

**CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF  
SCIENCES. CONSTITUTION AND  
BY-LAWS, TRUSTEES, OFFICERS,  
MUSEUM STAFF, AND MEMBERS.  
APRIL 15, 1915**

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California Academy of Sciences. Constitution and By-laws, Trustees, Officers, Museum Staff, and Members. April 15, 1915 by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF  
SCIENCES

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Constitution and By-Laws,  
Trustees, Officers, Museum Staff,  
and Members

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## INTRODUCTION

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The first meeting at which the organization of an academy of sciences in California was considered was held in San Francisco on April 4, 1853, at the office of Lewis W. Sloat, at what was then No. 129 on the west side of Montgomery street, between Sacramento and Commercial streets. Seven gentlemen interested in science were present, viz: Dr. Andrew Randall, Dr. Henry Gibbons, Dr. Albert Kellogg, Colonel Thomas J. Nevins, Dr. John B. Trask, Dr. Charles Farris, and Lewis W. Sloat, Esq. After "a free conversation and an interchange of views and sentiments", it was decided to organize under the name "The California Academy of Natural Sciences". On April 11 a draft of a constitution was presented, which, after discussion, was recommitted for correction and engrossment. On April 18, by-laws were presented and recommitted for correction and engrossment. On Monday, May 16, the proposed constitution and by-laws, and the name "The California Academy of Natural Sciences" were formally adopted. On May 23 officers were elected as follows: President, Dr. Andrew Randall; first vice-president, Dr. Henry Gibbons; second vice-president, Colonel Thomas J. Nevins; treasurer, Dr. Arthur B. Stout; recording secretary, Lewis W. Sloat; corresponding secretary, Dr. William P. Gibbons; librarian, Thomas J. Nevins; curators, Dr. Herbert Kellogg, Edwin R. Campbell, and Dr. Henry Gibbons; chairman of library committee, Leander Ransom; publication, Thomas J. Nevins; finance, Joshua P. Havens; proceedings, Thomas J. Nevins. On June 27 the Academy was legally incorporated.

At the meeting of January 13, 1868, the constitution was slightly amended and again adopted as a whole. The name was changed to "The California Academy of Sciences".

The question of the legal status of the Academy having arisen, the organization was again incorporated January 16, 1871, and on February 24, 1871, articles of incorporation were again filed in the office of the County Clerk.

The Constitution adopted January 13, 1868, has been variously amended from time to time, particularly on May 15, 1871, August 3, 1874, January 5, 1891, January 6, 1896, January 3, 1899, January 4, 1904, January 7, 1907, and January 4, 1915.

The original gift of James Lick comprised the Market Street property which was deeded to the Academy September 29, 1875. The deed was absolutely unconditional in its terms. By the terms of the will of Mr. Lick the Academy received one-half of the residue of his estate. The total value of the Lick endowment is now conservatively estimated at one million dollars.

Other endowments and bequests of special importance have since been received as follows:

In 1881 Mr. Charles Crocker gave to the Academy \$20,000, the income from which to be used "in aid of scientific research under the auspices of the Academy".

In 1899 the Academy received from Mr. John W. Hendrie a gift of \$10,000, the income from which is, by resolution of the Board of Trustees, to be devoted to the publication of papers by the Academy.

Another public spirited citizen who has helped the Academy materially is the late William Alvord, who in his will bequeathed to the Academy the sum of \$5,000 as an endowment, the income

from which to be used to further the work of the department of botany.

Although the Academy's endowments total considerably more than a million dollars the amount is far from adequate to meet the Academy's needs.

The California Academy of Sciences is an educational institution in the broadest sense. Speaking broadly it has two primary functions. In the first place, it furnishes materials and facilities for original research in the biological and physical sciences. While its legitimate field is not limited by geographic boundaries or to particular subjects in the realm of science, it is particularly appropriate that it should concern itself with the natural history and geology of the Pacific Coast of the Americas, of the islands of the Pacific and the life in the Pacific.

The problems within these fields are many and tremendously important. Their study will result in many valuable contributions to human knowledge. The collections which would be made in connection with these investigations will add greatly to the Museum's treasures. Those that can be obtained from the islands of the Pacific will make it possible to build up in San Francisco a great Polynesian museum. San Francisco is the logical place for such a museum. It should be the ambition of the California Academy of Sciences and the people of California to build up such a museum. Such an undertaking should receive substantial encouragement.

The second function of the Academy is educational. It must maintain exhibits that interest the public and that possess real educational value, that teach definite lessons. This function of the Academy can not be too strongly emphasized. The fullest and most intimate coöperation with the public and private schools is desired. The Acad-



emy proposes to make its Museum of real value to the public and especially to school children. This will be done in accordance with a carefully thought-out system of coöperation.

To enable the Academy to realize its ambition along educational and scientific lines it must have additional endowments, as set forth in some detail in the Director's report for 1914, to which those interested are referred.

The Academy hopes to be in its new Museum building early in the fall. It will then be in a position to enter actively upon a realization of its ambitions and aims.

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