

The first annual report of the American Museum of Natural History.

Contributors

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Royal College of Surgeons of England

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THE
First Annual Report

OF THE

AMERICAN MUSEUM

OF

NATURAL HISTORY.



JANUARY, 1870.

New York:

PRINTED FOR THE MUSEUM,

By THE MAJOR & KNAPP ENGRAVING, MFG. & LITHOGRAPHIC CO., 71 BROADWAY, N. Y.

First Annual Report

AMERICAN MUSEUM

NATURAL HISTORY

NEW YORK

1873

American Museum of Natural History.

Trustees and Officers.

JOHN DAVID WOLFE,
ROBERT L. STUART,
ROBERT COLGATE,
BENJAMIN H. FIELD,
RICHARD M. BLATCHFORD,
ADRIAN ISELIN,
BENJAMIN B. SHERMAN,
WILLIAM A. HAINES,
THEODORE ROOSEVELT,
HENRY G. STEBBINS,
HOWARD POTTER.

WILLIAM T. BLODGETT,
ANDREW H. GREEN,
MORRIS K. JESUP,
D. JACKSON STEWARD,
J. PIERPONT MORGAN,
MOSES H. GRINNELL,
A. G. PHELPS DODGE,
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JOSEPH H. CHOATE,
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President :

JOHN DAVID WOLFE.

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A. G. PHELPS DODGE.

Treasurer :

HOWARD POTTER.

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ANDREW H. GREEN, A. G. PHELPS DODGE.
WILLIAM T. BLODGETT.

Finance Committee :

HOWARD POTTER, HENRY G. STEBBINS,
BENJAMIN B. SHERMAN.

Auditing Committee :

MORRIS K. JESUP, HENRY PARISH,
A. G. PHELPS DODGE.

American Museum of Natural History

Thomas and Others

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REPORT.

The Trustees of the American Museum of Natural History have the pleasure of presenting to the subscribers to the funds of the museum, this, their First Annual Report, accompanied by copies of their Charter, Constitution, Correspondence, and Reports of the Committees and Treasurer.

On the thirtieth of December, 1868, a number of gentlemen addressed a letter to the Commissioners of the Central Park, expressing their desire that a great Museum of Natural History should be established in the Park, and enquiring if the Commissioners were disposed to provide for its reception and development, to which a favorable reply was received.

On the nineteenth of January, 1869, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted :

WHEREAS, Nearly all the capitals in Europe, and more important cities in our own land, including Boston, Philadelphia, Washington and Chicago, possess instructive and valuable museums of Natural History, while New York, notwithstanding its metropolitan position, is still destitute of such an institution :

Resolved, That recognizing the necessity of such a museum as a means of education and recreation, and desiring its establishment upon a scale commensurate with the wealth and importance of our great city, we have heard with much satisfaction, that the opportunity is now presented of securing by purchase, in Europe, the largest and most valuable collection of objects of Natural History, which has been offered for sale in many years.

Resolved, That in our judgment immediate action should be taken to secure this, or some other collection, as a nucleus of a great Museum.

Resolved, That, therefore, a Committee be, and is hereby appointed to raise the necessary funds, and to act as trustees for, and dispose of the same, and of the collections when acquired, and with full powers to do whatever may be requisite or needful in connection with the business, said committee to consist of such of the signers to the recent letter of inquiry, dated December 30th, 1868, and addressed to the Commissioners of the Central Park, as may consent to serve, with power to increase their number to twenty-five.

A permanent organization under a special charter from the State Legislature was effected, and in a few weeks the sum of \$44,550 was secured. A valuable collection of North American birds, containing over three thousand specimens, was purchased from Mr. D. G. Elliot, and arrangements made with Mr. J. G. Bell to mount them. This was followed by the purchase in Europe, by Messrs. Blodgett and Elliot, of the collection of the late Prince Maximilian of Neu-

wied, in Germany, and of a selection from the Verreaux and Vedray collections in Paris, a full and interesting report of which is hereto annexed.

These valuable collections having been acquired, a letter was addressed to the Commissioners of the Central Park, expressing a desire to know if they would receive them on deposit within the Park, and suggesting the conditions on which the Trustees would like to deposit them. A reply was received accepting them on the terms proposed, and accommodations for their exhibition are being rapidly completed in the two upper stories of the Arsenal Building.

In addition to these purchases, valuable donations have been received. The State of New York, by an act of Legislature, has offered a series of all duplicates it may acquire; Baron R. Osten Sacken has presented to the Museum more than four thousand specimens of beetles, and insects of other orders; Mr. Coleman T. Robinson more than ten thousand specimens of Lepidoptera, representing three thousand species; and Mr. A. L. Rawson has presented a collection illustrating the geology of Palestine and Sinai. Gen. Charles W. le Gendre, the American Consul at Amoy, China, has forwarded an invoice of seven boxes of minerals, woods, etc., the first response to a circular kindly issued and forwarded by the State Department of the United States to all our ministers and consuls in foreign countries. Also, Mr. Lyell T. Adams, U. S. Consul at Malta, has offered to send a complete collection of specimens from that interesting locality. A similar circular was forwarded by the Navy Department to all its officers on foreign stations, and correspondence

has been opened with some of the societies having similar purposes with our own. Efforts are being made to enlist the services of owners and captains of vessels going from our ports, and we hope in this way to add largely to our collections. We are favored with the sympathy of many scientific men in our city, who already take a deep interest in our work, and some of whom have promised at no distant day to add their valuable collections to our Museum.

In beginning this enterprise everything has been done to make it worthy of our great Metropolis. Commissioner Green, in his letter herewith annexed, says: "Permit me to express on behalf of the Park Commissioners their high appreciation of the enlightened sentiment that has provided so generously for all interested in this department of science, and, at the same time, the hope that this auspicious beginning may, by the continued augmentation of similar liberality, become an unequalled treasury of science, alike honorable to the public spirit of the citizens by whom it has been inaugurated, and an indispensable aid to those engaged in efforts to increase the knowledge of the science that it is intended to illustrate."

In closing their Report for the first year, the Trustees feel justified in congratulating the subscribers on the marked success that has attended their efforts to meet a great want so long felt by our city. With a continuance of your deep interest, with the cordial aid of scientific men in our midst, and allied as we are in this effort with the Park Commissioners, we have, if properly supported and aided with funds

by our fellow citizens, a guarantee of a prosperous future in the formation of a Museum of Natural History that will be second to none, and which, while affording amusement and instruction to the public, will be the means of teaching our youth to appreciate the wonderful works of the Creator. Many large and very valuable collections are offered for sale to us by persons anxious to place them in a permanent public institution, and very frequently the results of the labor and care of years may be obtained for a fraction of their real value; to secure these and commence a fund that shall place the museum in an independent position, the present subscription list of \$52,000 should be increased to at least \$100,000, and the Trustees appeal to the public to aid them in soon securing this amount.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN DAVID WOLFE,

President.

A. G. PHELPS DODGE,

Secretary.

INCORPORATION.

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.

Passed April 6, 1869.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows :

SECTION 1. John David Wolfe, Robert Colgate, Benjamin H. Field, Robert L. Stuart, Adrian Iselin, Benjamin B. Sherman, William A. Haines, Theodore Roosevelt, Howard Potter, William T. Blodgett, Morris K. Jesup, D. Jackson Steward, J. Pierpont Morgan, A. G. P. Dodge, Charles A. Dana, Joseph H. Choate, and Henry Parish, and such persons as may hereafter become members of the corporation hereby created, are hereby created a body corporate, by the name of "The American Museum of Natural History," to be located in the city of New York, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining in said city a Museum and Library of Natural History; of encouraging and developing the study of Natural Science; of advancing the general knowledge of kindred subjects, and to that end of furnishing popular instruction and recreation.

SEC. 2. Said Corporation shall have power to make and adopt a Constitution and By-Laws, and to make rules and regulations for the admission, suspension, and expulsion of its members, and their government, the number and election of its officers, and to define their duties, and for the safe keeping of its property, and, from time to time, to alter and modify such Constitution, By-

Laws, Rules and Regulations. Until an election shall be held pursuant to such Constitution and By-Laws, the persons named in the first section of this act, shall be, and are hereby declared to be the Trustees and Managers of said Corporation and its property.

SEC. 3. Said Corporation may purchase and hold, or lease any real and personal estate necessary and proper for the purposes of its incorporation, provided they shall not hold real estate which shall exceed one hundred thousand dollars in value.

SEC. 4. Said Corporation shall possess the general powers, and be subject to the restrictions and liabilities prescribed in the Third Title of the Eighteenth Chapter of the First Part of the Revised Statutes.

SEC. 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, } ss. :

I have compared the preceding with the original law on file in this office, and do hereby certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of said original law.

{ SEAL. } Given under my hand and seal of office at the city
of Albany, this fourteenth day of April, in the year
one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine.

D. WILLERS, JR.,
Deputy Secretary of State.

At a meeting of the Trustees, held at the residence of Theodore Roosevelt, Esq., April 8, 1869, the above charter was unanimously accepted by a majority of the Trustees.

AN ACT

TO DONATE TO THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY A
COLLECTION FROM THE DUPLICATE SPECIMENS OF NATURAL
HISTORY BELONGING TO THE STATE.

PASSED MAY 8, 1869, BY A TWO-THIRDS VOTE.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows :

SECTION 1. The curator of the State Cabinet, under direction of the regents of the university, is hereby authorized to select from the duplicate specimens of natural history belonging to the State, and those which the State may acquire, and from all other specimens of natural history which may be disposed of by the regents or the State, the first and best series of specimens, subject, however, to the rights of other institutions under existing laws, and label the same with their proper scientific names, and present them in the name of the State to the American Museum of Natural History, in the city of New York, all of which is to be done at the expense of said Museum.

SEC. 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE, } ss. :

I have compared the preceding with the original law on file in this office, and do hereby certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of said original law.

{ SEAL. } Given under my hand and seal of office, at the city
of Albany, this seventeenth day of August, in the
year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-nine.

D. WILLERS, JR.,

Deputy Secretary of State.

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

ARTICLE I.

THIS Corporation shall be styled the American Museum of Natural History.

ARTICLE II.

The several persons named in the Charter, and such others as they may add to their number, which shall not exceed twenty-five in all at one time, shall be the Trustees to manage the affairs, property and business of the Corporation, and in case of the death, accepted resignation, or removal from the State of any Trustee, a new Trustee shall be elected to fill his place by the remaining Trustees; but no election of a Trustee shall be held except at a quarterly meeting of the Trustees, on written notice of not less than one week, specifying that such election is to be held, and the vacancy which is to be filled; and every election of Trustees shall be by ballot, and no person shall be deemed to be elected a Trustee unless he shall receive the votes of at least three-fourths of the Trustees present.

ARTICLE III.

The Trustees shall meet quarterly on the second Monday of

every February, May, August and November, at an hour and place to be designated on at least one week's written notice from the Secretary, and shall, annually, at the quarterly meeting in November, elect the officers and committees for the ensuing year. They shall also meet at any other time to transact special business on a call of the Secretary, who shall issue such call whenever requested so to do, in writing, by five Trustees or by the President, and give written notice to each Trustee of such special meeting, and of the object thereof, at least three days before the meeting is held.

ARTICLE IV.

The officers of the said Corporation shall be a President, a First and Second Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer, an Executive Committee, an Auditing Committee, and a Finance Committee, all to be elected from the Trustees. All these officers shall hold their offices for one year, and until their successors shall be elected.

The election of officers shall be by ballot, and the persons having a majority of the votes cast, shall be deemed duly elected.

ARTICLE V.

The President, and, in his absence, the First or Second Vice-President shall preside at all the meetings of the Museum and of the Trustees.

The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the Trustees, of the Executive Committee, and of the Auditing Committee, and shall preserve the seal, archives and correspondence of the Museum, shall issue notices for all meetings of the Trustees, and attend the same.

The Treasurer shall receive and disburse the funds of the Museum. He shall keep the accounts of the Museum in books belonging to it, which shall be at all times open to the inspection of the Trustees. He shall report in writing, at each quarterly meeting of the Trustees, the balance of money on hand, and the outstanding obligations of the Museum, as far as practicable; and shall make a full report, at the annual meeting, of the receipts and disbursements of the past year, with such suggestions as to the financial management of the Museum as he may deem proper.

ARTICLE VI.

The Executive Committee shall consist of five, who shall have the control and regulation of the Collections, Library and other property of the Museum ; and shall have power to purchase, sell and exchange specimens and books, to employ agents, to regulate the manner and terms of exhibiting the Museum to the public, and generally to carry out in detail the directions of the Trustees ; but the Executive Committee shall not incur any expense or liability for the Museum exceeding two thousand dollars at one time, or exceeding, in all, ten thousand dollars, in the interval between the quarterly meetings of the Trustees, without the express sanction of the Trustees.

ARTICLE VII.

The Auditing Committee shall consist of three, and it shall be their duty to examine and certify all bills presented against the Corporation ; and no bills shall be paid unless first approved in writing by at least two members of this Committee.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Finance Committee shall consist of three, including the Treasurer, and it shall be their duty to take charge of and invest the funds of the Museum in its name, and to take all proper measures to provide means for its support.

ARTICLE IX.

A majority of the Trustees for the time being shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but five Trustees meeting may adjourn and transact current business, subject to the subsequent approval of a meeting at which a quorum shall be present.

ARTICLE X.

By-Laws may, from time to time, be made by the Trustees, providing for the care and management of the property of the Corporation, and for the government of its affairs.

Such By-laws, when once adopted, may be amended at any meeting of the Trustees by a vote of a majority of those present, after a month's notice in writing of such proposed amendment.

ARTICLE XI.

The contribution of two thousand five hundred dollars to the funds of the Museum, at one time, shall entitle the person giving the same to be a Patron of the Museum.

The contribution of one thousand dollars, at one time, shall entitle the person giving the same to be a Fellow in Perpetuity.

The contribution of five hundred dollars, at one time, shall entitle the person giving the same to be a Fellow for Life.

Any person may be elected by the Trustees to either of the above degrees, who shall have donated to the Museum Books or Specimens to the value of twice the amount in money requisite to his admission to the same degree, and the President and Secretary shall issue Diplomas accordingly, under the seal of the Museum. The Trustees may also elect Honorary Fellows of the Museum in their discretion.

All persons receiving such degrees and diplomas shall be entitled at all times, to free admission to the Museum and its Exhibitions, but shall not, by virtue of such degrees or diplomas, become members of the Corporation.

ARTICLE XII.

No alterations shall be made in this Constitution, unless at a regular quarterly Meeting of the Trustees; nor by the votes of less than two-thirds of all the Trustees; nor without notice in writing of the proposed alteration, embodying the amendment proposed to be made, having been given at a regular meeting.

NEW YORK, December 30, 1868.

Commissioners of the Central Park :

DEAR SIRS—A number of gentlemen having long desired that a great Museum of Natural History should be established in the Central Park, and having now the opportunity of securing a rare and very valuable collection as a nucleus of such Museum, the undersigned wish to enquire if you are disposed to provide for its reception and development.

JAMES BROWN,
ALEX. T. STEWART,
BENJ. H. FIELD,
ADRIAN ISELIN,
ROBERT L. STUART,
MARSHALL O. ROBERTS,
THEODORE ROOSEVELT,
GEORGE BLISS,
MORRIS K. JESUP,
WILLIAM T. BLODGETT,

JOHN DAVID WOLFE,
ROBERT COLGATE,
I. N. PHELPS,
LEVI P. MORTON,
W. A. HAINES,
J. PIERPONT MORGAN,
A. G. PHELPS DODGE,
D. JACKSON STEWARD,
HOWARD POTTER.

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS }
OF THE CENTRAL PARK, NEW YORK, January 13, 1869. }

GENTLEMEN—The Commissioners of the Central Park have received your communication, in which inquiry is made if they are disposed to provide the reception and development of a large and valuable collection, as a nucleus of a Museum of Natural History.

The Commissioners appreciating the views you so kindly express, entirely concur in the desirability of the establishment of a Museum in the Park, that shall become an aid in the Great Educational System of the city, concentrate and develop Scientific efforts in all departments of Natural History, and at the same time be an instructive and acceptable resort for the people of the city, and for the throng of strangers that visit it.

The Commissioners of the Park will very gladly receive the collection to which you allude, and will use their best exertions toward the establishment of a Museum of Natural History, of an extent and excellence in all its departments that will be creditable to the city, and in their efforts towards the devel-

opment of such an institution the Commissioners of the Park will highly esteem your valuable co-operation.

(Signed) I am, gentlemen, with great respect,

ANDREW H. GREEN,
Comptroller of the Central Park.

TO JAMES BROWN, ALEX. T. STEWART, JOHN DAVID WOLFE, and others.

On the 19th of January, 1869, a meeting of the gentlemen who signed the above note of inquiry, was held at the residence of BENJAMIN H. FIELD, Esq., and the following resolutions were unanimously passed:

WHEREAS, Nearly all the Capitals in Europe and more important cities in our own land, including Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, and Chicago, possess instructive and valuable Museums of Natural History, while New York— notwithstanding its metropolitan position—is still destitute of such an institution:

Resolved, That, recognizing the necessity of such a Museum as a means of recreation and education, and desiring its establishment upon a scale commensurate with the wealth and importance of our great city, we have heard, with much satisfaction, that the opportunity is now presented of securing by purchase in Europe, the largest and most valuable collection of objects in Natural History which has been offered for sale in many years.

Resolved, That in our judgment immediate action should be taken to secure this or some other collection as a nucleus of a great Museum.

Resolved, That, therefore, a Committee be and is hereby appointed to raise the necessary funds, and to act as Trustees for and dispose of the same, and of the collection when acquired, and with full powers to do whatever may be requisite or needful in connection with the business; said Committee to consist of such of the signers of the recent letter of inquiry, dated December 30th, 1868, and addressed to the Commissioners of the Central Park, as may consent to serve, with power to increase their number to twenty.

The following gentlemen have already consented to serve as a Committee and Trustees in accordance with the above Resolution.

JOHN DAVID WOLFE,	WILLIAM T. BLODGETT,
ROBERT COLGATE,	MORRIS K. JESUP,
BENJAMIN H. FIELD,	D. JACKSON STEWARD,
ROBERT L. STUART,	J. PIERPONT MORGAN,
ADRIAN ISELIN,	A. G. P. DODGE,
BENJAMIN B. SHERMAN,	CHARLES A. DANA,
WILLIAM A. HAINES,	JOSEPH H. CHOATE,
THEODORE ROOSEVELT,	HENRY PARISH.
HOWARD POTTER,	

NEW YORK, December 23, 1869.

ANDREW H. GREEN, Esq., *Comptroller of the Central Park*:

DEAR SIR—The Trustees of the American Museum of Natural History

having purchased the extensive collection of Mammals, Birds, Fishes, &c., belonging to the late Prince of Neuwied, the Elliot collection of Birds, besides a part of the Verraux and other collections of specimens of Natural History, desire to know if the Commissioners of the Central Park will receive them on deposit within the Central Park, and they would suggest the following as the conditions upon which they would like to deposit them, viz.:

First—The Commissioners of the Park to provide accommodations in the two upper stories of the building known as the Arsenal and such other rooms as shall from time to time be necessary for the exhibition of the collections deposited by the American Museum, and shall cause them to be furnished with glass cases suitable for the preservation and exhibition of such collections.

Second—The Trustees of the American Museum to employ their own Curators for the care and arrangement of their collection, and to pay them their salaries, all such persons to be subject to the regulations of the Park Commissioners.

Third—The Police force for the protection of the property and the employees for the cleansing and general care of the rooms to be employed and paid by the Park Commissioners.

Fourth—The Trustees and Curators of the American Museum to have free access at all reasonable times to the rooms occupied by their collections.

Fifth—The collections so deposited to be exhibited to the public at least three days in the week in the name of the American Museum of Natural History, the Trustees to have the right to close the collections at such times as shall be necessary for the arrangement and rearranging of the specimens subject to the regulations of the Park Commissioners.

Sixth—The collections already acquired, and those which may from time to time be acquired and so deposited, to remain the property of the American Museum of Natural History to be removed by them immediately after the expiration of six months' previous notice in writing to the Commissioners of the Park, or within six months after receiving a written notice from the Commissioners, asking them to withdraw their property from the Park.

Awaiting the favor of an early reply, I am,

Very truly, yours,

W. A. HAINES, *Chairman, Executive Committee.*

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CENTRAL PARK, }
BANK OF COMMERCE BUILDING, 31 NASSAU ST., NEW YORK, Jan. 21, 1870. }

DEAR SIR—I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d ultimo, relating to the deposits of certain collections with the Park Commissioners by the American Museum of Natural History. The terms upon which it is proposed to make these deposits are such, as will, I think, secure the object that the Museum and the Park Commissioners equally desire; to wit, an establishment that shall afford opportunity for popular instruction and amusement, and for the advancement of the Natural Sciences. If the plan which insures and combines in this enterprise the interests and means of the

private citizen, with those of the public, is productive of all the good results that may reasonably be expected, it will probably be made at once an example and incentive for uniting the energies of those interested in other branches of science and art, in similar undertakings.

In accepting these extensive and valuable collections on the conditions specified, permit me to express, on behalf of the Park Commissioners, their high appreciation of the enlightened sentiment that has provided so generously for all interested in this department of science, and, at the same time, the hope that this auspicious beginning may, by the continued augmentation of similar liberalities, become an unequalled treasury of science alike honorable to the public spirit of the citizens by whom it has been inaugurated, and an indispensable aid to those engaged in efforts to increase the knowledge of the science that it is intended to illustrate.

Very respectfully and truly,

ANDREW H. GREEN, *Comptroller of the Park.*

W. A. HAINES, Esq.,

Chairman of the Executive Committee of the American Museum.

REPORT
ON
PURCHASES MADE IN EUROPE
FOR THE
American Museum of Natural History.

NEW YORK, Jan. 24, 1870.

To the Executive Committee of the American Museum of Natural History:

GENTLEMEN,—A few days after my arrival at Hanover, Germany, on the first of September last, I received from your chairman a letter requesting me to act, with the assistance of Mr. D. G. Elliot, for the Museum, in negotiating for the purchase of certain collections of specimens in Natural History, which were offered for sale on remarkably favorable terms.

On the 25th of the same month, I arrived in Paris and had a consultation with Mr. Elliot, and ascertained that negotiations were nearly completed for the purchase of the collection of the late Prince Maximilian of Wied. Baron Bibra, the representative of the present Prince of Wied, was informed by Mr. Elliot that I had arrived in Paris, and, as a Trustee and member of the Executive Committee, was prepared to conclude the terms of purchasing the collection, and he at once made an appointment to meet us there.

The Committee having placed the proper credit at my disposal, everything was satisfactorily adjusted and the contract forwarded to your chairman. The price paid for the entire collection was £1,500 Sterling, and instructions were given to ship the collection

from time to time, when ready, by the North German Lloyd's Line of Steamships from Bremen. A full and complete catalogue of the collection was furnished, and deposited with Mr. Elliot, and when copied he will forward the original.

The collection consists of 4,000 mounted birds, 600 mounted mammals, and about 2,000 fishes and reptiles mounted and in alcohol. It is regarded as one of the most important private collections in Europe, and has long been consulted by the scientific world, and contains a large number of *types*, the results of the Prince's explorations in South America, and many rare specimens which have been secured at intervals during the period of a long lifetime. We were informed by competent experts that the cost of mounting this collection exceeds the price we paid for it.

The fact that we had secured the important collection of Prince Maximilian rendered the labor of selecting from the different departments of the Verreaux collection, one requiring great care; and such work could only be done by one possessing scientific knowledge. This labor was performed with great assiduity and skill by Mr. Elliot. A large number of the selections from this collection embraced the rarest specimens, as they were required only to enlarge and complete our collections already obtained.

Our negotiations resulted in purchasing the following specimens from the different departments of this well-known collection, viz. : about 2,800 mounted birds, 220 mounted mammals, and 400 mounted skeletons of mammals, birds, reptiles and fishes, at a cost of about \$16,000 in gold. In this connection I may state, that the price asked for the collection from which the above were selected was \$45,000 in gold. Mr. Elliot informed me that these specimens, with those previously procured, would render the remaining portion of the Verreaux collection, after our selections were withdrawn from it, of little value to our Museum.

In addition to the above purchases, at the earnest solicitation of Mr. Elliot I purchased from M. Vedray about 250 specimens of mounted mammals and Siberian birds, which were regarded as very rare by scientific collectors. The price paid was \$1,000 in gold.

Particular pains were taken to obtain the cheapest rate of freight, and the Cunard Line having made the lowest bid, orders were given to forward the Paris collections in their steamers.

The work of preparing the specimens for shipment was at once begun, and nearly all the selection from the Verreaux collection, and the specimens purchased from M. Vedray, have already arrived, and are now safely stored in the Arsenal Building on Central Park.

We were fortunate in enlisting the services of Mr. Edward R. Andrews, of the firm of Jas. W. Tucker & Co., at Paris, who volunteered to give his personal attention to any business connected with the Museum without charge.

The following *resumé* of the collections purchased by the Museum may be interesting to the Board of Trustees, namely : 9,500 birds, 870 mounted mammals, 2,000 fishes and reptiles, and one of the most interesting collections in Europe, consisting of over 400 mounted skeletons of mammals, birds, reptiles and fishes. These purchases have been made from our fund, which does not exceed \$45,000 currency.

The presence of Mr. Elliot in Europe, and the personal interest he feels in the success of the Museum, are of the greatest importance to us, and he can render the Museum most valuable service in making separate purchases of such specimens as would greatly increase the importance of our collection. We have now reached a point when it would be a questionable policy to purchase any large collection of mammals or birds entire, as a great portion of such a purchase would only furnish us with duplicates. On the other hand, judicious investments can be constantly made in increasing our species and specimens, and it would be a wise decision to authorize Mr. Elliot to make selections from time to time for the Society, if our exchequer would warrant it. As an illustration, the American bird, now extinct, called the "Great Auk," could be purchased at this time from a private collection in London. It is the only specimen known for sale, and after it has gone into a public collection, it may be years before another specimen can be procured at any price. The same will apply to various other animals we could have procured, namely, a fine dromedary, and an Australian buffalo; but our instructions were confined to the purchase of specific collections and we did not feel warranted in buying others.

The present condition of the Museum, with the acquisition of so large a property, may well be regarded by the public with

favor, and fully satisfy the contributors to the fund; and, in my opinion, an appeal to the public would be responded to liberally at this time.

Feeling impressed with the great importance of the enterprise we have in charge, and of the interest the public will take in its success, I beg to present this informal report of my participation in the business of the Museum during the last three months of the past year, for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted.

WILLIAM T. BLODGETT.

NEW YORK, JANUARY 21, 1870.

To the Trustees of the American Museum of Natural History:

GENTLEMEN—As a contribution to the collections of Natural History which you are forming for the benefit of the public, I take the liberty to offer for your acceptance a collection of North American Insects of all orders, except Lepidoptera.

This collection, formed by me during my residence in this country, contains about one thousand species of beetles, in about 2000 specimens and about 1800 specimens of the other orders. In all, about 3,800 specimens.

Small as this collection is, when compared to the total number of insects existing in this country, I hope that it will prove useful in giving an impulse to the forming of further collections in this branch of natural history.

The specimens are, with very few exceptions, named and properly classified. The only conditions which I put upon the acceptance of this collection are:

First—That it shall be preserved from injury by being transferred as soon as possible to entomological cabinet boxes, constructed upon the model used in the Berlin Museum, and also in Prof. Agassiz's Museum of Comparative Zoology in Cambridge; such boxes, as a prolonged experience has shown, are entirely proof against the most dangerous enemy of collections, the destructive beetles *Anthenus*.

Second—That the collection should be rendered as useful as possible by being made accessible to the public, as far as consistent with its safety and preservation.

The collection has been temporarily arranged in a cabinet of twenty drawers, kindly lent for the purpose by Mr. Coleman T. Robinson, and is now ready for delivery.

A collection of insect architecture, principally galls, which I also intend to present to the Museum of Natural History, has not been put in order from want of the show cases necessary for its exhibition.

I must distinctly state that I look upon the present arrangement of these collections merely as a temporary one, affording materials for a future popular entomological collection such as it is desirable to have established in the Museum, a collection always open for public inspection, and affording every person, desirous to learn, the means of acquiring a general knowledge of the classification of insects, and of naming at least the more striking forms among their specimens.

I cannot conclude without returning my sincere thanks to Mr. C. T. Robinson for the facilities and the assistance he most generously tendered me in the arrange-

ment of the collection. Without these facilities it would have been impossible, in such a short time, to put these collections in shape for the purpose of presenting them to you.

I am, Gentlemen, very respectfully, yours,
R. OSTEN SACKEN.

NEW YORK, JANUARY 25th, 1870.

To the Trustees of the American Museum of Natural History:

GENTLEMEN—I wish to present to you a collection of American and European Lepidoptera, consisting of about three thousand species, represented by at least ten thousand specimens. This collection will be ready for delivery as soon as suitable drawers are furnished by the Museum for its reception. The Butterflies will require twenty and the Moths forty drawers similar in size to those in which the valuable collections presented by Baron Osten Sacken are arranged.

I will be glad to add to your Library one hundred volumes of books on Entomological and Conchological subjects.

I am, gentlemen, yours, very respectfully,

COLEMAN T. ROBINSON.

PARTIAL LIST OF BOOKS,

Presented by C. T. Robinson.

- | | | |
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| CRESSON, E. T. | Hymenoptera of Cuba..... | Philadelphia, 1865 |
| DRURY, DRW. | Illustrations of Exotic Entomology, 3 v..... | London, 1837 |
| DALMAN, J. W. | Analecta Entomologica..... | Holm., 1823 |
| ESPER, J. C. | Die (Europäischen) Schmetterlinge. 8 v..... | Erlangen, 1777-1830 |
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| | | Philadelphia, 1865 |
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| do | New species of North American Coleoptera | " 1863 |
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.....Washington, 1863-4
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- BOURGUIGNAT, M. J. R. Malacologie de la Bretagne. 8vo...Paris 1860.
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- GUERIN, F. E. Dictionnaire d'Histoire Naturelle, 9 vols., 4to...Paris, 1837-40
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- TRYON, GEO. W., JR. Monograph of the Pholadacea. 8vo.....Phila., 1862

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Presented by A. L. Rawson, Esq.

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