

# Field Museum News

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## HABITAT GROUP OF GUANACOS IS PLACED ON EXHIBITION IN HALL 16

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A habitat group of the strange looking guanaco has just been installed in the Hall of American Mammal Habitat Groups (Hall 16). There are five specimens in the group, one adult male, two adult females, and two young. The animals were collected by the Marshall Field South American Expedition of 1926.

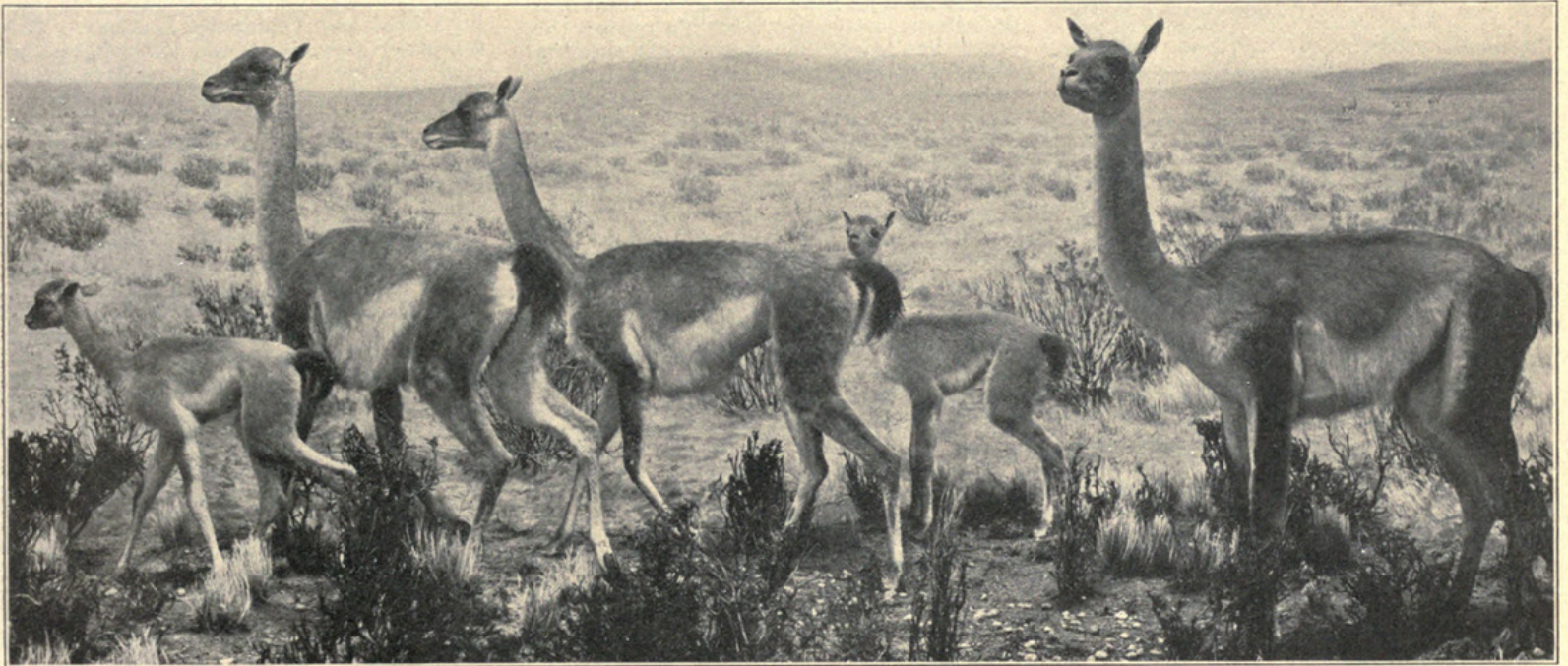
The guanaco is a member of the camel family. At one time it ranged over all the

found in South America, and these are likewise related to the guanaco.

The guanacos of Patagonia collect in herds of from five individuals up to about three hundred. In winter (July, August, September) they go south to the timbered and more hilly country where there is shelter from the cold winds and snow. They return north in the spring to the open pampas, and there the young are born, in November or December. There is only a single offspring.

will attack a person by striking from behind with both knees.

Before the white man came, the flesh of this animal, like the bison of our western plains, was used by the Indians for food, while its skin was used for clothing and tents, but today it is being rapidly killed off to provide more pasture for sheep raising. It is claimed that in one year a guanaco will eat as much as three sheep. During its migrations and in the rutting season the guanaco is charged with destroy-



Guanaco group on exhibition in Hall 16. Specimens collected by Marshall Field South American Expedition.

bare pampas country of South America, from the Straits of Magellan, north through the Argentine, and across the Andes into Chile, Bolivia, and Peru. Today it is most common in the southern part of the Argentine Republic (Patagonia).

The llama and alpaca are domesticated forms of the guanaco and are used as beasts of burden in northern Chile, Bolivia, and southern Peru. The vicuña, which is found only in the very high Andes, is smaller than the guanaco and has finer, silkier hair, which is woven by the Indians into various sorts of clothing. There are also a number of extinct forms of camel, fossils of which are

Guanacos are generally wild and shy, especially when in large herds. The females and young move off first at a brisk canter while the males slowly bring up the rear, turning now and then to face the enemy and uttering their shrill neighing challenge. A small herd of but four or five individuals is apt to stand and watch the intruder for a short time before running away. A curious habit of the guanaco when running rapidly is to stretch its neck and lower its head until it almost touches the ground. Young guanacos are easily tamed and make interesting pets until they are grown. Then they become savage, especially the males, and

ing fences and otherwise damaging property.

The hides of the old animals seem to have no market value today. The young, however, up to two weeks old are persistently hunted down and the skins made into "capas" or robes. At this age they are called "chulencos" and from two weeks to a month old, "barbuchos," when they are worth but half the value of a "chulenco." A good "chulenco" cape is worth about \$15. This wholesale killing of the young each year may soon exterminate the species.

The taxidermy on the Museum's group is by Julius Friesser of the staff, and the background by Staff Artist C. A. Corwin.

### Former Curator Dies

With deep regret members of the administrative and scientific staff received news of the death, on March 29, of Dr. George A. Dorsey, former Curator of Anthropology at Field Museum. Many lasting and important contributions to the collections and publications of Field Museum resulted from Dr. Dorsey's work at this institution. He was the leader of many Museum expeditions.

Dr. Dorsey joined the Museum staff in 1896 as an assistant curator, and became Curator of Anthropology in 1898, holding that post until 1915. He did important work among the American Indians, especially among the Pawnee, and during his travels collected much material in Peru, India, Ceylon, Java, Australia, New Ireland, Bupa, Bougainville, and New Guinea. Dr. Dorsey was 63. He died in New York.

### Professor Record Views Progress

Professor Samuel J. Record, Research Associate in Wood Technology for Field Museum, and Professor of Forest Products at Yale University, visited the Museum last month to inspect the progress made in re-installing the timber exhibits in the Hall of North American Woods. He also formulated plans to proceed with work necessary in the Hall of Foreign Woods.



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