

sponsored by the Paleontological Society, the Society of Economic Paleontologists and Mineralogists, and the Geological Society of America in this country and the Palaeontographical Society of Great Britain. It remains to be seen of course, whether the new kingdom will now be widely accepted, but it is at last off to a good start.

By whatever name they are called, the protists are a fascinating study. Small though they are, they are far from simple, and those forms that have tests and can be preserved as fossils are objects of delicate beauty under the microscope. The economic importance of the Foraminifera, the most illustrious of the protists, has been mentioned in the BULLETIN ("Fingerprint Clues in the Quest for Oil," August, 1954). Samples of Silicoflagellates, Peridiniids, Foraminifera, Tintinnids, and Radiolarians are shown in the exhibit in Skiff Hall, where they are represented by plastic models, as much as 1,000 times life-size, created by Artist Joseph B. Krstolich, of the Department of Zoology.

COLLECTION OF MOTHS GIVEN TO MUSEUM

BY RUPERT L. WENZEL
CURATOR OF INSECTS

During the past year the Museum received a collection of North American butterflies and moths as a gift from the estate of the late Arthur L. McElhose. The collection, which was accessioned recently, contains approximately 12,000 specimens. It is a particularly desirable acquisition because it contains more than 700 species of Microlepidoptera, of which only a few were represented in the Museum's collections.

The Microlepidoptera is a large and important group that consists of a number of families of moths, with about 5,000 species in North America. It includes many familiar and economically important species, such as the codling moth, the European corn borer, the oriental fruit moth, the clothes moths, and many leaf rollers and miners. One species, the pink bollworm moth, is regarded by some entomologists as a national menace because it may be responsible for the loss of as much as half the cotton crop in certain areas in the southwestern United States, which produce much of this highly important crop.

Most of the species of Microlepidoptera, however, are of little or no economic importance. Many are of interest because of their unusual habits. Of these, the public probably is best acquainted with *Laspeyresia saltitans*, the Mexican jumping-bean moth, whose larva lives principally within the seed pod of a Mexican spurge, *Sebastiania pringlei*. The larva causes the seed pod to jump by throwing itself from one side to the other within the pod.

McElhose owned and operated a bath and massage studio in Arlington Heights, Illinois. He was well known locally as an amateur lepidopterist and served as secretary of the Chicago Entomological Society from 1940 to 1943. His collection included the collection made by his brother, the late Henry McElhose of Ilion, New York, another enthusiastic and well-known amateur, who was a charter member of the Entomological Society of America. These two men exemplify the kind of amateurs who, even though they publish little, make a valuable contribution to their field of interest through the careful amassing of well-documented collections, that, after passing to a museum, serve as a source of study material for future investigators.

MUSHROOM FANTASY—

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phenomenon. Young maidens made a practice of beautifying their skin by bathing in the "fairy dew," and took great care not to step within the rings lest the angered fairies send blemishes to plague them.

Shakespeare, in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, comments on the country people's belief that elves and fairies dance within the rings at night, seating themselves on the ring's dewy cupolas. Titania, while quarreling with Oberon, tells of the rage of the winds because the fairies no longer dance and of the "contagious fogs" that they "in revenge have sucked up from the sea." One result of the spiteful flood, she says, is that the "nine men's morris is fill'd up with mud." Morris means the dance of the nine men or gnomes who, after their Puck-like expeditions of malice, were said to dance with joy in the moonlight meadow within the mushroom rings. A vestige of that belief can be seen today in the conviction of many gardeners that growth of the mushroom is influenced by the changes of the moon.

A visit to the Hall of Plant Life (Hall 29) of the Museum will reveal a wealth of information about these controversial and exciting fleshy fungi.

As in early days in Europe, an itinerant barber sometimes acts as a surgeon among African natives. He relieves pain by bleeding with a hollow horn. The wide end is cupped over a cut on the site of pain, and the operator sucks air from the horn and plugs the hole at the tip with a pellet of wax, applied by the tip of his tongue. Such horns are shown as part of a barber's equipment in Hall D.

A "family tree" of mammals, including man, illustrating the manifold inter-relationships, is on exhibition in George M. Pullman Hall (Hall 13).

Lectures Begin March 5 . . .

PROGRAMS ON SATURDAYS FOR ADULTS, CHILDREN

The two annual spring series of Museum programs—Saturday afternoons for adults and Saturday mornings for children—will begin on March 5 in the James Simpson Theatre and continue throughout March and April. The lectures on travel and science for adults are at 2:30 P.M. The free motion-pictures for children are at 10:30 A.M.

The story of "Brazil" in color-film on March 5 will open the Saturday-afternoon lectures, which are provided by the Edward E. Ayer Lecture Foundation Fund. The lecturer will be Eric Pavel, a native Brazilian, who is film director for the Pan American Press and Film of Sao Paulo. He will show his films of Bahia, Rio de Janeiro, and the Amazon jungle, one of the world's least-known wildernesses. Included will be underwater shots of tropical fishes and marine plants, a fish-spearing expedition, glimpses of the teeming animal-life of the country's vast interior, visits to primitive Indian tribes, and scenes at Iguassu, the world's largest waterfalls. Pavel's films also document Brazil's great industries—coffee, sugar, and mining.

No tickets are necessary for admission to this and the eight subsequent illustrated lectures on Saturday afternoons in March and April. A section of the James Simpson Theatre where the programs are presented is reserved for Members of the Museum, each of whom is entitled to two reserved seats. Requests for these seats should be made in advance by telephone (WAbash 2-9410) or in writing. Seats will be held in the Member's name until 2:25 o'clock on the lecture day. Because of limited accommodations it is necessary to restrict admission to the Saturday-afternoon lectures to adults.

"Drums for a Holiday," a dramatic and colorful film of the forest people of Africa's west coast, will be the opening attraction on March 5 of the Saturday-morning entertainments for children, which are presented by the James Nelson and Anna Louise Raymond Foundation. The film shows the life of the Ashanti tribes on the Gold Coast and the growing, harvesting, and shipping of coconuts.

Complete schedules of the programs for both adults and children will appear in the March issue of the BULLETIN.

The faculties and students of all educational institutions are offered full use of the facilities of the Museum. Many schools at all levels—grade schools, high schools, colleges, and universities—have regular organized programs in which the Museum is recognized as a prime source of information.



Wenzel, Rupert L. 1955. "Collection of Moths Given to Museum." *Bulletin* 26(2), 7-7.

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