

HISTORY OF FIELD MUSEUM

By OLIVER C. FARRINGTON
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(Continued from last month)

Shortly before the death of Marshall Field, the name of the Museum was changed from Field Columbian Museum to Field Museum of Natural History. Its scope was thus definitely limited to the four great natural sciences—anthropology, botany, geology and zoology. This change was made on account of the difficulty in correlating the diverse subjects which had been undertaken at the time of organization, and the necessity that limitations of space and interest should be observed.

The need for a permanent building for the Museum was fully recognized by Mr. Field during his lifetime, and plans which had been made for such a building were approved by him. The beauty of design of the Fine Arts Building of the exposition, which the Museum was at that time occupying, was universally recognized, and the wish was expressed by Mr. Field that the new building should follow, as far as possible, the lines and plan of that structure. By the terms of Mr. Field's will, a sum of \$4,000,000 was apportioned for the construction of the building, the site of which was to be selected within six years from the time of his death, and an additional \$4,000,000 was provided for the endowment of the institution.

The assurance of the future of the Museum which this support gave inspired all connected with the institution to new zeal and effort. The temporary cases which had, to a large extent, been used for installation of the exhibits, many of which had been constructed for exposition purposes only, were replaced as fast as possible by permanent and attractive ones.

Expeditions to more remote parts of the world were undertaken. One of these, of much importance, was that provided for by Robert F. Cummings. A fund which he presented enabled extensive explorations to be made and collections of objects gathered among the peoples of the Philippine Islands. This work was inaugurated by Assistant Curator (now Director) Stephen C. Simms, who spent five months in the islands and returned with extensive collections. Following this, F. C. Cole of the Museum staff carried on investigations and explorations in the islands for two years, during which time he gathered a large amount of material illustrative of the cultures of the non-Christian tribes, and secured important records of their customs and ceremonies.

Dr. William Jones of the Museum, who also assisted in this work, after a year spent among the remote tribes, was murdered by the natives while preparing to transport his collections to the coast. He was the first to suffer martyrdom in the work of the Museum. The scene of the tragedy was later visited by Mr. Simms, and the material and notes which Dr. Jones had prepared were recovered and brought back. A hall of the present building is now devoted to the collections made under the auspices of the Robert F. Cummings fund.

Large and important collections illustrative of the lives and customs of the inhabitants of little-known regions of the South Pacific, including New Guinea, New Britain and other islands were presented by Joseph N. Field. In order that the ethnology of these regions might be still more fully represented, Mr. Field also provided funds which enabled explorations and collecting to be carried on in continuance of their study and

representation. Expeditions for this purpose were conducted by Assistant Curator A. B. Lewis, for four years. The collections thus obtained by gift and exploration now fill a large hall of the present Museum building.

Through funds provided by Mrs. T. B. Blackstone, a special expedition to China and Tibet was conducted by Assistant Curator (now Curator) Berthold Laufer. Dr. Laufer spent three years in those countries and obtained very extensive and valuable collections representing important phases of the culture and history of the peoples of eastern Asia. More than 10,000 objects were collected on this expedition and these, with later additions, occupy two halls of the present building.

A number of successive trips to Egypt by Edward E. Ayer, of the Board of Trustees, resulted in the acquisition of a large amount of material illustrative of early Egyptian life and customs. The most important of these were two large and very complete Mastaba tombs from the Necropolis at Sakara, Egypt. One of these was presented by Martin A. Ryerson. Besides these, a number of jars, statuettes, and mortuary vases were procured, all forming an important part of the present exhibits in the Egyptian hall.

In 1906 D. G. Elliot retired from the position of Curator of Zoology and was succeeded by C. B. Cory, who had been Curator of Ornithology; the Departments were then combined. Ornithological collections obtained in this period included some made by expeditions to Guatemala and Venezuela carried on by Assistant Curator N. Dearborn, and in Saskatchewan and Venezuela by J. F. Ferry. Collections of fish and reptiles were made by Assistant Curator S. E. Meek in Guatemala and the Tortugas. Botanical collecting was continued in the Bahamas by Curator C. F. Millsbaugh, and conducted in Mexico by Assistant Curator J. N. Greenman.

In 1909, H. N. Higinbotham retired from the presidency of the Museum. He was succeeded by Stanley Field, whose tenure of that office happily still continues.

(To be continued next month)

Illinois Central suburban trains and South Shore Line interurban trains both stop at the Roosevelt Road station of the Illinois Central, within easy reach of the Museum.

NEW MEMBERS

The following persons were elected to membership in Field Museum between May 17 and June 16:

Life Members

Mrs. Lewis L. Coburn, William M. Collins.

Associate Members

Miss Cornelia Conger, George P. Fisher, Paul M. Godehn, Mrs. William C. Grunow, Miss Marie Heldmaier, Mrs. Charles Pratt Hulbert, Mrs. Sidney Kaiser, David S. Komiss, Mrs. Wellington Leavitt, Dr. Siegfried Maurer, Mrs. David Mayer, Herbert N. McCoy, Mrs. W. L. Phelps, E. W. Rinder, Arthur H. Thompson, A. W. Torbet, Mrs. John H. Volk, Mrs. August von Glahn.

Sustaining Members

Seth MacDonald Gooder, John Eliot Warner, C. Roy Warren, William H. Wienhoeber.

Annual Members

Max Balaban, R. D. Bartlett, Mrs. F. C. Bradbury, Mrs. Ralph E. Clark, Mrs. A. B. Culley, A. M. Davis, Miss Edith Froebe, Jevne Haugan, Mrs. Andrew F. Heckler, Frank J. Hurley, Louis Loeser, Mrs. Philip B. Maher, Edward Martin, Robert J. Neidlinger, Mrs. William S. Norris, Mrs. William J. Nye, Mrs. Simon O'Donnell, Frank Hugh O'Reilly, Mrs. Minnie S. Price, Sterling L. Redman, Mrs. Leo S. Samuels, Miss Ethel W. Seed, Walter A. Sheriffs, Edwin Silverman, Mrs. Harold B. Simonds, Dr. F. J. Smith, Sidney H. Smith, Mrs. W. K. Sparrow, Mrs. J. M. Stifer, Miss Sarah E. Sutcliffe, Mrs. Eugene S. Talbot, Jr., Arthur E.

JULY GUIDE-LECTURE TOURS

Following is the schedule of conducted tours of the exhibition halls at the Museum during July:

Week beginning June 30—Monday: 11 A.M., Madagascar, 3 P.M., Rare Animals and Birds; Tuesday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Crystals and Gems, 3 P.M., Eskimo Life; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: Holiday—no tours.

Week beginning July 7—Monday: 11 A.M., Egypt and Kish, 3 P.M., North American Animals; Tuesday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Indian Costumes, 3 P.M., Habitat Groups; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Moon and Meteorites, 3 P.M., Textiles.

Week beginning July 14—Monday: 11 A.M., Systematic Animals, 3 P.M., Palms and Cereals; Tuesday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Sea Life, 3 P.M., Musical Instruments; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Reptiles, Past and Present, 3 P.M., Pewter and Cloisonné.

Week beginning July 21—Monday: 11 A.M., Chinese Exhibits, 3 P.M., Birds of Summer; Tuesday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Roman Home Life, 3 P.M., African Animals; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Friday: 11 A.M., Mines and Ores, 3 P.M., South American Archaeology.

Week beginning July 28—Monday: 11 A.M., Plant Families, 3 P.M., Early Man; Tuesday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours; Wednesday: 11 A.M., Japanese Exhibits, 3 P.M., Games and Toys; Thursday: 11 A.M. and 3 P.M., General Tours.

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.

Noted Scientist Is Visitor

A distinguished visitor entertained at Field Museum last month was Dr. Thomas Barbour, Director of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass.

Professor Record Honored

Professor Samuel J. Record, Research Associate in Wood Technology on Field Museum's botanical staff, received last month an honorary degree of doctor of science conferred by Wabash College.

Sculptor Blaschke Finishing Group

Frederick A. Blaschke, sculptor of Cold Spring-on-Hudson, New York, is finishing a life-size group representing the Mesohippus, one of the small early species of horses, for Field Museum. The group will soon be installed in Ernest R. Graham Hall.

Taylor, Mrs. Samuel Tobin, Edward George Todt, Mrs. D. K. Tomajan, Mrs. Alice Tuska, Mrs. Emma Uhrig, Miss Margaret G. Valentine, Mrs. W. H. Van Doren, Mrs. G. M. Vaughan, Erwin Wagner, B. E. Ward, Mrs. W. H. Warner, William R. Watson, Mrs. W. H. Watterson, C. Fred Weed, Dr. F. F. Whetzel, Algot A. Wickland, Mrs. Christopher J. Wilson, Mrs. Joel R. Wilson, E. G. Woods, Mrs. C. B. Woodworth.

MEMBERSHIP IN FIELD MUSEUM

Field Museum has several classes of Members. Benefactors give or devise \$100,000. Persons who give or devise \$5,000 are elected to Fellowships, and may appoint their successors in perpetuity. Life Members give \$500; Non-Resident and Associate (Life) Members pay \$100; Non-Resident Associate (Life) Members pay \$50. All the above classes are exempt from dues. Sustaining Members contribute \$25 annually. After six years they become Associate (Life) Members. Annual Members contribute \$10 annually. Other memberships are Corporate, Honorary and Patron, 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.



Farrington, Oliver C. 1930. "A Brief History of Field Museum from 1893 to 1930." *Field Museum news* 1(7), 4-4.

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