

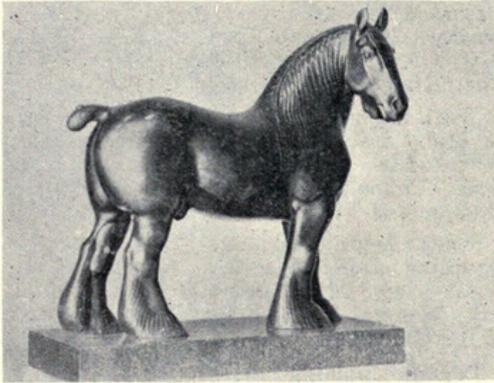
HASELTINE SCULPTURES OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS WIN HIGH PRAISE FROM ART EXPERT

"Of great significance artistically is the permanent exhibition of sculptures of champion domestic animals by Herbert Haseltine, British sculptor, which occupies a special hall at Field Museum of Natural History," wrote Mrs. Katherine Kuh, of the Kuh Galleries, after a recent visit to the Museum.

Mrs. Kuh was so enthusiastic about the Haseltine works that she immediately got in touch with members of the staff of the Department of Zoology, urging that this collection, in Hall 12, be brought to the attention of a wider public.

The Haseltine series, a gift to the Museum from Mr. Marshall Field, a Trustee of the institution, immortalizes in bronze and stone some of the finest animals in the service of man. Each represents a life study of animals which won honors as the best examples of live stock bred in Great Britain—horses (draft, racing and polo), bulls, cows, sheep, and hogs. The series comprises nineteen sculptures, all scaled to one-quarter life-size. They not only represent the actual winners of contests, whose mettle has been proved in the stock shows and on the race

courses, but they typify the physical characteristics of various outstanding breeds. In most cases, stones of various hues and textures, suitable for representing the colors and characteristics of the animals, have been used. Also employed, with the utmost success, are such materials as plated gold and bronze, ornamented in some cases with lapis lazuli, ivory, or onyx. The statues are beautifully mounted and lighted. Before coming to Chicago for their permanent home, the sculptures were exhibited in Paris, London, and New York.



Draft Horse, by Herbert Haseltine

The animal is Sudbourne Premier, a Suffolk Punch stallion. The sculpture is in bronze, plated with gold.



Hereford Bull, by Herbert Haseltine

Bronze partially plated with gold. The animal represented was known in England as Twyford Fairy Boy.



Race Horse in Bronze, by Herbert Haseltine

It represents Polymelus, a British thoroughbred, winner of many races, and a champion sire for years.

PARTS OF OLD AUTOMOBILE AID PALEONTOLOGIST

BY ELMER S. RIGGS
CURATOR OF PALEONTOLOGY

Before a fossil animal can become an exhibit in a glass case, with possibly a background and habitat accessories, it must first be an object of careful and painstaking work in a laboratory.

In fact, the museum worker usually first makes its acquaintance in the field as a mere tantalizing prospect in a ledge of rock or a bank of clay, and thence follows it through a variety of stages, all laborious. Only after arduous toil is the specimen separated from the terrain as a block of "matrix" in which the bones still remain imbedded. Shipped home, this block next appears mounted on a chipping block in the laboratory where it is attacked, but gently and carefully to avoid damage to the bones, with chisels and hammer. At long last the preparator finds his specimen laid out on a laboratory table as an assemblage of mended and sorted bones. Then, to obtain a satisfactory pose for exhibition, a temporary mount is necessary.

This last step often taxes the ingenuity of the preparator more than any other. Far different from a plastic material to be molded in a modeler's hands, the skeletal parts must be set up, posed, and almost interminably readjusted. Distorted parts have to be reshaped until they finally form a consistent whole correctly interpreting the physical structure of an animal which has

never been seen alive, or even as a carcass, by any human eye.

Mr. James Quinn, a Field Museum collector and preparator of fossil mammals, recently solved the difficulty of assembling troublesome fossil skeletons by enlisting for the purpose certain discarded parts of a small car. A pair of lifting-jack screws, mounted upon two upright standards, furnish adjustable supports for the body bones of the animal. Flat rods, with adjustable knees attached to every vertebra, make the vertebral column almost as mutable as the flexible arm of an electric fixture.

Sliding jointed braces make it equally possible to raise and lower the head. The ball and socket joints of a steering gear, joined by varying lengths of tie-bar and piping with slip joint, form an adjustable leg support capable of universal adjustment at hip, knee and hock. In short, by using all the movable parts of a half-dozen steering gears and other pieces from the scrap-heap, a fossil skeleton, in the hands of Mr. Quinn, resourceful adaptor and manipulator, becomes almost a "robot" of movement. Recently the device was used to support the skeleton of a fossil horse, thus presenting a combination of features of the by-gone horse and buggy age with that of the motor car.

But pose, not action, is the object being seriously sought here. When all of the adjustments of body, head, legs and feet have been made, and the pose, whether representing an animal as walking or standing, idling

or alert, has been checked and found correct, screws and lock-nuts are tightened down and the specimen from some remote period may be trusted to stand. Then permanent supports, less conspicuous than those of the temporary device, are shaped and fitted to the skeleton, and the steering-gear framework is detached and laid aside until required again in a different set-up adapted to a pose for some other animal of the long ago.

Notable Study Collection

A notable collection of some 800 ceramic objects of Chinese and Siamese origin, found in the Philippine Islands, has been placed in the Museum, for study, by Mr. E. D. Hester, of Manila, Economic Adviser to the High Commissioner of the Philippines. These ceramics range in date from about the thirteenth to the seventeenth century.

POISON IVY—

—Now is the time to beware of this pestiferous plant, which can do so much to spoil a summer vacation.

An illustrated leaflet—No. 12 in Field Museum's Botanical Series—tells how to identify the plant, how poisoning takes place, the nature of the poison and the disease it causes, and the remedies for ivy poisoning.

On sale at the BOOK SHOP of FIELD MUSEUM—15 cents.



Riggs, Elmer S. 1939. "Parts of Old Automobile Aid Paleontologist." *Field Museum news* 10(6), 7-7.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/25712>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/364589>

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>.