

## NORTH AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY EXHIBITS ARE REOPENED

The Museum's North American archaeological collections, which have not been on exhibition for the past several months due to the work of transferring them from Hall 3 and reinstalling them in Hall B on the ground floor, may now be seen again in their new location.

The exhibits in the hall represent the twelve archaeological culture areas of North America, and are arranged as far as possible in geographical order. They include pottery, weaving, stone and copper artifacts, burials and houses from the north and south Atlantic regions, eastern Canada, and the Iroquoian and Mississippi regions. There is a good collection of material from the famous Hopewell Mounds of Ohio. Another feature is a reproduction of an Illinois burial mound.

The exhibits relating to the archaeology of the southwestern United States remain in their separate location in Hall 7.

## PRIMITIVE MAMMALS OF TODAY

By D. DWIGHT DAVIS  
Assistant in Osteology

Skeletons of the most primitive extant mammals have been placed on exhibition in Hall 19. The curious monotremes, or egg-laying mammals, are represented by the duckbill and echidna, only surviving representatives of this ancient group. The skeletons of these animals have retained many reptile-like features which, in conjunction with abundant fossil evidence, indicate the derivation of mammals from extinct reptilian forms known as therapsids.

The marsupials, or pouched mammals, while not so primitive in structure as the monotremes, differ, nevertheless, from the higher mammals in many respects. One of their most characteristic features is a pair of bones which projects forward from the pelvis. These epipubic or "marsupial" bones, lacking in all other mammals, support the pouch in which the young are carried. The best-known marsupials are the American opossum and the kangaroo. The opossum and the rare caenolestes are the only marsupials found outside the Australian region.

Australia became separated from the mainland of Asia at a very early geologic date. Marsupials seem to have been the only mammal forms then inhabiting the Indo-Australian region. Thus they were isolated in a vast natural laboratory where they could develop unhampered by the later, more active and intelligent animals, which in other parts of the world soon replaced their slower-witted cousins.

A remarkable thing took place in Australia. The early, generalized marsupials developed to fill the available "ecologic niches"; that is, they took to life in the trees, to various environments on the ground, and to others beneath the surface of the ground. In each case they acquired specialized feeding habits. A group of animals is anatomically elastic. Changes in environment or habits result in modification of the structure of the animal to adapt it to the new conditions.

Considering the infinite types of variation possible, the resulting animals in Australia might be expected to be quite different from those in other parts of the world, as in some cases they are. However, while a kangaroo and a buffalo bear little resemblance to one another, the kangaroo is the Australian counterpart of the grazing animals found elsewhere. The phalangers are surprisingly squirrel-like in structure and habits; the

dasyures are flesh-eaters, and closely resemble civets or weasels, even in the modified structure of their teeth; the wombat is like an unusually clumsy woodchuck; while other Australian animals are remarkably like rats, shrews and moles. This is one of the most striking examples ever observed of parallel development or "convergence" between animals in one part of the world and others entirely separated from them.

Of special interest in the Museum exhibit is a skeleton of the rare shrew-like caenolestes obtained in Venezuela by a Museum expedition. The exhibit was prepared by Edmond N. Gueret, Assistant Curator of Osteology, assisted by the writer.

## SCIENCE CONVENTION AT MUSEUM

Field Museum was one of the various Chicago institutions acting as hosts last month to the convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which was attended by scientists from all parts of the United States, and by many from foreign countries as well.

Various sections of the association, among them the botanists, zoologists, geologists, anthropologists, and geographers, held meetings in the James Simpson Theatre and also in the small lecture hall of the Museum on June 20, 21, 22 and 23. On the evening of June 23, after the public visiting hours, a special "open house" was held for the members of the association. Several thousand delegates to the convention on that evening made a private inspection of the Museum.

Earlier in the month the American Association of Museums likewise held its convention at various institutions, the June 15 meeting taking place at Field Museum. More than one hundred museum officials from all over the country had luncheon at the cafeteria, and then held a panel discussion in the small lecture hall on the subject of adult education.

## Trophy Heads

In southern New Guinea, in the neighborhood of the Dutch-British boundary, the natives are not satisfied with merely killing an enemy, but preserve his head as a trophy. The skin is carefully removed from the head and neck, the skull is taken off and cleaned, leaves and fiber are substituted for the flesh, and the skin is put back over this and laced in place. The whole is then carefully smoked and dried. Three such trophies, one cut open to show its preparation, may be seen in the exhibit of material from the Fly River region in Joseph N. Field Hall (Hall A).

## Dendrites

Dendrites are branching figures which look as if they were painted in some dark pigment on the surface of the rock in which they form. They are caused by water with minerals in solution penetrating narrow seams in rock. There the minerals carried by the water crystallize in forms resembling in appearance the frost crystals which occur on windows in cold weather. Some of the dendrites exhibited in Clarence Buckingham Hall (Hall 35) resemble pictures of wooded landscapes, and others are often mistaken for fossil plants.

A curious dendrite was obtained from the Chilean Desert by the Marshall Field Brazilian Expedition. It formed on a rubber gasket in a large water pipe in the mill of a copper mine at Chuquicamata. Little imagination is required to see it as a picture of a landscape with the peculiar desert vegetation of that region.

## GUIDE-LECTURE TOURS

During July and August the conducted tours of the exhibits under the guidance of staff lecturers will be given on a special schedule, as follows:

Mondays: 10 A.M., General Tour; 11 A.M., Hall Showing Plant Life; 3 P.M., General Tour.

Tuesdays: 10 A.M., General Tour; 11 A.M., Halls of Primitive and Civilized Peoples; 3 P.M., General Tour.

Wednesdays: 10 A.M., General Tour; 11 A.M., Animal Groups; 3 P.M., General Tour.

Thursdays: 10 A.M., 11 A.M., and 3 P.M., General Tours.

Fridays: 10 A.M., General Tour; 11 A.M., Minerals and Prehistoric Exhibits; 3 P.M., General Tour.

There are no tours on Saturdays, Sundays, or on the July Fourth holiday.

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 Mrs. Charles H. Schweppe—a bronze group of three figures beneath a terrestrial globe symbolizing the unity of mankind, and a stone head of a Rajput woman, Jaipur, a black marble head of an Abyssinian woman, Africa, and a stone bust of a Chinese woman; from Miss Malvina Hoffman—sculptured stone head of a Chinese youth, Shanghai; from William Becker—a clay tobacco-pipe, Bali tribe, Africa; from The American Museum of Natural History—7 reels of the Martin Johnson feature film "Simba"; from Arthur S. Vernay—2 complete reels of the film "India" and 3 cans of small strips of film; from Companhia Ford Industrial do Brasil—58 herbarium specimens and 8 wood specimens, Brazil; from Sr. Ing. Jesus G. Ortega—190 herbarium specimens, Mexico; from Robert Runyon—44 herbarium specimens, Texas; from Palm Oil Company—14 samples of palm nuts and oil, and 3 photographs, Central and South America; from Standard Oil Company (Indiana)—61 specimens petroleum products, Indiana; from Crystal Fluorspar Company—a specimen of fluorite, Illinois; from James Quinn—a lower jaw of *Aelurodon* sp. and a lower jaw of *Hemicyon* sp., Nebraska; from Robert R. Lipman—a specimen of native lead, Colorado; from Dr. Emil Witschi—a salamander and 4 toads; from Thomas Quantock—a domestic horse, Illinois; from Stewart Springer—47 fish specimens, Gulf of Mexico; from Watson Bartlett—an adult albino ovenbird, Illinois; from Dwight Davis and Walter Necker—22 salamanders, 22 frogs, 4 lizards, 13 snakes, and 21 turtles, southern Illinois; from A. A. Dunbar Brander—4 game birds; from John G. Shedd Aquarium—61 fish specimens from various parts of the Pacific; from University of California—137 herbarium specimens, Mexico.

## NEW MEMBERS

The following persons were elected to membership in Field Museum during the period from May 16 to June 15:

### Patrons

G. Allan Hancock, Dr. Harry M. Wegforth.

### Associate Members

Mrs. Nathaniel Allison, Mrs. George I. Keefe, Rev. Thaddeus Ligman, Rev. Stanley Radniecki, Paul G. Warren.

### Annual Members

Mrs. H. G. B. Alexander, Mrs. C. B. Carter, Earl M. Converse, Charles S. Davis, Edgar C. Fowler, C. Duff Henry, Mrs. Marvin Hughitt, Mrs. Samuel I. Karger, Joseph J. Kelly, Grant S. Mears, Mrs. Frank G. Nicholson, W. M. Scudder, Charles Herbert Smith, Dr. C. E. Stanbury, C. F. M. Tining, C. M. Varde, Lawrence Williams.

## "Monkey Puzzle"

A branch of an Araucaria, a conifer known as the "monkey puzzle" or Chilean pine, is on exhibition in the Department of Botany. Its branches are covered with hundreds of small stiff leaves growing at very regular intervals and giving an effect of scaly armor. Its seeds are used as food by Indians of the western Andes region.





Davis, D. Dwight. 1933. "Primitive Mammals of Today." *Field Museum news* 4(7), 4-4.

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