

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FIELD MUSEUM

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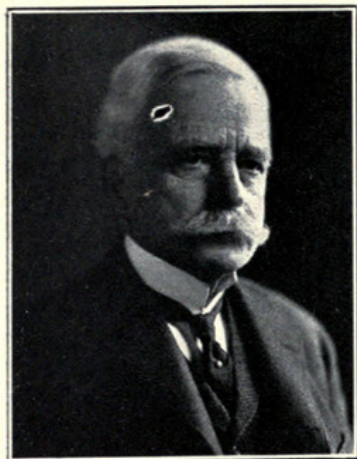
(Continued from last month)

Among Chicago's citizens in 1893 none stood higher in the confidence and esteem of the public than Marshall Field. Born in Conway, Mass., in 1835, Mr. Field in early life had come to Chicago. Here he advanced rapidly, until he had largely created and become the

head of a great business which occupied a leading place in the city and attained world-wide fame.

Mr. Field was known to be favorable to all plans for increasing the cultural and educational facilities of Chicago. Moreover, it was known that any enterprise to which he set his hand would be given wholehearted and permanent support.

Therefore, on October 24, 1893, Edward E. Ayer, a member of the museum association finance committee, who later became the first



Matzene Photo.

MARSHALL FIELD

President of the Museum and throughout his life remained one of its most ardent and able supporters, called upon Mr. Field and set forth the peculiar opportunity which the World's Columbian Exposition afforded to establish a great museum in the city. He called attention to the fact that no such institution as yet existed in Chicago, and pointed out that the opportunity to create one through the acquisition of exhibits of the exposition was one that should not be allowed to lapse. At the end of the interview Mr. Field remained non-committal but promised to consider the matter. It was evident that he wished to assure himself of the need, importance and desirability of the plan before committing himself to its support. His consideration quickly resulted in a favorable decision, and on October 26 he announced that he would contribute the sum of \$1,000,000 for the establishment of the proposed museum.

The gratification of the committee on receiving this announcement can well be imagined. Every one knew that it meant the success and permanence of a great museum for the city. It is doubtful if, up to that time, any museum had ever received so munificent a gift. As a single gift for museum purposes it shattered all precedents.

The establishment of the Museum thus being assured, other contributors promptly appeared. George M. Pullman and Harlow N. Higinbotham each subscribed \$100,000. Other contributors of funds included Mrs. Mary D. Sturges, the McCormick Estate, P. D. Armour, Martin A. Ryerson, R. T. Crane, A. A. Sprague and many other leading citizens. Their contributions, together with donations of exposition stock, totaled nearly one-half million dollars by the end of the following year.

These funds enabled purchases to be made of large collections or important exhibits that had been shown at the exposition. Such purchases included those of the Ward natural history collection, the Tiffany collection of gems, the collection of pre-Columbian gold

ornaments, the Hassler ethnological collection from Paraguay, collections representing Javanese, Samoan and Peruvian ethnology, and the Hagenbeck collection of about 600 ethnological objects from Africa, the South Sea Islands, British Columbia, *et cetera*.

A spirit of generous cooperation was aroused on all sides, and donations of exhibits and collections of great value were received in large numbers. Mr. Ayer presented his large anthropological collection, chiefly devoted to the ethnology of the North American Indian. The Museum acquired by purchase and by gift almost all of the extensive collections made by the department of anthropology of the exposition. The technical and special collections made by the department of mines, mining and metallurgy of the exposition were presented, together with the exhibition cases, as were also collections from 130 exhibitors in the same department. From exhibitors in the agriculture, forestry and manufactures departments of the exposition collections of timbers, oils, gums, resins, fibers, fruits, seeds, and grains were contributed in so large quantity and variety as to insure for the first time in any general natural history museum the formation of an adequate department of botany.

(To be continued next month)

RAYMOND PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

The James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Public School and Children's Lecture Division of Field Museum will present a special Lincoln's Birthday program of motion pictures for children in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum on Wednesday morning, February 12. The film, "Abraham Lincoln," including six reels illustrating episodes in the life of the martyred President, will be shown. There will be two performances, one at 10 A.M. and one at 11. Admission is free.

The regular spring series of Raymond Fund free entertainments for children on Saturday mornings at 10 and 11 o'clock will begin on February 22, when, to mark George Washington's Birthday, films will be shown of Washington's life and episodes of the American Revolution. The films are "Gateway to the West" and "Yorktown," of the Yale University "Chronicles of America" series, presented to the Museum by the late Chauncey Keep.

On March 1 the program will consist of five moving pictures, as follows: "Across St. Gothard's Alps," "A Fossil Cycad," "Making Cement," "Fish and Fowls," and "Mollusks."

On March 8 the motion pictures "Glimpses of Japan" and "Old Moose Trails" will be presented.

Announcement of subsequent entertainments in this series will appear in the March issue of FIELD MUSEUM NEWS.

New Animal Mummy Exhibits

A new exhibit of mummified birds, and another of mummies of other animals with coffins provided for some of them, have been added to the collections in Hall J, devoted to Egyptian archaeology. The bodies of animals were preserved by the Egyptians for three reasons. First, certain animals had religious significance by their association with various ancient Egyptian deities. Second, animals often were placed in the graves of dead human beings as food offerings. Third, animals which had been pets were occasionally buried with their master or mistress for sentimental reasons.



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