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NEWSLETTER

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Harvard College
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Several honors have recently been bestowed upon MCZ staff members:

Philadelphia's Academy of Natural Sciences awarded its 1962 Hayden Memorial Geological Award to Dr. Alfred Romer. The award was made November 7th following a dinner in Dr. Romer's honor at the Academy of Natural Sciences. Following the presentation, Dr. Romer addressed a distinguished audience of scientific and lay public on "Ancestral Vertebrates" - evolution of the early vertebrate form as seen from the ancient marine fossil record.

The Hayden Memorial Geological Award was founded in 1888 by Mrs. Emma W. Hayden, in memory of her husband, Dr. Ferdinand V. Hayden, distinguished American geologist. The Deed of Gift provides that it shall be given "As a reward for the best publication, exploration, discovery or research in the sciences of geology and paleontology..." It is awarded every three years.

Dr. Edwin H. Colbert, American Museum of Natural History, served as chairman of the award committee, and in his presentation speech noted that three generations of MCZ directors were represented in the audience. Besides Dr. Romer, recently retired from that position, was his successor, Dr. Ernst Mayr. Dr. Romer's predecessor, Dr. Thomas Barbour, was represented by his daughter.

The Geological Society of America, at its annual meeting in Houston, awarded Dr. Romer the Penrose Medal, established in 1927 by the late R.A.F. Penrose, Jr. The medal is awarded "in recognition of eminent research in pure geology" and of "outstanding original contributions or achievements that mark a decided advance in the science of geology."

George G. Simpson has won the Darwin Medal for 1962 for his work on fossil animals and evolutionary theory. The silver medal is "given biennially in reward of work of acknowledged distinction in the field in which Charles Darwin himself laboured."

Dr. Phillip Darlington has been appointed Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology. Dr. Darlington is now in the moors and bogs of southernmost Tierra del Fuego, collecting beetles in the footsteps of Charles Darwin.

The XIII International Congress of Ornithology met in Ithaca, June 17-24, with President Ernst Mayr in the chair. By July, Dr. Mayr and Dr. Simpson were in Wartenstein, Austria, attending the Wenner Gren Conference on Hominid classification and evolution, and in the first week of September, Dr. Mayr presented an invitation lecture on the new systematics to the International Conference of Taxonomic Biochemistry, Physiology, and Serology at the University of Kansas.

Tilly Edinger represented the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology at the 50th anniversary meeting of the Paläontologische Gesellschaft in Tübingen, Sept. 3-9, and also read a paper at the 3rd International Conference of Neurobiologists in Kiel, Sept. 26-29. An extensive report on her scientific (and some human) experiences will appear

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1. The first part of the report
describes the general situation
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in the next issue of the News Bulletin of the S.V.P. Dr. Edinger has recently become Vice-president (for 1963) of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.

Next week Giles Mead leaves for the short shakedown cruise of the "Anton Bruun," biological research vessel recently refitted for the International Indian Ocean Expedition of 1963-1964, Mead's interest being the testing of midwater trawls for use during the Expedition. The shakedown cruise will track from Woods Hole to Bermuda.

"Old Doc Bigelow continues to sit in his room and fuddle around with fishes" (quoted verbatim from Dr. Bigelow himself).

Dr. N.B. Marshall of the British Museum (Natural History), who will be in Woods Hole during 1963 and 1964, and Dr. R.H. Gibbs, Jr., ichthyologist at Boston University, have been appointed honorary "Associates in Ichthyology" in the Fish Department of the MCZ.

The fish collections have been enriched recently by the addition of bathypelagic fishes from three cruises of research vessels of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and further additions are expected.

Ernest Williams is spending early December in California to review and discuss motion pictures of lizards.

Dr. Elizabeth Deichman retired Sept. 1, 1962 as Curator of Invertebrates. Until a new appointment is made, Herbert Levi will be acting curator of the invertebrate collections.

Arne Lewis is in Egypt working with Elwyn Simons of Yale in Eocene and early Oligocene Fayum deposits, west of Cairo. The MCZ is delighted to have a representative on the expedition and to have a share of the collections. Until now we have not had a scrap of material from these deposits.

Herbert Levi spent the summer in Europe studying, in particular, black-widow spiders of southern Italy and Yugoslavia, and in general, terrestrial invertebrates. Large collections of spiders, scorpions, myriopods, and some mollusks travelled back to the MCZ with him. He will soon be off to Curaçao for two weeks, again in pursuit of black-widows.

Isa Ganet writes from Quito: "I am making a wonderful collection of Penaeid shrimps from the waters of Ecuador. There are trawlers working in several localities and I have been able to go aboard on two different occasions. In addition to that, I have been collecting on the north shore where there is no commercial fishing yet, but plenty of shrimps. I will deposit at the MCZ most of the material. Mollusks are very abundant too, and I am sure Bill Clench will be very happy with the shells we (Gerardo is helping!) are gathering.

"Humming-birds are quite a sight in this land. You would enjoy looking at the ones with long tails feeding at the flowers in every garden in Quito. I have tried to see a condor in las atlas sierras, but so far have only seen one in a small zoo here in the city."

Dr. Ray Paynter has had a Milton Fund grant for \$450 for curating the alcoholic collections of the bird department.

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During her July trip to the British Isles, Miss MacKenzie visited the library of the British Museum of Natural History, to check recent accessions and the British Museum of Antiquities, where she examined early zoological tracts from which photostats were made to complete MCZ copies of these works. She also went to the Linnean Society where she examined some annotated and manuscript works from Linnaeus' private library, and to the libraries of the Royal Geographical Society, the Zoological Society, the Geological Museum, the Geological Society where Louis Agassiz's "Poissons Fossiles" is prominently displayed, and the Marine Biological Station at Plymouth.

Dr. Barbara Lawrence has received a Milton Fund grant "to continue an investigation that has been underway for the last two and a half years, of the large, coyote or wolflike animals that have been appearing in the wilder parts of New England and have every indication of increasing in number and taking over the empty predator niche. The animals in question have been variously identified as coyote, coydog, and wolf, on the basis of general comparisons or measurements of skins and skulls. That these criteria are presently inadequate is amply evidenced by the disagreement between competent taxonomists. It is hoped that behavioral, genetic, and serological data can be used to supplement these.

"The pattern of land use and the distribution and abundance of large mammals in New England has shifted drastically in the last 350 years. When the colonists arrived, the land was forested and wolves and mountain lions preyed on deer and larger game, keeping it in check. With the clearing of land and intensive farming, these were killed off, and by the end of the nineteenth century, wolves had virtually ceased to exist. With the opening of the West and the gradual abandonment of New England farms, the forests have come back. Man's settlements in more remote areas increasingly became beads on a string of highways, backed by great wild areas which are seldom visited except during the hunting season. In these wild areas over the last fifteen years or so, the animals which we call simply "canids" have been gradually increasing. By now, we believe there is a small resident population.

"The long range aim of this project is to establish the identity and origin of these beasts, to investigate their behavior and biology, and to find out what we can about their effect on the rest of the fauna. The approach to the problem will be a multifaceted one including ultimately behavior and ecological, chromosome, and serological studies."

Clayton Ray will represent the MCZ on an expedition (with Florida) to Dominican Republic, Antigua, St. Kitts and St. Eustatius. The expedition will seek, in an extinct St. Eustatius volcano crater, a "dark brown lizard, about four inches long, with a large head," recorded but not collected by a Dutch ornithologist.

Kenneth Boss had a successful summer in Europe, spending more than 6 weeks at the British Museum (Natural History) studying their collection of Tellinidae, the bivalve family on which he is writing his thesis. He also visited the museums in Geneva, Copenhagen and Paris. Support came from the Committee on Evolutionary Biology and from Sigma Xi.

Vida Kenk spent the summer in Washington D.C. and Europe, and is now working with Dr. Turner on Petricolidae, along with coursework and teaching.

John Smith writes (2 Nov.) from Argentina: "Can't resist a note of jubilation - everything is just fine! I'm at a site suggested by Otto Solbrig; the Kiskadee is very abundant, the Fork-tailed Flycatcher abundant (locally), the *Machetornis rixosa* and *Serpophaga subcristata* common, and a few other species represented. Lots of work, and it should fit just nicely inside two weeks. Of the marsh birds I hoped to find, only *Hymenops* is common (locally), none of the others is common enough to be worth time spent away from the species that are common. But those are quite worthwhile - it feels good to have the data rolling in!"

Francois Vuilleumier and David Hill will spend Christmas vacation in extreme western Haiti, driving, if they find the road passable (and there is considerable question about that) from Port-au-Prince to Jérémie. They hope to explore the little-investigated area in preparation for a longer trip next summer.

Rod Suthers has been studying bird navigation at the Hayden Planetarium of the Museum of Science.

The entomology students covered most of the United States, and some of Mexico, on their summer field trips: Ellis MacLeod and Guy Bush collected *Brachypanorpa*, chrysopids, and tephritids in the Black Mts. of North Carolina; Ellis MacLeod spent the remainder of the summer in the southern and western states; Dr. Howard Evans and Guy Bush spent several weeks in Mexico where they were joined by George Ball of the University of Alberta; Guy Bush also spent some time in the southern states as well as Nova Scotia; Charles Porter covered the southeastern U.S. in his collecting trip this summer. Joseph Beatty and Allen Brady obtained interesting collections of spiders in the southern and western parts of the country.

Allen Ormiston had a grant from the Committee on Evolutionary Biology, enabling him to spend a month on Bathurst Island, N.W.T., doing detailed collecting of Devonian trilobites from a thick section of carbonate rocks. Presently, he is doing the systematic paleontology of these and previously collected trilobites.

Frederick C. Shaw spent last summer in the Champlain Valley of New York and Vermont collecting trilobites from Middle Ordovician rocks. He is now attempting to sort out the cubic yards of rock and specimens resulting from this expedition, and finish his thesis, which is particularly concerned with the systematic paleontology and stratigraphy of this rock group.

Since returning from Peru in Feb. 1962, Tom Szekely has been working on his thesis, concerning the geology of an area on the Cordilleran slopes of southern Peru.

During the last summer, Abraham Lerman collected *Exogyra* and samples of sediments from the Upper Cretaceous of the Southeastern U.S.A. The work also included a study of collections in the U.S. National Museum. At present he is working on the material for a thesis.

John Swinchatt is taking his final examination shortly on his thesis, "The Significance of Textural Variation and Skeletal Breakdown in some Recent Carbonate Sediments." John is leaving and in 1963 will be working in the research lab of the Pan American Petroleum Corp., Houston, Texas.

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Other invertebrate paleo students are Carol Heubusch, on leave from the Natural History Museum in Buffalo, John Werkheiser from MIT and Lawrence Walker from Univ. Texas and UCLA.

Richard Haedrich, from Chadds Ford, Penn. (site of the battle of Brandywine) is working on high-seas fishes, particularly stromateoids.

John Musick has been working with the ecology, distribution and general natural history of sharks off the coast of New Jersey, but at the moment is buried in course work.

Ira Rubinoff is completing study in speciation of fishes across the Isthmus of Panama, along with additional studies of such panamanian areas as the Pearl Islands.

Charles Taylor is working on animal horns.

Here are some notes to help keep track of the far-flung (and some near-flung) Museum products: Allen Hunt, Assistant Professor, Geology Department, University of Vermont, Burlington, is making good progress with his thesis and expects to get his degree at the end of this academic year.

L.L. DeMott is now head of the department of geology and geography at Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois. He was in Cambridge briefly last summer with drafts of portions of his thesis.

Zeddie Bowen is now Assistant Professor of Geology, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York. He writes enthusiastically of his job, and of his new home. His thesis is nearing completion and he hopes to get the degree by the end of this year.

Stan Rand is now in Brazil (Dept. Zoologia, CP 7172, San Paulo) working with Dr. P. Vanzolini.

Josef Vagavolgyi received his PhD in June but stayed on with a research grant, working on the distribution of the families of land mollusca.

Bob Carroll is now at the Redpath Museum, McGill Univ., for the year.

John Chase is at Ohio Wesleyan Univ.

To establish closer contact between staff and graduate students, a Monday afternoon tea has been organized. Visitors are especially welcome. Ruth Turner, who is in charge, reports that the attendance has been about 40-50. Expenses for the teas are defrayed by an anonymous donation.

The Fossil Mammal Hall is now being finished with an exhibit on the process of fossilization. Plans for an invertebrate paleontology hall are being drawn up as the next long-term exhibition project.

Volume XV of the Check-List of Birds of the World has just been published, containing Ploceidae, Sturnidae, Oriolidae, Dicruridae, Callaeidae, Grallinidae, Artamidae, Cracticidae, Ptilonorhynchidae, Paradisaeidae, and Corvidae. Volume X, containing thrushes and babblers, will go to the printer early in 1963.

A revised price list for Museum publications is now available from the MCZ office.

No more mud holes! The parking lot has been black-topped, at no expense to the Museum, and a broad yellow line marks off 77 spaces allotted to the MCZ, an increase of 37 over our previous cramped area.

Some recent visitors have been Patricio Sanchez, Robert Usinger, Joel Hedgepeth, and A.D. Blest. Prior to Thanksgiving, W.B. Scott of the Royal Ontario Museum was here working on our collections for his "Fishes of Atlantic Canada" now in preparation. Dr. Loren P. Woods, Curator of Fishes at the Chicago Natural History Museum, has been here for about a month working on berycoid fishes for a forthcoming volume of "Fishes of the Western North Atlantic." He will return to Chicago within the next two weeks.

Ira and Bobby Rubinoﬀ have a son, Jason.

The Carl Helms announce the arrival of a daughter, Katherine, on Oct. 22.

The Allen Bradys acquired a second son, Kevin, this summer.

Linda Loring and Jerry Ardith both are making wedding plans. Linda was in Turkey during the summer and collected five spiders.

Christmas shoppers, don't forget that the Museum Shop has a nice choice of books, specimens, games, and pictures, but none of the commotion usually associated with Christmas shopping. Proceeds support renovation of the exhibition halls.

The Natural History Seminar features local talent for the remainder of the term: Dec. 11, Arthur Merrill; Dec. 18, Dick Foster; Jan. 8, Dick Johnson; Jan. 15, Raymond Laurent.

Speakers at seminars past included Joe Vagvolgyi on Triodopsis, Clayton Ray, Herbert Levi, Jean Langenheim on amber, Loren Woods, Ian Nisbet, J.P. Swinchatt, Allen Keast, and Ormiston on the Arctic.

George Nelson, the oldest retired member of the museum staff, died at his home in Vero Beach, Florida, last April at the age of 86. George joined the museum staff as a preparator in 1902. He was then a rosy-cheeked young man of 26, as can be seen from his photo on the bulletin board in the director's room. For a good part of his career he worked on modern vertebrates -- skeletons, hides, and mounts. Eventually, however, arsenic poisoning affected his health, so that he was forced to spend his winters in Florida and change his museum work to the preparation and mounting of fossil skeletons. In 1937 he was given a corporation appointment as Preparator-in-chief. He retired to Florida in 1946. Nelson was remarkably clever with his hands, and exceedingly competent in any field from photography to house-building. He had a considerable dash of artistic temperament, but (to coin a phrase) had a warm heart beneath a gruff exterior.

- - - A.S. Romer

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