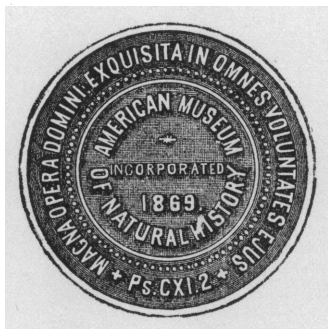


FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
TRUSTEES
OF
THE AMERICAN MUSEUM
OF NATURAL HISTORY

FOR THE YEAR 1923



FOR THE FREE EDUCATION
OF THE PEOPLE
FOR EXPLORATION, RESEARCH, EXHIBITION
AND PUBLICATION

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

ISSUED JULY 15, 1924

"Evolution," produced by Dr. Raymond L. Ditmars, edited by Dr. Benjamin C. Gruenberg, published by Urban Motion Picture Industries, Inc.

The Museum arranged a private view for Members, March 8, of the remarkable film "Safari: Martin and Osa Johnson's African Hunt," with a talk by Martin Johnson on his experiences in photographing wild animals.

On March 23, the Museum arranged a private view for Members, the first showing in America, of the film "As a Bird of Passage in Africa," introduced by the author, Bengt Berg.

The Museum co-operated with the Federation for Child Study, April 19, presenting "Behind the Scenes with the Movie Makers," an illustrated talk by Dr. Rowland Rogers on the use of the motion picture as a tool in education.

The New York Academy of Sciences presented an illustrated lecture in the Museum, November 19, by Charles Lane Poor, "Errors of Einstein."

The Museum gave in its auditorium a special lecture for Members, by Roy Chapman Andrews, November 23, illustrated by slides and motion pictures, the first account of the work of the Museum's Third Asiatic Expedition, in co-operation with ASIA Magazine, including the discovery of dinosaurs and other fossils in the desert of Mongolia.

The Museum gave a lecture on December 21, "Jungle Life in India," by Colonel J. C. Faunthorpe, illustrated with still and moving photographs.

The number of new Members enrolled during 1923 was 1075, of which 77 were Life Members. The loss through death and resignation was 352. There was a net gain of 723, and on December 31, 1923, the total membership was 7,273, divided into classes as follows :

Status of Membership

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-------|
| Founders | 0 | Fellows | 52 |
| Benefactors | 12 | Honorary Life Members.... | 43 |
| Associate Founders..... | 11 | Life Members..... | 984 |
| Associate Benefactors..... | 20 | Corresponding Members.... | 22 |
| Patrons | 123 | Sustaining Members..... | 136 |
| Honorary Fellows..... | 12 | Annual Members..... | 3,859 |
| Associate Members (non-resident)..... | | 1,999 | |

In order to take advantage of this great opportunity, it is necessary to extend the period of field work of the expedition for an additional three years, when the original five years are ended. The scope of the work should be enlarged to include a botanist and an archaeologist, and new equipment which will give greater efficiency is urgently needed.

The men who have taken part in the expedition during the last three years are as follows: Roy Chapman Andrews, Leader and Zoologist; J. B. Shackelford, Photographer; Walter Granger, Palæontologist; Charles P. Berkey, Geologist; Frederick K. Morris, Topographer; George Olsen and Peter Kaisen, assistants in Palæontology; Clifford Pope, assistant in Zoology; Bayard Colgate, J. McKenzie Young, Albert Johnson and Vance Johnson, Motor Transportation.

The Faunthorpe-Vernay Indian Expedition completed its first season of field work by the middle of 1923. Mr. Arthur S. Vernay, who so generously financed this ambitious enterprise, and Col. J. C. Faunthorpe, who headed the party in the field, were exceedingly successful, bringing together a magnificent collection of the big game of India, many species of which are fast approaching extinction. The collection numbers 127 specimens of about 42 species, and includes the Indian Elephant, the great Indian Rhinoceros, Tiger, Bear, Leopard, Gaur-ox, etc., many of the skins accompanied by complete skeletons. The success of the Faunthorpe-Vernay Indian Expedition is to be attributed not only to the experienced planning and administration of the leaders of the party, but to the widespread spirit of coöperation encountered among the Indian officials wherever the expedition moved. Many splendid groups of Indian mammals will appear in the Hall of Asiatic Mammals as a later result of this expedition.

Field work in Ecuador was carried on continuously from April throughout the year. The expedition of 1922 lasted into the forepart of 1923 and the collections made during the latter part of this expedition did not reach the Museum until 1923. Consequently, these specimens appear in the total given for Ecuador, although the work was reported upon in the last Annual Report. Mr. G. H. H. Tate began his third consecutive season in Ecuador (1923) as field collector for the Department of Mammals by a reconnaissance along the west coast of Ecuador from Salinas to Pedernales. On this trip he made several cross-sections through