

Chicago Natural History Museum

FOUNDED BY MARSHALL FIELD, 1893

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

SIXTEEN EXPEDITIONS PLANNED FOR 1951

Sixteen expeditions are scheduled to go into the field for the Museum in 1951, it is announced by Colonel Clifford C. Gregg, Director.

The largest-scale operation will be the 17th Southwest Archaeological Expedition, which will continue the work of past expeditions in the New Mexico prehistoric culture field. Dr. Paul S. Martin, Chief Curator of Anthropology, again will be the leader, and his chief assistant will be Dr. John B. Rinaldo, Assistant in Archaeology. It is planned in the new season to continue the research so successfully begun in 1950 in dry caves where an abundance of material of a perishable type was obtained. New caves will be opened in 1951 with the objective of finding artifacts of additional kinds to fill in sequences incomplete because of gaps in the Tularosa Cave stratigraphy of the 1950 operation.

The Department of Botany will attach an expedition of its own to the Southwest Archaeological Expedition. Dr. Hugh C. Cutler, Curator of Economic Botany, will conduct this expedition, which has for its purpose comparison of the types of vegetable food products found in Tularosa Cave with the crops that grow in this area today.

SAN SALVADOR PROJECT

Several members of the Museum staff—Dr. Sharat K. Roy, Chief Curator of

Geology, Dr. Austin L. Rand, Curator of Birds, Robert K. Wyant, Curator of Economic Geology, Dr. Fritz Haas, Curator of Lower Invertebrates, and a member of the botanical staff—are slated to go to San Salvador for collecting and research in their respective fields. This work got under way in 1950 when the Museum dispatched Dr. Norman C. Fassett, Professor of Botany and Curator of the Herbarium of the University of Wisconsin, to this field in September for the collecting of aquatic plants. He will remain until about June.

Emil Sella, Curator of Exhibits in the Department of Botany, and Samuel H. Grove, Jr., Assistant in Plant Reproduction, will leave for various parts of Florida in January to collect exhibition material.

Bryan Patterson, Curator of Fossil Mammals, and Orville L. Gilpin, Chief Preparator of Fossils, will continue collecting from early Cretaceous mammal bearing deposits in Texas, a project in which they have been engaged for several seasons.

FOSSIL-FISH COLLECTING

Dr. Robert H. Denison, Curator of Fossil Fishes, will collect material in his field from middle Devonian limestone deposits in central and northern Ohio. During July or August Curator Denison will collect from Devonian limestone and shales in western New York and Silurian fish fossil localities in New York and Pennsylvania.

George Langford, Curator of Fossil Plants, will make a series of field trips to obtain material of the Coal Age in the area near Wilmington, Illinois, and will collect upper Cretaceous and Eocene fossil plants in Tennessee and Mississippi.

Philip Hershkovitz, Assistant Curator of Mammals, will continue the Colombian Zoological Expedition upon which he has been engaged since 1948.

Eugene S. Richardson, Jr., Curator of Fossil Invertebrates, will collect invertebrates of the lower Paleozoic period in various parts of the West.

SEEKS AFRICAN BIRDS

Harry A. Beatty, of New York City, ornithologist who collected for the Museum in Liberia during 1946-47, will collect birds and other animals in selected areas in French Equatorial Africa.

Karl P. Schmidt, Chief Curator of Zoology, Clifford H. Pope, Curator of Amphibians and Reptiles, and Colin C. Sanborn, Curator of Mammals, will continue various branches of field work within the United States. Chief Curator Schmidt will resume field trips for reptiles and amphibians in Texas in the spring. Each year he covers a selected area. Curator Pope will continue his investigation of salamanders in Arkansas. Curator Sanborn will continue his survey of mammals of Arkansas in co-operation with colleagues at the University of Arkansas.

Loren P. Woods, Curator of Fishes, has

been invited by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to participate in deep-water investigations to be conducted in the Gulf of Mexico during a cruise of the government ship *Oregon*. Curator Woods and Robert F. Inger, Assistant Curator of Fishes, will continue their successful cave-fish studies in underground caverns of Missouri and Arkansas. In 1950 they worked in similar caves in Tennessee, Indiana, and Illinois.

ALBERT B. WOLCOTT, 1879-1950

Albert B. Wolcott, a Museum employee for thirty-four years, died on December 8, in the DuPage County Convalescent Home,

at the age of 81. Mr. Wolcott was born in Bloomington, Illinois, on January 9, 1879. While still a youth he became interested in insects, especially beetles, on one family of which he soon specialized. He became a noted authority and the author of nearly forty papers on the small bright-colored checkered beetles,



A. B. WOLCOTT

the Cleridae, some of which are commonly seen on flowers.

In July, 1908, Mr. Wolcott was appointed as an assistant in the Division of Insects in the Museum, and in January, 1914, he was transferred to the then newly formed N. W. Harris Public School Extension of the Museum. In this department his artistic skill and knowledge of insects were very useful in preparing exhibits of insects and other material in the small portable cases that are circulated in the Chicago schools.

In 1942, his failing health and diminishing eyesight compelled him to end his Museum duties, as well as the research work he did for many years on his chosen family of beetles, to which he devoted all of his spare time. His extensive and valuable collection of beetles of the family Cleridae and his books and papers pertaining to them he generously donated to the Museum when he retired. The Museum published his *Catalogue of North American Beetles of the Family Cleridae* in 1947.

WILLIAM J. GERHARD
Curator Emeritus of Insects

Last Call for Entries of Nature Photos

January 15 is the deadline for entries in the Sixth Chicago International Exhibition of Nature Photography to be held at the Museum February 1 to 28, inclusive, under the auspices of the Nature Camera Club of Chicago and the Museum.

Silver medals and ribbons will be awarded in the various print and slide classifications.



Gerhard, William Josiah. 1951. "Albert B. Wolcott, 1979-1950." *Bulletin* 22(1), 2-2.

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