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GROUP SHOWS ORANGS IN NATURAL HABITAT

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In the early days of Field Museum, in fact during the nineties not long after the establishment of the institution, a group of oranges was prepared and installed by Carl E. Akeley. It was the first large mammal group of modern type to be exhibited in the Museum. The specimens had been collected in Borneo by C. F. Adams and were purchased and presented to the Museum by Trustee Martin A. Ryerson.

For that time the group was an excellent one and the workmanship was of the quality which brought to Akeley the recognition and support which led to his later and better-known productions. However, the group occupied a square floor-case suitable for its original purpose, but not in conformity with the arrangement of subjects in the Museum's present building. Therefore, it was decided recently to rearrange and adapt the group to a new setting in a built-in case with a semi-elliptical painted back-ground.

The task of carrying out the plan was undertaken by Staff Taxidermist Leon L. Pray, whose skill and ingenuity combined with much patient detailed labor have brought it to a very successful conclusion. Although more than thirty years old, the mounted specimens were found to be in good condition, requiring no change except in their relative positions to each other. The new setting, however, involved the complete construction of a tree-top scene in a tropical forest. Tree-trunks, branches, and twigs were faithfully reproduced and a wealth of leaves and fruit was added to them. In all, nearly nine thousand artificial leaves were necessary. A painted back-ground, also done by Mr. Pray, served to perfect the desired representation.

No visitor who sees this group is ever likely to think of the orang as anything but a forest-dweller and this, of course, is one of the objects of such complete representation of the animal's habitat. It does come to the ground to some extent, and is able to amble about in semi-erect position, but its real home is in the tree-tops. At night it sleeps in a rudely formed nest of boughs and leaves in aerial seclusion. A single nest apparently is not continuously occupied for long, and many freshly made

ones are to be found in regions where the animals are numerous.

The orang or orang utan does not equal the size of the gorilla, but may be as large or larger than the chimpanzee. The old male in the Museum's group is exceptionally large, the spread of its outstretched arms being more than eight feet. It weighed 150 pounds when killed, and had a height of four feet six inches. When placed in erect position the arms extend to the ankles, being relatively longer than in the other man-like apes.

Although there are numerous characters distinguishing the orang from the other



Orang Group in William V. Kelley Hall

The huge ape in the center is an unusually large one. Its arm spread measures eight feet four and one-half inches from the tips of the fingers on one hand to the tips of those on the other.

great apes, the simplest and most convenient one is its uniform reddish brown color. The melancholy expression of its face is also characteristic. It is much more frequently seen in captivity than the gorilla or the chimpanzee, and it can be taught to perform many tricks. In motion pictures, where it is now seen frequently, it often passes for the gorilla. It is still numerous in its sole habitat in the islands of Borneo and Sumatra, and with any reasonable degree of protection should be in no danger of early extinction.

Museum Is Cool in Midsummer

Field Museum has been repeatedly proved to be one of the coolest places in Chicago during the sweltering heat waves that strike the city from time to time. The great white building, largest in the world constructed of marble, seems to resist the sun's attacks almost completely, and with the aid of the ventilation system with which it is equipped a temperature of 68 degrees is maintained at all times.

EXHIBITS STRESS IMPORTANCE OF ILLINOIS MINERALS

By HENRY W. NICHOLS
Associate Curator of Geology

The importance of Illinois as a producer of minerals is vividly brought out among the exhibits at Field Museum of the mineral products of the world. These demonstrate that its mineral resources are large, and their mining an industry greater than the similar industries of most states.

While the mineral products of Illinois are not spectacular ones like the gold and silver of Colorado, or the diamonds of South

Africa, they are real money-makers like coal, silica, shale, clay, sand, gravel, and petroleum, on down to less known products such as fluorspar, magnesia from dolomite, peat, and marl.

Incidentally some silver is mined in Illinois, in conjunction with lead. Possibly even diamonds and gold could be found.

No doubt a few diamonds exist in the terminal moraine of the glaciers which swept Illinois thousands of years ago, for a few have been found in the moraines of Wisconsin, Michigan and Indiana. It is not likely that Illinois was entirely passed over during the distribution by the glaciers of these floats from undiscovered diamond fields of the far north. Likewise, small quantities of float gold have

been washed from the moraine in Indiana, and probably a man armed with a pan and most unusual persistence could wash a few flakes of gold from our gravels. However, the maximum possible earnings of such a man in Indiana amount to about one dollar a day, and it is doubtful if one in thousands would attain even that.

An industry awaiting development in Illinois is marble quarrying. Deposits have been found which appear to have as desirable qualities as the better known ones in other states.

The most important fluorite mines of the country are in Illinois, and the highest quality sands are quarried on a very large scale at Ottawa. These have been adopted as the nation's standard for testing and comparison purposes. Lead and zinc are the only metallic ores in the state the mining of which has reached important proportions.

A large cut aquamarine, weighing 341 carats, is on exhibition in H. N. Higginbotham Hall of the Museum.



Nichols, Henry W. 1933. "Exhibits Stress Importance of Illinois Minerals." *Field Museum news* 4(8), 1-1.

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