

RAYMOND FOUNDATION PRESENTS PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Two special programs of free motion pictures for children, in celebration of the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington, will be given at the Museum during February by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures. Following these, the Raymond Foundation will present the first of its regular spring series of ten children's entertainments.

The Lincoln program will be given on Saturday morning, February 11, and will consist of films dealing with outstanding events in the life of the Civil War president. The Washington program, made up of films dealing similarly with the life of the nation's first great hero, will be presented on Wednesday morning, February 22.

The regular spring series will begin on Saturday morning, February 25, with a program of three motion pictures, as follows: "The Muskrat and the Fox," "The Forest Ranger and His Work," and "Behind the Weather Man." The second program in this series, to be given Saturday, March 4, includes the films, "A Beaver and His Indian Friend," and "The Declaration of Independence."

The other eight programs in the spring series will be announced in the March issue of FIELD MUSEUM NEWS.

In order to accommodate larger numbers of children, all the programs of the Raymond Foundation, both special and regular, are presented twice, the first showing of the films beginning at 10 A.M., and the second at 11 A.M. They are given in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum. Children from all parts of Chicago and suburbs are invited to attend.

ELECTION OF MUSEUM OFFICERS

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Field Museum was held January 16. President Stanley Field was re-elected for the twenty-fifth time. Mr. Field has been President continuously since January, 1909.

Second Vice-President Albert A. Sprague was elected First Vice-President, filling the vacancy in that office caused by the death last August of Martin A. Ryerson. Third Vice-President James Simpson was elected Second Vice-President, and Trustee Albert W. Harris was elected Third Vice-President. Stephen C. Simms, Director and Secretary, and Solomon A. Smith, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary, were re-elected to their respective offices.

THE BONEFISH

BY ALFRED C. WEED
Assistant Curator of Fishes

Among the fishes of the Florida coast, three stand out as popular game species. These are the tarpon, sailfish, and bonefish. The first two have the advantage of large size in their battles with fishermen. The bonefish is smaller, seldom weighing more than twenty pounds. Its claim to excellence for the sport angler comes from strength, speed and leaping ability. Shaped like a long, slender spindle, stream-lined in every part, and able to close most of its fins down into grooves so that they offer no resistance, this fish develops and maintains great speed for a long rush.

The bonefish does not depend on straight rushes alone to escape from the hook. Much of its fight consists of leaps above the surface.

Dr. J. A. Henshall, noted authority on game fishes, described it as a "silver shuttle," flashing in and out of the water in a succession of swift jumps.

Some excellent specimens of bonefish were recently presented to Field Museum by Colonel Lewis S. Thompson of Red Bank, New Jersey. One of them, mounted by Staff Taxidermist L. L. Pray, is on exhibition in Albert W. Harris Hall (Hall 18). Mr. Pray has observed bonefish in their natural surroundings near Nassau, Bahama Islands. He says they appear as gray shadows when resting or moving slowly through the water. When startled, they become gray streaks that disappear almost instantly. When taken out of the water, the gray appearance changes instantly to a burnished silver color.

There has long been a dispute about the name of this fish. As early as 1888, Dr. G. Brown Goode mentioned that this species (*Albula vulpes*) was called ladyfish in Bermuda but that American writers called it bonefish. Since that time most scientists have used the name ladyfish, and have used the name bonefish for a small relative of the tarpon, which is also sometimes called big-eyed herring (*Elops saurus*). However, most American anglers have used the name bonefish for *Albula* and have called *Elops* something else. In Australia, where *Elops* grows to a length of four feet or more, it is called "giant herring," while the name big-eyed herring is given to the East Indian tarpon, *Megalops cyprinoides*. In cases of such a difference of opinion, it seems best to use, as far as possible, the names used by those who know the fish by handling it and not by simply writing about it.

EXHIBIT OF ORIENTAL WOOD

A recent addition to the series of Australian woods in Hall 27 is a group of four panels of the so-called Oriental wood (*Endiandra Palmerstoni*), a gift of Russell Fortune, Inc., Indianapolis.

This useful wood comes from a tree which often attains a height of 140 feet or more. It grows in northern Queensland. Although it belongs to the laurel family it is known in its native country as black walnut, Medang walnut, walnut bean and black mahogany. During recent years Oriental wood has been introduced commercially into the United States.

Quarter-sawn panels of this wood have a figure consisting of more or less parallel stripes of varying width, often interrupted by cross-figures of different types. Individual specimens show a variety of colors ranging between salmon red and a walnut tint, or from gray to brown. Its decorative qualities make the wood suitable for the manufacture of furniture, cabinets, fixtures and fittings. In Australia it is used in making pianos.

Laterite Added to Soil Exhibit

A specimen of laterite was recently added to the soil collections in Hall 36, to call attention to this curious infertile substance which sometimes takes the place of soil in tropical and subtropical regions. It is occasionally found as far north as the southern borders of this country. Laterite, like soil, is a product of the disintegration of solid rock, but under special conditions of temperature and moisture the decomposition is of a different character and little of the original rock remains except oxides of iron and aluminum. These form stony, porous or granular masses free from the clay upon which the fertility of ordinary soil largely depends.

FEBRUARY GUIDE-LECTURE TOURS

Conducted tours of exhibits, under the guidance of staff lecturers, are made every afternoon at 3 P.M., except Saturdays, Sundays, and certain holidays. Following is the schedule of subjects and dates for February:

Wednesday, February 1—Reptiles, Past and Present; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Roman Hall.

Week beginning February 6: Monday—Marine Life; Tuesday—Eskimo Customs; Wednesday—Animal Life in the Chicago Area; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Weaving in Many Lands.

Week beginning February 13: Monday—Egyptian Exhibits; Tuesday—Mexico; Wednesday—Woodland Indians; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Pewter, Jade and Gems.

Week beginning February 20: Monday—Plants of Unusual Interest; Tuesday—Chinese Halls; Wednesday—Prehistoric Plants and Animals; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Moon and Meteorites.

Monday, February 27—Baskets and Mats; Tuesday—Man Through the Ages.

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.

Gifts to the Museum

Following is a list of some of the principal gifts received during the last month:

From University of Texas—160 herbarium specimens, Texas and New Mexico; from Museo Nacional (Costa Rica)—68 herbarium specimens, Costa Rica; from Companhia Ford Industrial do Brasil—42 herbarium specimens and accompanying wood specimens, Brazil; from Rev. Brother Elias—85 herbarium specimens, Colombia; from C. C. Deam—87 herbarium specimens, Indiana; from School of Forestry, Yale University—97 herbarium specimens, Colombia; from Arturo Burkart—36 herbarium specimens, Argentina; from United States National Museum—cast of the Santa Fe meteorite; from Le Roy P. Guion—etched section of Seneca Falls iron meteorite; from Mrs. J. T. Stewart—11 clay concretions, Colorado; from Bryan Patterson, Frank Lett, and Thomas J. Newbill, Jr.—48 specimens of invertebrate fossils, Illinois; from Sharat K. Roy and Bryan Patterson—20 specimens of fossil brachiopods, 2 of fossil cephalopods, and one of a fossil bryozoan, Wisconsin; from Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Below, Miss Nan Mason, and Bryan Patterson—24 specimens of invertebrate fossils, Illinois; from Oriental Library (Toyo Bunko), Tokyo—photostat reproduction of painting by Shizuya Fujikake, depicting the Mongol invasions of Japan in 1274 and 1281.

NEW MEMBERS

The following persons were elected to membership in Field Museum during the period from December 16 to January 16:

Associate Members

Joseph A. Duner, Edwin S. Fletcher, Professor James Payne, Louis C. Seaverns, Mrs. Robert E. Wilson.

Non-Resident Associate Members

Mrs. Winfield S. Day

Annual Members

Mrs. W. Gray Brown, Mrs. Howard J. Burrige, Mrs. John Porter Denison, Graham B. Jacobus, Mrs. Alexander M. Kerr, Mrs. John J. Louis, James E. McShane, Mrs. Philip Raymond O'Brien, Conway H. Olmsted, Mrs. L. B. Patterson, Miss Luella Rathel, Mrs. A. W. Shaw, J. C. Slaney, Harry Snyder, Mrs. L. S. Tark, James Webster, Leon Witkowski.

A Historic Plant Collection

A most unusual collection of 280 sheets of plants of the Rubiaceae or coffee family was received recently for determination at Field Museum from the United States National Museum. It was part of a large series of specimens obtained at the Botanic Garden of Madrid, which possesses probably the first collections of plants ever made in tropical America by pioneer Spanish botanists. This collection was made between 1760 and 1808.



Weed, Alfred C. 1933. "The Bone Fish." *Field Museum news* 4(2), 4-4.

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