fishes, participated.

Expedition

Chicago Natural History Museum has launched a scientific expedition to Suriname. Purpose of the Museum's expedition is to study and collect the little known animals—principally mammals and birds—of the interior. The expedition began last fall and will remain in the field for approximately one year.

Suriname is one of the countries of the Guianan region, a vast territory lying between the Orinoco, Negro, and Amazon Rivers in northeastern South America. Studies that have been made of the animals of Suriname are based on specimens observed and collected along the coast only.

The primary focus of the Museum's expedition, therefore, will be on the interior, particularly the highlands and along the Brazilian border. On the basis

of an adequate and representative collection of specimens, as well as information about them recorded in the field, research will be carried out on the classification, distribution, and life histories of Suriname mammals and birds.

The first member of the expeditionary party to take to the field was Harry A. Beatty of New York. Beatty is an experienced bird collector who has already made many collections, particularly from Africa, for the Museum. He arrived in Paramaribo, the capital of Suriname, in September, and is proceeding to the headwaters of the Suriname River.

Philip HersHKovitz, Curator of Mammals will follow later this winter and will remain in the field for several months, taking personal charge of the expedition's activities.

The research on mammals undertaken by the expedition is being aided by a grant from the National Science Foundation; the bird studies are being supported by the Museum's Boardman Conover Fund.

Audubon Lecture

"The Shandon Hills," a color motion picture on the changing seasons in central California, will be presented free on Sunday, February 19 (2:30 P.M.), in the James Simpson Theatre by the Illinois Audubon Society.



1961. "'Yeti Scalp" Identified." *Bulletin* 32(2), 3-3.

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