



#COLOROURCOLLECTIONS

Smithsonian Institution Archives

DID YOU KNOW?

- There were two owls who lived in the Smithsonian Castle towers, named Increase and Diffusion. Their names came from the Smithsonian's mission specified in Englishman James Smithson's last will and testament that founded the institution.
- The Smithsonian Castle caught on fire in 1865, destroying much of the interior as pictured here. Today, the Castle looks quite different inside!



- A group of young scientists lived in the Castle in the mid-1800s, called The Megatherium Club (after an extinct type of sloth). They used to hold sack races down the Castle hallways!

#COLOROURCASTLE



An engraving of the north facade of the Smithsonian Castle, based on the official Smithsonian letterhead in 1892.
Image ID: SIA2011-2247



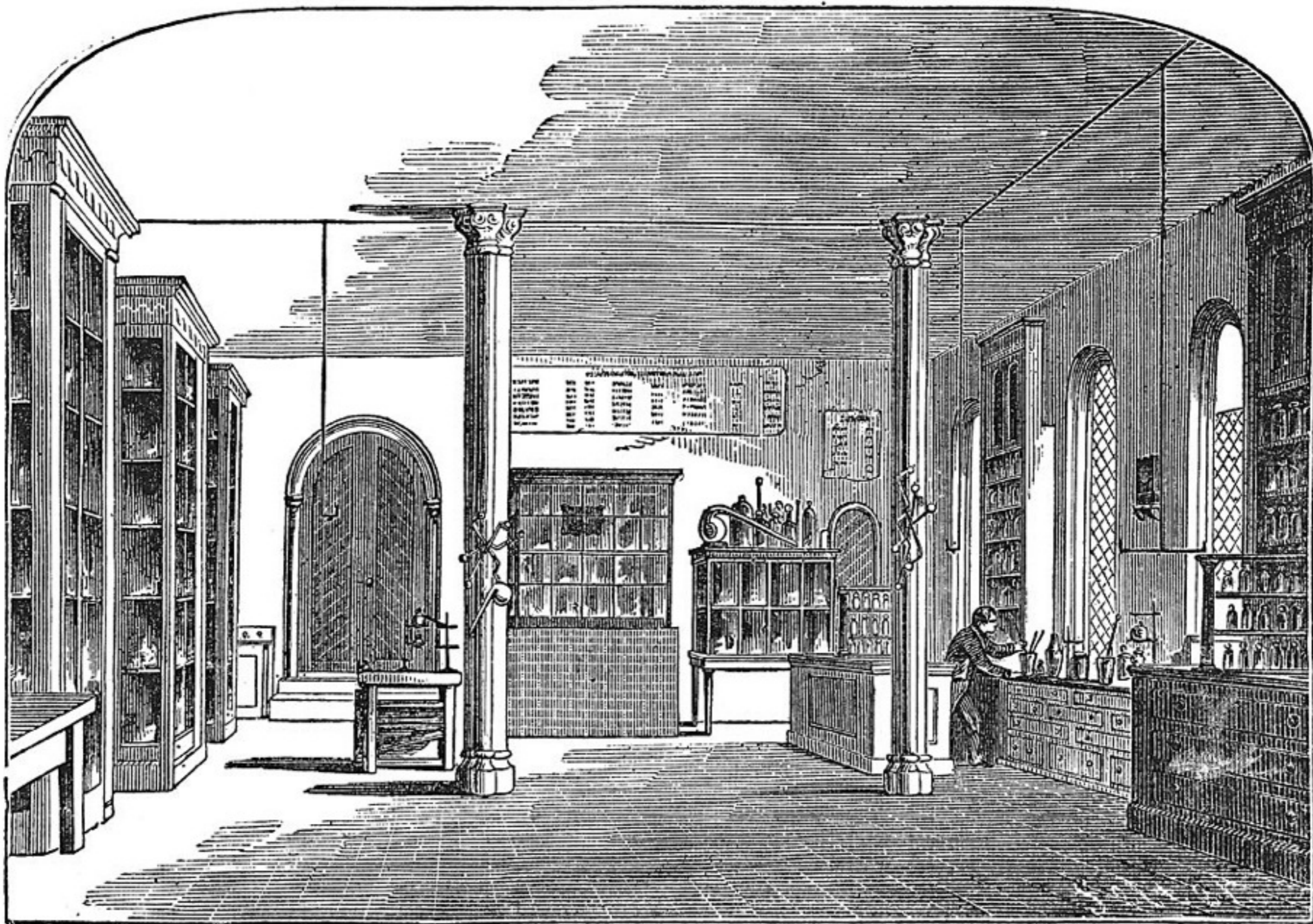
NORTH CENTRAL TOWERS.

An engraving of the north central towers of the Smithsonian Castle, published in the Smithsonian Guidebook of 1857.
Image ID: SIA2011-2829



THE GATEWAY.

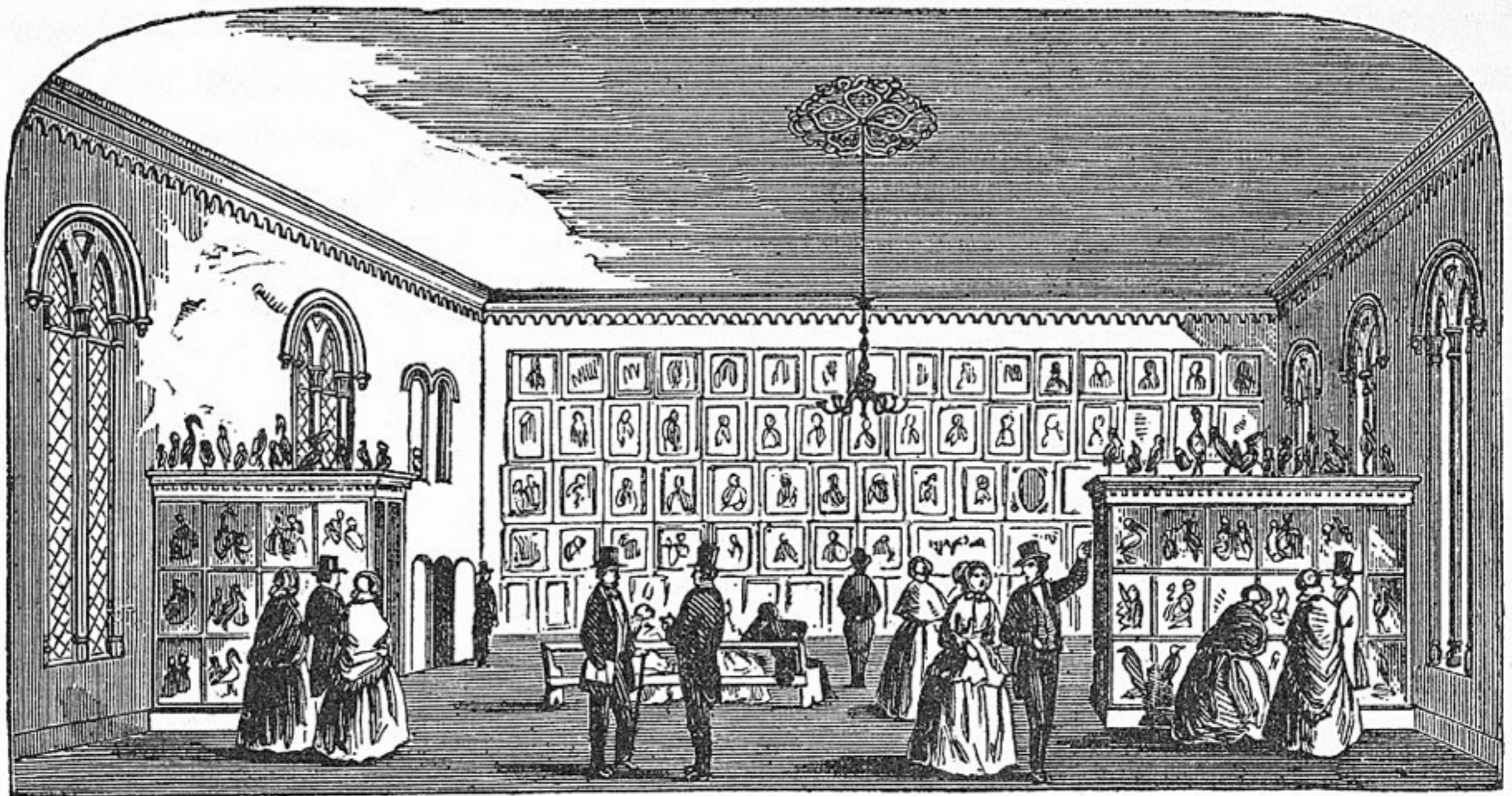
An engraving of the Smithsonian Castle gateway, published in the Smithsonian Guidebook of 1857.
Image ID: SIA2011-2830



THE CHEMICAL LABORATORY.

An engraving of the chemical lab in the Castle published in the Smithsonian Guidebook of 1857.

Image ID: MAH-43804E



THE PICTURE GALLERY.

The Gallery of Art.

An engraving of the Gallery of Art, above the Great Hall in the Castle, published in the Smithsonian Guidebook of 1857.

Image ID: 93-9501



THE MUSEUM.

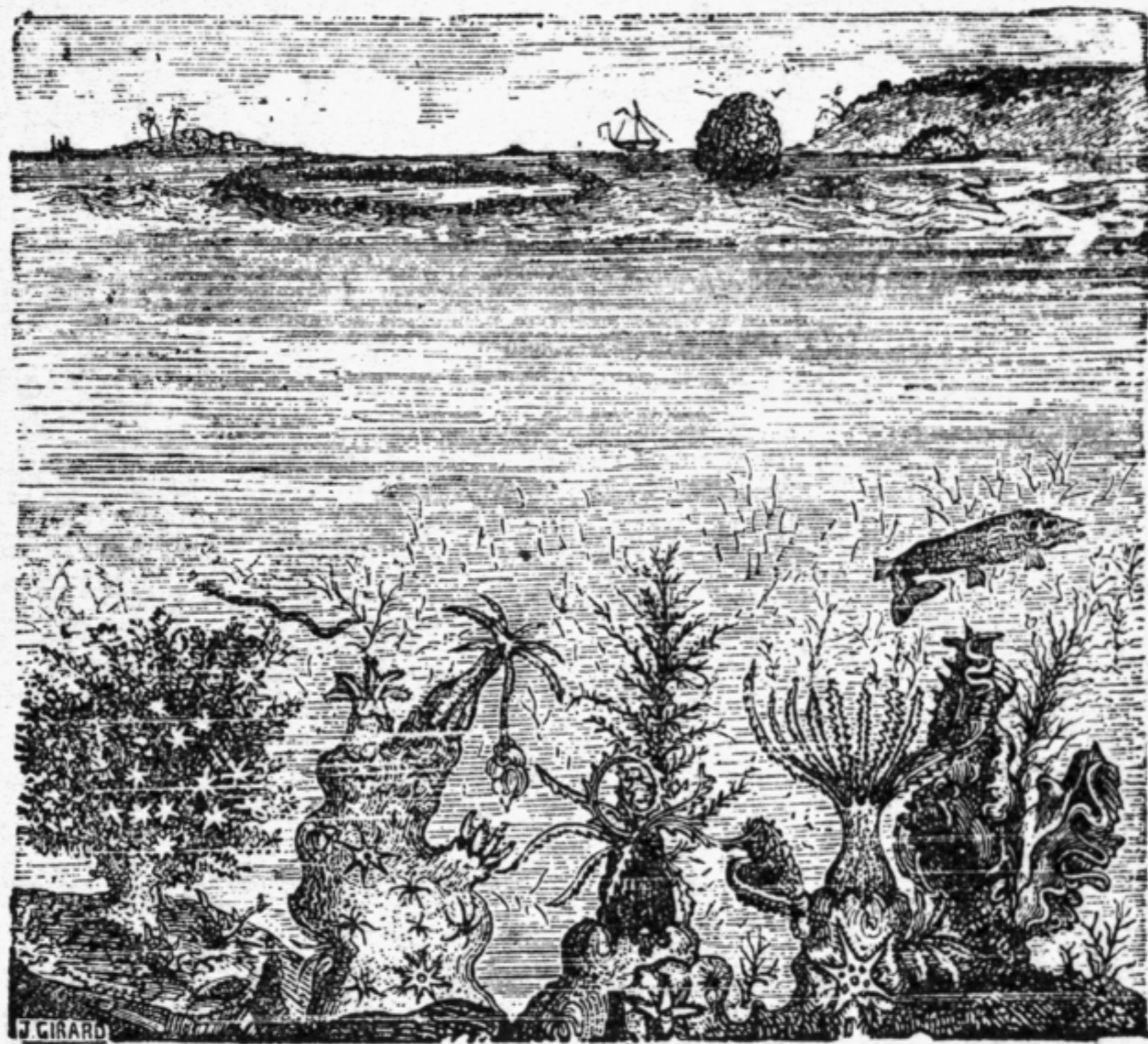
An engraving of visitors examining display cases in the Castle's Great Hall, published in the Smithsonian Guidebook of 1857.
Image ID: SIA2011-2816

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are over 640,000 specimens in today's National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) bird collection. The collection is the third largest in the world, and has items representing about 80% of the world's known bird species.
- There has been a long history of Smithsonian Secretaries conducting field research about birds. Secretaries Spencer Fullerton Baird (1878-1887), Alexander Wetmore (1945-1952) and S. Dillon Ripley (1964-1984) were ornithologists.
- The NMNH's oldest mammal specimens came to the Smithsonian from the U.S. Exploring Expedition (1838-1842) and from second Smithsonian Secretary Baird's personal collection, also from the 1840s.



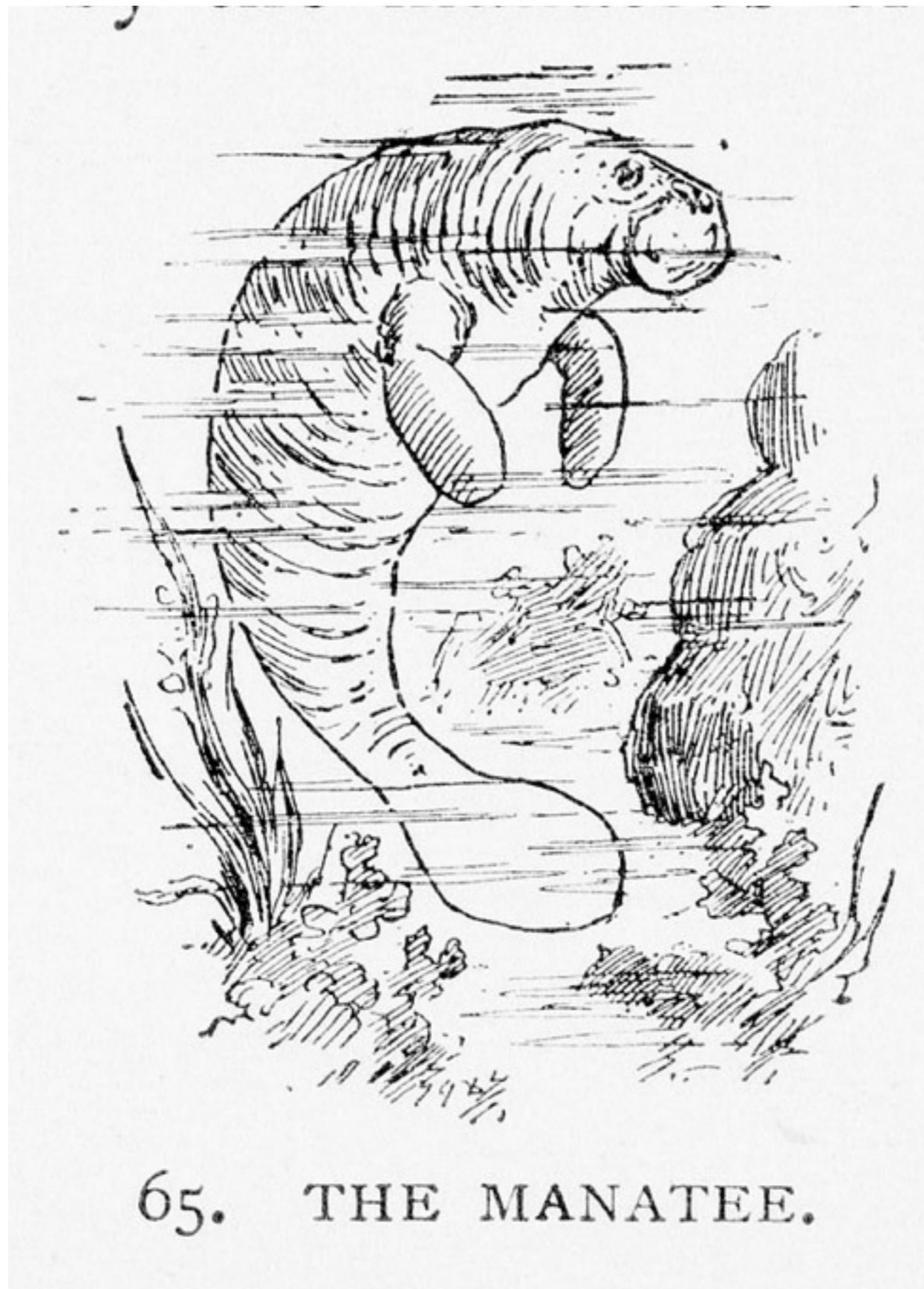
COLORFUL CREATURES



12. CORAL REEFS.

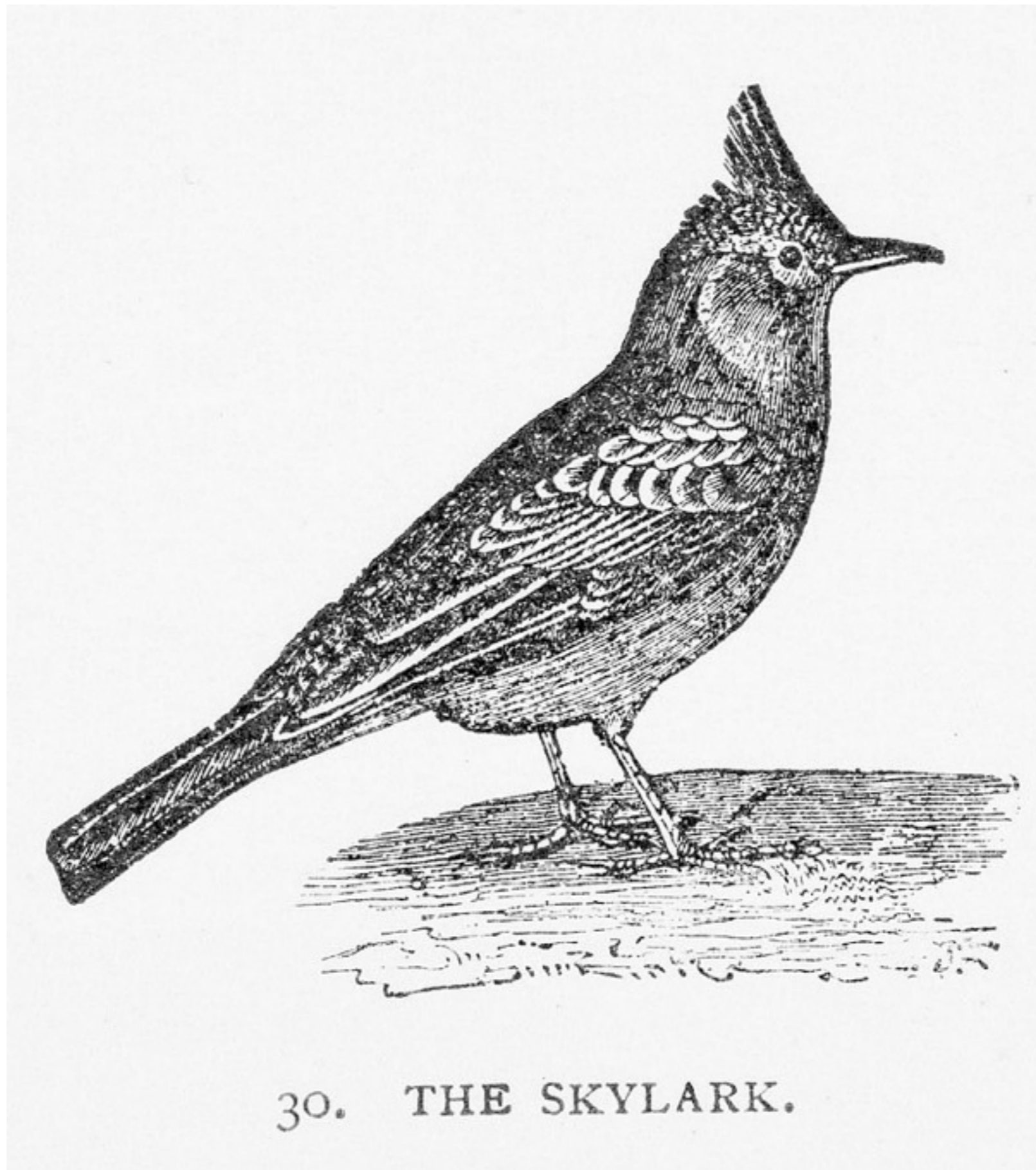
An engraving of coral reefs, published in a handbook to the US National Museum, 1886.

Image ID: 95-20337



An engraving of a manatee, published in a handbook to the US National Museum, 1886.

Image ID: 95-20350



An engraving of a skylark, published in a handbook to the US National Museum, 1886.

Image ID: 95-20351



27. THE NIGHTINGALE.

An engraving of a nightingale, published in a handbook to the US National Museum, 1886.

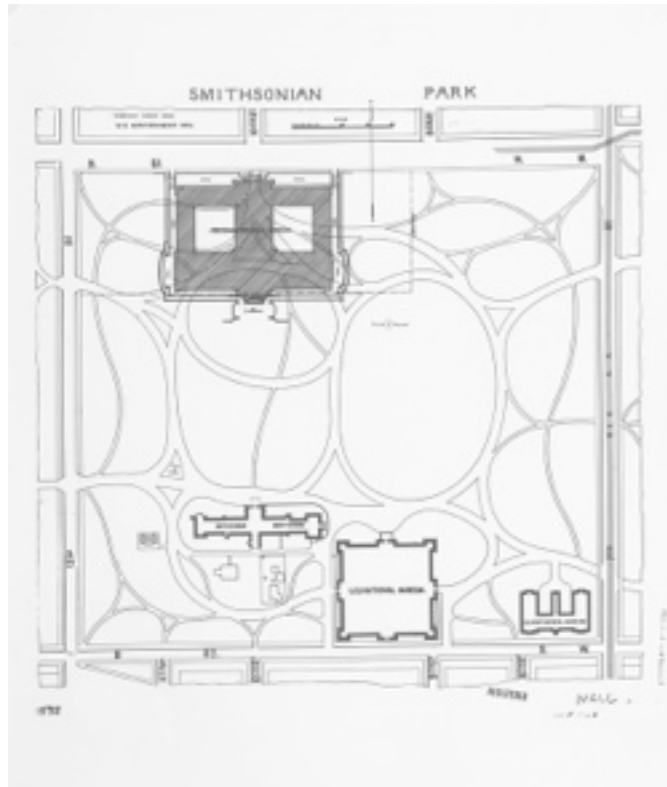
Image ID: 95-20352



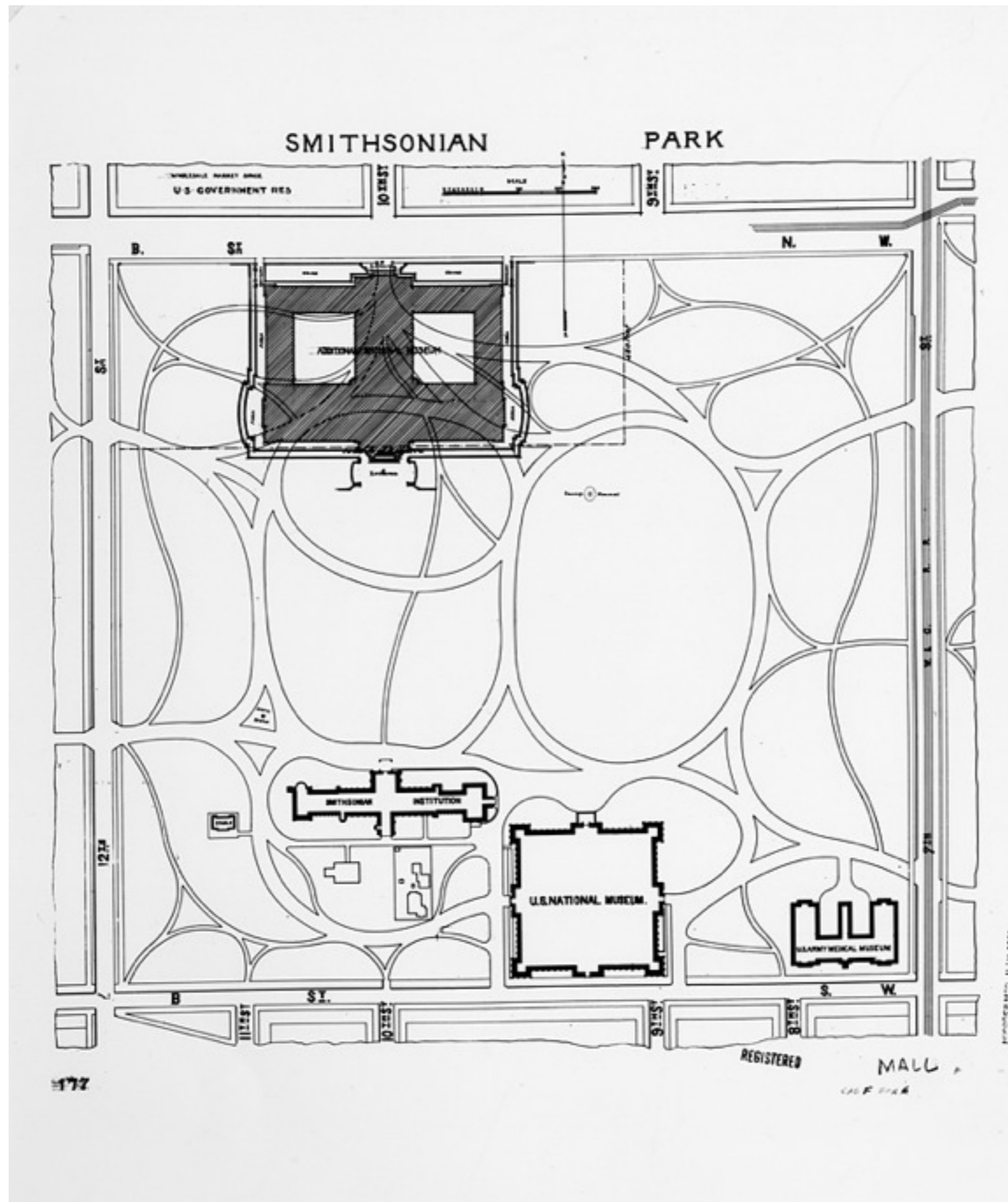
An engraving of a scissor-tail bird, published in a handbook to the US National Museum, 1886.
Image ID: 95-20353

DID YOU KNOW?

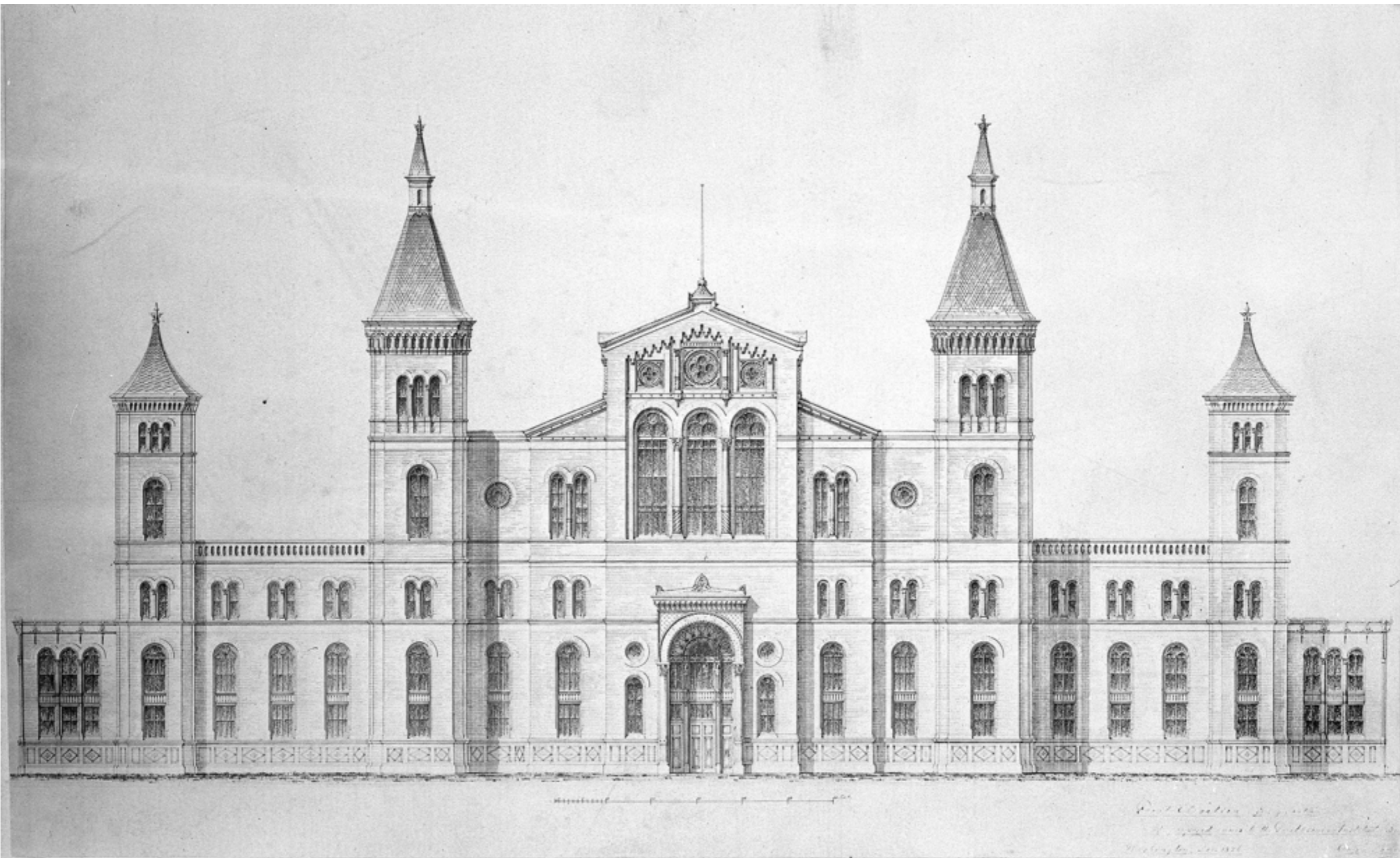
- The Smithsonian's collections were first stored in the Castle, which finished construction in 1855. The collection soon outgrew its space, and was moved to the new US National Museum in 1881 (now known as the Arts and Industries Building).
- Within two years, the US National Museum needed more space, too. In 1902, legislation was passed to build a new museum on the National Mall, across from the Smithsonian Castle.
- The US National Museum's new location opened in 1910. That museum is now known as the National Museum of Natural History. The Museum of History and Technology (now the National Museum of American History) opened in 1964.



ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS

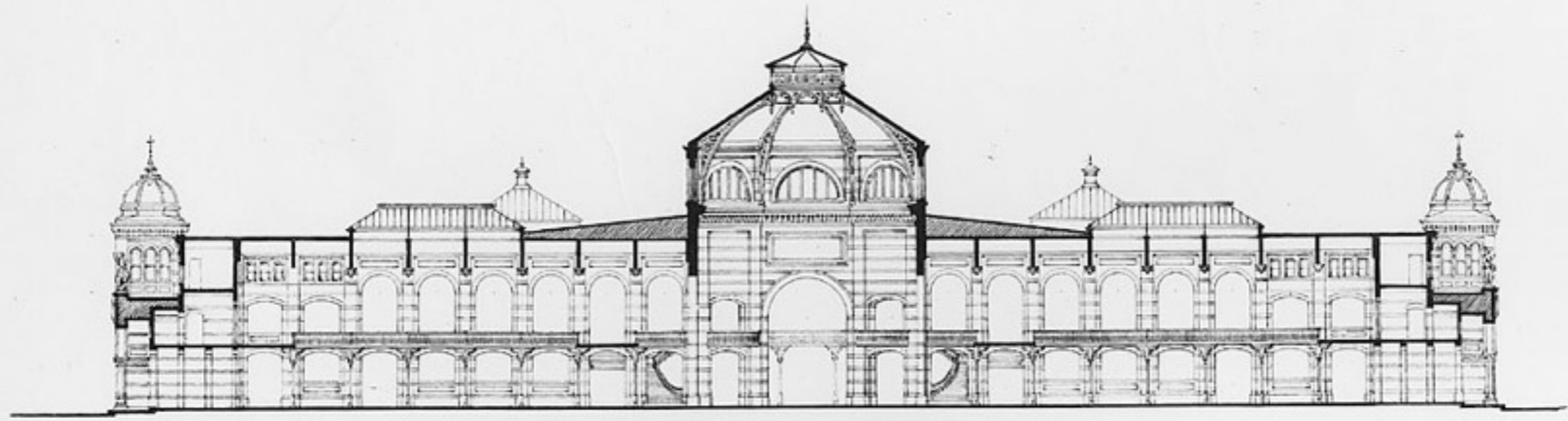


An architectural plan showing the location of the “new” National Museum of Natural History on the Mall, 1903.
Image ID: SIA2009-2367



A preliminary drawing of the US National Museum (now the Arts and Industries Building), 1876.

Image ID: 97-1602

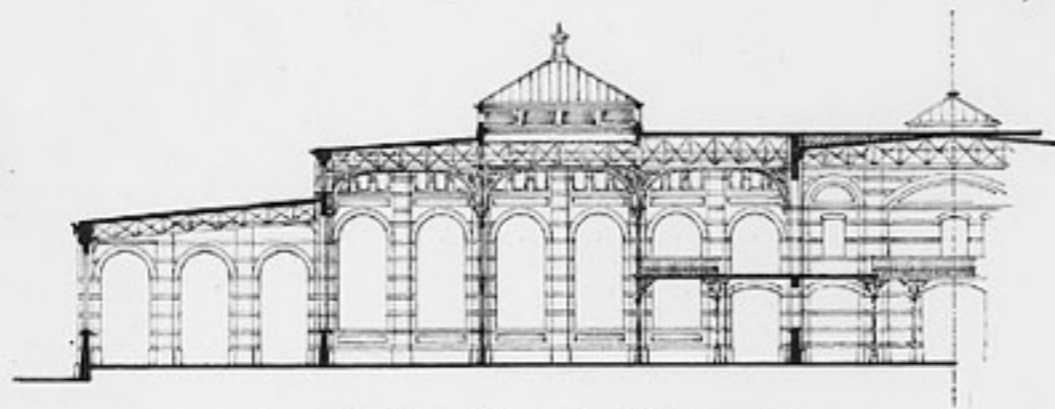


Section through The Centre.

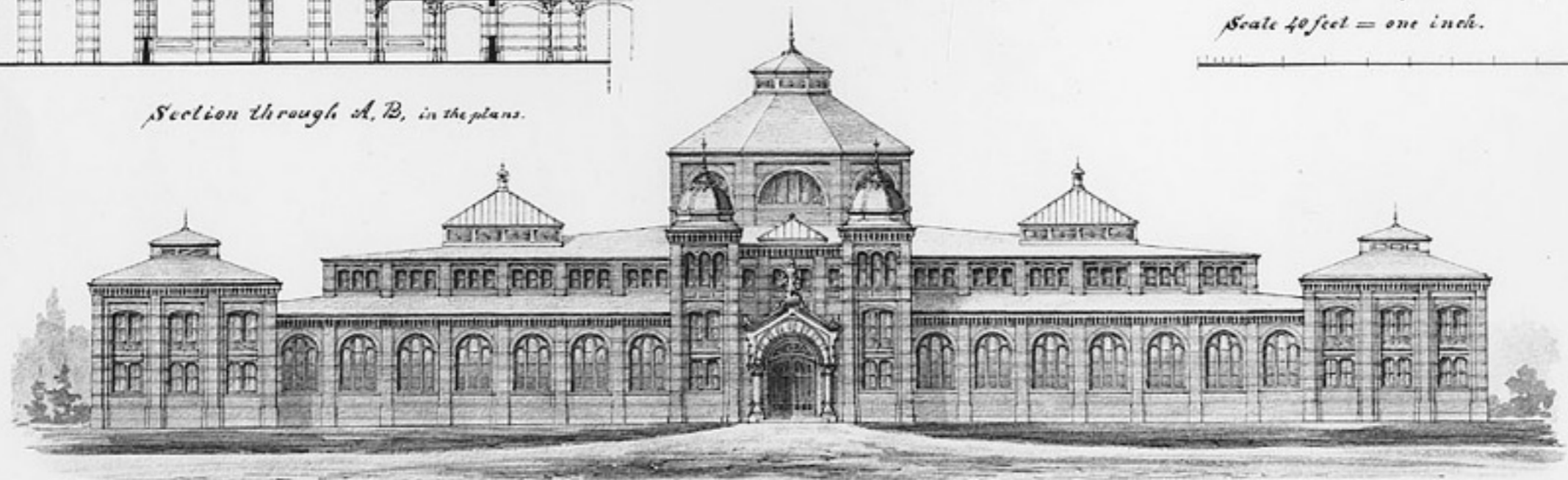
*Preliminary drawings for the
new building to contain the Centennial Exhibits of and
donations to the United States.*

*Cluap & Schulze Archts.
Washington April 1878.*

Scale 40 feet = one inch.



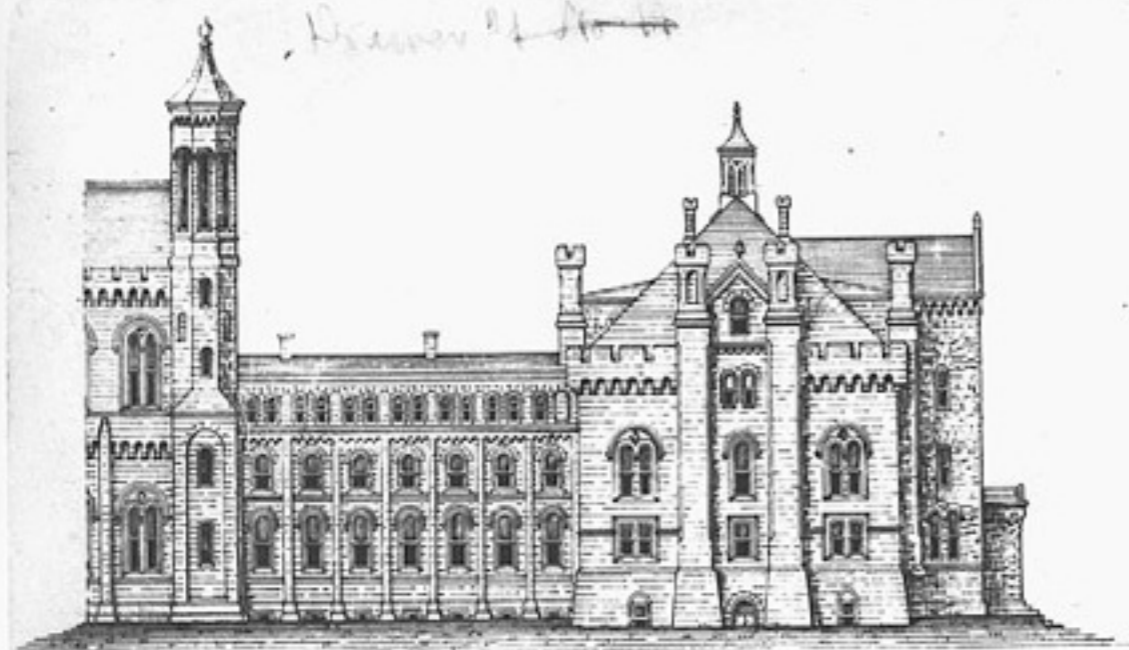
Section through A, B, in the plans.



Front Elevation.

A preliminary architectural plan for the US National Museum (now the Arts and Industries Building), 1878.

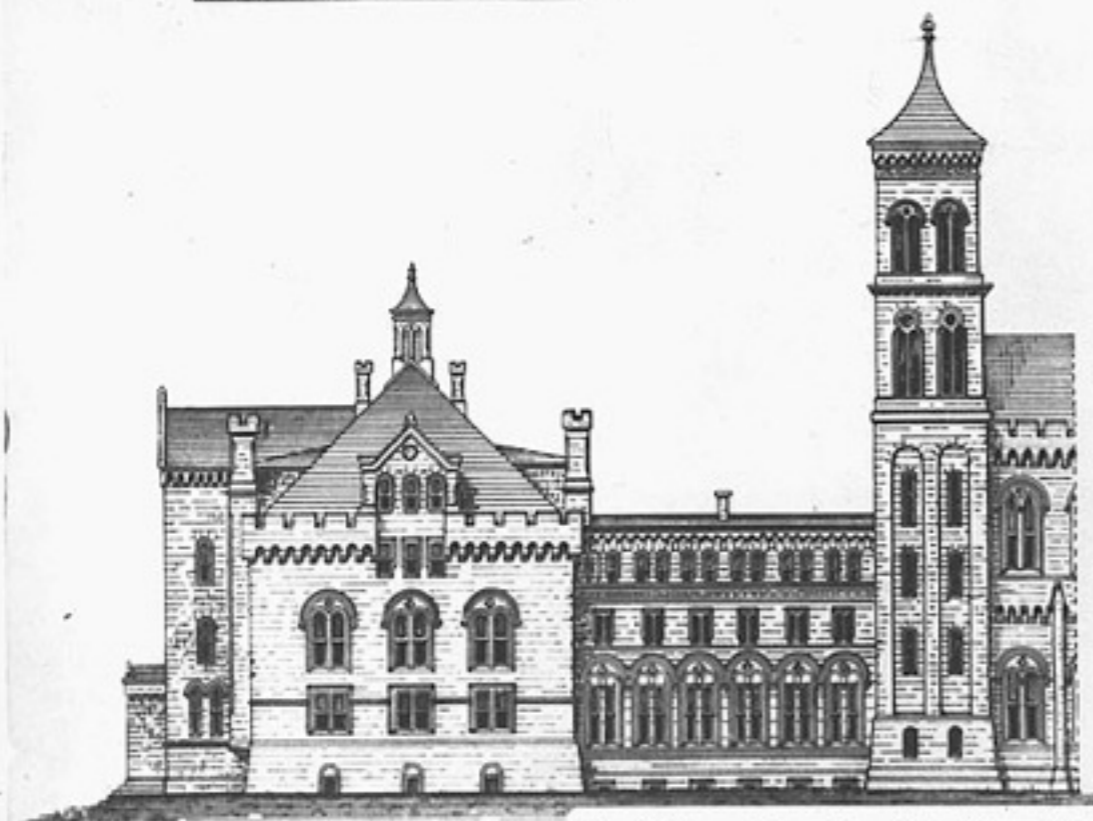
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ELEVATION (SOUTH)

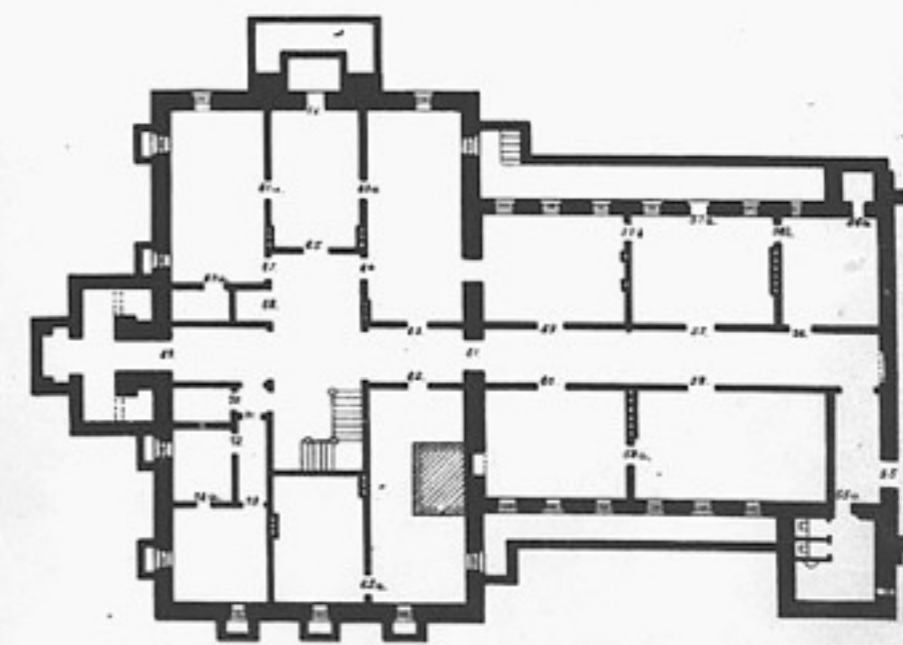


ELEVATION (EAST)



Smithsonian Institution Building, elevation of East Wing, drawing, about 1890, negative no. 2533-A.

1883-84



PLAN OF BASEMENT.

Neg. # 2533-A

An architectural plan for reconstruction on the East Wing of the Castle, 1883-84.

Image ID: 2002-10676



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