

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

# ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM

# GUIDE

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GUIDE  
*to the exhibits*



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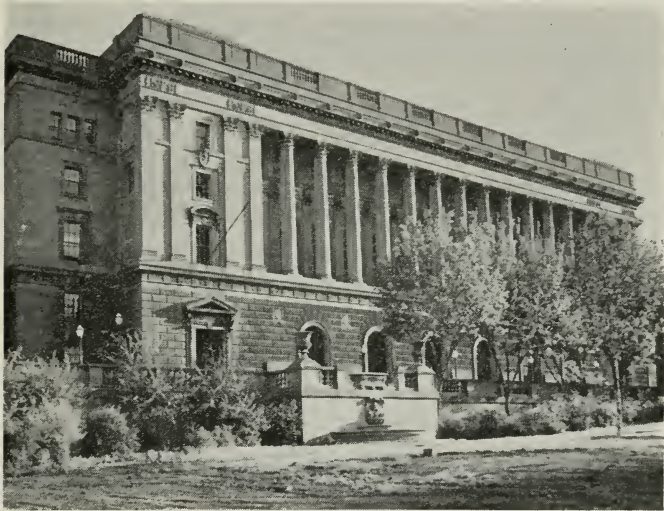


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## THE MUSEUM STORY

The Illinois State Museum is a museum of natural history and art. Though not confined to Illinois, its major emphasis is to interpret these fields in respect to our local interests, resources and development.

The story of natural history is a long and continuing one. The tour in the Museum begins with geol-



ogy, the development of the earth and the evidences of plant and animal life preserved as fossils. This fascinating story in the rocks helps us understand the origin and development of the world, to understand when and where plants and animals developed on the earth; it gives us strong supporting evidence of the developmental evolutionary nature of the world and the life upon it.

From geology, the exhibits take you directly to the biological development in the Hall of Life; then in the Main Hall are presented many forms of plant

and animal life as they exist today, and through media of the exhibits we endeavor to show not only the infinite and fascinating variety of life but the interdependence and relationship of these myriad forms.

Man is presented in relation to and as part of his natural environment — both the world-wide development of man and the development of man and his culture here in Illinois with the Stone Age, Woodland, and farming Indians in Illinois, and the pioneer and settler struggles to develop and wrest the land for our use.

In the final chapter is presented man's art. It includes the art of primitive peoples, of Oriental culture and of our own Western culture, both traditional and modern.

This is the story that the Illinois State Museum presents in exhibits. We hope you will find this guide helpful in interpreting it.

The paragraph numbers on the following pages correspond to the exhibit numbers on the plan on page 6.

# SUGGESTED TOUR OF MUSEUM EXHIBITS

## I. EARTH SCIENCE OR GEOLOGY

### Hall of Geology

Exhibits concerning the earth itself are limited largely to information about the earth's crust and the ancient life forms that are contained in it. These exhibits are presented in the Hall of Geology at the west entrance to the Museum, in the displays of fluorescent and radioactive minerals found just off the Main Hall next to the west corridor and in a display on the formation of fossils in the center of the Main Hall.

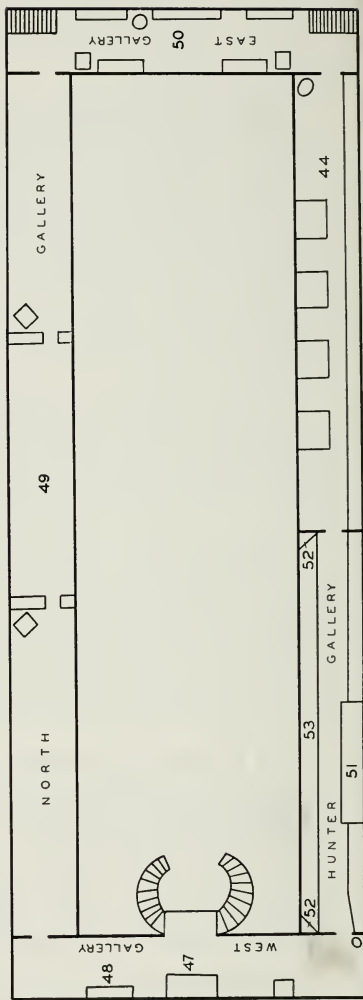
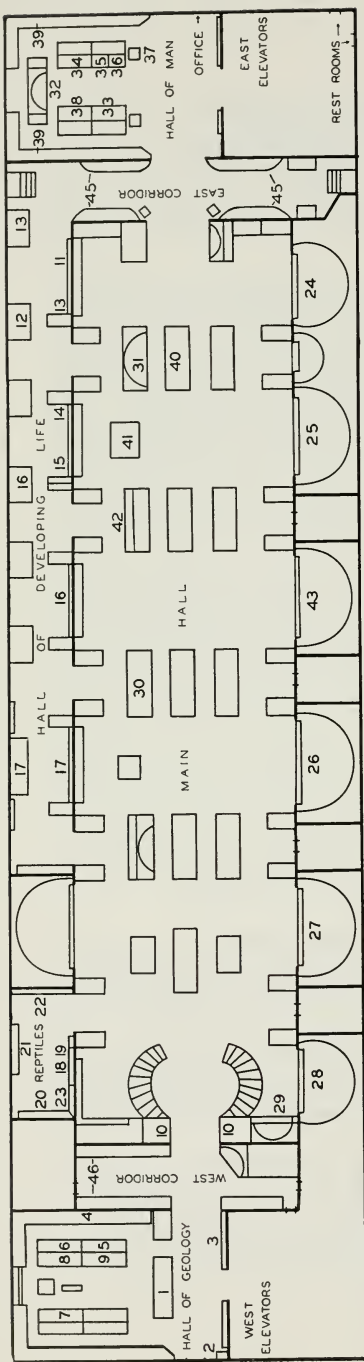
1. **BEAUTIFUL MINERALS.** The most spectacular exhibit in the Geology Room, Beautiful Minerals, shows noteworthy specimens of the most striking forms of minerals from all parts of the world.

2. **GEOLOGIC COLUMN.** In a corner of the room stands a column of rocks characteristic of each era and period in the development of the earth from the Archean at the base to the Cenozoic at the top. At one side is a chart indicating the development of life during the time represented by the column.

3. **ILLINOIS MINERAL PRODUCTS.** An exhibit of the principal minerals mined in Illinois and their distribution by counties.

4. **MAMMOTH AND MASTODON.** Fossil remains of the mammoth and mastodon, large prehistoric elephants that once roamed in Illinois.

5. **SEA LILIES.** A display of Crinoids, an interesting form of sea life which has existed continuously from 450 million years ago to the present time in the oceans of the world. Small fossil plates and segments



of this animal are abundant in Illinois rocks, but complete specimens are rare.

**6. PREHISTORIC SEA ANIMALS.** Illinois was covered by seas many times as evidenced by these marine fossils found in Illinois.

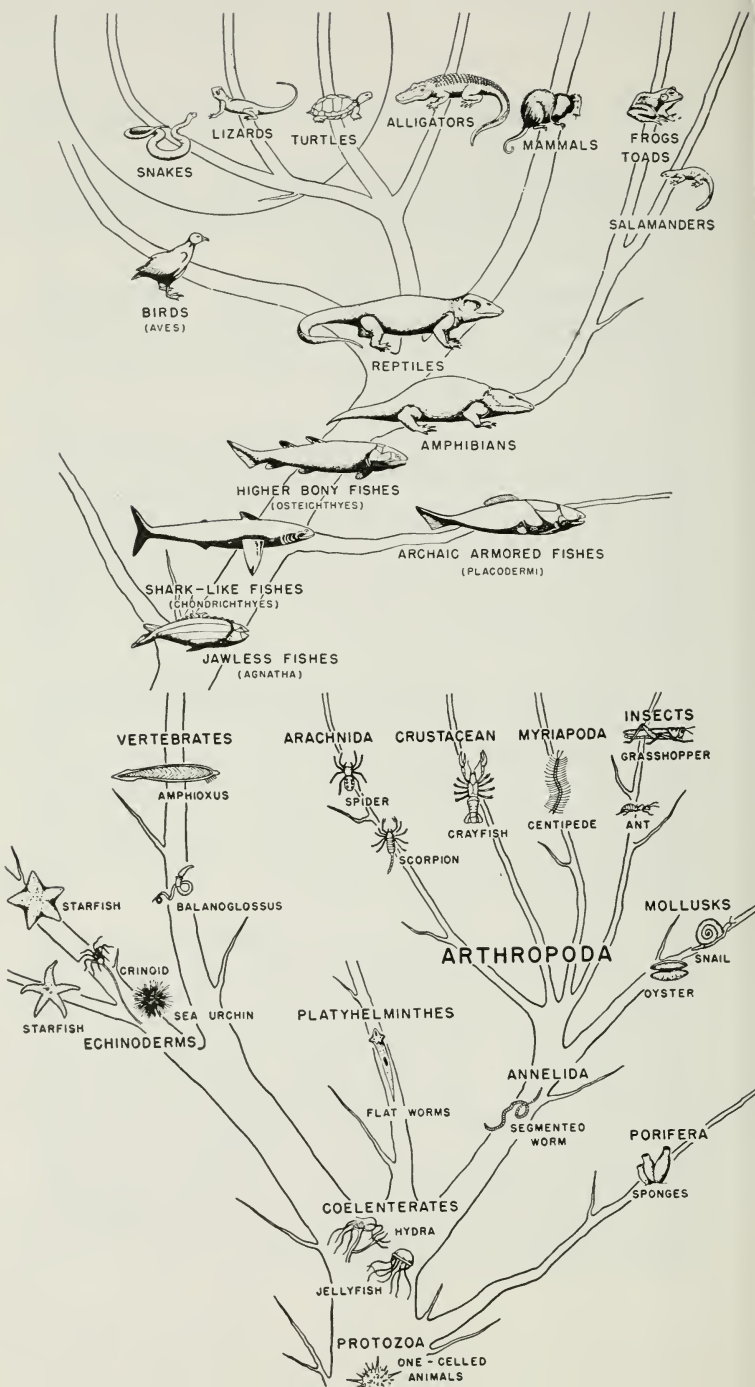
**7. ELEMENTS ARE THE BASIC CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES OF THE UNIVERSE.** An exhibit showing elements as the raw material on which we build our modern civilization.

**8. PLANTS AND ANIMALS FROM THE COAL AGE FOREST SWAMPS OF ILLINOIS.** Part of the Museum's extensive collection of Mazon Creek concretions containing fossil remains of worms, crayfish, insects, clams and plants. These are found in beds of clay and in shale associated with the great coal deposits of Illinois.

**9. ILLINOIS FORESTS OF 250,000,000 YEARS AGO.** Fossils from shale associated with our coal fields are exhibited here. Plants such as these were the raw materials from which coal has developed.

The Geology Room also contains other extensive collections of rocks and minerals, fossils, crystals and commercial building stone.

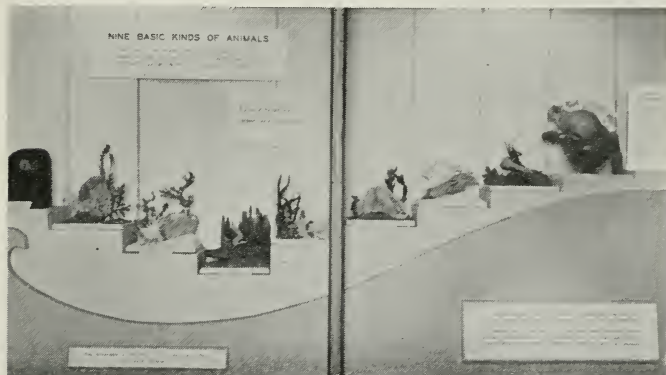
**10. SPECIAL MINERAL EXHIBITS.** (Between Main Hall and West Corridor) Two very interesting exhibits are situated across from each other. One, a collection of minerals possessing the property of fluorescing with brilliant colors under ultra-violet or "black light," may be controlled by the observer. The second, which consists of a Geiger Counter device placed beside a movable turntable, contains minerals of varying radioactivity. The audible ticking and visual blinking light indicate the amount of radiation given off by each mineral.



## II. RISE OF LIVING THINGS

### Hall of Developing Life

The north corridor off the Main Hall is devoted to a presentation of the development of animal life, according to one of the simpler classifications. Such an exhibit serves a two-fold purpose of suggesting the evolutionary nature of the development of life from the simpler forms such as the Protozoa, up to the Chordata (vertebrates) with their central nervous system, advanced circulatory and respiratory systems. It also presents in a broader way the classification system by which zoologists identify and describe all living animal forms.



**11. ORDER OF APPEARANCE OF LIFE FORMS.** This exhibit illustrates the phyla (plural form of phylum) of animal life with examples of each.

Then follows a series of exhibits extending down the entire length of this hall illustrating the major groups.

**12. PORIFERA.** The sponges. Examples shown include Venus's-flower-basket, Maiden's Glove, Soft Bath Sponges and many others.

13. **COELENTERATA.** The corals, sea anemones, jellyfish, and hydroids.

14. **ECHINODERMATA.** Star fish, sea urchins.

15. **MOLLUSCA.** Commonly called shellfish. Illustrated in our exhibit by the Chambered Nautilus, the squids and octopus, oysters, clams, scallops, and sea slug.

16. **ARTHROPODA.** This great group, having exoskeletons, jointed bodies and legs, is represented by examples of insects, such as flies, butterflies, moths, seventeen-year locust, and beetles; the Arachnids — spiders and scorpions; the Crustacea — lobsters, crabs and crayfish.

17. **CHORDATA.** Creatures having a dorsally-located central nervous system (principally vertebrates). Fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals (including man) are classes or major subdivisions under Chordata.

The exhibit includes an outstanding collection of skeletons comparing the structures of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. There is also an exhibit comparing the skeleton of a horse to that of a man and suggesting that all mammals have essentially the same bones but that the individual bones are modified to fit special requirements.

At the end of this hall is an exhibit of mounted fish, both fresh water and marine.

### **III. FROM WATER TO LAND**

#### **Hall of Reptiles and Amphibians**

Located off the northwest corner of the Main Hall. Two interesting groups of vertebrates are displayed here.

The displays include:

18. Models showing the poison mechanism of the pit vipers.

19. The four poisonous snakes of Illinois and where in Illinois they have been found.

20. A series of exhibits showing several of the more harmless snakes of Illinois.

21. Legends and misinformation about reptiles.

22. Turtles and lizards (reptiles). Mud puppy (amphibian).

23. Protective devices of reptiles and amphibians.



#### IV. MAMMALS AND BIRDS

##### Main Hall

The Main Hall, the high-vaulted room which constitutes the greater part of the Museum's exhibition space, displays representative specimens of the living

things of the world, particularly the mammals and birds of Illinois, past and present, many in their native surroundings. Beautifully reconstructed plants are incorporated into the habitat groups to emphasize the fact that all are a part of the immediate environment or ecological area. Man, himself a part of nature, is depicted in certain of the Indian exhibits also found in this room. Adjoining the Main Hall can be found the above-mentioned halls concerning specialized parts of the animal kingdom.

24. **VIRGINIA DEER.** A buck, doe and yearling in an early fall snow setting in central Illinois. Sycamore and white pine trees complement the scene.

25. **AMERICAN ELK.** A mature buck, a young buck and a doe in a northern Illinois setting typical of the Wisconsin Zone with oak and paper birch trees.

26. **BISON.** A herd of American bison drinking at the Sangamon River near Springfield. Buffalo were common in Illinois until about 1800.

27. **MOOSE.** An early winter scene of two moose in the northern Illinois lake region. Compare the antlers of the bull moose with a set of Irish elk antlers above the exhibit on the wall. The Irish elk was hunted by Stone Age men of northern Europe.

28. **BLACK BEAR.** A pair of bear cubs with mother searching for insects while the male parent lurks in the background. Setting is Starved Rock area, 1850 or earlier.

29. **MOUNTAIN LION.** A den of these most effective of the powerful predators of North America, shown among the rocks along the Illinois River in the time of the Indian.



30. **HAWKS AND OWLS OF ILLINOIS.** A diagrammatic presentation of the important birds of prey in Illinois, their economic importance, how they are identified, and what they eat.

Interspersed among these are several other exhibits of smaller animals, including bobcat, fox, rabbits, otter, muskrat and raccoon. On the north side of the room can be found mounted specimens of flightless birds, vanishing birds, ducks of Illinois waters, geese, and marsupials (animals that carry their young in pouches).

31. **PINE HILLS MARSH GROUP.** One of our newer habitat groups depicting some of the birds, reptiles, amphibians and plants associated together as they commonly occur in a typical marsh area in southern Illinois.

32. **WILD TURKEYS.** (Hall of Man) An important food item to the Indians and early settlers, the wild turkey disappeared in Illinois around 1930 but is today being reintroduced in southern Illinois.

## V. THE STORY OF MAN AND HIS CULTURE

### Hall of Man

The Story of Man is an extensive and complicated one. In the Museum are displayed several facets of this complex story. There are exhibits suggesting his origin, exhibits depicting his cultural development on a world-wide scale. A great many exhibits on the development of the American Indian and particularly the Indian in Illinois are here, together with exhibits touching on the high spots of our Indian, pioneer and settler story in Illinois, and an entire section on man and his artistic expressions.

33. **RISE OF MAN.** An exhibit of the evolutionary development of the primate from the great apes to man is graphically presented by a tree of life placed over a time chart. On the trunk and branches of the tree, placed in their proper sequence in time, are casts of the important skulls so far discovered showing the evolution of the modern primates as they exist today.

34. **ANCIENT AMERICAN INDIAN INDUSTRIES.** Diagonally across the aisle is an exhibit depicting the weapons and tools of Illinois Indians and how they were made, including examples of stone chipping, polished and ground stone, drilled stone and pottery.

35. **THE HOPEWELLIAN INDIAN.** An exhibit showing with carefully selected artifacts some of the evidences of the great artistic skill, wide-spread trade, and advanced cultural attainment of this outstanding group of Woodland Indians who practiced both hunting and agriculture, and who appear to have dominated Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio about the beginning of the Christian era.

36. **MISSISSIPPIAN INDIANS.** An exhibit demonstrating with carefully selected artifacts the advanced agricultural development of this corn and tobacco raising people who developed great villages of over 2000 people. They built great pyramid mounds, had an elaborate religion and government. They lived in Illinois in the 15th century near Brookport and around East St. Louis and until the latter part of the 18th century in the southeastern United States.

37. **HOPEWELLIAN STATUETTES.** Restorations of original statuettes found in Calhoun County, Illinois, and an artist's realistic reconstruction in miniature depict the Hopewellians as they looked and dressed about 100 B.C.

38. **POTTERY OF THE SOUTHWESTERN INDIANS.** The decorative pottery in this exhibit is the work of agricultural Indians of the Southwest. It was collected by the late Thomas Condell.

39. **HISTORIC INDIAN ARTIFACTS.** In cases around the perimeter of the room are shown leatherwork decorated with paint, quills and beads, stone work, work in wood, beautiful weaving of the Southwest, silver and turquoise jewelry, and handsome woven baskets of the Pacific Coast states. The material is from the Thomas Condell collection.

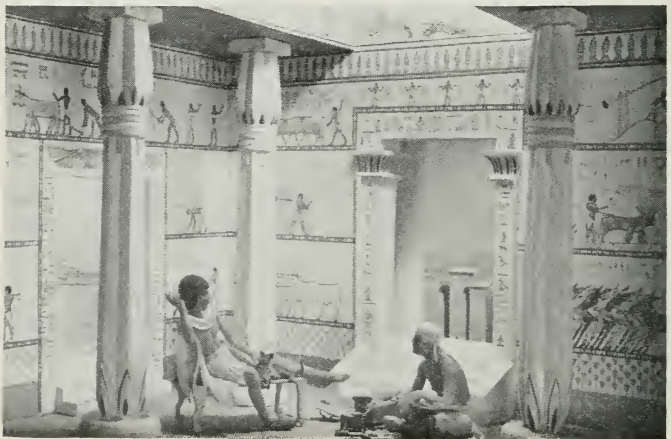
40. **MODOC ROCK SHELTER.** (Main Hall) Near the east entrance of the Main Hall is a long low case that presents important artifacts in relation to their levels and dates as they were found by Museum archaeologists in the soil of the Modoc Rock Shelter. They give the story of the development of the Stone Age or Archaic Indians of Illinois from before 8000 B.C. to 2700 B.C.

41. **THE WILSON MOUND.** (Main Hall) In an adjacent low case is an exhibit on an important Hopewell mound in White County. It gives evidence of their elaborate burial customs, extensive and widespread trade, and the importance of the artisan in their culture.

42. **TREES THAT TALK.** (Main Hall) In the adjacent upright case is an exhibit that shows how we were able to date a 1511 A.D. level in Kincaid and Cahokia Village sites by the study of the seasonal growth rings in a cross-section of a juniper tree.

43. **PEORIA INDIANS.** (Main Hall) Across the Main Hall is a large life-sized exhibit of the Peoria, a tribe of the great Illini Confederacy that once occupied most of what is now Illinois. The story: two young braves from a returning war party have brought a captive Sioux to their chief.

44. **MAN'S VENTURE IN CULTURE.** (Art Gallery) In the southeast gallery on the sixth floor is an exhibit of 21 miniature dioramas depicting impor-



tant steps in the development of culture from the earliest times to modern civilization. This series dovetails neatly with the studies of the fifth and sixth grades in our Illinois schools. It includes the invention or discovery of stone tools, art, navigation, farming, beasts of burden, law, written language, printing, exploration, democracy, and invention.

**45. STORY OF ILLINOIS DIORAMAS.** (East Corridor) Between the Hall of Man and the Main Hall is a series of twelve dioramas. This series is completely described in the booklet, "Story of Illinois: Indian and Pioneer." The exhibits include:

- 1673—Marquette and the Indians
- 1763 — Indians Fighting the British on the way to Fort Chartres
- 1779 — Clark Advancing from Kaskaskia to Vincennes
- 1820 — The Circuit Rider
- 1833 — Indians Agree to Leave Illinois
- 1837 — John Deere and the Prairie Plow
- 1850 — The Underground Railroad
- 1858 — The Lincoln-Douglas Debates
- 1871 — The Chicago Fire
- 1877 — The Railroad Strike
- 1880 — Meat Packers for the World
- \*\*\*\* — Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

**46. FIREARMS.** (West Corridor) At the other end of the Main Hall in the West Corridor is an extensive collection of guns given to the Museum by the late Frank R. Grover. The collection covers wide development of guns from the time of the crossbow and the matchlocks of 1400 A.D., through the flintlock blunderbusses of the Colonial days, guns of the Revolutionary War period, the flintlocks of the

Indian trade, the first factory-assembled Colts and Sharps, the development of multiple load percussion guns, and finally several examples of early rim fire cartridge-firing revolvers and pistols.

## VI. MAN'S ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

### Art Gallery

The Art Gallery, surrounding the Main Hall, may be reached by flights of stairs at either end of the Hall.

47. **THE YOUNG LINCOLN.** At the top of the stairs at the west end is a statue of the Illinois legislator and lawyer, as portrayed by the Illinois sculptor, Lorado Taft.

48. **INDIAN SPEARHEADS.** All in this group, found near Mackinaw, Illinois, are made from white flint and show a high degree of skill in chipping. Thirty-one objects in number, the set is one of the finest and most perfect ever found. They were presented to the Museum by the late Frank W. Aldrich.

49. **NORTH GALLERY** is reserved for temporary exhibits of paintings, sculpture, glass, textiles, etc. These are usually changed every two months and offer a wide variety of art, both modern and traditional. The more important shows have catalogues describing them. These can be obtained from the hostess in the Art Gallery.

50. **EAST GALLERY.** Exhibits of Oriental art, this gallery displays Chinese silks, porcelains, Japanese inroes, Chinese ancestral paintings, a large Chinese wall hanging, rhinoceros horn cups and beautiful items in glass and jade principally from the Thomas Condell collection.



**51-53. HUNTER GALLERY OF ANTIQUE CLOCKS AND COVERLETS.** In the south gallery are two noteworthy collections on display. One (51) is an exhibit of twelve choice examples of early American coverlets from a collection of nearly 100 given to the Museum by Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Hunter. The second (53) is the Hunter Collection of antique clocks, dating from 1680 to about 1900, collected and displayed to show the history of the development of the clock. A catalogue of this clock collection can be purchased at the Museum office.

**52. EARLY AMERICAN PRESSED GLASS.** Shown also in the gallery are examples of fine early American pressed glass from the Mrs. Justus Johnson and the Hunter collections.

# AIDS TO THE VISITOR

## **Location**

The Illinois State Museum, founded in 1877, is on the fifth floor of the Centennial Building in Springfield, Illinois. This building stands south of the State Capitol near the junction of South Second and Jackson streets. The Museum may be reached by elevators or stairways at either the east or west end of the Centennial Building.

## **Hours and Days of Operation**

The Museum is open to visitors every day of the year except New Year's Day, the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. Hours are 8:30-5:00, Monday through Saturday, and 2:00-5:00 p. m., Sundays. (Springfield has Daylight Saving Time [Fast Time] from the last Sunday of April to the last Sunday of October). **Admission is always free.**

## **Information and Sales Counter**

Information may be obtained and Museum publications and souvenirs purchased at the Information and Sales Counter at the east end of the Museum. Income from the sales counter reverts to the Illinois State Museum Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to the Museum's program of research and children's work.

## **Rest Rooms**

Rest rooms are located as follows:

Ladies — southeast corner of hallway at the east end of the Museum.

Men — just inside annex door off the same hallway at the east end of the Museum.

## **Drinking Water**

A water fountain is available in the east hallway next to the ladies' rest room.

## **STUDY COLLECTIONS**

For the serious student, the Museum maintains advanced study collections under the supervision and care of trained curators. These collections include:

**Anthropology** — extensive and representative archaeological collections from Illinois; ethnological collections from America, Africa and Australia; archaeological collections from the southwestern United States.

**Botany** — an extensive herbarium of over 50,000 plants of Illinois.

**Geology** — a collection of over 300,000 rocks, minerals, and fossils.

**Zoology** — scientific skins of birds and animals; study collections of vertebrate skeletons; comparative collection of fresh-water mollusca of Illinois; collections of preserved reptiles and amphibians; insects.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR VISITS TO SPRINGFIELD AND NEW SALEM

If, following your visit to the Museum, you also plan to visit the Capitol Building, allow for 30-45 minutes to be spent there.

If you plan visiting Lincoln's Home and Lincoln's Tomb, allow about one-half hour at each place and about fifteen minutes travel time between each location.

Should you wish to visit New Salem State Park, allow for 19 miles of travel to and from Springfield and two hours minimum time in visiting the village. No reservations are needed to visit Lincoln's Home, Tomb or New Salem.

### **Hours of operation:**

#### Home and Tomb

During Daylight Savings Time — 8:00 - 6:00.

Rest of the year — 9:00 - 5:00.

#### New Salem State Park

Buildings are open 8:00 - 5:00 (year round)

The Park is open all the time.

We hope that you have found your visit both educational and enjoyable. Visit us again soon!



