

EVOLUTION

# A Million Years of Man

## Men of Prehistory Are Recreated in Field Museum's New "Hall of the Stone Age of the Old World"

**A** MILLION years of the past history of man, as he climbed upward through the stone age, are recreated in exhibits and life-sized models and dioramas just placed on view by the Field Museum in Chicago.

The exhibits represent the results of years of research, of several museum expeditions, and of intensive collecting of archaeological material. The general plans for the hall were worked out by Henry Field, assistant curator of physical anthropology at the museum, who conducted the several expeditions necessary to study the various sites reproduced and to assemble the comprehensive series of archaeological objects displayed. Dr. Berthold Laufer, curator of anthropology, collaborated with Mr. Field in making and executing the plans.

The life-size figures of the various types of prehistoric men, modeled in attitudes characteristic of tasks in their daily lives, are the work of Frederick Blaschke, well-known sculptor of Cold Spring-on-Hudson, N. Y., who accompanied Mr. Field to Europe and made studies of authentic remains of prehistoric men and of sites where such remains have been found. Backgrounds

for the groups are the work of Charles A. Corwin, staff artist of the museum.

The dioramas are arranged in chronological order, each depicting a scene in the life of one of the periods of prehistoric man. Opposite each is a case containing archaeological material of the period represented by the diorama. Additional cases contain material representing still other stages in man's development. Included in these supplementary displays are original stone and bone implements, household objects, sculptures, and other artifacts made by prehistoric men, reproductions of important specimens of prehistoric human remains as well as some original skeletal material, and fossil specimens of the animals of each period.

### Most Ancient Scene

Some of this material dates back as far as a million years ago. The first of the dioramas represents a scene of the Chellean period, approximately 250,000 years ago.

A tour of the hall starts with this Chellean scene, which represents the period identified with the earliest human remains ever found in Europe. The climate at this time was mild, and ele-

phants, rhinoceroses, and hippopotami wandered over Europe. In the museum group there are seen, squatting in the foreground beside a fire, two Chellean hunters, one of whom is chipping flint to make a hand ax for hunting. In the distance is a meandering river on the banks of which are a number of animals. Research has revealed only fragmentary facts about this era, and the museum group presents a dim, moonlit scene symbolizing the darkness of our knowledge.

In a supplementary case are casts of the most famous prehistoric remains discovered—those which scientists have labeled *Sinanthropus* (the Peking man), *Pithecanthropus erectus* (Java ape man), *Eoanthropus* (Pittdown man), and *Homo heidelbergensis* (the Heidelberg man).

The second diorama presents the Mousterian period, about 50,000 years ago. This is the time of Neanderthal man, whose remains have been found in many localities in western Europe. Neanderthal man is the earliest type of which complete skeletons have been found. From the evidence available, he was the first to seize a wife and protect her from animals and other men. This museum group, therefore represents the dawn of family life.

The diorama shows a Neanderthal family on a sandy platform outside the entrance of the Devil's (*Turn Page*)



IN THE SHELTER OF GIBRALTAR 50,000 YEARS AGO

A family of Neanderthals, the earliest people of whom complete skeletons have been found.

Field Museum

Tower rock shelter at Gibraltar. Silhouetted against the deep blue of the Mediterranean stands a young man with a wooden club in his hand. Squatting beside the glowing embers of the fire is the father of the family, watching mussels open as the heat penetrates their shells. His small son, about five years old, is bringing a twig for the fire. In a large cleft in the rock the mother can be seen carrying her youngest baby.

#### Invaders From Asia

The Cro-Magnons, a race from Asia that invaded Europe about 30,000 years ago, appear in the third diorama. These people were very different physically and culturally from their predecessors, and whereas the Neanderthals finally died out entirely and had no direct link with the modern human race, the Cro-Magnons are believed to have belonged to the direct ancestral line from which large groups of modern people are descended. The culture of the Cro-Magnons has been named Aurignacian because of the discovery of skeletons and flint tools identified with them in the cave of Aurignac near the foothills of the Pyrenees. An abundant game supply at this time made the struggle for food less intense for the Cro-Magnons, and in consequence of possessing more leisure they were responsible for the birth of art. They adorned their cave homes with lifelike carvings and paintings of animals and humans.

The museum group, pictured in part on the front cover, reproduces the cave of Gargas in southwestern France, with

a frieze of human hands outlined on the walls. An Aurignacian man is seen resting on his knee with his left hand held against the wall, fingers outspread. In his right hand is a hollow bone tube which he holds against his lips to blow powdered red ochre around the outline of the other hand. On the wall, illuminated by a fire and a sandstone lamp in which animal fat was burned, are many other outlines of hands, as well as drawings of elephants and bison. Personal ornamentation was developed in this period, and in a supplementary case are remarkable original Aurignacian necklaces of beads made from mammoth ivory, shells, teeth and pebbles. These are probably the oldest necklaces ever discovered.

#### Resemble Modern Eskimo

The fourth diorama presents a scene of the Solutrean epoch when a race physically resembling the modern Eskimo came into southwestern France and northern Spain. The group reproduces the famous Solutrean frieze in the valley of Le Roc where, on a cliff, early artists left a semicircle of large stone blocks upon which are carved a masked human dancing, horses and other animals, a muskox group charging a fleeing man and other pictures. In the foreground of the museum group is seen a Solutrean sculptor, a Mongoloid type, carving a horse on a block of stone.

In the fifth group the Magdalenian period is taken up. Coming into France, probably from the northeast, and meeting more favorable conditions for ob-

taining food, these people developed a higher form of culture, and produced the finest naturalistic art of prehistoric times. The museum group reproduces the Cap Blanc rock shelter in the Dordogne region of France where the most striking example of Magdalenian sculpture—a frieze of six horses carved in high relief on the wall—was discovered.

In an adjoining case is exhibited the original Cap Blanc skeleton—the only complete Magdalenian skeleton ever brought to the United States. The remarkable state of preservation of this skeleton of a youth who died some 25,000 years ago makes it one of the most important archaeological treasures in this country. In a case opposite is a reproduction of bison sculptured in clay, which are preserved in the innermost part of the cave of Tuc d'Audoubert in the Ariege district of France. Magdalenian harpoons of bone, a perfect bone needle, limestone slab lamps, and other artifacts are also exhibited.

The mesolithic period, when the transition from the old to the new stone age began, is the subject of the sixth diorama. The domestication of animals, an important advance toward modern civilization, is dramatically illustrated in this group, which shows a wild boar hunt at the entrance to the cave of Mas d'Azil. Dogs are assisting two young Azilian men at close quarters with an enraged wild boar which is defending its mate and young pigs. The hunters use wooden spears with flint lance-points. One holds three dogs in leash with a rawhide strap.

The seventh group is definitely in the neolithic or new stone age. The scene is at Carnac in Brittany where there have been left standing over a stretch of two miles ten avenues of menhirs or large stones marking burials. The place is believed to have been used for worship of the sun, in a religion probably combined in some way with a cult of the dead. The group shows a priest with hands outstretched toward the rising sun, welcoming the birth of a new day.

#### Preceding Egypt, Greece and Rome

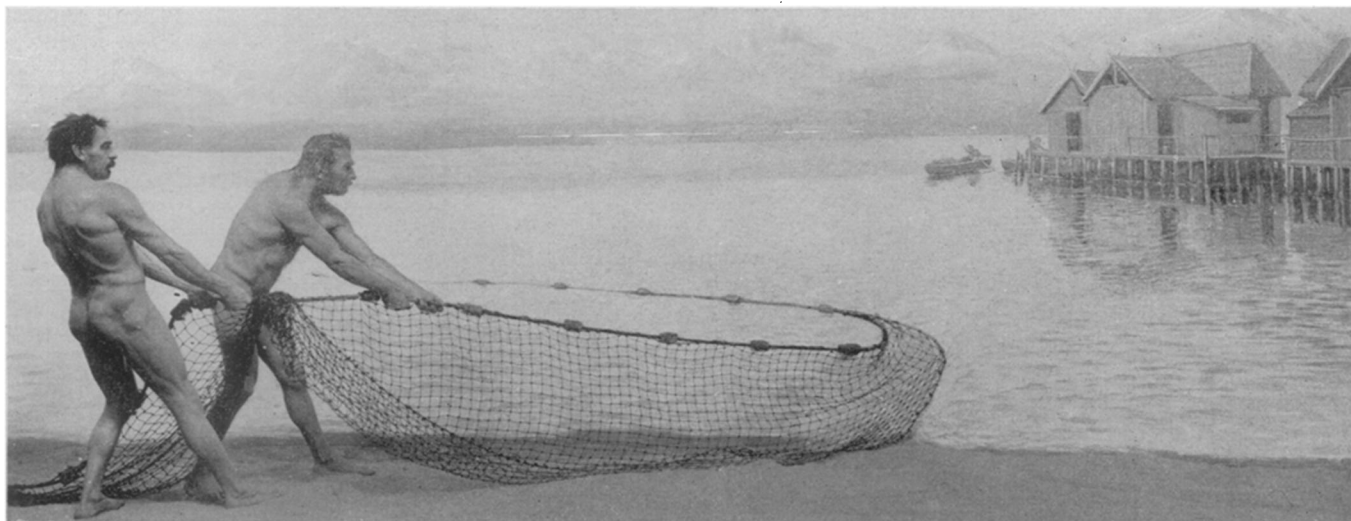
The eighth group represents a community of Swiss Lake Dwellers, representative of the later neolithic culture which was soon to be followed by the dawn of history with the rise to dominance of such civilizations as those of Egypt, Greece and Rome. The group shows a beautiful early morning scene on Lake Neuchatel. In the foreground



NEW STONE AGE IN BRITTANY

Field Museum

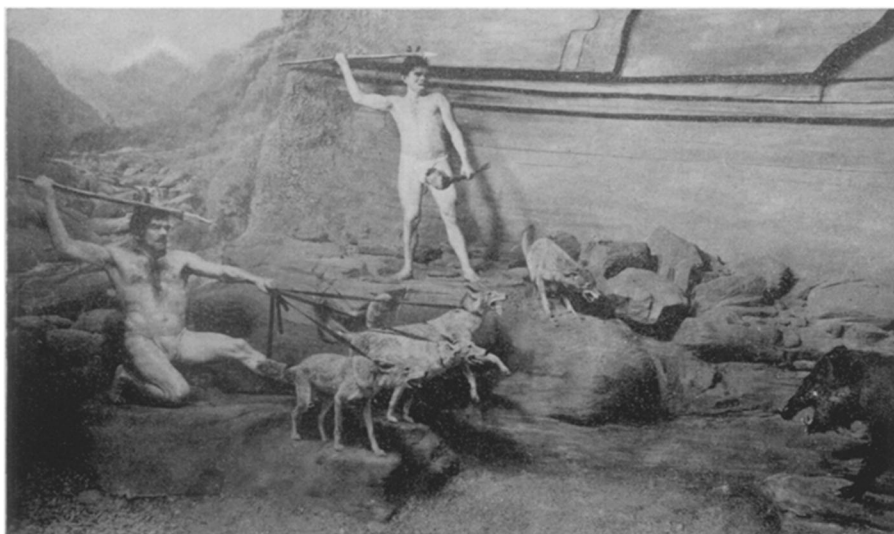
A priest of sun worshippers, neolithic, welcomes the new day at Carnac.



### JUST BEFORE THE DAWN OF HISTORY

Field Museum

*Swiss Lake Dwellers, later neolithic, haul in their seine in the shadow of the Alps.*



### DOMESTICATION OF ANIMALS

Field Museum

*Representing the mesolithic period, when the transition from the old to the new stone age began.*

two fishermen are hauling in their seine. Snowclad Alpine peaks loom in the background. Built out over the water on foundations of log piling is a village with its cluster of thatched wooden houses.

Exhibited nearby is a fine collection of objects from Lake Neuchatel, including implements of bone and stone, pottery, examples of weaving, samples of charred wheat and barley, seeds of various plants, sections of wooden piles, and objects of bronze and iron, indicating the extent of the progress made during this age in the beginnings of modern arts, industries, and construction engineering.

The eight groups have no counterpart in any other museum of the world, and leading anthropologists including such eminent authorities as Sir Arthur Keith and Prof. G. Elliott Smith of England, the Abbé Henri Breuil of France, and others, have pronounced them the finest restorations of prehistoric men ever made. These and other scientists of both the United States and Europe cooperated with Field Museum in the preparation of this hall which presents the most complete, accurate and interesting picture that present knowledge permits of the lives, cultures and physical characters of prehistoric races.

*Science News Letter, August 5, 1933*

### ARCHAEOLOGY

## Hazelnut Butter Kept Unspoiled 2,700 Years

**H**AZELNUT butter 2,700 years old and still in good condition is the remarkable archaeological find recently examined by Prof. Dr. Johannes Grüss of Berlin-Rahnsdorf, who specializes in the study of food products and beverages used by ancient peoples.

The material, as described by Prof. Grüss, consisted of two lumps about the size of plums, found with the remains of a man of the Iron Age, about 800 B. C., in a grave near the town of Bütlingen. The corpse had been cremated before burial, and the urn containing the hazelnut butter was in the fire. This thoroughly sterilized the earthen vessel and its sealed-in contents, coating the fat with a carbonized layer that constituted a second protective covering. Consequently in all the centuries bacteria and fungi had been unable to penetrate to the fat and spoil it. It was identified as hazelnut fat by particles of carbonized nutshell embedded in it.

Another bit of evidence on what the inhabitants of Germany ate during that remote period Prof. Grüss dug off a burned scrap of pottery found in the ruins of an Iron Age house near Mühlbach. This proved to be a film of scorched milk containing fragments of ground-up grain, evidently the remains of a milk porridge or gruel which some careless housewife of long ago permitted to burn on the fire.

*Science News Letter, August 5, 1933*