

**THE EXHIBITS OF THE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
AT THE PANAMA-PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION**

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The Exhibits of the Smithsonian Institution at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition by
Various

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PANAMA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL
EXPOSITION
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
1915



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THE EXHIBITS
OF THE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
AT
SAN FRANCISCO

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

Founded at Washington City in 1846 under the terms of the will of James Smithson who bequeathed his fortune to the United States "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

"Every man is a valuable member of society who by his observations, researches, and experiments, procures knowledge for men."—Smithson.

James Smithson, an Englishman, born 1765, graduate of Oxford University 1786, Master of Arts, Fellow of the Royal Society, a chemist and mineralogist, died in Italy in 1829, bequeathing his fortune "to the United States of America to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

The Congress of the United States accepted the Smithson bequest and in 1846, after careful deliberation, enacted a law organizing the Smithsonian Institution. Its statutory members are the President, the Vice-President, and the Chief Justice of the United States, and the President's Cabinet. It is governed by a Board of Regents consisting of the Vice-President and the Chief Justice, as ex-officio members, three members of the United States Senate, three members of the House of Representatives, and six citizens of the United States appointed by joint resolution of Congress.

The presiding officer of the Board of Regents is the Chancellor of the Institution, who is elected by the Regents from among their own number. The present Chancellor is the Chief Justice of the United States.

The Secretary of the Institution, elected by the Regents, is its executive officer and the director of its operations.

The Institution proper is maintained by the income of its permanent fund. The original Smithson bequest and legacy of \$541,000 has been increased by gifts and bequests from others, enlarging the permanent fund to a little more than \$1,000,000. The Regents are

empowered to accept gifts, without action of Congress, in furtherance of the purposes of the Institution, and to administer trusts in accord therewith. Many important researches and expeditions, particularly during recent years, have also been aided by special trusts provided by private patrons of the Institution.

Several bureaus or branches, developed through its early activities, are administered by the Institution with the aid of annual Congressional appropriations amounting to about \$600,000. These include the United States National Museum, and the National Gallery of Art; the International Exchange Service; the Bureau of American Ethnology; the National Zoological Park; the Astrophysical Observatory; and the United States Regional Bureau of the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature.

The Smithsonian is not an educational institution of the nature of a university with a corps of professors and students, and yet its educational functions are of the highest ranks, for the members of its scientific staff and its many collaborators are constantly engaged in investigations in which students of science in all its branches participate; and the Museum collections and the collection of animals in the Zoological Park are a constant source of original information to specialists and to groups of pupils from public and private schools in Washington and elsewhere.

For the *Increase of Knowledge* the Institution aids investigators by making limited grants for research and exploration. It advises the Government in many matters of scientific importance. It coöperates with all departments of the Government and with many scientific and historical national organizations.

From the Hodgkins Fund, established by Thomas G. Hodgkins of New York, the income of \$100,000 is devoted by direction of the donor to the increase and diffusion of more exact knowledge in regard to the nature and properties of atmospheric air in connection with the welfare of mankind. Numerous investigations on the "composition of expired air and its effects upon animal life," the "air of towns," "animal resistance to disease;" researches in connection with the "temperature, pressure, radiation, and other features of the atmosphere;" "the relation of atmospheric air to tuberculosis" and many other lines of investigation have been aided by grants from the Hodgkins Fund.

The activities of the Institution embrace all branches of natural science, the fine arts, and industrial arts. Its field of operation is "the whole country, and the whole world beyond the limits of the country." Since its establishment in 1846 the Institution has inaugurated and maintained or has participated in astronomical, anthropological, bio-

logical, and geological expeditions and explorations in every portion of the world, resulting in greatly increasing our knowledge of the geography, the meteorology, the fauna and flora, and the ethnology of all lands, and in the acquisition of a vast amount of valuable material for the National Museum.

For the *Diffusion of Knowledge* it issues several series of publications constituting original contributions to knowledge, accounts of scientific explorations and investigations, and papers recording the annual progress in the field of science, which are distributed gratuitously to important libraries throughout the world.

The publications of the Institution have been numerous and include many important and authoritative works. There is no restriction as to subject; they consist of memoirs upon aeronautics, archeology, astronomy, astrophysics, ethnology, botany, zoology, geology, paleontology, meteorology, magnetism, physics, physiology, philology, and many other subjects. The several series comprise (1) The Annual Report of the Board of Regents to Congress with a general appendix of papers illustrating progress in a wide range of scientific branches; (2) Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, begun in 1850, in quarto form; (3) Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, in octavo; (4) Harriman Alaska Series on the results of the scientific expeditions to Alaska in 1899; (5) Bulletin of the National Museum including Contributions from the United States National Herbarium; (6) Proceedings of the National Museum; (7) Annual Report of the National Museum; (8) Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology; (9) Bulletin of the Bureau of American Ethnology; (10) Annals of the Astrophysical Observatory; and (11) A number of special publications independent of the above series.

There is also communicated to Congress, through the Secretary of the Institution, the annual report of the American Historical Association and of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The complete collection of Smithsonian publications numbers about 450 volumes, aggregating about two hundred thousand printed pages.

Since it would be impossible through the limited funds of the Institution and printing allotments by Congress to meet the great popular demand for Smithsonian publications, they are necessarily almost entirely distributed to learned institutions in the United States and important public libraries, where they are available for general reference.

The Institution, in coöperation with the Library of Congress, maintains a library which numbers about half a million titles, the works

consisting mainly of the transactions of learned societies, scientific periodicals, and publications of academies and universities throughout the world.

The three buildings occupied by the Institution and the Museum are in the Smithsonian Park, an area of thirty-eight acres about midway between the United States Capitol and the Washington Monument. The original Smithsonian building is of brownstone in twelfth century Norman or Lombard style of architecture, 447 feet front and covering about 60,000 square feet. It was completed in 1855. The administrative offices are here, as also several sections of the library, the Museum division of Plants or National Herbarium, comprising about one million botanical specimens from all parts of the world, and the division of Graphic Arts, also the offices of the Bureau of American Ethnology.

Adjacent to the Smithsonian building on the east is the industrial arts building of the National Museum built of brick in modernized Romanesque style of architecture, covering about $2\frac{1}{3}$ acres, and completed in 1881. Here are exhibited objects relating chiefly to technology and American history.

On the north side of the Smithsonian Park is the new natural history building of the National Museum completed in 1911. It is built of granite in modern classic style with dome and columned portico. It covers about four acres of ground and in its ground floor and the three stories there are 468,118 square feet of floor space, one-half of which is devoted to exhibition purposes, the other half being utilized for storage rooms, offices, laboratories, and other purposes. As the latest of the great Museum buildings of the world it embodies many new and important features. Here are displayed the collections pertaining to anthropology, biology, and geology, and the National Gallery of Art.

The number of visitors to the Smithsonian building from 1881 to 1914 was 4,492,091; and to the original Museum building 7,447,574; while the visitors to the new natural history building from 1910 to 1914 numbered 1,132,589.

Through the generosity of Mr. Charles L. Freer, provision has been made and tentative plans drawn for a marble structure to house the valuable collection of American and Oriental works of art presented to the Institution by Mr. Freer.

It is hoped that in the near future Congress will make provision for a suitable structure to house the collections forming the National Gallery of Art now exhibited in the natural history building.

NATIONAL MUSEUM.—By the Congressional Act of August 10, 1846, founding the Smithsonian Institution, the establishment was made custodian of the national collections in both nature and art. The

Museum branch was definitely organized in 1850, the title "U. S. National Museum" being authoritatively given by Congress in 1875. During the first few years expenses of the Museum were wholly met from the Smithsonian fund, and it was not until 1878 that the Government began to provide entirely for its maintenance, this being done through annual appropriations by Congress.

Four general divisions are recognized: (1) Natural history, including ethnology and archeology; (2) the fine arts; (3) the arts and industries; (4) history.

The division of natural history is divided into three departments, biology, geology and anthropology. The collections of natural history have been received in greater part from Government surveys and explorations, and are richest in material from North America. Many other parts of the world are also well represented in one subject or another, especially Central America, the Philippines, Malaysia, and some portions of Europe, Africa and South America. The deep-water zoological collections from both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans are the most extensive and important in existence.

Among important early sources of collections may be mentioned the United States Exploring Expedition of 1838 to 1842, the Perry Expedition to Japan, the North Pacific Exploring Expedition of the Navy, the railroad and wagon road surveys by the Army in connection with the opening up of the far west, the Canadian and Mexican boundary surveys, certain geological explorations and the work of the Coast Survey in Alaskan waters, besides many expeditions organized or assisted by the Smithsonian Institution. Of more recent date are the investigations of the Bureau of Fisheries, the Geological Survey, the Bureau of American Ethnology, and the bureaus of Plant Industry, Entomology and Biological Survey of the Department of Agriculture. Of private donors, some of whom have made gifts of great extent and value, the list is very long.

The total number of specimens in all branches of natural history recorded to the present time amounts to several millions, the annual accretion during several years past having averaged a quarter of a million specimens.

The department of the fine arts, designated the National Gallery of Art, has come into prominence during the past eight years through the bequest of Harriet Lane Johnston and the gifts of Charles L. Freer and William T. Evans, consisting mainly of paintings and oriental pottery.

Of arts and industries there are on exhibition extensive collections of firearms, the most complete in this country; boat and railroad models, electrical apparatus, time-keeping and measuring devices,