

**AN ACCOUNT OF THE SMITHSONIAN  
INSTITUTION, ITS FOUNDER, BUILDING,  
OPERATIONS, ETC.,  
PREPARED FROM THE REPORTS OF PROF.  
HENRY TO THE REGENTS, AND OTHER  
AUTHENTIC SOURCES**

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An Account of the Smithsonian Institution, its founder, building, operations, etc., prepared from the reports of Prof. Henry to the regents, and other authentic sources by William J. Rhees

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**WILLIAM J. RHEES**

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BY WILLIAM J. RHEES.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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The Smithsonian Institution has attained a world-wide reputation, and its influence and importance are constantly extending. Its publications are found not only in the public libraries of our own land, but also in those of every other civilized country. Its correspondents include some of the most distinguished cultivators of science of the present day, and it is referred to as a center of information by those who are interested in the pursuit of knowledge.

Many persons, however, who visit Washington, are but imperfectly acquainted with the history of Smithson, the great object he had in view, the plans adopted to carry out his intentions, and the results already obtained. It is for the purpose of furnishing more definite information on these points that this work has been compiled, from the annual reports of the Secretary, Professor HENRY, to the Board of Regents, and other authentic sources.