

SOME NEW EXHIBITS AND UNDERTAKINGS OF THE ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM*

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ON BEHALF of the Illinois State Museum and its staff, I cordially welcome the members and friends of the Illinois State Academy to Springfield and to the Museum. My only regret is that the Museum does not have the facilities to provide its own auditorium and rooms for the use of the Academy and its sections.

I shall touch very briefly on the aims of the Illinois State Museum, by saying that our goal is to develop the exhibits to interest and entertain the average citizen—the non-specialist rather than the scientist—without sacrificing scientific accuracy and to show the life, life forms, culture and industry of Illinois from earliest times to the present against the background of the corresponding environments existing in the region at these periods. It shall further be the task of the Museum to indicate to the people of the State by suitable exhibits the resources and industries of Illinois and the achievements and work of the State Departments and by suitable booklets and

pamphlets on these topics to advertise the State both to its own citizens, to those of the other United States and to foreign countries.

Our goal today is to see that all members of the Academy who can conveniently do so, visit the Museum on the fifth floor of the Centennial Building.

Even though we can't provide you with space for your meetings, we would like to entertain you by showing you some of our more recent undertakings and acquisitions of the museum. With this in mind, I urge that no one present at any meeting of the Illinois State Academy go home without seeing four of our new projects and exhibits which I shall mention and describe briefly: (1) the new Oriental Room in the Art Gallery, (2) the Diorama Series, (3) the Langford Fossil Loan Collection, (4) the Herbarium.

The Herbarium is in the Board Room and the Secretary will be glad to show you the new cases and the mounts in transparent envelopes. This now has

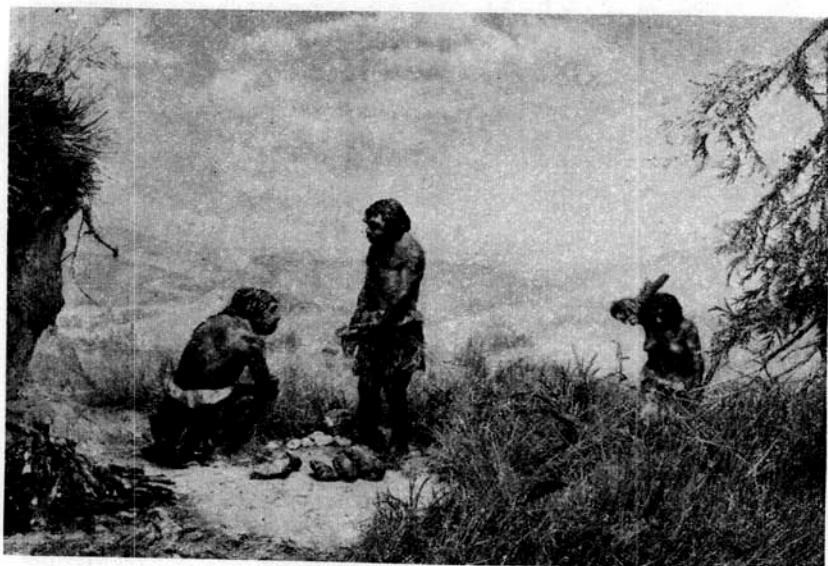


Fig. 1. Diorama: A new tool.

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Fig. 3. Chinese Ancestral Portrait.

Loaned to the Illinois State Museum by Major Thomas Dresser White,
United States Army.



Fig. 2. Diorama: Merchant Venturers in Bronze.

about a thousand specimens from the Dr. Vasey collection made between 1845 and 1860, as well as 250 specimens recently collected and mounted by Dr. George D. Fuller of this Academy.

The Langford fossils were collected, selected and developed by George Langford, Sr., and George Langford, Jr., of Joliet, from 225 to 250,000 nodules from the strip mines south of Wilmington, Illinois. In the course of the next month a popular publication describing these fossils, "Leaves and Stems from Fossil Forests", by Raymond E. Janssen will be issued by the Illinois State Museum and will be available to the public at a small cost. This collection, now exhibited in the central aisle of the main hall, will probably eventually become the property of the State.

Of the dioramas, seven of the fifteen scenes projected for the cultural series are completed. These show some of the inventions and discoveries in man's progress underlying modern civilization in Illinois. (See figs. 1 and 2.)

The new Oriental Room in the Art Gallery is just begun. Recently Major Thomas D. White, Air Service, U. S. Army, loaned to the Museum 62 Chinese ancestral paintings which formerly hung in family temples. See fig. 3 for one of these. The Misses Helen and Eliza CondeU donated to the Museum an embroidered wall hanging from Canton. Some of these acquisitions have been hung temporarily to give some idea of how the Oriental Room will look when completed. Lighting will eventually all be indirect, the floor covered with inlaid linoleum medallion insets, 3½ feet in diameter, of Persian design. The pilasters will carry painted designs when finished.

For the convenience of Academy members, the Museum will be kept open from five until half after six and guides will be present to show these exhibits. Immediately after the evening meeting the museum will be open until 9:55 for the benefit of those who have been unable to see it earlier. I hope all who can will come again after the evening meeting.