

# Journal of the Minnesota Academy of Science

---

Volume 1 | Number 2

Article 4

---

1874

## Report of the Curator of the Museum

Charles Simpson

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/jmas>

---

### Recommended Citation

Simpson, C. (1874). Report of the Curator of the Museum. *Journal of the Minnesota Academy of Science*, Vol. 1 No.2, 71-76.

Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/jmas/vol1/iss2/4>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of the Minnesota Academy of Science by an authorized editor of University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. For more information, please contact [skulann@morris.umn.edu](mailto:skulann@morris.umn.edu).

## ORDER IX.

## RUMINATIA.

Cervidæ.	Cervinæ.	Alces americanus.	<i>Fardin.</i>	Moose.
"	"	Rangifer caribou.	<i>Aud and Bach.</i>	Rein deer.
"	"	Cervus canadensis.	<i>Ersk.</i>	Elk.
"	"	C. virginianus.	<i>Boddaert.</i>	Red deer.
"	"	C. leucurus.	<i>Douglass.</i>	White-tailed "
Cavicorniæ.	Antilopinæ.	Antilocapra americana.	<i>Ord.</i>	Antelope.
"	Ovinæ.	Capra domestica.	<i>Linn.</i>	Goat.
"	"	Ovis domesticus.	<i>Linn.</i>	Sheep.
"	Bovinæ (Bos).	Bison americanus.	<i>Gmelin.</i>	Buffalo.
"	"	Bos domesticus.	<i>Linn.</i>	Ox.

NOTE—The foregoing report was made up from the reports of explorations and surveys from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean, and from statements of hunters, fur traders, and personal knowledge of the writer.

## REPORT OF THE CURATOR OF THE MUSEUM.

*Mr. President* : In submitting the following report on the museum of the Academy, I regret that it has been impossible to furnish as many details as the subject properly demands. The short time during which the collection has been made, and the fact that the collectors and donors have seldom furnished the specific or scientific names, have thrown a work on my hands which I have found neither the time nor the ability to perform. All that I shall attempt, in this report, will be, to give as comprehensively as may be, the present condition of our cabinet, endeavoring to give an idea of the extent to which the various departments are represented.

It will be remembered that our museum is only a year old, and while this explains its incompleteness, and renders apologies unnecessary, we are encouraged by the fact that it is deficient, only in a greater degree than institutions of an older growth, for it is a characteristic of all collections illustrating natural phenomena, that they are, and always will be, incomplete.

Since the Academy took possession of its present rooms, cases have been constructed for the accommodation of our geological and mineralogical specimens, copied from similar

cases in the museum of the University of Michigan, which are sufficient, not only for our present collection, but for all that we may reasonably expect to accumulate for some time to come. Ten cases of a different character, with glass covers, intended for the exhibition of specimens of a more delicate nature, such as insects and shells, have also been procured and partly utilized.

The scope of the museum will be better understood by giving under each of the different departments, the number and character of the specimens illustrating it.

#### I—GEOLOGY AND PALEONTOLOGY.

The collection in this department is the most extensive in our possession. It comprises several thousand specimens, mostly illustrative of the geology and paleontology of Minnesota, although other sections of the country are, to some extent, represented. The Minnesota fossils are, of course, all from the Paleozoic age, and nearly all from the Silurian deposits which abound in nearly all parts of the State, and especially about the Falls of St. Anthony. Our collection from the neighborhood of the city, may be said to be a very fair exposition of the character of the strata and the fossil remains which are embedded in them. There are, however, sections of the State—more especially the southern part—which are not represented, but which are believed to be able to furnish many valuable additions to our already pretty full representation of Silurian life. From the Yellowstone country we have in our possession fossil specimens of some value, but their number does not exceed, perhaps, a dozen. Still, we have a nucleus which, we hope, will grow rapidly, by contributions from that interesting region. Recently, some relics of the extinct animals of the continent have been received, for instance: a large fragment of the tusk of *Elephas americanus* (?) from the vicinity of the Falls, the scapula and a dorsal vertebra of an animal which Prof. Liedy thinks is the *Bison antiquus*, from the region of the Missouri river.

#### II—MINERALOGY AND CHEMISTRY.

This department, like the preceding, has received numerous contributions. There are over 350 specimens numbered—but

not named. It comprises specimens from the neighborhood of our city; from the more southern portions of the State; from Lake Superior, Red River, Colorado, Rocky Mountains, California and the Yellowstone. The minerals represented are, for the most part, granites and granitoids, ores of lead, copper, iron, silver and gold, together with numerous specimens of concretions, quartz, mica, gypsum and the like. The Lake Superior region has furnished a large variety of minerals to the collection, and much more is expected the coming year.

### III—ZOOLOGY AND COMPARATIVE ANATOMY.

Owing to the greater difficulty and expense of procuring specimens in this department, there has, as might have been expected, comparatively little done. So far, the deer is the best represented mammal in the collection—a handsomely prepared specimen of which has been recently added to the museum by Mr. C. E. Whitney. Other accessions are promised, which, when received, will be properly prepared and preserved.

### IV—ARGHEOLOGY AND STATE HISTORY.

More has been done in this department of research than was anticipated. The State, while not furnishing the best field for the pursuit of archeological study, yet, in common with all sections of the country, numerous remains of the handiwork of the aboriginal races of the continent are to be found in our midst. In this section there are about one hundred specimens, all told. The more important are: fragments of two ancient skulls found on the present site of Lakewood Cemetery; numerous fragments of skulls and other bones of the human body (bearing the marks of teeth, as if they had been gnawed), flint arrow-heads and pottery intermixed with charcoal, found in a mound near Long Lake, Ramsey county, at depths varying from four to sixteen feet from the surface of the mound; three stone hammers, of the ambleside variety, from Minnetonka, Minneapolis and Lake Superior; a stone ax and arrow-head from Maine, presented by Mr. Barker; and various implements of horn and bone from the Missouri river. There are also, several specimens of ancient coins, and marble, said to be from the ruins of ancient Carthage; several documents of revolutionary date; and a human

jaw bone and several long bones of the human skeleton purported to have been found in the drift of the Mississippi river.

I leave details to the report of the Committee on Archeology—noting the simple fact that in this department, as in the others, we have made a bare beginning.

#### V—BOTANY AND ENTOMOLOGY.

Nothing has been done in botany. There are no specimens in the museum. In entomology, there are between 300 and 400 specimens of native Lepidoptera arranged in a glass case. They are, however, not named nor classified. There are numerous specimens of the different classes, variously preserved, but not yet arranged so as to be of much value. It may be remarked that all that has been done has been accomplished during the past season.

#### VI—ORNITHOLOGY.

Although but a few specimens of our native birds have found their way to our museum, the fact that the gentlemen who will give their attention to this field of study are ornithologists of considerable experience and unusual industry, speaks well for the future of this section of our cabinet. Contributions, we have every reason to believe, will be made rapidly.

#### VII—CONCHOLOGY.

Something has been done in this department. There are several hundred land and fresh-water shells, mostly native to the State, and a few marine shells. The absence hitherto, of an experienced conchologist among us, has rendered the collection and classification of the shells of our State somewhat difficult. It is expected that another season will give a fresh impetus to the study of conchology, and the museum, in consequence, receive numerous additions.

#### CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

Smithsonian Reports, years 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, — 1869, 1870.

“ Contributions to Knowledge, Nos. 57, 172, two volumes, 192, 197

“ Miscellaneous collections, Nos. 34, 140, 143, 144 two volumes, 145, 160, 171, 177, 179, 181, 183, 194, 200, 283, 219, three volumes, 227.

War Department—Special Service—4 maps.

Prof. F. V. Hayden—Sixth Annual Report Geological Surveys of Territories.  
1 vol. Extinct Vertebrate Fauna.  
1 vol. Synopsis of the Acrididæ of North America.

Prof. James D. Dana—Twelve Memoirs.

Prof. Asa Gray—Two documents.

Prof. Jos. Leidy—1 Synopsis of Extinct Mammalia of North America.

Hon. Alex. Ramsey—U. S. Geological Survey of Wyoming and Contiguous Territories, 1870.

U. S. Geological Survey of Montana and Adjacent Territories, 1871.

Two volumes Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion, 1861 to 1865.

Two volumes Census of the United States.

One copy of Commission of George Washington, dated 1775.

U. S. Geological Survey of Montana and Adjacent Territories for 1872.

Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences.

Eighth Annual Report of the Illinois Institution for the Education of Feeble Minded Children.

Transactions of the Indianapolis Academy of Natural Sciences, for 1870 to 1872, and Geological Surveys for 1869, 1870 and 1872, and maps accompanying for years 1869 and 1872.

Celebration of Humboldt Centennial and opening of the Iowa Institute of Science and Art.

Fifth Annual Report of the Trustees of the Peabody Institute.

Address of Edwin Jarvis, M. D., on the Increase of Human Life of American Statistical Association.

Status and Standing Votes of the Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Transactions of Academy of Sciences of Saint Louis, vol. 3, No. 1, 1873.

American Geological Society, New York City—Bulletin of the Society's Session of 1873 and 1874.

Twenty-first Annual Report of the Regents of the University of the State of New York for 1871, No. 92.

Journal of New York State Agricultural Society for January and February, 1873, and Nos. 9 and 10, vol. 23; September and October, 1873.

Bulletins Nos. 1, 2 and 3, of vol. 1, of Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences.

Constitution and By-Laws of Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Philadelphia of 1870.

Catalogue of the Paintings and other objects of Interest of Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Transactions of Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, two copies, and one copy of the Birth-place of Americanism, and one copy of the Early Outposts of Wisconsin for 1639 to 1839.

Proceedings and Transactions of the Nova Scotian Institute of Natural Sciences, 4 vols., for years 1870, 1871, 1872 and 1873.

Canadian Journal of Science, Literature and History, vol. 1 and vol. 14.

Informe de las Esploradores del Territorio del San Martin, 1871, and Catalogo del Estado S. DeAntioquia.

Societe de Geographic—Les Origines du Nil, par M. Virlet D'Avust, Ingenieur Civil, of Paris.

Zoological Society of London—Report, six copies, 1868 to 1873, one copy of Constitution and By-Laws.

Forelæsninger og Øvelser ved Kjobenhavns Universitet—Føraars-Halvaaret, 1872; 8. Efteraars-Halvaaret, 1872; 8.

A. Aagesen—Fortsatte Bemærkninger om Rettigheder over Ting, navnlig om Ejendomsrettens Begreb: 4.

H. d'Arreat—Undersøgelser over de nebuloøse stjerner i Henseende til deres spektralanalytiske Egenskaber; 4.

V. Budde—Om Diabetes mellitus med særligt Hensyn til dens Behandling; 8.

J. G. Ditlevsen—Undersøgelse over Smagslovene paa Tungen hos Pattedyrene og Mennesket; 8.

F. Dyrlund—Tatere og Natmandsfolk i Danmark betragtede med Hensyn til Samfundsforholdene i det Hele; 8.

H. J. Garrigues—Syphilis i Strubehovedet belyst med Strubespeilet; 8.

A. Hindenburg—Om Kjob og Salg. Et Bidrag til en dansk Handelsret; 8.

Vald. Schmidt—Indledning til Syriens Historie i Oldtiden efter ikkebibelske Kilder; 8.

Myriopoda Nova Americana.

Auctoribus A. Humbert et H. DeSaussure.

As stated at the beginning of this, to me, very unsatisfactory report, the time during which we have had suitable accommodations for our collections has been so short that to give a complete list of the specimens has been found to be impracticable. It is hoped that the foregoing brief summary will give an idea of the little we have done, and perhaps something of the plan upon which the museum was established. As soon as the work of numbering, naming and classifying has been prosecuted to any considerable extent, a list will be made which will be designed as a complete index to the museum.

CHARLES SIMPSON,

*Curator.*