



## MUSEUM MEMBERS' RECEPTION OCT. 12 IN NEW INDIAN HALL

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CURATOR OF OCEANIC ETHNOLOGY

COLUMBUS DAY, October 12, has been chosen as a fitting occasion for the formal opening of the Museum's newest hall, "Indian America" (Hall 4). This latest addition to the exhibits of the Department of Anthropology presents a visual history of Indian civilization in North and South America from the time that man first crossed from the Asiatic continent into the New World to the era of rediscovery by Columbus and his fellow European explorers, conquerors, and missionaries.

The hall incorporates a number of distinctive features. In the planning of its exhibits, the cardinal principle followed has been to present the ideas of which history is made, rather than merely to store archaeological specimens in new cases. The Museum is an educational institution, not a curiosity shop. Every effort has been made to display specimens so that they convey a connected story of prehistoric man in the New World and show in a meaningful context the objects he used.

### COLOR AND LIGHTING STRESSED

Exhibits should be pleasing to the eye as well as informative. Those in the new hall make full use of color, in order to bring out the best points in the objects shown and as a device to emphasize the most important aspects in the story of the Indian in America. Case lighting has vastly improved the illumination. Long labels for every object have been carefully avoided, but sufficient information is nevertheless included on labels to satisfy the interested visitor.

Finally, four model dioramas of prehistoric Indian villages—in the Southwest, Louisiana, Yucatan, and Peru—skillfully portray the life in typical communities in those areas. In each diorama, one can see

a village in its environmental setting, with the distinctive architecture of its houses and public buildings and the activities of the local citizens as they go about their daily tasks.

The hall is divided into three sections. The first of these shows principal characteristics of New World civilization at the

The opening of the Indian America Hall on October 12 will be a preview for the membership of the Museum and representatives of the press. Admission will be by invitation, and all Museum members will receive invitation cards. Actual opening of the hall will be at 2 p.m., and tea will be served from 3 to 5 p.m.

time Europeans were first exploring North and South America and recording what they saw. This section was completed and formally opened in 1943. At that time, the hall was located on the ground floor. It has since been moved to the main floor to make it more accessible to the public and put it in proper association with other exhibits dealing with Indians of the New World.

### PERIOD BEFORE COLUMBUS

The second and main section is devoted to the historical development of Indian culture before the period of discovery by Columbus and other white men. Various areas of the New World are treated in turn, though emphasis is laid on North America, particularly eastern North America, as separate halls in the Museum deal especially with South America, Middle America, and the Southwest.

The exhibits dealing with the prehistory

of eastern North America tell a story, by visual means, of the succession and development of Indian cultures or civilizations in the region. The earliest Indians were the product of a hunting, fishing, and gathering economy. Some of them were nomadic but others, because of the abundance of shellfish and other collectible foods, became sedentary dwellers in large villages. These ancient Indians did not have pottery or agriculture.

The ancient hunting cultures or civilizations were followed by Indians who were farmers and manufacturers of pottery. Some of these Indians built burial mounds. This mound-building stage represented a cultural climax or florescence. It was a period of widespread trade and commerce and artistic achievements. From an artistic point of view, the remarkable Hopewell material from Ohio is a noteworthy example of this period. There are seven exhibits of Hopewell material in the main section of the new hall.

### TEMPLES ON PYRAMIDS

In the next period of culture or civilization the Indians were intensive farmers who supplemented their agriculture with hunting, fishing, and gathering. Some groups of these Indians constructed large ceremonial centers consisting of earthen pyramids with flat summits upon which were erected wooden temples. These Indians made a variety of pottery, some of it for ceremonial use. The ceremonial pottery is rather impressive.

The main section of the new hall also has exhibits dealing with the first migrations of the Indians from Asia into America and exhibits illustrating the oldest cultures or civilizations of the New World. Also, it is in this section that the four model dioramas, previously mentioned, are to be found.

The third section concerns the various

### KEY TO FIGURES

TOP OF PAGE, left to right: Natchez girl, Louisiana; Aztec warrior, Mexico; Pueblo girl, Arizona; Tehuelche man, Patagonia; Inca traveler, Andes; Macusi girl, Tropical Forest. BOTTOM OF PAGE: left, Fort Ancient harvest ceremony; right, Iroquois harvest ceremony. The figures shown are taken from exhibits in the Hall of Indian America. Those at the top are by Mrs. Alexander (Anne Harding) Spoehr; those at the bottom, by Staff Artist Gustaf Dalstrom.







INCA COMMUNITY IN A VALLEY OF THE ANDES  
Before the Spanish conquest of Peru in A. D. 1532. A diorama in Indian America Hall.

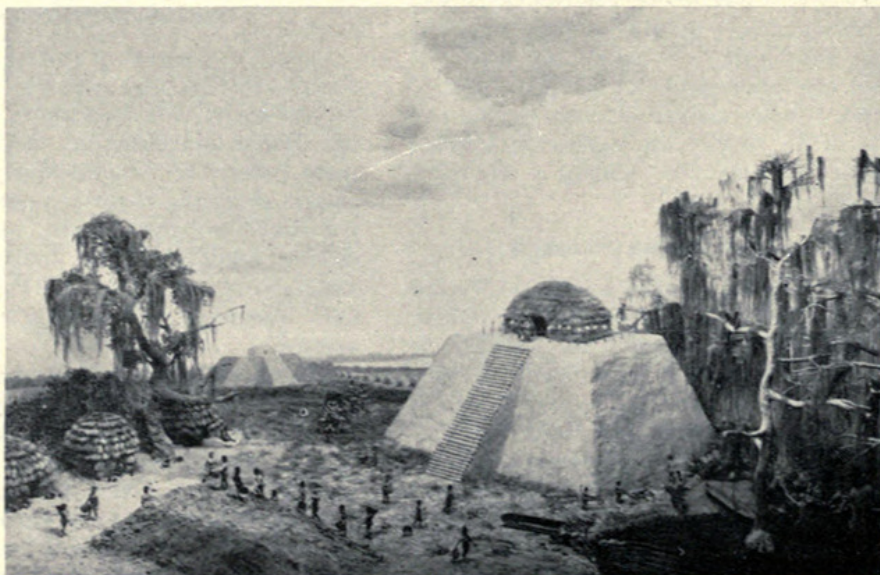
techniques used by the archaeologist in learning how prehistoric Indians lived and in determining the time sequences and local culture growths that make up Indian history. The use of stylistic differences in delineating culture influences and areas, stratigraphy

produced should be of particular interest.

Exhibition as an art constantly grows, changes, and becomes more effective. The completion of the Hall of Indian America marks a step forward in the Museum's program of continuous improvement in its

BAYOU  
VILLAGE  
WITH  
TEMPLE  
MOUND  
IN LOU-  
ISIANA,  
A. D. 1300

A diorama  
in Indian  
America  
Hall.



(or dating by superposition of buried remains), the kind of information contained in written records, and the determination of ancient trade routes are all explained. A life-size, partly excavated burial mound is shown to demonstrate how such structures are excavated. This section also includes exhibits on the techniques used by the Indians in making the objects dug up by the archaeologist. Of these, the way flint implements such as arrow points were

exhibits, so that knowledge of man and nature may be more widely diffused among the citizens of modern America.

Etruscan and Roman antiquities, dating from about the sixth century B.C., in stone, bronze, iron, pottery, and glass, and objects recovered from ancient Boscoreale and Pompeii, near Vesuvius, are exhibited in Edward E. and Emma B. Ayer Hall (Hall 2).

## NATURE PHOTO EXHIBIT PLANS ANNOUNCED

The Nature Camera Club of Chicago and the Museum jointly announce the Fifth Chicago International Nature Photography Exhibition to be held at the Museum February 1 to 28, inclusive. To receive consideration, all entries must be received at the Museum not later than January 16. The names of judges will be announced later.

As in previous exhibitions, there will be two main divisions—prints and color transparencies. In each of these divisions there will be three classifications of pictures: *Animal Life*, *Plant Life*, and *General* (the last includes scenery, geological subjects, clouds, and other nature manifestations outside the two specific classifications). First-prize silver medals, ribbons, and other awards will be made in each classification of each division, it is announced by Mr. H. J. Johnson, chairman.

All persons interested in submitting entries are urged to communicate with the Museum or with Mrs. Louise Broman Janson, 6252 South Kedzie Avenue, Chicago 29, for entry forms and further information.

## STAFF NOTES

Mr. Clifford H. Pope, Curator of Amphibians and Reptiles, has returned after spending the summer in continuance of his investigations of the habits and distribution of southern Appalachian salamanders. His work was conducted, as in several past years, at the headquarters of the Mountain Lake Biological Station at the University of Virginia. The present season resulted in the acquisition of much new material on woodland salamanders.... Mr. George I. Quimby, Curator of Exhibits, recently appeared on a quiz program of WMBQ television station. He displayed and explained some unusual Indian masks.... Mr. Henry S. Dybas, Assistant Curator of Insects, reports most successful collecting in Florida. The party, in the Museum's carry-all, reached Key West, where collections of the strand-fauna of beetles were made. On its return the party encountered the August hurricane, fortunately not at the center of its path.... Mr. Bryan Patterson, Curator of Fossil Mammals, recently attended a seminar on the fossil man-apes, *Australopithecinae*, of South Africa held in New York under the sponsorship of the Viking Fund.... Dr. Sharat K. Roy, Chief Curator of Geology, has returned from a six-week field trip in western and east-central New York state. During part of the trip he was accompanied by Mr. Orville L. Gilpin, Chief Preparator of Fossils. Collections made consist largely of invertebrate fossils of Middle and Lower Devonian formations—namely, Hamilton, Onondaga, and Oriskany.





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