

pector, preferably under international sanction, for the perpetual preservation of the plants and animals and natural beauties they contained. Since 1912 there has been a number of additions, of which the most important are the Kruger National Park, made by the Union Government of South Africa, and the Parc National Albert in the highlands of the Belgian Congo."

"The latter, both from its natural beauty and the animals it contained, he characterized as one of the most interesting in the world. Among other animals it contains some of the few surviving gorillas in the natural surroundings which they have occupied for hundreds of thousands, possibly for millions of years. Across the frontier in Uganda, in territory under British control, there is an area of a few square miles of exactly the same physical features, and occupied either permanently or occasionally by gorillas of the same variety. For several years the Zoological Society of London, the Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire and other bodies and individuals have urged the Colonial Office to place this area on exactly the same terms of permanent security as the Parc National Albert. The governor of Uganda has declared himself in favor of the proposal, and the Government of Belgium, through the ambassador in London, has begged that this should be done. But the Colonial Office has remained apathetic or obdurate, putting off the decision on one ground or another. It is much to be hoped that this blot may be

removed from the reputation of Great Britain."

Obviously the future is full of difficulty and fraught with the gravest danger to wild life, but active effort among scientific men in both Europe and America will undoubtedly advance the movement for permanent conservation under fundamental law. Moreover, the preservation in certain areas of the primitive, wholly unaffected by the aggressive march of civilization, offers a rare scientific opportunity. To accomplish this is now the spirit motivating many who now carry on the fight to save vanishing Africa. Theirs is not a sentimental interest. It is a true understanding and a realization of the urgent need for action. In Africa, at least, Carl Akeley's dream, now become a reality, has halted the juggernaut of mass destruction. Belgium's whole-hearted action is epoch-making in the international possibilities of conservation and of scientific inquiry. Such liberal and broad-minded policy will go far toward influencing other nations and cementing national friendships.

Because the Parc National Albert offers an unparalleled opportunity for scientific investigation it is confidently hoped that interested laymen in America as well as elsewhere may forward the effort for the great central scientific station in the Belgian Congo Park. Practical and sympathetic support will become not only a force contributing to the advancement of science, but it will be of material assistance in the fight for the conservation of wild life under conditions of unusual significance.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

DANIEL GABRIEL FAHRENHEIT

DANIEL GABRIEL FAHRENHEIT, inventor of the mercury thermometer, was a native of Danzig. There is some ground for suspecting that the family may have come originally from Königsberg, in East Prussia. At any rate, numerous persons bearing this and similar names have been located there. The letter printed below is translated from the German original, which is to be found in the town archives of Danzig. It was called to the writer's attention by Dr. Reeke, the chief archivist of Danzig, who kindly consented to its publication in English. Dr. Reeke planned to publish it in its original form in the course of the present year (1931) in the *Zeitschrift des Westpreussischen Geschichtsvereins*. The scheme of Fahrenheit's guardians to have their energetic young ward—then about twenty-one years of age—sent to the most remote of Dutch colonies did not materialize. Except for occasional travels abroad, Fahrenheit remained in Amsterdam and The Hague until his death in 1736, and won his claim to fame in his adopted country. He appears to have begun the use of mercury for thermometers in 1720, and he reported his invention to the Philo-

sophical Society of London in 1724. It may be of interest to note that whereas his own explanation was that he determined his zero point by the behavior of a combination of salt, ice and sal ammoniac, some German authorities insist that Fahrenheit's zero represents nothing else than the coldest day in Danzig in 1709! All accounts agree that the winter of that year was exceptionally cold. If the latter view is valid, this troublesome son of the Free City provides a curious link between Danzig—at its coldest—and that Anglo-Saxon world that has so persistently gauged its temperature by his device.

Mr. Burgomaster and honorable gentlemen [of the Danzig Town Council]:

We, who have been named as the guardians of the minor children of the late Daniel Fahrenheit, have sent his son, Daniel Gabriel, a minor, to Amsterdam by his own consent, to serve in an office, in the hope that he would learn there to conduct himself properly. But things have gone very badly with this minor; he has spent the money given him; and he has behaved himself regrettably in other ways. So, in order to protect the interests of his brothers and sisters, we have been obliged

to sequester a part of his capital, and have requested him through his patron to turn a new leaf. But he has paid no heed, he has resumed his former practices, so we have been put to not a little trouble and pains to try to bring about a change for the better in his mode of life, but without being able to do anything with him. We have finally, on his own representation, decided to have him sent to the East Indies, for which purpose we dispatched him to Amsterdam a few weeks ago, and sent orders to a certain merchant [firm] by the name of Johannes Drooghenhorst and Son to help him to a place with the East India Company, which was done. But when the time came for him to present himself, he failed to appear, and according to a report that has come in, he has gone to the bad again and resumed his former way of life. Because we can see nothing ahead for him except destruction and dire ruin to his temporal well-being, we guardians desire to report the situation to the honorable Council, as his supreme guardians, hoping that the Council with the help and advice of the authorities will support this modest expression of our opinion, and request (though we would not go contrary to the wishes of the honorable Council) that we be authorized to send full powers issued under the seal of the town to the said Drooghenhorst and Son in Amsterdam, instructing them to locate him with the help of the authorities, place him under arrest, and send him to an appropriate place in the East Indies at the earliest opportunity. In laying the matter before your honorable Council, we seek only the welfare of this minor, his present and eternal happiness, await a happy decision, and remain

Your honorable Body's dutiful servants

[signed] BRUNO PLANDERS
BENJAMIN HEDDING
DANIEL NUTZMANN

Authorized guardians of the minor son of the late Daniel Fahrenheit, who is called Daniel Gabriel.

[Endorsement]: Read in the Senate [of Danzig] January 21, 1707. The Council authorizes the guardians to send a full power to the person [i.e., firm] mentioned in the petition through the Chancery here.

WALDEMAR WESTERGAARD

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AT LOS ANGELES

FIELD EXPEDITIONS OF THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE twelve field expeditions of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago follow a line of great ancient cities, Persepolis, Babylon, Bagdad, Nineveh, Aleppo, Megiddo and Jerusalem, Cairo and Luxor, through the Highland Zone, the Fertile Crescent and the Nile Valley, at strategic sites in the area where civilization first arose.

Their work is as follows:

The *Megiddo Expedition* is excavating the mound of Armageddon or Megiddo in Palestine, commanding the most famous battlefield of the ancient world. The mound covers a stratified series of cities, which are

now being laid bare. The work is in charge of Mr. P. L. O. Guy.

The *Anatolian Expedition* is working in the eastern part of Anatolia, has surveyed the country of the ancient Hittites, and has done considerable excavating in a mound at Alishar. Dr. H. H. von der Osten is in charge of the field work.

The *Iraq Expedition* is engaged in a ten years' program of excavation in Assyria and Babylonia. Last year Prof. Edward Chiera excavated the Temple of Sargon II and discovered the temple of Sennacherib near Khorsabad, north of Bagdad. Dr. Chiera is to take charge of the Assyrian dictionary, and Dr. Henri Frankfort is now field director.

The *Persian Expedition* is under the direction of Dr. Ernst Herzfeld. A party is working on the ruined palaces of the emperors Darius and Xerxes at Persepolis. This is the first American scientific mission in Persia.

The *Syrian Expedition* is excavating a mound believed to be that of the ancient city of Calneh, referred to by the prophets Amos and Isaiah.

In Egypt: Architectural Survey. Located at the Great Temple of Medinet Habu, built by Ramses III (1200 B. C.) at ancient Thebes, opposite modern Luxor in Egypt. This expedition is in charge of Professor Uvo Hoelscher.

Epigraphic Survey. Also at Medinet Habu; under the direction of Professor Harold H. Nelson. It is preserving the inscriptions on the walls of the temple, which were perishing, by a process requiring photographers, artists and epigraphers, who produce a perfect facsimile. These records are to be published in six large volumes and distributed throughout the libraries of the world.

Abydos Expedition. Here the institute is saving the records of the beautiful temple of Seti I, the reliefs of which are among the finest works of art surviving from ancient times. Headquarters of these three Egyptian expeditions are in Chicago House near Luxor, funds for which were contributed by Mr. Julius Rosenwald and the International Education Board.

Coffin Texts Project. This is located at Cairo. Dr. Alan H. Gardiner, research professor of the University of London, and Dr. A. DeBuck, have virtually completed the task of copying the texts, which were written with pen and ink on the inner surfaces of the wooden coffins in Egyptian burials, beginning as far back as the twenty-third century B. C. and coming down to the eighteenth century B. C.

Sakkara Project. The institute will publish some five folio volumes of colored relief paintings from the great masonry tombs of the cemetery of ancient Memphis, fourteen miles from Cairo. The copying is being done under the direction of Professor Prentice Duell.