

# Conservation Laboratory Established

*Mrs. Danziger treats a specimen of primitive art.*



THE FIRST laboratory in the Midwest devoted to the conservation of archaeological and ethnological collections is being established in the Museum under a grant of \$33,000 from the Robert R. McCormick Charitable Trust.

In charge of the new laboratory is Mrs. Christine Danziger, whose appointment as the Museum's first conservator of anthropological collections was announced in the BULLETIN last May.

The collections in the Museum's Department of Anthropology contain more than half a million specimens from all parts of the world, representing all eras of human history. These collections provide the raw materials of research not only for the Museum's own anthropologists, but also for local graduate students and scholars who visit the Museum from every country of the globe.

Among the most ancient archaeological specimens are the crude tools used more than 400,000 years ago by Peking Man; weapons and carvings made by the prehistoric cave men of Europe; Egyptian fabrics, papyrus documents, glass jewelry, bronze statues, and alabaster urns dating from the 18th to the first centuries before Christ; harness pieces and stucco ornaments from the ancient near East; Chinese bronzes from the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220);

Etruscan sarcophaguses of stone; Roman frescoes and bronzes from Pompeii; and pre-Columbian fabrics and stone sculptures from Central and South America. More recent ethnological specimens include rare works of primitive art fashioned from wood, stone, metal, bone, feathers, and other perishable substances.

All these materials are particularly vulnerable to deterioration. Most of the specimens that would be damaged or destroyed if the natural processes of aging and weathering cannot be halted are irreplaceable today.

Equipment to be installed in the conservation laboratory will make possible the chemical analysis of substances, the diagnosis of any disintegration processes that may have begun, the removal of the products of corrosion and of the corrosion-producing agents, and the stabilization and preservation of the anthropological specimens.

It is anticipated that the techniques developed and used in the new laboratory will be of aid to other museums and universities in the Midwest in meeting problems of specimen conservation.

Aiding in the purchase of equipment for the laboratory is a grant of \$4,000 from the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research.

## Chicago Natural History Museum

Founded by Marshall Field, 1893

Roosevelt Road and Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60605

Telephone: 922-9410

### THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lester Armour	Hughston M. McBain
Wm. McCormick Blair	J. Roscoe Miller
Bowen Blair	William H. Mitchell
Walter J. Cummings	James L. Palmer
Joseph N. Field	John T. Pirie, Jr.
Marshall Field, Jr.	John Shedd Reed
Stanley Field	John G. Searle
Clifford C. Gregg	John M. Simpson
Samuel Insull, Jr.	Solomon A. Smith
Henry P. Isham	Louis Ware
William V. Kahler	J. Howard Wood

### OFFICERS

Stanley Field, Chairman of the Board
Clifford C. Gregg, President
James L. Palmer, First Vice-President
Joseph N. Field, Second Vice-President
Edward Bryon Smith, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary
Bowen Blair, Third Vice-President
E. Leland Webber, Secretary

### THE BULLETIN

#### EDITOR

E. Leland Webber, Director of the Museum

#### CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Paul S. Martin, Chief Curator of Anthropology  
John R. Millar, Chief Curator of Botany  
Rainer Zangerl, Chief Curator of Geology  
Austin L. Rand, Chief Curator of Zoology

#### MANAGING EDITOR

Paula R. Nelson, Public Relations Counsel

#### ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Marilyn J. Arado, Associate in Public Relations

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

## MARCH CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

FILMS and demonstrations that will stimulate children to enjoy the outdoors more fully this spring and summer will be offered by the Museum on two Saturday mornings during March. "Nature's Wonderland" is the theme of the films to be presented on March 7, which is Camp Fire Girl Day in the Museum. On March 14, Girl Scout Day, the program is on camping. Demonstrations will be given depicting the kind of camping done by the Girl Scouts of Chicago. Programs begin at 10:30 A.M. in the James Simpson Theatre and are free to all children.

(Museum News continued on page 8)





1964. "Conservation Laboratory Established." *Bulletin* 35(2), 4-4.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/25679>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/374570>

**Holding Institution**

University Library, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

**Sponsored by**

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: NOT\_IN\_COPYRIGHT

Rights Holder: Field Museum of Natural History

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.