

MODEL OF A GLACIER

A diorama which illustrates in miniature the formation and action of a huge mountain glacier has recently been installed in Clarence Buckingham Hall (Hall 35). The model also explains the origin of the glacial hills which form so characteristic a feature of the landscape in the vicinity of Chicago, particularly in the lake region to the north. Grinding and crushing the rocks in its way, as well as great quantities of pebbles and sand which become imbedded in its icy mass, a glacier becomes like a giant sheet of sandpaper which scratches, cuts and smooths the floor and sides of the valley in which it slowly but mightily advances. It leaves a heavier track than anything else, animate or inanimate, that moves on the face of the earth.

The Museum exhibit, built under the supervision of Chief Curator Henry W. Nichols of the Department of Geology, shows one large glacier and several small ones, together with the fields of perpetual snow on mountain peaks from which they descend. Shown prominently is the projecting tongue of "flowing ice." Under the great pressure of its enormous weight the ice does flow slowly like tar or wax, possessing in such huge masses a certain plasticity which seems incompatible with the brittleness ordinarily associated with ice as observed in small quantities. However, as the model shows, there are frequently crevasses or cracks across a glacier, due to breaking of the ice when it is flowing over abrupt changes of slope. Illustrated also are the lateral moraines or long rows of loose rocks which fall along the sides of a glacier from the heights above, and the terminal moraine of earth and rocks transported by the glacier to the end of its movement, and there released as the ice melts.

TRILLIUMS OF THE CHICAGO AREA

The name "trillium" or "wake-robin" usually denotes the large-flowered *Trillium grandiflorum*, with white flowers on erect stalks, but two other white-flowered species are found in the Chicago area, *Trillium Gleasoni*, which is common, and the rare *Trillium cernuum*. Both are characterized by nodding flowers. Two other trilliums, much less conspicuous, are brownish-red or purplish-brown: *Trillium sessile* and *Trillium recurvatum*, of which yellow-flowered forms are sometimes encountered.

The trilliums are members of the lily family. They are all perennial plants, and have all their parts in threes, which accounts for their name "trillium." They all thrive best in the rich soil of wooded areas.—J.A.S.

SOLOMON ISLANDERS

By ALBERT B. LEWIS

Curator of Melanesian Ethnology

The Solomons are a group of seven large and a great number of smaller islands, stretching over about 800 miles in the Pacific Ocean east of New Guinea. Most of them are rough and mountainous, and covered with dense tropical forests.

The natives form a part of the Melanesian group of peoples, all of whom speak languages also known as Melanesian. These are fundamentally related in a grammatical sense, but differ greatly in vocabulary.

The Solomon Islanders are vigorous and warlike, but are now compelled to keep the peace except in the interior of one or two of the larger islands. Many of them were formerly head-hunters and cannibals, and often made raids on their neighbors, using large high-built war canoes forty to fifty

feet long, capable of carrying twenty-five or more men. Clubs and spears were the principal weapons, but bows and arrows were used in some places.

The natives are of medium height, but vary considerably. In the western end of the group they are rather tall, somewhat negroid in appearance, with kinky, black hair and a very dark or sooty-black skin. The eastern islanders are somewhat smaller, of a lighter, chocolate-brown color, with curly or wavy hair. It is evident that in the Solomons, as in all other Melanesian islands, there is an underlying Oceanic Negroid or Papuan type, mixed to a greater or lesser degree with Indonesian or Malayan immigrants.

For food the natives are largely dependent on their gardens, taro being the most important foodstuff. Other vegetables are used to some extent, but taro is the basis of nearly every meal, with fish, shrimp or meat (chiefly pork) being added when obtainable. The natives are very fond of the milk and meat of the unripe coconut, to obtain which they must climb the coconut palms. This they do with the greatest



Photograph copyright Field Museum of Natural History

Solomon Islander in Bronze

A splendid interpretation of the remarkable tree-climbing technique of a wild people.

agility. Their method of climbing is well illustrated by the bronze sculpture of a Solomon Islander, in the racial series by Malvina Hoffman, exhibited in Chauncey Keep Memorial Hall (Hall 3).

Distinguished Visitors

Among distinguished scientists who visited the Museum last month were the following: Dr. Paul B. Sears, head of the department of botany at the University of Oklahoma; Dr. Kiyoshi Kominani, professor of botany at the Imperial University of Tokyo; Dr. Georg Steindorff, professor emeritus of Egyptology, University of Leipzig; Dr. E. I. Musgrave, director of the City Art Gallery and Museum, Wakefield, Yorkshire, England; Dr. M. B. Hodge, keeper of Bankfield Museum, Halifax, England; Dr. Robert Broom, paleontologist of Victoria College, Pretoria, South Africa, and Dr. T. S. Westall, ichthyologist of the University of London.

A specimen of the Chinese takin, one of the most peculiar of extant ruminant animals, is to be seen in George M. Pullman Hall.

JUNE 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 June:

Tuesday, June 1—General Tour; Wednesday—Egypt; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Hall of Plant Life.

Week beginning June 7: Monday—Habitat Groups; Tuesday—General Tour; Wednesday—Geology Exhibits; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Chinese Exhibits.

Week beginning June 14: Monday—Fish and Reptiles; Tuesday—General Tour; Wednesday—Jades and Gems; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Mexican Exhibits.

Week beginning June 21: Monday—Plants of Economic Value; Tuesday—General Tour; Wednesday—Races of Mankind; Thursday—General Tour; Friday—Prehistoric Plants and Animals.

Monday, June 28—Summer Birds of the Chicago Area; Tuesday—General Tour; Wednesday—Hall of Stone Age Man.

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-lecturer's 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. C. H. Riendeau—6 ethnological specimens, southern Alaska; from W. P. Neff—a "ceremonial" artifact of flint, Oklahoma; from Rev. Luis Mille, S. J.—28 herbarium specimens, Ecuador; from Museo Nacional—262 herbarium specimens, Costa Rica; from Professor J. Soukup—49 herbarium specimens, Peru; from Professor Manuel Valerio—61 herbarium specimens, Costa Rica; from Hermann C. Benke—236 herbarium specimens, central states; from University of Minnesota—75 herbarium specimens, Alaska; from Frank Von Drasek—5 mineral specimens, New Mexico and Arkansas; from H. V. Schiefer—9 cabochon cut chalcodites, Ohio; from J. Atkinson Conrow—12 specimens of fossil shells and marls, Maryland; from Tokumatsu Ito—20 specimens of products of the Fushun coal mine, Manchukuo; from Lincoln Park Zoo—a mandrill, 6 tegus, and 2 chameleons; from B. J. Bujak—an otter skeleton, and 3 beaver skeletons, Michigan; from Alastair Gordon Cumming—16 red grouse, Scotland; from J. Andrews King—10 bird skins, Chile; from Chicago Zoological Society—5 bird skins; from Leslie Wheeler Fund—23 skins of birds of prey, and 3 other bird skins, Canada and India.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Associate Members

Mrs. Walter F. Beachy, John M. Burgmeier, Miss Ruth M. Engberg, Mrs. Hermon Dunlap Smith, Gray B. Tuthill, Kenneth Williams, Leon Witkowski.

Annual Members

Mrs. Hugo F. Arnold, Mrs. Robert G. Bear, J. Ludvig Bengtson, Miss Elizabeth Browning, John Keenan Brunkhorst, Dr. J. R. Buchbinder, Charles C. Davis, William S. Deree, Earl B. Dickerson, George H. Eckhouse, Louis A. Ferguson, Jr., Mrs. G. W. Hales, Francis H. Hardy, Ernest F. Koopmann, Rudolph Krasberg, W. F. Kurfess, J. V. Lacroix, Robert E. Landon, Henry J. Mawick, W. H. McDonald, Preston McGrain, Joseph Michaels, William F. Moore, Sarkis H. Nahigian, Mrs. Sidney S. Porter, Dr. James M. Robbins, Arthur Rubloff, William R. Sachse, Adolf Schmidt, Clarence J. Schwartz, Fred F. Skeel, Mrs. Eugene S. Talbot, Jr., Lloyd Roger Townsley, S. W. Tracy, E. L. Wilson, Lawrence W. Zonsius.

Curator Sanborn Returns

Mr. Colin C. Sanborn, Curator of Mammals, has just returned from a trip through the east, during the course of which he attended the meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists held at Washington, D.C., and engaged in studies at Boston and New York scientific institutions.



Lewis, A. B. 1937. "Solomon Islanders." *Field Museum news* 8(6), 4-4.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/25713>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/355823>

Holding Institution

Field Museum of Natural History Library

Sponsored by

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the Chicago Field Museum.

For information contact dcc@library.uiuc.edu.

Rights Holder: Field Museum of Natural History

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.