

THE SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

THE American Museum of Natural History celebrated on April 6 the seventieth anniversary of its founding. It was organized on April 6, 1869, under the leadership of Albert S. Bickmore, first president of the museum. From 1869 to 1877, the home of the museum was in the Arsenal in Central Park. The cornerstone in Manhattan Square, bounded by 77th Street, 81st Street, Central Park West and Columbus Avenue, was laid in 1874. To-day, with the addition of new buildings and wings, the value of the buildings is approximately \$16,000,000.

The museum was erected almost entirely by the city, which also provides approximately a fifth of the funds annually required for maintenance, the balance being provided for by the endowment foundation, which is dependent mainly upon the contributions of trustees, members and friends.

President F. Trubee Davison, in discussing the early days of the museum, said:

As life on earth has small beginnings, so had the American Museum of Natural History. During the first year of its existence, \$44,500 were subscribed by citizens. By means of this sum the museum was able to purchase four collections consisting of 9,300 mounted birds, 200 fish and reptiles, 820 mounted animals, 4,000 mounted skeletons of mammals, birds, reptiles and fish and 250 specimens of Siberian fauna. The subsequent history of the museum has been one of almost continuous progress in its chief fields of exploration, research, preparation, exhibition, education and publication. To-day the floor space of the museum covers almost twenty-five acres, out of which more than half a million square feet are covered by exhibits in a total of some 60 exhibition halls and corridors.

The number of specimens in the various exhibits and collections runs into many millions and covers virtually every field of the natural sciences illustrating life on land, in the sea, in the air and from the prehistoric past to the history-making present. The museum has done and is doing important work in research and publication, and in education from the primary school to the highest university grade. As a part of its educational program, it maintains a department of education which works in conjunction with the city's public schools and with other institutions, including those for the blind.

For seventy years the American Museum has been building up a treasure-house of facts from all parts of the world, as well as from such intangible realms as psychology, human and animal behavior and the heavens above. These collections are adequately housed in our great museum buildings, but great as these collections are and generally unsurpassed as they are, much remains to be collected. Probably that task will remain uncompleted to the end of time, for knowledge has no limits, but every effort should be made day by day and year by

year to fill in the gaps and further enrich the treasure-house. To accomplish this it is necessary for the museum to increase its operating funds and its endowment. Two years ago the museum adopted a ten-year development program which calls for an increase of \$10,000,000 in endowments. The income from this fund would be spent in developing the museum's activities in all its branches.

THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

At the annual meeting of the American Philosophical Society, held at Philadelphia on April 20, 21 and 22, the following members were elected:

Class I—mathematical and physical sciences: Jesse Wakefield Beams, University, Va.; William Mansfield Clark, Baltimore; Arthur Byron Coble, Urbana; Enrico Fermi, New York; Charles August Kraus, Providence; Paul Willard Merrill, Pasadena; Stephen Timoshenko, Stanford University; John Hasbrouck Van Vleck, Cambridge, Mass. *Foreign:* Prince Louis Victor de Broglie, Paris; Godfrey Harold Hardy, Cambridge, England.

Class II—geological and biological sciences: Eliot Blackwelder, Stanford University; William Bosworth Castle, Boston; Wolfgang Köhler, Swarthmore; William de Berniere MacNider, Chapel Hill; Theophilus Shickel Painter, Austin; Peyton Rous, New York; Edmund Ware Sinnott, New York. *Foreign:* Sir Henry Hallett Dale, London, England; Johan Hjort, Oslo, Norway.

Class III—social sciences: Samuel S. Fels, Philadelphia; Guy Stanton Ford, Minneapolis; Felix Frankfurter, Washington; Philip C. Jessup, New York; Charles Seymour, New Haven; Harlan Fiske Stone, Washington; Charles Warren, Washington. *Foreign:* Eduard Beneš, formerly Prague; George Peabody Gooch, Cambridge, England.

Class IV—humanities: Van Wyck Brooks, Westport; Walter Johannes Damrosch, New York; Harry Miller Lydenberg, Scarsdale; Ralph Barton Perry, Cambridge; Theodore Leslie Shear, Princeton; Edgar Howard Sturtevant, New Haven; Lynn Thorndike, New York; Herbert Eustis Winlock, New York. *Foreign:* Martin P. Nilsson, Lund, Sweden; Sir Aurel Stein, Srinagar, Kashmir.

Officers reelected were: *President*, Dr. Roland S. Morris; *Vice-presidents*, Dr. Edwin G. Conklin, Dr. Robert A. Millikan and Dr. Cyrus Adler; *Secretaries*, John A. Miller and William E. Lingelbach; *Curator*, Albert P. Brubaker; *Treasurer*, Fidelity-Philadelphia Trust Company. New members elected to the council are *Class I*, Dr. W. F. G. Swann, director of the Bartol Research Foundation of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia; *Class II*, Dr. Albert F. Blakeslee, director of the department of genetics, Carnegie Institution of Washington, at Cold Spring Harbor, L. I.; *Class III*, Dr. Harold G. Moulton, president of the Brookings Institution, Washington, and *Class IV*, Dr. Waldo G. Leland, secretary of the American Council of Learned Societies.