

On the Trail
of Ancient
Man

A FIELD MUSEUM EXPEDITION of Chicago, headed by Henry Field, motor-trekked across the Bedouin infested desert of north Arabia seeking to run down a claim that a prehistoric race inhabited these wastelands. The explorers brought back the rare pictures reproduced on this page. Here the camera shows that today, as for thousands of years, camels, the desert beasts of burden, are employed in drawing water from primitive wells.



A DESERT MADONNA—It is rare luck when a Bedouin woman consents to face the camera. Mother and child appear delighted at meeting the scientists of the western world.



A WANDERING FATHER AND SON, with their "Ship of the Desert," found deep in the wasteland.



A SHEIK OF ARABY—Mohammed Abu Tayi, one of the most powerful of all the North Arabian chiefs. As any one may see, he is amply dressed to ward off the heat of the desert.



AMID DESERT PALMS the explorers found crumbling Azraq, an ancient Roman fortress built by the legions of the Caesars as a protection against tribesmen who were dangerous even two thousand years ago.



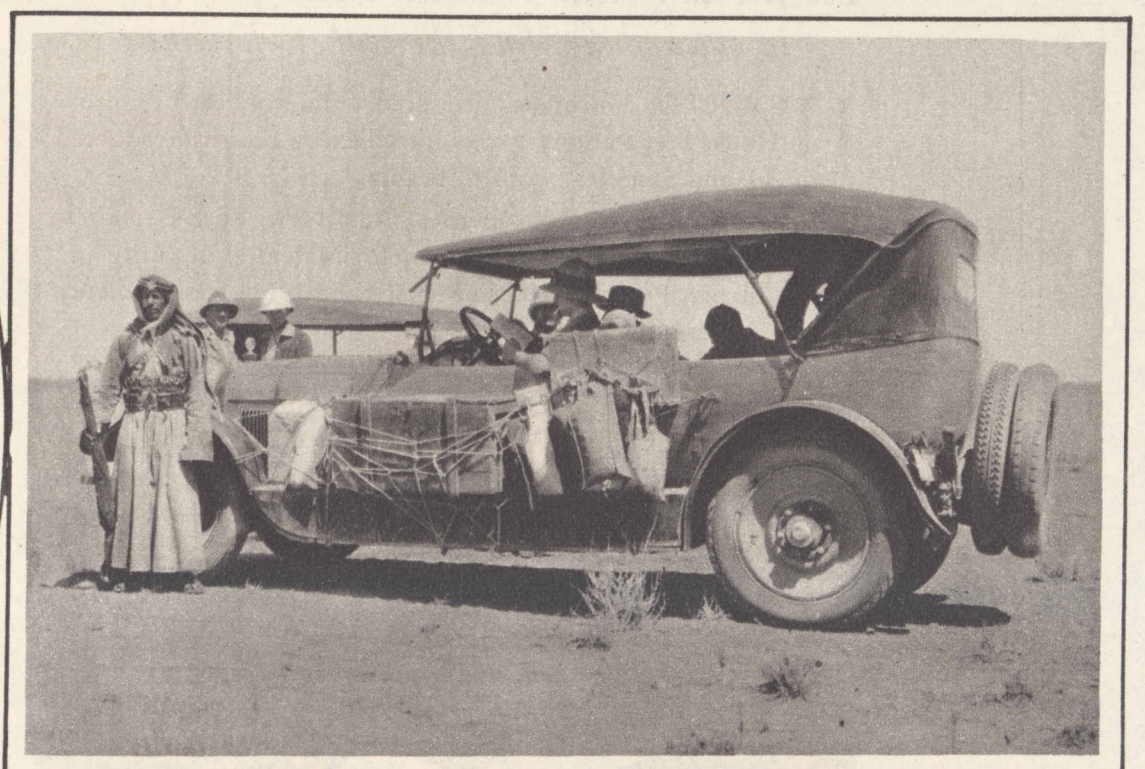
UNDER HIS TENT on the sands the camera caught this bearded tribal chief with two sons who will some day inherit his mantle—or what-is-it?



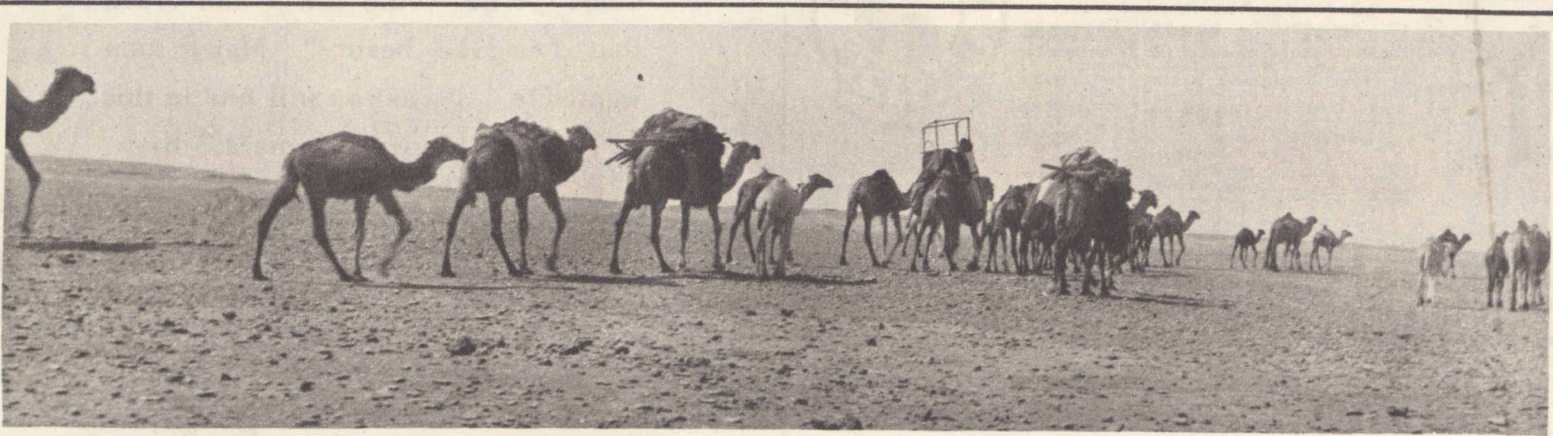
THE HOME OF A SHEIK—Amid giant coffee pots passed on for many generations, a desert chieftain, seen at the right in native costume, receives the western visitors in his "castle."



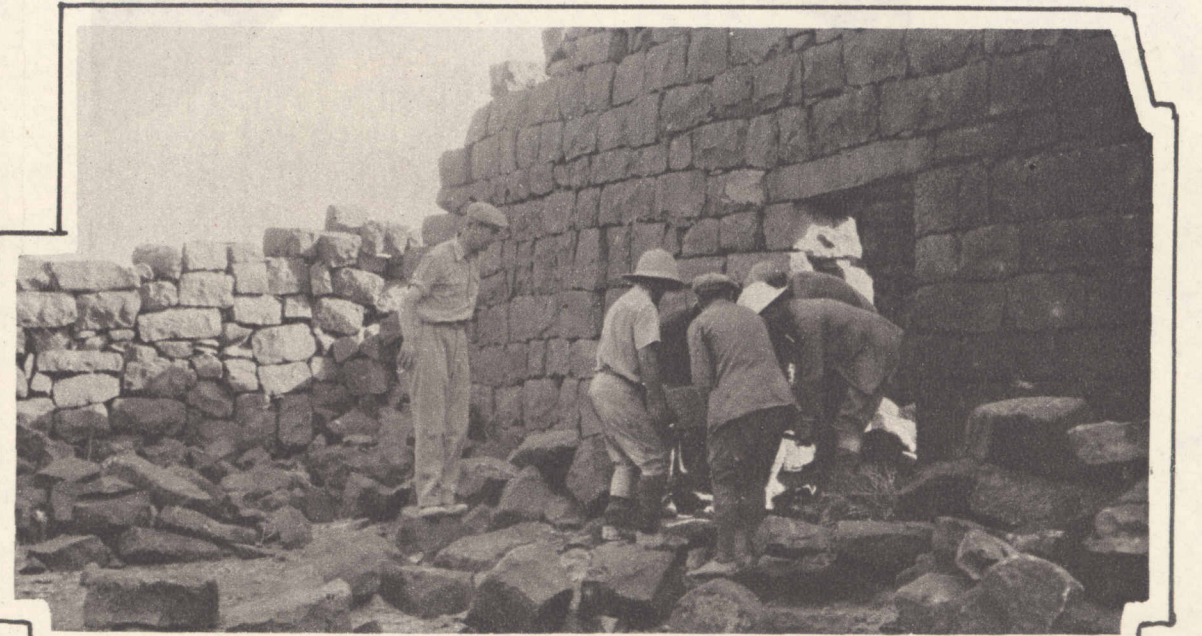
AN ARABIAN KNIGHT, new style. This grizzled Bedouin is a typical specimen of the desert wanderers encountered by the Field museum party.



ESCORTED BY THIS IRAK POLICEMAN, the Field expedition made its way across the desert wastes unmolested by the dangerous night marauders.



ON THE MARCH—Forever moving, the Bedouins travel with all their possessions far across the sands, seeking always some new encampment.



LIFTING A LINTEL from the ancient Roman fortress, Qasr Burqa, with the hope that it may reveal a clue to the date of its construction.

(All photographs by Field Museum of Chicago; from Wide World.)