

HISTORY OF FIELD MUSEUM

By OLIVER C. FARRINGTON
Curator, Department of Geology

(Continued from last month)

Funds provided by Marshall Field enabled a two years' sojourn (1926-27) to be made in Madagascar by Assistant Curator Ralph Linton, of the Department of Anthropology. Through the work of this expedition large collections illustrative of the cultures of the various races on the island were made.

Another important archaeological and ethnological expedition, for which funds were contributed by Marshall Field, was carried on by Assistant Curator J. Eric Thompson in British Honduras and Guatemala during successive seasons, beginning in 1927. Ancient Maya ruins were studied and mapped, and dated stelae and altars were discovered.

The joint expedition carried on by the Museum in conjunction with Oxford University during 1923 was continued each year during the period under consideration. This expedition devoted itself chiefly to studies and excavations of ancient Kish, the first capital city of the earliest known civilization of western Asia. Extensive excavations carried on there revealed many important facts regarding Sumerian and successive cultures. A temple of Nebuchadnezzar was brought to light, as well as many structures of earlier periods. A great amount of pottery, sculptures, seals, jewelry and human skeletons was obtained from the excavations at levels noted in such a way that the cultures of different periods could be determined and compared. One of the most interesting discoveries was that of the remains of two wooden chariots which indicated this means of transport was in use as early as 3200 B.C. Funds for the Museum's share in this work were contributed by Marshall Field.

Two expeditions during the period were led by Assistant Curator Henry Field. One was an archaeological expedition to western Europe by which important sites occupied by prehistoric man were visited and collections obtained. The other expedition led by Assistant Curator Field explored the North Arabian Desert and found flint implements at various points which indicated the existence in the region of earlier man in a paleolithic phase of culture.

An expedition which circumnavigated the Pacific Ocean and collected land and marine animals for the Museum was sponsored and led by Cornelius Crane on his yacht, *Ilyria*. Karl P. Schmidt, Assistant Curator of Reptiles at the Museum, was leader of the scientific staff of the expedition. Other members were Dr. Albert W. Herre, Dr. W. I. Moss, Walter A. Weber, Frank C. Wonder, Sidney N. Shurcliff, Murry Fairbank and Charles R. Peavy. About 18,000 zoological specimens were collected.

During the spring and summer of 1929, the Field Museum-Williamson Undersea Expedition carried on operations in the Bahamas. This expedition was provided with special equipment both for collecting and observing undersea life, and secured a remarkable and extensive collection of marine fauna. One palmate coral obtained weighed about two tons and measured nearly eleven by six feet. J. E. Williamson led this expedition. Taxidermist Leon L. Pray accompanied it.

Turning to activities more locally connected with the Museum during the period under consideration, the year 1925 was signalized by the gift from Mrs. Anna Louise Raymond of an endowment of \$500,000 in memory of her husband, the late James Nelson Raymond. This endowment, the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's

Lectures, enables free motion picture and other educational entertainments to be given to children of the public schools and others, and provides for extension lectures on natural history subjects in the public schools. Subsequent contributions made by Mrs. Raymond have added to the benefits yielded.

In 1925 a contribution of \$100,000 was made to the Museum by Miss Kate Buckingham in memory of her brother, the late Clarence Buckingham. In recognition of this contribution, the hall of physical geology was named Clarence Buckingham Hall.

(To be concluded next month)

CARVED RHINOCEROS HORN FROM CHINA

By BERTHOLD LAUFER
Curator, Department of Anthropology

A unique carved rhinoceros horn was recently acquired by Field Museum from a fund donated annually by the American Friends of China, Chicago. It is intact in its natural shape, and is carved all around with a group of animals along its base.



Unique Carving

Rhinoceros horn with figures of seventeen animals in high relief. Note portrayal of giraffe near center. A relic of the Ming dynasty in China (fifteenth century).

The horn belongs to the large Indian species and stands eight inches high. From mediaeval times until recently a lively trade in rhinoceros horns was carried on from India, Sumatra, Java, Siam, and Annam to China, where they were welcome material to carvers. In carving a row of seventeen animals in high relief upon the horn in question, the artist skillfully adapted his subject to the natural formations of the material, and portrayed exotic animals like the rhino itself and a giraffe, many live specimens of which were imported from East Africa to China in the fifteenth century. This carving is a production of the same period (Ming dynasty).

Rhinoceros horn is not a bony substance, but an epidermal formation composed of a solid mass of agglutinated hairs or bristles.

It was an ancient Chinese belief that the rhinoceros devoured with its food all sorts of vegetable poisons and that its horn was capable of neutralizing poison.

JANUARY GUIDE-LECTURE TOURS

Following is the schedule of conducted tours of the exhibits during January:

Thursday, January 1: New Year's Holiday—no tours
Friday: 11 A.M., Egypt, 3 P.M., North American Mammals.

Week beginning January 5—Monday: 11 A.M., South America, 3 P.M., Sea Animals; Tuesday: 11 A.M., The Giant Komodo and Other Lizards, 3 P.M., Eskimo Life; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Game Animals, 3 P.M., Pewter, Bronze and Cloisonné; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Birds of Streams and Shores, 3 P.M., Primitive Musical Instruments.

Week beginning January 12—Monday: 11 A.M., Skeletons, 3 P.M., Illinois Industries; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Homes in Various Lands, 3 P.M., Plants of Economic Value; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Baskets and Mats, 3 P.M., The Panda and Its Relatives; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Chicago Animal Life, 3 P.M., Primitive Costume Decorations.

Week beginning January 19—Monday: 11 A.M., Amber, Copal and Lacquer, 3 P.M., China; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Asiatic Animals, 3 P.M., Mummies; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Metal Workers, 3 P.M., Implements of Warfare; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Man Through the Ages, 3 P.M., Dinosaurs and Other Reptiles.

Week beginning January 26—Monday: 11 A.M., Rodents, 3 P.M., Roman Life; Tuesday: 11 A.M., Prehistoric Animals, 3 P.M., Laces and Embroideries; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Fire-making and Cooking Utensils, 3 P.M., Chinese Art; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., North American Indiana, 3 P.M., African Animals.

Persons wishing to participate should apply at North Entrance. Tours are free and no gratuities are to be proffered. A new schedule will appear each month in FIELD MUSEUM NEWS. Guide-lecturers' services for special tours by parties of ten or more are available free of charge by arrangement with the Director a week in advance.

NEW MEMBERS

The following persons were elected to membership in Field Museum during the period from November 17 to December 15:

Associate Members

Mrs. John Crerar, J. F. Dammann, Clyde H. DeAcrea, Miss Elizabeth Dimick, William H. Ferguson, Miss Elizabeth Fowler, J. B. Green, Mrs. Phelps B. Hoyt, Edward T. Kelly, W. J. Lawrence, Mrs. W. S. McCrea, Henry G. Naber, R. E. Park, W. Otis Sage, James M. Sheldon, Charles E. Thompson, Walter F. Wallace, Dr. Lucius H. Zeuch.

Sustaining Members

Mrs. Robert Slade

Annual Members

W. E. Babb, Mrs. George G. Bogert, Mrs. John Buckingham, William C. Buttner, Giuseppe Castruccio, T. A. Copeland, Ruthven Deane, Mrs. Herbert G. P. Deans, Mrs. R. H. Elliott, Mrs. Walter M. Gibbs, Mrs. Carroll L. Griffith, Miss Carolyn R. Hazard, Mrs. Junius C. Hoag, Rev. Richard D. Hughes, Lawrence B. Icely, Dr. R. L. James, Louis M. Lach, Mrs. Berthold Lauffer, Miss Elma V. Lawrence, Mrs. George H. Lesman, Mrs. Frank Marling, Jr., Miss Kathleen Meacham, Mrs. Edmund T. Miller, Miss Catherine M. Murphy, George Penrose, Mrs. John A. Prosser, Charles F. Putnam, Mrs. N. Ribback, Mrs. W. W. Rice, Mrs. F. B. Rupert, Miss Florence E. Scully, H. W. Seymour, F. A. Sloan, Miss Dorothea E. Vent, John H. Victor, Vernon S. Watson, Mrs. Donald P. Welles, Miss Frances E. Whedon, Harold G. Wieland, Lucian E. Williams, Mrs. Robert E. Wilson.

MEMBERSHIP IN FIELD MUSEUM

Field Museum has several classes of Members. Benefactors give or devise \$100,000 or more. Contributors give or devise \$5,000 to \$100,000. Life Members give \$500; Non-Resident (Life) and Associate Members pay \$100; Non-Resident Associate Members pay \$50. All the above classes are exempt from dues. Sustaining Members contribute \$25 annually. After six years they become Associate Members. Annual Members contribute \$10 annually. Other memberships are Corporate, Honorary, Patron, and Corresponding, additions under these classifications being made by special action of the Board of Trustees.

Each Member, in all classes, is entitled to free admission to the Museum for himself, his family and house guests, and to two reserved seats for Museum lectures provided for Members. Subscription to FIELD MUSEUM NEWS is included with all memberships. The courtesies of every museum of note in the United States and Canada are extended to all Members of Field Museum. A Member may give his personal card to non-residents of Chicago, upon presentation of which they will be admitted to the Museum without charge. Further information about memberships will be sent on request.