

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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Field Museum is open every day of the year (except Christmas and New Year's Day) during the hours indicated below:

November, December, January, February	9 A.M. to 4 P.M.
March, April, September, October	9 A.M. to 5 P.M.
May, June, July, August	9 A.M. to 6 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 Museum's natural history Library is open for reference daily except Saturday afternoon and Sunday.

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

Lectures for schools, and special entertainments and 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 free illustrated lectures for the public, and special lectures for Members of the Museum, will appear in FIELD MUSEUM NEWS.

A cafeteria in the Museum serves visitors. Rooms are provided for those bringing their lunches.

Chicago Motor Coach Company No. 26 buses go direct to the Museum.

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

MEMBERSHIP IN FIELD MUSEUM

Field Museum has several classes of Members. Benefactors give or devise \$100,000 or more. Contributors give or devise \$1,000 to \$100,000. Life Members give \$500; Non-Resident Life and Associate Members pay \$100; Non-Resident Associate Members pay \$50. All the above classes are exempt from dues. Sustaining Members contribute \$25 annually. After six years they become Associate Members. Annual Members contribute \$10 annually. Other memberships are Corporate, Honorary, Patron, and Corresponding, additions under these classifications being made by special action of the Board of Trustees.

Each Member, in all classes, is entitled to free admission to the Museum for himself, his family and house guests, and to two reserved seats for Museum lectures provided for Members. Subscription to FIELD MUSEUM NEWS is included with all memberships. The courtesies of every museum of note in the United States and Canada are extended to all Members of Field Museum. A Member may give his personal card to non-residents of Chicago, upon presentation of which they will be admitted to the Museum without charge. Further information about memberships will be sent on request.

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.

Contributions made within the taxable year not exceeding 15 per cent of the taxpayer's net income are allowable as deductions in computing net income for federal income tax purposes.

Endowments may be made to the Museum with the provision that an annuity be paid to the patron for life. These annuities are guaranteed against fluctuation in amount, and may reduce federal income taxes.

EXPEDITIONS OF 1937

(Continued from page 1)

of Mr. Emmet R. Blake, Assistant Curator of Birds, is still in the field. Material for a habitat group of the rare and unusually interesting bird known as hoactzin has been obtained, as well as a large general collection of birds, mammals, reptiles and other kinds of animals of British Guiana and Brazil.

Staff Taxidermist C. J. Albrecht conducted an expedition during the summer to the Pribilof Islands, near Alaska, where he collected fur seals for a proposed habitat group.

Mr. Alfred C. Weed, Curator of Fishes, accompanied by Staff Taxidermist L. L. Pray, collected representative fishes of the Atlantic Coast on an expedition to Frenchman's Bay in Maine.

Mr. Karl P. Schmidt, Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians, headed two field parties. On the first, to mountain and desert regions of Arizona and California, he was accompanied by Staff Taxidermist Leon L. Walters, and Dr. Alfred E. Emerson of the Department of Zoology of the University of Chicago. On the second, to western Texas, he was accompanied by Mr. D. Dwight Davis, Assistant Curator of Vertebrate Skeletons, and Mr. Tarleton Smith of the United States National Park Service. Both expeditions obtained important herpetological collections.

ANOTHER GIFT OF \$2,000 FROM MRS. RAYMOND

Mrs. James Nelson Raymond, founder of the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation for Public School and Children's Lectures, recently made another gift of \$2,000 to Field Museum for support of the Foundation's current activities. This follows closely the gift of \$2,000 presented earlier this year and announced in the July issue of FIELD MUSEUM NEWS. Including the endowment fund of \$500,000 with which Mrs. Raymond established the Foundation in 1925, and many subsequent gifts, the sum total of her contributions to the furtherance of the education of Chicago's school children through the Museum now amounts to \$554,442.

The Raymond Foundation, with the autumn resumption of classes in the schools, and the presentation of the semi-annual series of free motion pictures for children on Saturday mornings during October and November (announced elsewhere in this NEWS), is now beginning the season of its greatest activity. During the school year approximately a quarter of a million children will be reached by the extension lecturers sent by the Foundation with stereopticon slides to school classrooms and assemblies, by the guide-lecture tours of the exhibits conducted for groups of youngsters brought to the Museum, and by the autumn and spring series of motion pictures in the James Simpson Theatre of this institution.

SOME MEDICAL PRACTICES OF AMERICAN INDIANS

By PAUL S. MARTIN

Chief Curator, Department of Anthropology

The North American Indians were as interested in the causes of illness and death as we are. Naturally their interpretations were different from ours, but were surprisingly similar to those of our great grandparents. This may be illustrated by the following examples selected from the vast and varied medical lore of certain tribes.

The commonest explanation for any illness was that some unfriendly individual had

caused a small material object, such as a splinter of stick, stone, or bone, to enter the body of the afflicted person. The extraction of this object was necessary in order to bring about recovery and was performed by the medicine-man by sucking on the irritated or aching spot.

Some Indians also practised "preventive" medicine by performing ceremonies to avert sickness. For example, the Navahos believe that illness will occur if one has a bad dream, if one cooks with wood taken from a house in which some one has died, or if one spits on an ant hill. If a Navaho happens to undergo one of these unpleasant experiences or violates a tribal taboo, then one of the curing ceremonies such as the "night chant" or the "mountain chant" must be held.

In the Navaho section of Hall 7 is exhibited a complete set of masks which are worn in the "night chant." This ceremony, of nine days duration, is supposed to cure sore eyes and prevent blindness. The cost of such a healing ritual may amount to two or three hundred dollars, payable either in cash, or in horses, sheep, or blankets. Everyone, except the patient, has a good time, for while he is being cured, the visitors and relatives gossip, dance, feast and renew acquaintances.

IMPORTANT FISH COLLECTION FROM COAST OF MAINE

Bringing material for creation of marine life habitat groups, for exhibits of individual fishes, and for addition to the fish study collections, the Field Museum expedition to the coast of Maine has returned to Chicago. Mr. Alfred C. Weed, Curator of Fishes, was in charge. He was accompanied by Staff Taxidermist L. L. Pray. Six weeks were spent in collecting and studying northern American coastal marine life, chiefly in the vicinity of Frenchman's Bay and the waters of adjoining cold bays. In this region, at Lamoine, is located the Biological Station of the University of Maine, the facilities of which were generously made available to the expedition by Director Joseph M. Murray and his associates.

In addition to collecting specimens, Mr. Pray made many drawings in color of fishes and other marine creatures while they were temporarily stored alive in tanks, or as they were seen about the rocks and in tide pools. Sketches were also made of marine plant life, rocks, and other environmental features. Mr. Pray also made plaster casts of many of the specimens while they were freshly caught, for use in preparing exhibits.

The most interesting catch, Mr. Weed states, was a young rose fish, one of the most gorgeously colored fishes of the Atlantic. This fish is shaped very much like a black bass, and is colored in various shades of red set off by markings of black, all in brilliantly pearly hues. Included in the collection also are lumpfish, eelpout, sculpins, sea ravens, flounders, mussels, barnacles, sea-anemones, starfishes, sea-urchins, sea-cucumbers, serpent-stars, boring clams, pollock, tomcod, cunners, and large quantities of beach materials for creating habitat group settings.

Distinguished Visitors

Mr. William Henry Claffin, Jr., Treasurer of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and Curator of Southeastern Archaeology at the Peabody Museum of Harvard University, was a visitor at Field Museum on September 13.

Dr. Walter Robyns, Director of the Jardin Botanique de l'Etat in Brussels, Belgium, also visited the Museum recently.



Martin, Paul S. 1937. "Some Medical Practices of American Indians." *Field Museum news* 8(10), 2-2.

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