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CHINESE SHADOW PLAYS VERY OLD

Forerunner of Talking Movie Is Ancient and Popular in That Country

pictures, obtained by expeditions into sters are all represented. China, form an interesting part of the exhibits illustrating various types of Oriental theatricals at Field Museum of Natural History. The museum has also examples of the screen and other equipment used for the projection of shadow-plays.

The history, and details of the production, of shadow-plays have been traced by Dr. Berthold Laufer, curator of anthropology at the museum, who is a noted scholar in Oriental subjects and who was leader of the museum's Chinese expeditions.

Popular Pastime

"The scenarios used in shadowtimes of the Chinese," says Dr. Lau- 121 B.C. The historian narrates an ing for the next game which might Barthel divided the honor of bringing fer. "The shadow plays are an ancedote of Wulti, an emperor, who decide the winner.—Frieda Glass. with a reader reciting the words of the plot as the figures perform the action. Their appeal to popular taste lies in the fact that the words are recited in the living vernacular, while the repertoire of the legitimate stage of China adopts the literary language of the classics, which is intelligible to only a limited educated group.

"The acting figures in the shadowplays are flat and ingeniously cut out of parchment, usually ox or sheep skin, evenly colored and varnished on



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both sides. When held against the lost one of his favorite wives and light they are transparent. A screen was obsessed by a great desire to of white guaze lighted by means of see her again. A magician appeared oil lamps from behind, is stretched at court who was able to throw her oil lamps from behind, is stretched be- shadow on a transparent screen. The tween two poles. The figures, held by story is symbolic of the general idea wires stuck into bamboo or reed han- underlying the early shadow performdles, are skillfully manipulated behind ances—the shadow figures were rethe screen, upon which their shadows garded as souls of the departed, sumare cast. Head, arms and legs are moned back into the work by profes-A form of talking moving picture cut out separately and hinged to the sional magicians." play originated in China more than body, so that great agility of motion a hundred years before the Christian is assured. The shadow-plays have era, and has continued in popularity an advantage over the Chinese legtiright down to the present day of the mate stage in that the latter, much modern cinema. This is the ancient on the same level as the English Chinese shadow-play, which antici- stage in Shakespeare's time, is alpated the present talking pictures by most lacking in scenery, while in the Oak Terrace school entertained their having readers to produce voice ef- picture plays the sea, clouds, rivers, little sisters, the Makielets as they ed in organized night raids. Flashfects. Collections of the figures used gardens, mountains, palaces, temples, call them, Friday evening after

Small Orchestra

"The performance is always accompanied by a small orchestra, while the various roles are recited by the operator seated behind the curtain. The plots are taken from Buddhist and Taoist lore or incidents in the Marie Russell. history of China. The shadow plays excel in comic or satiric subjects; Seventh and Eighth Grade Basketball nesses, official corruption, and social and political evils.

a religious character, and gradually this game the Makio Girl Reserves of assumed the function of mere entertainment. It is, without doubt, indigenous to China, whence it spread plays are derived from the literary to the Persians, Arabs, Turks and games played the eighth grade won to government statistics, is a fair drama of the legitimate stage, and other peoples, finally reaching Europe. one and the seventh grade won two. they, with marionette shows, consti- The first mention made of it is in The score was 11 to 13 in favor of others in the community. tute the most popular theatrical pas- historical annals relating to the year the seventh grade. We are all wait-

School Notes

Oak Terrace School Notes

The Makio Girl Reserves of the feed the winners in the near future. school. The Makiolets were initiated after the program planned for them by the Makios. After the initiation was over refreshments were served. About five-thirty the ring song was sung and the party separated .-

The seventh grade and the eighth grade held their third basketball "The shadow-play was originally of game Wednesday, Jan. 22. Before dollars worth of damage per year; the Oak Terrace school held a sandwich and candy sale. Out of the three

Young Antioch Farmers War on Pests; Destroy Many; Figures Given

Antioch and surrounding farming community will be exactly \$12,800 richer in 1930 through the efforts of 38 members of the local chapter of the Illinois Association of Future Farmers of America who have just completed a six weeks' warfare on farm pests. The young men were divided into two groups and slayed the pests for points, the losing side to

lights were used to blind the pests. They were then picked off their perch and heads brought to the Department of Vocational Agriculture at the local school where the chapter maintains headquarters. Three hundred seven mice, 138 rabbits, 93 rats, 8 woodchucks, 4 crows, and 2 hawks were also exterminated. Rabbits had done thousands of dollars worth of damage to fruit trees a year ago and it was decided to add them to the list. However, the rabbits were shot within the law, in season and daily bag limit.

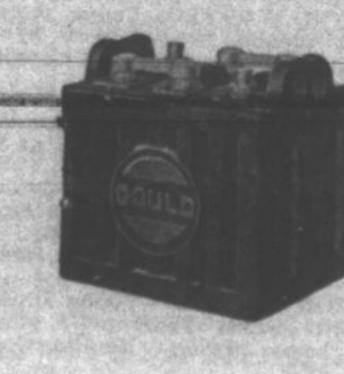
rat five dollars; sparrow three dollars; woodchuck \$25; hawk \$25; crow \$15; and rabbit \$10—the above totals estimate of the saving to farmers and

in the most points of the contest.

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