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Chicago Museum Field Work

At almost any time, somewhere in the world, scientists—solo, in twos or threes, or in larger groups—are collecting something for one of the four departments (Anthropology, Botany, Geology, Zoology) of the Chicago Natural History Museum. Ever since the institution (formerly the Field Museum of Natural History) was founded in 1893, its worldwide expeditionary program has been continuous, except when war has caused temporary interruption. In recent years the number of parties dispatched on field operations has ranged from sixteen to more than twenty annually. All continents and many island groups and sea areas have been explored. Museum scientists have penetrated tropical rain forests and jungles, mountain fastnesses, dismal expanses of desert, and all other sorts of terrain, including the depths of the sea, in the search for material to add to the collections, and in quest of data for contributions to scientific knowledge. Many of the expeditions have been large in scale; but the one- and two-man parties are the most numerous and carry on the bulk of ordinary expeditionary activity.

The largest and most ambitious undertaking in the 1952 program was the Southwest Archaeological Expedition. This was its eighteenth year of operation and the ninth in which its work has been concentrated on prehistoric Mogollon Indian sites near the town of Reserve, New Mexico. Over the years it has been assembling pottery, implements, clothing, and other artifacts, and from them reconstructing the history of tribes that lived from about 2500 B.C. to A.D. 1300. Since its inception, this series of expeditions has been directed by Paul S. Martin, chief curator of anthropology. In 1952 his principal aides were John Rinaldo, assistant curator of archaeology, and Elaine Bluhm, assistant in archaeology.

An important zoological expedition to Kenya Colony and the Upper Nile region of Uganda, sponsored and led by Walther Buchen, of Chicago, collected birds

required for a projected habitat group showing the teeming bird life of a papyrus marsh. Dominated by whalehead storks, the group will also include cormorants, pelicans, water herons, plovers, ducks, and other birds. Mrs. Buchen, who participated actively in the collecting, and a British ornithologist, John Williams, joined the party in Nairobi.

Other expeditions in 1952 included the following: A zoological survey of Colombia, in progress for nearly four years, was completed by Philip Hershkovitz, assistant curator of mammals. Harry Hoogstraal, field associate in zoology, continued collecting small mammals, reptiles, insects, birds, and fishes in Africa, Madagascar, and Yemen. Luis de la Torre completed his third expedition to Guatemala, in search of small mammals. Harry A. Beatty, of New York, collected birds in West Africa. D. S. Rabor, of Silliman University, assembled a collection of mammals and birds in Zamboanga, Philippine Islands. Margery Carlson, Northwestern University botanist, gathered plants for the university and the museum in Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. Clifford H. Pope, curator of amphibians and reptiles, collected salamanders in Mexico. Fritz Haas, curator of lower invertebrates, made collecting trips to Cuba and Florida, and field work in Cuba was conducted by B. E. Dahlgren, curator emeritus of botany. Scheduled for December is an expedition to Parícutin by Sharat K. Roy, chief curator of geology. Bryan Patterson, curator of fossil mammals, is in Argentina for a year of paleontological studies on a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship. Rainer Zangerl, curator of fossil reptiles, made paleontological surveys in Austria.

Ore specimens from Utah and Colorado; fossil fish from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New Brunswick; fossil mammals from Texas; fossil invertebrates and plants from Illinois, Indiana, and Tennessee; and beetles from the Southwest were other additions made to the museum's collections by staff field work in the season that has just closed.

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Chicago Natural History Museum

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