

**FIELD MUSEUM OF
NATURAL
HISTORY MANUAL**

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CHICAGO FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

**FIELD MUSEUM OF
NATURAL
HISTORY MANUAL**

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*"Oh mickle is the pow'rful good that lies
"In herba, trees, stones, and their true qualities:
"For nought so vile that on the earth doth live,
"But to the earth some secret good doth give.
"And nought so rich on either rock or shelf,
"But, if unknown, lies uselesse to itself.
"Therefore who thus doth make their secrets known
"Doth profit others, and not hurt his own."*

Romeo & Juliet, Act II, Scene III.

FOREWORD

This review has been prepared in order to supply a constant demand for information concerning the foundation, the endowments, and the activities of the Museum. It contains brief references to the exhibits in the departments of Anthropology, Botany, Geology and Zoology, the activities of the N. W. Harris Public School Extension, and the Library of the Institution. A list of contributors to the Museum, and a short account of the more important expeditions undertaken, are also given.

The Museum is the property, by free gift, of the people of Chicago. It is the aim and ambition of the Trustees and Staff to maintain high standards of museum technique and efficiency, and to develop, still further, the educational influence of the institution. It is realized that a well conducted and equipped natural history museum is a people's university; a means of culture and recreation.

D. C. DAVIES, DIRECTOR.

November 1, 1922.



FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

FOUNDATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

The story of the phenomenal rise of Chicago as a commercial and industrial center is a romance that has few equals in the history of the cities of the world. It is too well known to need repetition here. As far back, however, as the early eighties, there existed a feeling among a group of public spirited citizens, who had the best interests of the city at heart, that the growth was not proportional. They were conscious that, to secure the future welfare of the community, proper facilities for popular education and culture should be provided. This feeling crystalized into a determination to construct and equip a great Museum which would make science and knowledge, in their most interesting and fascinating form, accessible to every member of the community.

In 1891 preliminary steps were taken to attain this end, and the Columbian Historical Association was formed. The preparations for, and the holding of the World's Fair in 1893 caused the project to remain in abeyance for a time; but on August 11th of that year the Directors of the Exposition appointed a committee composed of George R. Davis, H. N. Higinbotham and James W. Scott to form a nucleus of representative citizens who were interested in the matter. This resulted in the formation, on August 21st, 1893, of "The Columbian Museum of Chicago" and articles for its incorporation were prepared.

The number and the value of the exhibits shown at the World's Columbian Exposition, and their fitness for museum purposes, was an opportunity to establish a museum on a large and liberal scale, of which the committee was not slow to avail itself. The great nations of the world, after a long period of peace and prosperity, had reached a high state of artistic and industrial development. The competition and rivalry resulted in each nation producing and exhibiting its best; the display of material was consequently unsurpassed. The pioneers of the Museum determined that the most important and valuable of these exhibits must remain in Chicago.

The task of acquiring valuable collections was conducted with great zeal; but the expense was great, and it was not until October 26th, when it was announced that Marshall Field had given one million dollars to the institution, that the future of the Museum was assured. Two days later, George M. Pullman and Harlow N. Higinbotham each subscribed one hundred thousand dollars, and Mrs. Mary D. Sturges gave fifty thousand dollars. Holders of stock in the World's Columbian Exposition gave shares to a par value of one million, five hundred thousand dollars.

Several valuable collections were then purchased and numerous gifts of exhibition material were received. The first notable contribution of this character was that of Mr. Edward E. Ayer, who presented his anthropological collection valued at over one hundred thousand dollars.

The Palace of Art, most beautiful of the World's Fair buildings, was secured as a temporary home for