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Department of Arts and Industries - Section of Technological Collections: Annual Report 1896 - 1897

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TECHNOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS

Transportation and Engineering.



1. How has the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, compared with the previous year, as far as (a) the number of accessions and (b) their scientific value are concerned?

(a) About the same.

(b) Historically about the same.

2. Name, in the order of their importance, the accessions of the year which deserve special notice, and state in each case whether given, lent, received in exchange or purchased.

The most important addition from an historical point of view to the collection is a poster of the stage-coach line running between Providence, Rhode Island, and Worcester, Massachusetts, in 1821, bearing the date October ninth of that year.

*From Mrs. S. H. Almstead.
Gift.*

The two accessions which follow this are also of importance as they each hold the first place in their respective classes and mark the beginning of a new epoch in the manufactures for which they are used.

Horton Automatic Basket Machine. The first machine for the manufacture of baskets.

31844 *H. G. Allen Bais
Wash. D.C.*

Boiler riveting machine. The original operating model using steam as power.

*From Chas. H. Haswell
Gift. New York City*

3. Indicate briefly the present condition of the exhibition series and the study series.

The exhibition series and study series, the two being combined in one, with the exception of labeling are in fairly good condition considering the limited space at the disposal of the Curator.

4. State what progress has been made in administering upon the collections under your charge.

Owing to the lack of proper assistance and the curators time being taken up with more important matters no change in administering the collection has been possible.

5. What special investigations have you commenced, continued, or completed, upon material under your care, during the year?

None.

6. What explorations (a) by members of the Museum staff, and (b) under other auspices, have resulted in enriching the collections under your care?

None.

7. What material from your department has been transmitted to students and investigators outside of the Museum during the year, and in connection with what special investigation was the material needed? It should be stated in each case whether or not the material has been returned to the Museum.

A small synoptical series was arranged and sent to the Tennessee Centennial Exposition which opened on May first.

8. Give the names of any persons who have prosecuted investigations in your department during the year, and state the special aim of their studies.

None.

9. Give a list of persons, other than contributors, who during the year have aided your department by their assistance and advice; and indicate briefly the nature of their services.

None.

10. Give a list of the papers published during the year by yourself and your official associates and collaborators, so far as the same are based upon Museum material. If any paper is based partly but not entirely upon Museum material, that fact should be indicated.

[Each notice for the bibliography should be accompanied by a full and complete citation (e.g., Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XV, No. 898, Aug. 4, 1892, pp. 179-219, pls. XIX-XXI, figs. 8-10), and also by a brief abstract of the paper.]

None.

11. Give a list of the new genera and subgenera, species and subspecies described in the papers referred to in the answer to question 10 (e.g., *Gonodela rhabdophora*. W. J. Holland, (Lep.) Masai Land, Africa. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus., XVIII, No. 21062, May 27, 1896, p. 256, pl. VIII, fig. 5). If the type specimen is not in the National Museum, that fact should be indicated by the use of an asterisk.

None.

12. Please present any plans which you have in view for the development of your department.

the
An entire re-arrangement of [^]exhibition series as soon as
additional space is found.

13. (a) Give the number of specimens received during the year. (This number should include deposits, and all other specimens received, regardless of their final disposition.)
- (b) Give the total number of specimens in your custody, after making allowance for deductions through waste material, exchanges and distributions.
- (c) Give the number of the last entries in your catalogue on June 30, 1896, and June 30, 1897.

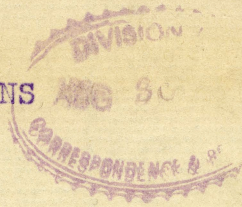
18200
18203
18205

(a) Three specimens have been received.

Dec. 14-97
Mr. Watkins says
add 3 to last year's total (1911)
for present total.

FORWARDED BY
MR. RATHBUN
MARCH 1913

TECHNOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS



Naval Architecture

1. How has the fiscal ending June 30, 1897, compared with the previous year, as far as (a) the number of accessions and (b) their scientific value are concerned?

The number of specimens has been larger and , scientifically, are of much greater value.

2. Name, in the order of their importance, the accessions of the year which deserve special notice, and state in each case whether given, lent, received in exchange or purchased.

From an historical point of view the small pamphlet "A Short Treatise on the Application of Steam" by James Rumsey published in 1788 comes first. *From Thomas Rumsey Gift*

In addition to the above the collection has been ^{the} enriched by models of a full rigged ship "America", in which all the sails and important parts - about four hundred and twenty-five in number - are labeled, and ~~the~~ steamboat R.F. Stockton. ~~The~~ first iron steamboat with screw propeller to cross the Atlantic.

3. Indicate briefly the present condition of the exhibition series and the study series.

The collection is not fully labelled, but it is hoped that competent assistance will be given the Curator so this can be done during the coming year.

4. State what progress has been made in administering upon the collections under your charge.

Owing to the enlargement of the cases, by making the wall case deeper in the boat hall, it has been possible to arrange the exhibition series in much better sequence.

It has not been possible to provide for a study series there being no suitable place for a laboratory as the material is bulky, but the needs of the student have been considered in the present arrangement of the exhibition series and will also be considered in the labelling.

Labels are in course of preparation.

5. What special investigations have you commenced, continued, or completed, upon material under your care, during the year?

None.

6. What explorations (a) by members of the Museum staff, and (b) under other auspices, have resulted in enriching the collections under your care?

None.

7. What material from your department has been transmitted to students and investigators outside of the Museum during the year, and in connection with what special investigation was the material needed? It should be stated in each case whether or not the material has been returned to the Museum.

None.

8. Give the names of any persons who have prosecuted investigations in your department during the year, and state the special aim of their studies.

None.

9. Give a list of persons , other than contributors, who during the year have aided your department by their assistance and advice; and indicate briefly the nature of their services.

None.

10. Give a list of ^{the} papers published during the year by yourself and your official associates and collaborators, so far as the same are based upon Museum material. If any paper is based partly but not entirely upon Museum material, that fact should be indicated.

[Each notice for the bibliography should be accompanied by a full and complete citation (e.g., Proc. U.S.Nat.Mus. XV, No. 898, Aug. 4, 1892, pp. 179-219, pls. XIX-XXI, figs. 8-10), and also ^{by} a brief abstract of the paper.]

None.

11. Give a list of the new genera and subgenera, species and subspecies described in the papers referred to in the answer to question 10 (e.g., *Gonodela rhabdophora*, W.J.Holland, (Lep) Masai Land, Africa. Proc. U.S.Nat.Mus., XVIII, No. 1062, May 27, 1896, p. 256, pl. VIII, fig.5). If the type specimen is not in the National Museum, that fact should be indicated by the use of an asterisk.

None.

12. Please present any plans which you have in view for the development of your department.

The whole collection is to be carefully labelled. The models are to be repaired a great many having been damaged in transportation. Rigging of many models taken down for shipment to be done. Completing the series as far as the present means at command will allow.

13. (a) Give the number of specimens received during the year. (This number should include deposits, and all other specimens received, regardless of their final disposition.)
- (b) Give the total number of specimens in your custody, after making allowance for deductions through waste material, exchanges and distributions.
- (c) Give the number of the last entries in your catalogue on June 30, 1896, and June 30, 1897.

(a) During the year five specimens have been received.

(b) There are 1336 specimens now in the collection.

(c) June 30, 1896 Catalogue number 160402.

June 30, 1897 Catalogue number 160407.

AUG 30 1897

CORRESPONDENCE & REPLY'S

Animal Products.

1. How has the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, compared with the previous year, as far as (a) the number of accessions and (b) their scientific value are concerned?

3. Indicate briefly the present condition of the exhibition series and the study series.

The Animal Products Collection now on exhibition is not arranged in a series or as complete as it is hoped it will be in the near future.

The study series is not in a satisfactory condition, portions having been put in storage at various times with no complete list showing where they can be found. It is hoped that during the coming year something can be done in the way of an arrangement making them accessible.

2. 2. Name, in the order of their importance, the accessions of the year which deserve special notice, and state in each case whether given, lent, received in exchange or purchased.

The only accession was

One small piece of tanned human skin.

4. State what progress has been made in administering upon the collections under your charge.

The large number of unit boxes in the Fisheries Hall have been gone over and a tentative exhibit arranged in cases.

5. What special investigations have you commenced, continued, or completed, upon material under your care , during the year?

No special investigations have been attempted.

6. What explorations (a) by members of the Museum staff, and (b) under other auspices, have resulted in enriching the collections under your care?

None

7. What material from your department has been transmitted to students and investigators outside of the Museum during the year, and in connection with what special investigations was the material needed? It should be stated in each case whether or not the material has been returned to the Museum.

None

8. Give the names of any persons who have prosecuted investigations in your department during the year, and state the special aim of their studies.

None

9. Give a list of persons, other than contributors, who during ~~the~~ the year have aided your department by their assistance and advice; and indicate briefly the nature of their services.

None

10. Give a list of ^{the} papers published during the year by yourself and your official associates and collaborators, so far as the same are based upon Museum material. If any paper is based partly but not entirely upon Museum material, that fact should be indicated.

[Each notice for the bibliography should be accompanied by a full and complete citation (e.g., proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. XV, No. 898, Aug. 4, 1892, pp. 179-219, pls. XIX-XXI, figs. 8-10), and also by a brief abstract of the paper.]

None

11. Give a list of the new genera and subgenera, species and subspecies described in the papers referred to in the answer to question 10 (e.g., *Gonodela rhabdophora*, W.J.Holland, (Sep.) Masai Land, Africa. Proc.U.S.Nat.Mus., XVIII, No. 1062, May 27, 1896, p. 256, pl. VIII, fig.5). If the type specimen is not in the National Museum, that fact should be indicated by the use of an asterisk.

None.

12. Please present any plans which you have in view for the development of your department.

That the collections now in storage be gone over and a catalogue completed. Also that the exhibition series which was tentatively arranged be re-arranged, labeled and as many gaps filled in as is possible from material now in storage.

13.

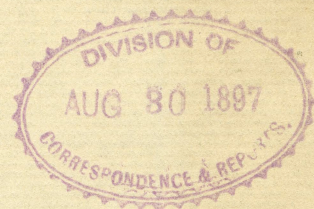
- (a) Give the number of specimens received during the year. (This number should include deposits, and all other specimens received, regardless of their final disposition.)
- (b) Give ^{the} total number of specimens in your custody, after making allowance for deductions through waste material, exchanges and distributions.
- (c) Give the number of the last entries in your catalogue on June 30, 1896, and June 30, 1897.

(a) one

(b) same as last year

(c) no entries

TECHNOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS



Textiles.

1. How has the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, compared with the previous year, as far as (a) the number of accessions and (b) their scientific value are concerned ?

(a) There have been no accessions.

2. Name, in the order of their importance, the accessions of the year which deserve special notice , and state in each case whether given, lent, received in exchange or purchased.

None.

3. Indicate briefly the present condition of the exhibition series and the study series.

The textile collection now on exhibition is not arranged in a series or as complete as it is hoped it will be when the gallery work will allow changes to be made.

The study series is not in satisfactory condition, portions having been put in storage at various times with no complete list showing where they can be found. It is hoped that during the coming year something can be done in the way of an arrangement making them accessible.

4. State what progress has been made in administering upon the collections under your charge.

The large number of unit boxes in the Fisheries Hall have been gone over and a tentative exhibit arranged in cases.

5. What special investigations have you commenced, continued, or completed, upon material under your care, during the year?

No special investigations have been attempted.

6. What explorations (a) by members of the Museum staff, and (b) under other auspices, have resulted in enriching the collections under your care?

None.

7. What material from your department has been transmitted to students and investigators outside of the Museum during the year, and in connection with what spacial investigation was the material needed? It should be stated in each case whether or not the material has been returned to the Museum.

None.

8. Give the names of any persons who have prosecuted investigations in your department during the year, and state the special aim of their studies.

None.

9. Give a list of persons, other than contributors, who during the year have aided your department by their assistance and advice; and indicate briefly the nature of their services.

None.

10. Give a list of ^{the} papers published during the year by yourself and your official associates and collaborators, so far as the same are based upon Museum material. If any paper is based partly but not entirely upon Museum material, that fact should be indicated.

[Each notice for the bibliography should be accompanied by a full and complete citation (e.g., Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus., XV, No. 898, Aug. 4, 1892, pp. 179-219, pls. XIX-XXI, figs. 8-10), and also by a brief abstract of the paper.]

None.

11. Give a list of the new genera and subgenera, species and subspecies described in the papers referred to in the answer to question 10 (e.g., *Gonodela rhabdophora*, W.J. Holland, (Lep.) Masai Land, Africa. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus., XVIII, No. ¹⁰⁵² May 27, 1896, p. 256, pl. VIII, fig. 5). If the type specimen is not in the National Museum, that fact should be indicated by the use of an asterisk.

None.

12. Please present any plans which you have in view for the development of your department.

That the collections now in storage be gone over and a catalogue completed. Also that the exhibition series which was tentatively arranged be re-arranged, labeled and as many gaps filled in as is possible from material now in storage.

13.

- (a) Give the number of specimens received during the year. (This number should include deposits, and all other specimens received, regardless of their final disposition.)
- (b) Give the total number of specimens in your custody, after making allowance for deductions through waste material, exchanges and distributions.
- (c) Give the number of the last entries in your catalogue on June 30, 1896, and June 30, 1897.

(a) There were no specimens received during the year.

(b) About 3000. 4942

(c) On June 30, 1897 the catalogue number was 8251.

TECHNOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS.

1896.



The division of Technological Collections was organized February 1, 1895 with a view of completing the study and arrangement of the several series then under control as well as the many unclassified objects acquired by the Museum during the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia and since its close over twenty years ago. Owing to the limited exhibition space at the command of the Curator many of these exhibits still remain or have been placed in storage.

The new duties of the Curator to which he was assigned in October 1896 have delayed the active prosecution of classification and labelling but such work as has been proceeded with has been done with the view of assembling together and preserving such objects as have had a marked influence upon our lives and habits in the development of civilization under the general category of the epoch making inventions.

In order to do this the following tentative classification has been adopted for convenience in administration:

a Transportation and Engineering

(1) Transportation by land:

Vehicles without wheels
Vehicles with wheels.

(2) Transportation by water:

Rafts and primitive crafts
Sailing vessels
Steam boats and steamships

(3) Electrical Engineering:

Telegraph
Telephone
Light and heat
Motors stationary and for traction

(4) Machines and appliances of historical interest.

Already sent up. b Textiles . Arranged to show the history of art of weaving.

c Animal Products.

Arranged to show the result of human effort in utilizing the products of the Animal kingdom.

Already sent up. d Foods.

Arranged to show the adaptation of the products of the animal, vegetable and mineral kingdoms to supply food for man.

e Physical Apparatus

(Recently added not under control.)

E. E. Wetmore
Curator