

RAYMOND FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

The James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures offers a summer series of free entertainments for children, to be presented at Field Museum during July and August. There will be six programs, beginning with one on Thursday, July 9, and running on consecutive Thursdays up to and including August 13.

The programs are varied in character, including motion pictures, story hours, and tours of certain sections of the exhibits conducted by Raymond Foundation lecturers. The motion pictures and the story hours will be presented in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum.

Following is the schedule:

July 9—10 A.M., motion picture: "With Byrd at the South Pole."

July 16—10 A.M., story hour: "Giants of Long Ago"; 11 A.M., tour: Prehistoric Animals and People.

July 23—10 A.M., tour: Chinese Exhibits; 11 A.M., motion picture: "Glimpses of China."

July 30—10 A.M., motion picture: "The Silent Enemy."

August 6—10 A.M., story hour: "Children of Many Lands"; 11 A.M., tour: Exhibits Showing Child-life.

August 13—10 A.M., tour: "Animals of Land and Water; 11 A.M., motion pictures: "Alligators," "Alaskan Sheep," "Bears," "Animals of the Galapagos," "Lions at Home."

Children from all parts of the city and suburbs are invited to these entertainments, and no tickets are necessary for admission. In addition to those coming individually, large groups organized in various community centers are expected.

KISH ANTIQUITIES ARRIVE

Twenty-one boxes of stuccos, sculptures, jewelry and other treasures excavated from the ruins of Kish, including objects from the Persian temples which were discovered on the site of the ancient city by the Field Museum-Oxford University Joint Expedition to Mesopotamia during its 1930-31 season, have been received at the Museum.

Professor Stephen Langdon, director of the expedition, reports various archaeological discoveries which may have an important bearing in reconstructing the history of the world's earliest civilizations. Among these was the finding of a seal of the early Indus Valley, which was buried nine meters below the surface of the mound covering the great temple area of Kish. It bears an inscription of seven hieroglyphs of a type previously known from excavations at Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa, representing the prehistoric but advanced civilization of India. This is the first time that one of these seals has been found *in situ* in a pre-Sargonic stratum in Mesopotamia, according to Professor Langdon. It was found with an object inscribed with a cuneiform text, which can be dated by its script at about 2800 B.C.

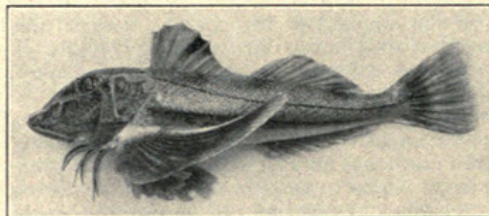
"It is therefore clear that the great civilization now recovered in India and entirely unsuspected until very recent times is extremely ancient," states Professor Langdon. "It further appears that a race, related to the Sumerians, who had founded a great civilization in India before 3000 B.C. had close commercial relations with Sumer and Elam in that remote period. They may even have invaded Mesopotamia, for the palace decorations of the old Sumerian palace at Kish have revealed a race of kings and prisoners whose dress and tonsure are totally unlike those of the Sumerians. They wear the pigtail tonsure, and surely indicate a foreign invasion."

Professor Langdon further reports that of two Persian palaces of the Sassanian period found on the site of Kish this season, one has a court shaped like the nave of a Christian church, with a "choir" at the back. The building suggests the influence of the famous sect of the Manichaeans, he says. So striking is its resemblance to a Christian cathedral that one is led to question description of the building as a palace, except for the fact that four busts of a Sassanian king were found in the ruins, and the mural decorations show no religious motifs whatever.

THE SEA ROBIN

BY ALFRED C. WEED
Assistant Curator of Fishes

Many fishes have received the name "flying fishes." Some of them can make long gliding jumps through the air. Others never leave the water of their own accord and are called fliers simply because they have large fins. In the latter group we find some creatures that have also been called "sea robins" because they have long, winglike



The Sea Robin

Reproduction exhibited in Albert W. Harris Hall.

fins and usually show much red color on the body. On our coasts they are found from Maine to the Gulf of Mexico.

In European waters some of the sea robins are called gurnards. There they are common food fish but are not so used in this country. Most of ours are small and would furnish very little meat.

In an aquarium the sea robins are among the showiest species. Their colors are brilliant. They are almost always in motion and spread their immense pectoral (arm) fins in all sorts of strange ways. Ordinary fishes do not seem to make much use of their side fins, but the sea robin waves them around in the most unexpected manner. One fin may be folded like a fan while the other is spread like a great umbrella. One may be spread out horizontally in an almost perfect imitation of a certain type of airplane wing while the other is spread as widely but pointed straight downward. All the while there is a continual flow of color changes over the whole fish. All sorts of bronzy tints in reds, browns, purples and golds come and go as body colors and as surface washes.

When the fish comes to rest on the bottom we have another surprise. The three lower rays of the pectoral fin on each side are separated from the rest and look like long skinny fingers. They are as movable as fingers and are used just as freely. When the distance is not too great the fish may walk on them just as a crab walks on the tips of its legs. If the fish wishes to rest quietly on the sand it may dig a shallow pit with these same fingers. It may also poke and prod around in the sand in search of something to eat.

A very fine specimen of one of the larger sea robins has been received from the John G. Shedd Aquarium and has been reproduced in celluloid by A. G. Rueckert of the Museum staff. It is now on exhibition in Albert W. Harris Hall (Hall 18).

JULY GUIDE-LECTURE TOURS

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

Wednesday, July 1—11 A.M., Man Through the Ages, 3 P.M., The Horse and Its Relatives; **Thursday: 11 A.M.** and 3 P.M., General Tours; **Friday: 11 A.M.**, Birds of Shores and Swamps, 3 P.M., Egypt.

Week beginning July 6—Monday: 11 A.M., Palms and Cereals, 3 P.M., Industrial Models; **Tuesday: 11 A.M.** and 3 P.M., General Tours; **Wednesday: 11 A.M.**, Dwellers of the Far North, 3 P.M., Plant and Animal Life of Long Ago; **Thursday: 11 A.M.** and 3 P.M., General Tours; **Friday: 11 A.M.**, Textiles, 3 P.M., Sea Life.

Week beginning July 13—Monday: 11 A.M., Rare and Exotic Plants, 3 P.M., Africa and Madagascar; **Tuesday: 11 A.M.** and 3 P.M., General Tours; **Wednesday: 11 A.M.**, Mummies and Burial Customs, 3 P.M., Gems and Jewelry; **Thursday: 11 A.M.** and 3 P.M., General Tours; **Friday: 11 A.M.**, Trees and Wood Products, 3 P.M., Weapons and Armor.

Week beginning July 20—Monday: 11 A.M., Reptiles and Fishes, 3 P.M., China; **Tuesday: 11 A.M.** and 3 P.M., General Tours; **Wednesday: 11 A.M.**, Primitive Musical Instruments, 3 P.M., Mines and Minerals; **Thursday: 11 A.M.** and 3 P.M., General Tours; **Friday: 11 A.M.**, Indians of Plains and Deserts, 3 P.M., Asiatic Animals.

Week beginning July 27—Monday: 11 A.M., Boats and Fishing, 3 P.M., Work of Wind and Water; **Tuesday: 11 A.M.** and 3 P.M., General Tours; **Wednesday: 11 A.M.**, Oriental Theatricals, 3 P.M., Primitive Costumes; **Thursday: 11 A.M.** and 3 P.M., General Tours; **Friday: 11 A.M.**, African Game Animals, 3 P.M., Mexico, Past and Present.

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 May 17 to June 16:

Associate Members

Miss Ruth D. Bannister, Oliver A. Blackburn, Dr. Walter L. Blomgren, John F. Cuneo, Mrs. C. W. McLaury, Mrs. Albert J. Metzel, Mrs. Olive C. Sleeper.

Annual Members

Marshall Frank Barrett, Mrs. Grace L. Cowan, Miss Louise K. Dittmar, Mrs. Clarence L. Frederick, Dr. William W. Gibbs, J. Roberts Hann, Mrs. George Francis Hartford, Mrs. A. N. Hauter, Mrs. Marshall W. Hill, Mrs. Robert L. Holmes, Miss Edna Gray Johnson, Frank Johnson, Meyer Kestnbaum, Maurice Leigh, Dr. Thomas McGuigan, E. E. McInnis, Rev. Jesse L. McLaughlin, S. D. McNeal, Clarence E. Mehloper, Arthur M. Nicholson, Stephen M. Paddock, Samuel Schweitzer, Eben Stanley, Charles F. Thomas, Mrs. H. Tift, William M. Tippet, Mrs. Joseph Triner, John Tuthill Walbridge, Mrs. G. Albert West, Mrs. Thomas Y. Wickham, Gerald T. Wiley, Lawrence M. Williams, Donald M. Wood, Robert M. Zacharias, Tytus Zbyszewski.

New Guidebook To Be Issued

The fifteenth edition of the General Guide to Field Museum will be published shortly. Revisions cover important changes made in the exhibits during the past year.

MEMBERSHIP IN FIELD MUSEUM

Field Museum has several classes of Members. Benefactors give or devise \$100,000 or more. Contributors give or devise \$1,000 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.



Weed, Alfred C. 1931. "The Sea Robin." *Field Museum news* 2(7), 4-4.

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