



EXHIBITION OF OBJECTS FROM MATTO GROSSO, BRAZIL

*The Matto
Grosso Expedition*

LATE in May there was installed on the lower floor a temporary exhibit of the results of the Matto Grosso Expedition of 1931, in which Mr. Vincent M. Petrullo served as the Museum's representative. Through the generous and whole-hearted co-operation of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and particularly of Mr. James A. G. Rehn, the Academy's representative on the Expedition, it has been possible to display not only objects in the Museum's collection, but also an extremely interesting group of objects, particularly birds and animals, which are some of the Academy's fruits of the work in the interior of Brazil. We wish that it were possible to continue this exhibition [Plate IV] for longer than circumstances now permit.

Mr. Petrullo's report on his work with the Matto Grosso Expedition was published in the *Museum Journal*, volume XXIII, number 2. He has recently received a letter, from which we quote, written by General Candido Mariano Rondon, the organizer of the *Inspeccão de Protecção aos Indios* (the Brazilian Indian Service) and its former chief.

General Rondon writes: 'I received with particular pleasure your book, *Primitive Peoples of Matto Grosso, Brazil* [the above-mentioned *Journal*] excellent repository of new ethnographic information of the region of the Upper Xingu, and valuable ethnographical contribution to the Americanist studies of our time. It amplifies the observations of von der Steinen, Meyer, and Max Schmidt, particularly since you were able to stay with the divers tribes a longer time than any other traveller. I consider your studies on this point more complete than all other preceding works. The reason for this is plain. The Matto Grosso Expedition was able to penetrate zones which its predecessors did not succeed in reaching; for this reason your observations are more ample and more thorough, which will permit more positive conclusions.

'The aerial photographs, those showing the physical types of each tribe, and the ethnographic ones—among which those showing the Yawalapiti village and the details of the Naravute house deserve special notice—are very valuable.

'Your study would have been indeed appreciated at the 25th International Congress of Americanists at La Plata as the greatest novelty of South America.

'I anticipate my sincere and enthusiastic felicitations for the certain success of your future researches.'

*The Joint
Expedition to Ur*

THE most important single object found at Ur during the season now closed is a considerable fragment [Plate V] of the Stela of Ur-Nammu, the founder of the Third Dynasty of Ur who largely remodelled the Ziggurat in the form in which we know it. Unquestionably the outstanding monument so far found at Ur, the Stela of Ur-Nammu records the achievements of this great Sumerian king. The various scenes depicted on it have been described before (*Museum Journal*, March 1927) and the stela itself, with the various fragments assembled as accurately as may be, has for some time been on display in the Museum. It is our good fortune to be awarded the recently found fragment, which upon its arrival here will be fitted into the reconstructed whole. This fragment seems to belong either to the bottom or to the middle register of the reverse face. It depicts the king (whose head and one arm are preserved) coming before a god, a seated figure on a raised base (only the feet, part of the skirt, and part of the base remaining), while between them are two priests, one of whom has a fly whisk and the other a folded cloth.

Towards the end of the season a deep pit was excavated close to the royal tombs. Here were found first a dozen inscribed tablets and numerous fragments, and over a hundred seal-impressions. The tablets, of archaic period, are most valuable for the study