

Field Museum of Natural History

Founded by Marshall Field, 1893

Roosevelt Road and Lake Michigan, Chicago

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FIELD MUSEUM NEWS

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OLIVER C. FARRINGTON.....Curator of Geology
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Field Museum is open every day of the year during the hours indicated below:

November, December, January 9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.
February, March, April, October 9 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
May, June, July, August, September 9 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Admission is free to Members on all days. Other adults are admitted free on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays; non-members pay 25 cents on other days. Children are admitted free on all days. Students and faculty members of educational institutions are admitted free any day upon presentation of credentials.

The Library of the Museum, containing some 92,000 volumes on natural history subjects, is open for reference daily except Sunday.

Traveling exhibits are circulated in the schools of Chicago by the Museum's Department of the N. W. Harris Public School Extension.

Lectures for school classrooms and assemblies, and special entertainments and lecture tours for children at the Museum, are provided by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures.

Announcements of courses of free illustrated lectures on science and travel for the public, and special lectures for Members of the Museum, will appear in FIELD MUSEUM NEWS.

There is a cafeteria in the Museum where luncheon is served for visitors. Other rooms are provided for those bringing their lunches.

Busses of the Chicago Motor Coach Company (Jackson Boulevard Line, No. 26) provide service direct to the Museum. Free transfers are available to and from other lines of the company.

Members are requested to inform the Museum promptly of changes of address.

SPLENDID COOPERATION GIVEN BY BOMBAY SCIENTISTS

A large shipment of accessory material required for the preparation of eight habitat groups of Asiatic mammals which it is proposed to install in William V. Kelley Hall (Hall 17) was received last month from the Bombay Natural History Society under a cooperative arrangement between that society and Field Museum. The Museum is especially indebted to Sir Reginald Spence, Honorary Secretary of the Bombay Natural History Society, and S. H. Prater, Curator of its museum, for the splendid spirit of friendship and scientific cooperation which they manifested in making possible this arrangement.

The accessories received consist of trunks of native trees, samples of bark and leaves, soil, rocks, various plants and flowers preserved in fresh state, and other material needed in reproducing landscapes as environ-

mental backgrounds for such animals as the sambur deer, swamp deer, axis deer, sloth bear, nilgai or blue bull, blackbuck, and Indian leopard or panther. The Bombay society sent out a special expedition to gather this material, which was sent in such quantity as to fill eleven packing cases and crates.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS AS HELD IN CHINA

BY BERTHOLD LAUFER
Curator, Department of Anthropology

Up to 1905, toward the end of the Manchu dynasty, China was the classical land of examinations. The country was always guided by an aristocracy of intellect, not of birth; in fact, there was no hereditary nobility. There was free competition for all in obtaining official positions, and a very complex but just system of civil service examinations held by the government recruited the best talent from all ranks of society.

The object of these examinations was not, as with us, a test merely of knowledge, but a test of culture and literary ability. Elegance of style, in conformity with ancient recognized models, was the primary condition of the essays to be submitted. Perfect mastery of literature, a formidable memory and a highly disciplined mind were necessary, as quotations from the Classics had to be given with rigid accuracy. Degrees were conferred upon the successful candidates by the state, without the intervention of school or college, and opened the way to official rank and service, but were bestowed on only a small percentage of those who competed, the average being 2 or 3 per cent out of a number of 2,000,000 candidates who reported during the year.

Examinations were held in the capitals of the provinces once in three years, in special huge buildings known as examination halls, consisting of many rows of thousands of small cells. Remains of these may still be seen at Canton and Nanking.

A rough plank served as a table by day and a bed by night. The candidates were virtually imprisoned in these cells for a nine-day session, undergoing a great strain of their physical and mental powers, to which older people—there was no restriction as to age—frequently succumbed. It has happened that father, son and grandson have appeared at the same time to compete for the same prize. Each candidate took along into his cell all food he required, likewise fuel, candles, and cooking utensils, for no one was allowed to accompany him. The doors of the cells were sealed up and carefully guarded. On entering the hall, everyone was received by four soldiers and searched through his wadded robes, pockets, and shoes for precomposed essays or other illegitimate aids that he might have been tempted to smuggle in. Fraud was severely punished, and he who was caught risked dismissal and the loss of all titles and degrees previously acquired.

A silk handkerchief tucked in the sleeve certainly looked harmless and did not cause any suspicion. Such handkerchiefs therefore became a medium to aid the candidate's memory. They were inscribed on one side only. An example of a "crib" or "pony" of this kind was recently presented to the Museum by Edward Barrett of New York, who had obtained it on a recent trip to China. It is a strip of yellow silk, thirty-five inches long and fourteen inches wide, containing 24,365 finely written characters in 443 lines, copied from the work of Mong-tse, the most gifted of Confucius' disciples,

a pioneer of statecraft and a practical philosopher. It must have taken many months to make this copy, and, as shown by a collation of several passages with the original text, it was exactly made, probably in the K'ang-hi period (1662-1722).

MONKEYS AID SCIENTIST IN COLLECTING PLANTS

BY PAUL C. STANDLEY
Associate Curator of the Herbarium

Many more or less serious suggestions have been made that it might be possible to train monkeys to aid the human race in performing difficult tasks, one being to pick cotton. Botanists collecting plants in the tropics, where the trees are so tall that it is impossible for a man to reach their branches, often wish for a trained monkey that would climb trees and bring down samples of leaves and flowers.

Apparently one scientist has almost solved this problem. The botanists of Field Museum have just named a hundred plant specimens sent by Dr. Ray Carpenter of Yale University, who spent several months in Panama studying the black howler monkeys. These are the largest of all American monkeys. Dr. Carpenter commented on the state of some of the specimens sent, many of which were edible fruits. He declared their imperfect condition was due to the fact that the monkeys perched in the treetops picked the leaves and fruits and threw them down to him. Such intelligent cooperation between man and beast in scientific investigation is without parallel. No other monkey-collected plant collection has ever reached Field Museum, at least.

Philip M. Chancellor Visits Museum

Philip M. Chancellor of Santa Barbara, California, who sponsored and led two zoological expeditions for Field Museum, the Chancellor-Field Museum Expedition to the South Pacific in 1929-30, and the Chancellor-Field Museum Expedition to Aitutaki in 1930, was a visitor at the Museum on June 28. Mr. Chancellor stopped in Chicago on his way home from Germany where for several months he had been engaged in studies. He is a Patron and Contributor of the Museum.

Patron of Museum Dies

Dr. George Frederick Kunz, who was a Patron and a Corporate Member of Field Museum, died June 29 in New York. Dr. Kunz, internationally known as a mineralogist and gem expert, was in his seventy-sixth year.

BEQUESTS AND ENDOWMENTS

Bequests to Field Museum of Natural History may be made in securities, money, books or collections. They may, if desired, take the form of a memorial to a person or cause, named by the giver. For those desiring to make bequests, the following form is suggested:

FORM OF BEQUEST

I do hereby give and bequeath to Field Museum of Natural History of the City of Chicago, State of Illinois,

Cash contributions made within the taxable year to Field Museum not exceeding 15 per cent of the taxpayer's net income are allowable as deductions in computing net income under Article 251 of Regulation 69 relating to the income tax under the Revenue Act of 1926.

Endowments may be made to the Museum with the provision that an annuity be paid to the patron for life. These annuities are tax-free and are guaranteed against fluctuation in amount.



Standley, Paul Carpenter. 1932. "Monkeys Aid Scientists in Collecting Plants." *Field Museum news* 3(8), 2-2.

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