

**Article XII.—A MOUNTED SKELETON OF THE COLUMBIAN
MAMMOTH (*ELEPHAS COLUMBI*).**

BY HENRY FAIRFIELD OSBORN.

The skeleton which is the subject of this brief notice was found near Jonesboro, Ind., in 1903. It was purchased for the Museum August, 1904,

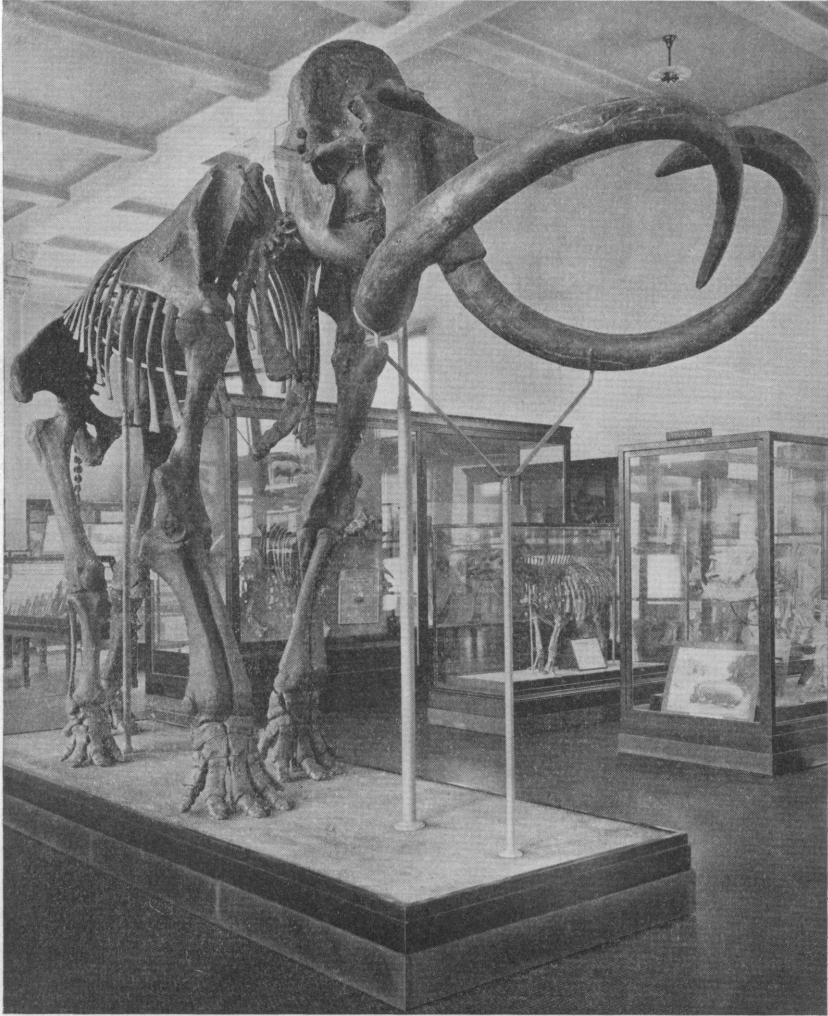


Fig. 1. The Columbian Mammoth (*Elephas columbi*).

from Dora S. Gift and others. The skeleton was imbedded in a muck deposit of late Pleistocene age, fifteen feet below the surface.

The whole upper portion of the skeleton was complete and intact, including the remarkably incurved tusks, which were preserved for their entire length although requiring surface restoration and thorough soaking, and reinforcing with an internal steel rod in plaster to prevent them from crumbling away. Vigorous efforts were made to find the missing lower bones of the limb and the feet but without success. The missing parts are, radius and ulna of both sides, the right tibia and fibula, the fore and hind feet. Thanks to the kind coöperation of Dr. Marcellin Boule of the Museum of Palæontology, Paris, casts were secured of the lower portions of the limbs and of the feet of the great skeleton of *Elephas meridionalis* in the Paris Museum. On arrival in the American Museum these were remodeled, recourse being had for comparison to remains of the feet and limbs of *Elephas imperator*. All this work of restoring and remodeling was done by Mr. O. Falkenbach under the direction of Mr. Adam Hermann. Mr. Hermann himself restored the missing surfaces of the upper parts of the skeleton, which was, however, in exceptionally complete condition.

The animal is represented with uplifted head and as if just starting to walk. For the pose of the skeleton the coöperation of the Director of the Zoölogical Park was secured, and the tracks of the Indian elephant slowly walking over a sandy surface fifty feet long were carefully plotted by the park engineer Mr. Beerbower. Through this means it is believed that the fore and hind feet are correctly placed. Mr. Hermann also made a special study of the position of the bones of all parts in the living elephant. Valuable suggestions were also made by Dr. W. D. Matthew and Mr. F. A. Lucas. The result of all this work is a mount which is believed to be true to life.

The size of the animal is indicated by the following comparisons with the great *Elephas meridionalis* of the Paris Museum:

	<i>E. columbi</i> Amer. Museum	<i>E. meridionalis</i> Paris Museum (Measurements given by Gaudry).
Length, incurved tip of tusks to vertical line of tail . . .	17 ft. 9½ in. (5.43 M.)	22 ft. 3½ in. (6.8 M.) ¹
Length, base of tusks to vertical line of tail	13 ft. 3½ in. (4.05 M.)	14 ft. 7½ in. (5.45 M.)
Height at withers (to top of scapula)	10 ft. 6 in. (3.20 M.)	12 ft. 6½ in. (3.83 M.) ²
Length of femur	4 ft. 1½ in. (1.25 M.)	4 ft. 5½ in. (1.36 M.)
Length of right tusk (outside curve)	11 ft. 4½ in. (3.47 M.)	

¹ The tusks point forward, thus making this dimension much greater than in the American specimen.

² Measurement to top of dorsal spine (?). The spines may be too high with reference to the scapula.

The most striking features of this animal are the following:

1. The complete incurvature and crossing of the tusks.
2. The unusually small size of the skull.
3. The abbreviation of the back and body in contrast with the vertical elongation of the limbs.

Fuller details will be given in a forthcoming review by the present writer on the extinct elephants of North America.

