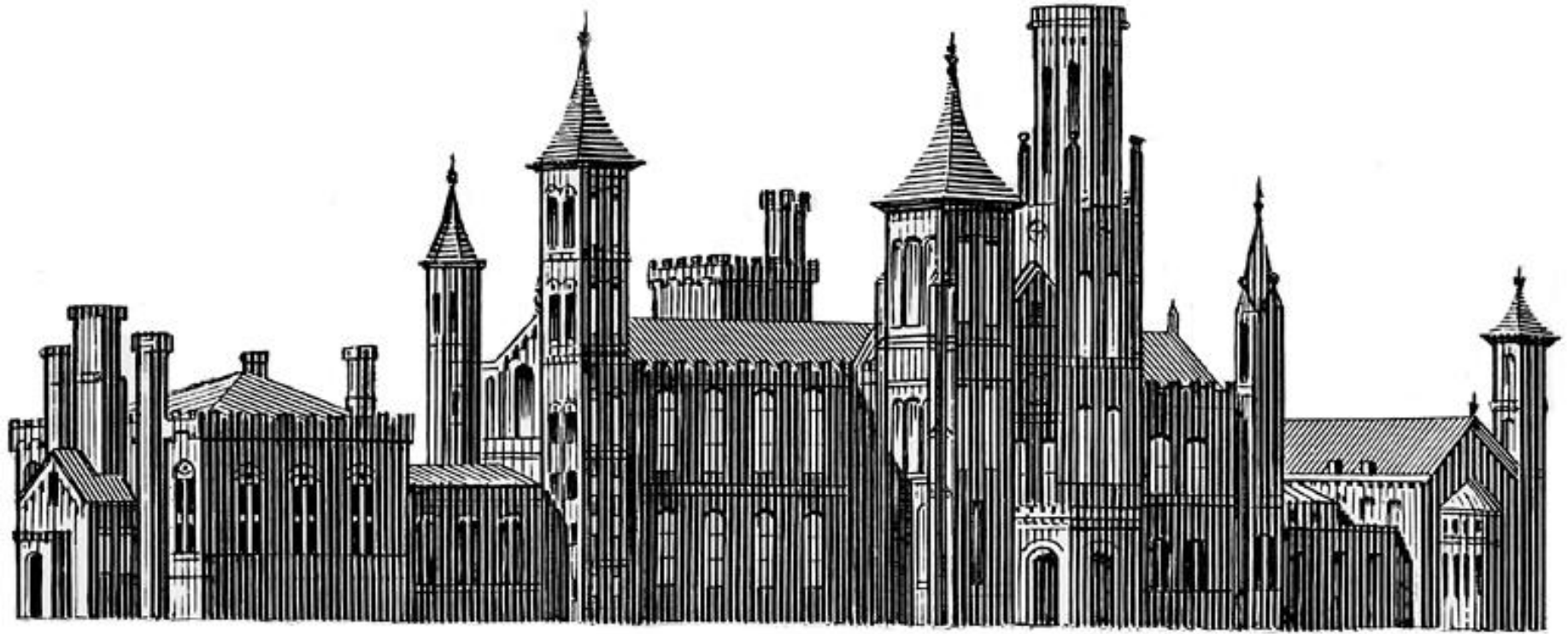


# The Smithsonian Institution Building



## “The Castle”

Pictures from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
A Coloring Book



Smithsonian Institution Archives  
Institutional History Division  
[siarchives.si.edu](http://siarchives.si.edu)



**The Gateway**

The Smithsonian Institution Building, known as the "Castle," was designed by architect James Renwick, Jr. It was completed in 1855, sitting at the center of the National Mall. Over the years, more museums and government buildings were built around it. The Castle was the home and office of the first Secretary of the Smithsonian Joseph Henry. Until 1881, it also held all parts of the Smithsonian Institution, including offices; research rooms; lecture halls; museum halls; a library and reading room; laboratories; storage areas; and living quarters for the Secretary, his family, and visiting scientists. In the late 1880s, the South Yard behind the "Castle" was home to the new National Zoological Park.

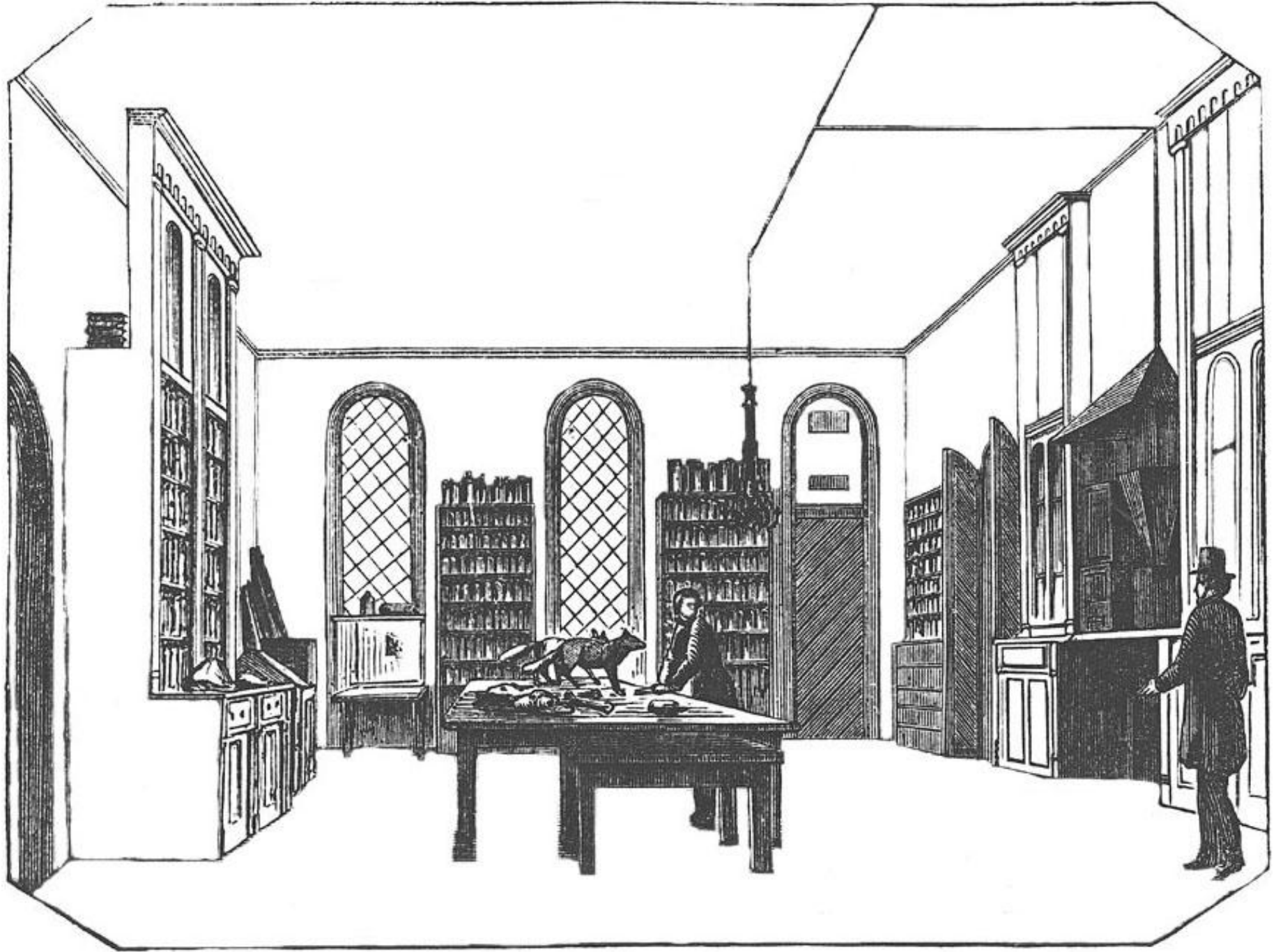
However, the "Castle" today is very different from the way it was first built. After a fire on January 24, 1865, which destroyed the upper story of the main segment and the north and south towers, many changes were made. In 1881, the US National Museum, now known as the Arts and Industries Building, opened next to the "Castle" to hold most of the museum collections. In 1883, the east wing was fireproofed and enlarged to hold more offices. The building was remodeled from 1968 to 1969 to restore the building to the style of the time in which it was first built. In 1977, the "Castle" was named a Historic Landmark. Today, the "Castle" is filled with a visitor's center and offices.

This book has drawings from the 19<sup>th</sup> century that show the rooms that were in the "Castle" when it was first built. Color them in, and imagine what the building used to look like. Then visit the Smithsonian Institution Building and compare the "Castle" today to the "Castle" back then.



### **The Chemical Laboratory**

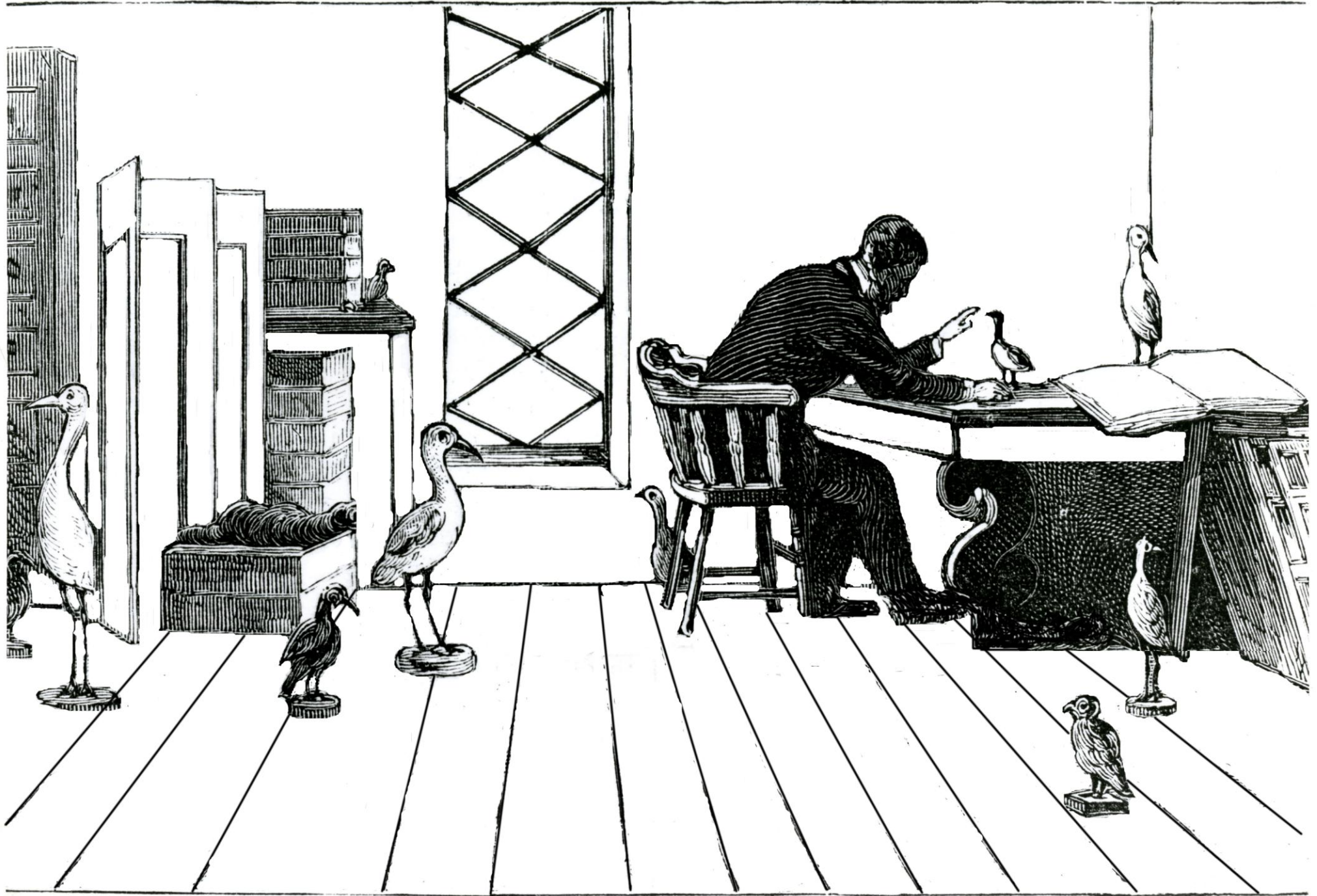
Located in the East Range of the Smithsonian Institution Building, the chemical laboratory was used for conducting science experiments.



### **The Natural History Laboratory**

The Natural History Laboratory was located in the East Range and was filled with natural history specimens, like animals and plants, for scientists to study.





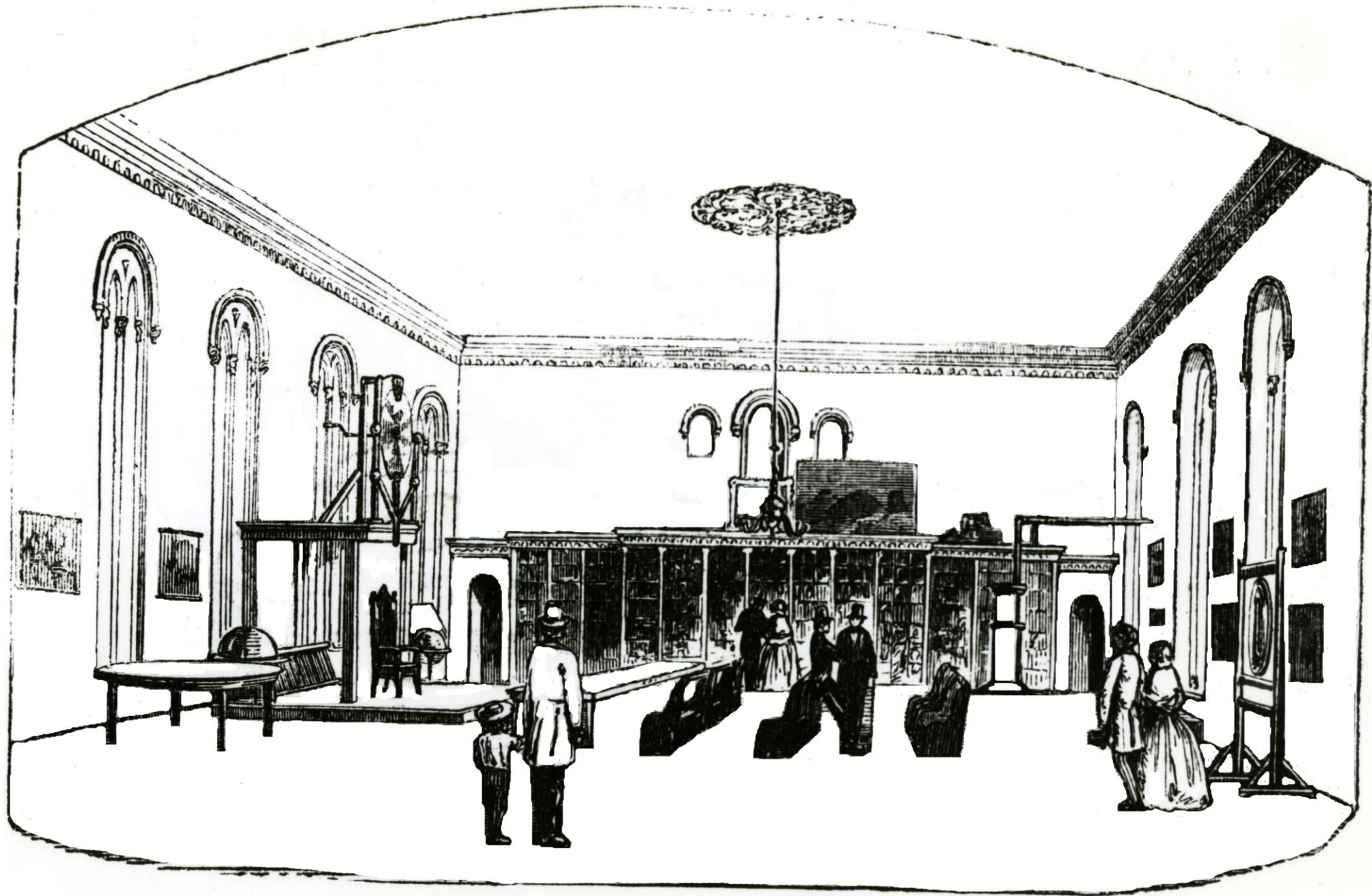
**A Scientist Working in the Natural History Laboratory**  
Here a scientist is studying bird specimens in the Natural History Laboratory.





### **The Picture Gallery**

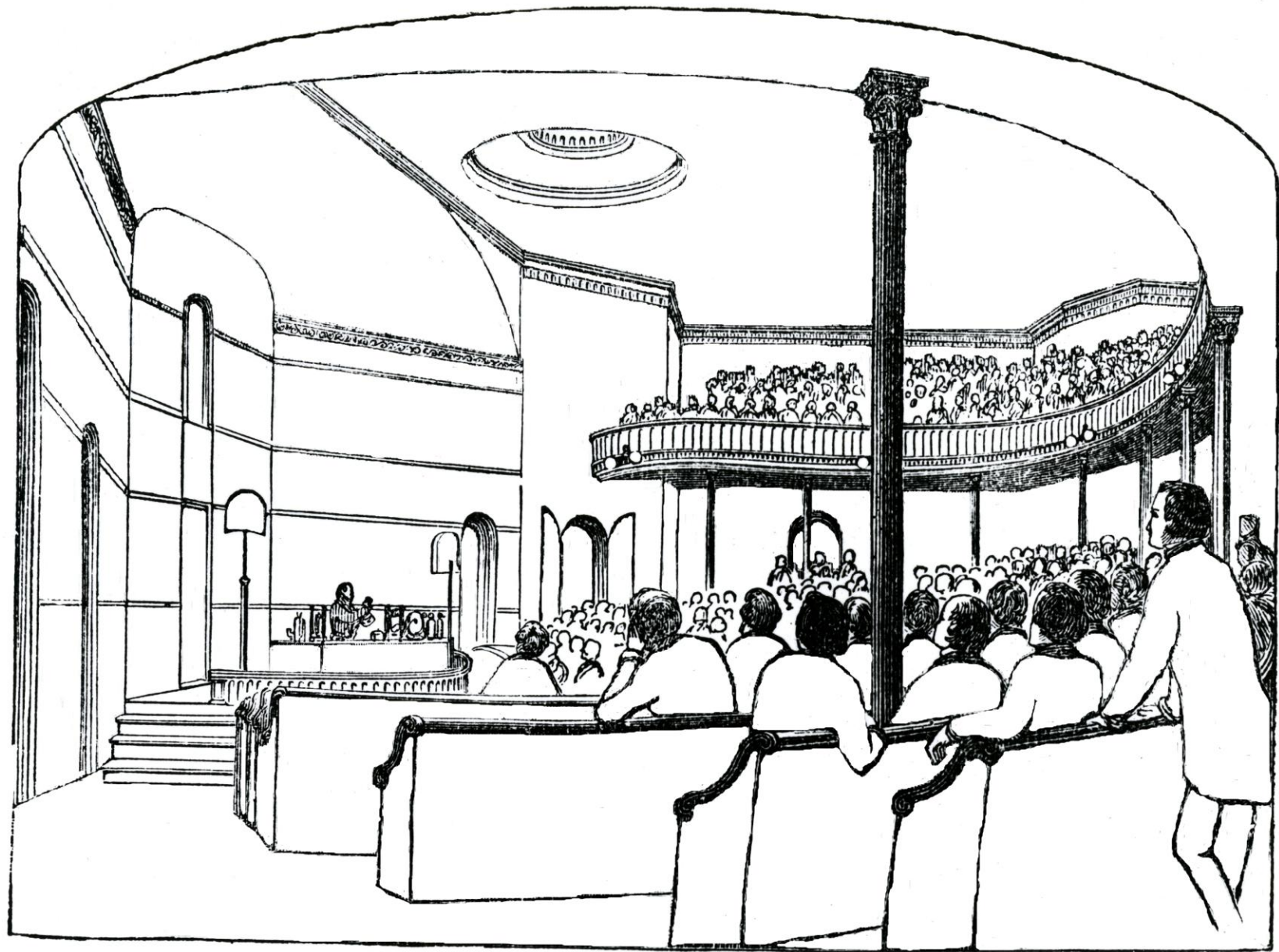
The Picture Gallery was located on the second floor of the main hall of the Smithsonian Institution Building. It displayed many portraits of Native Americans and some statues and busts.



### **The Apparatus Room**

The Apparatus Room was located on the upper floor of the main building of the Smithsonian Institution Building. In it were displayed scientific and technological instruments and machines. Sometimes static electricity would be demonstrated by using one of the machines to make a visitor's hair stand on end.

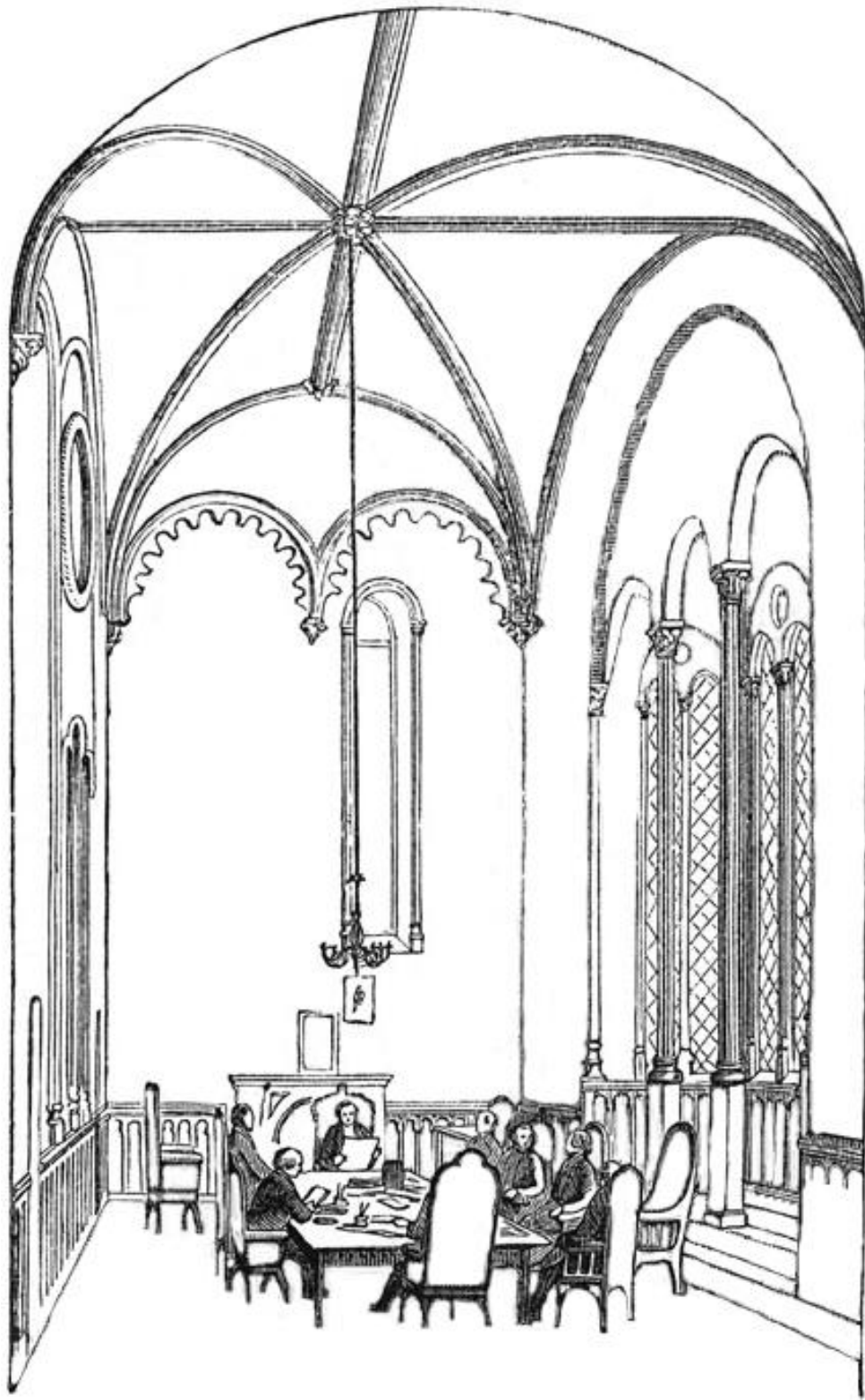




### **The Lecture Room**

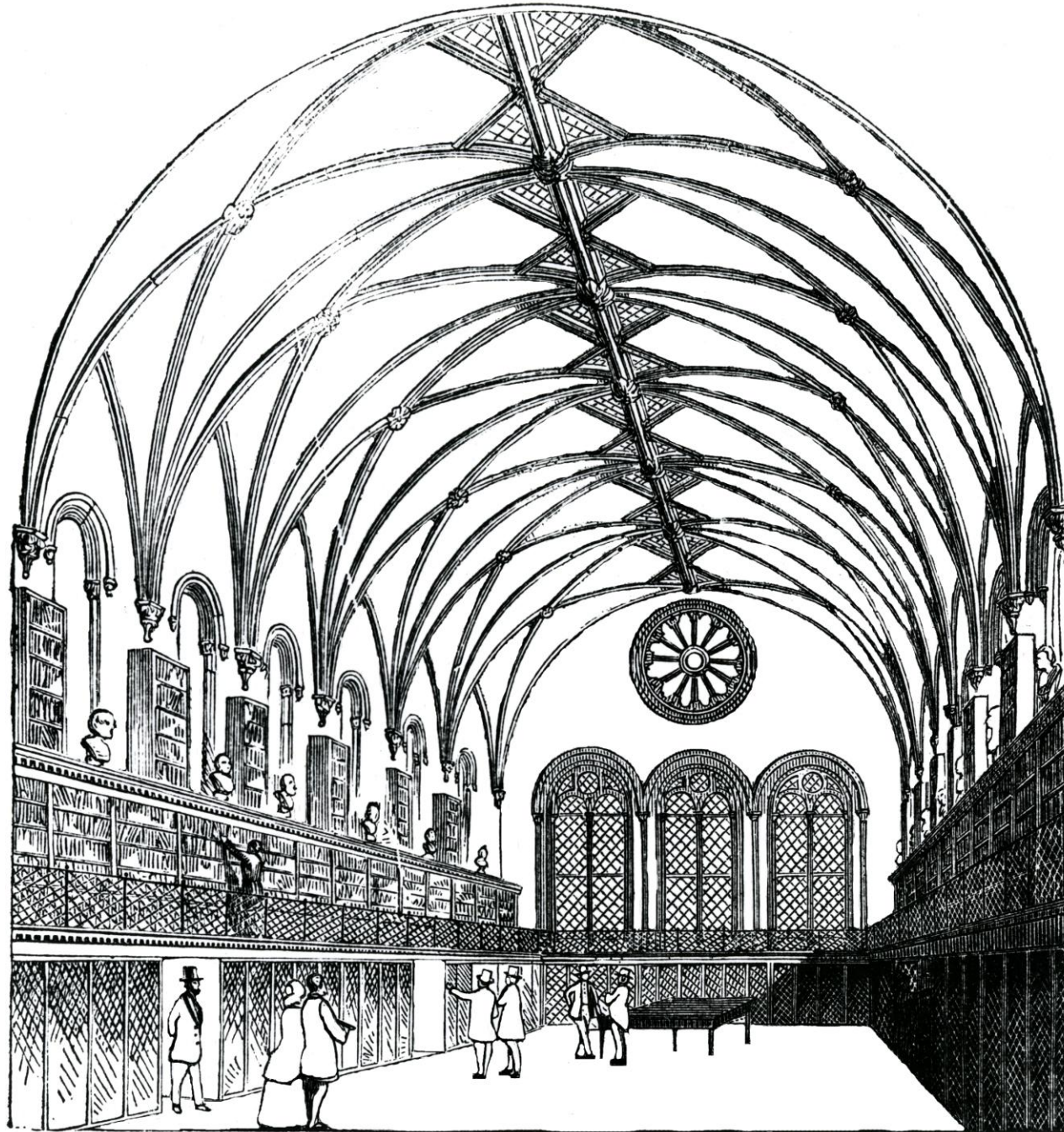
The Lecture Room was located on the upper floor of main building, or central section. It was 100 feet long by 75 feet wide, with a 25 foot ceiling and small sky light. It seated fifteen hundred people and was designed so that the speaker could be heard by everyone in the audience without a microphone . Both scientific and public lectures were held in the lecture room.





### **The Regent's Room**

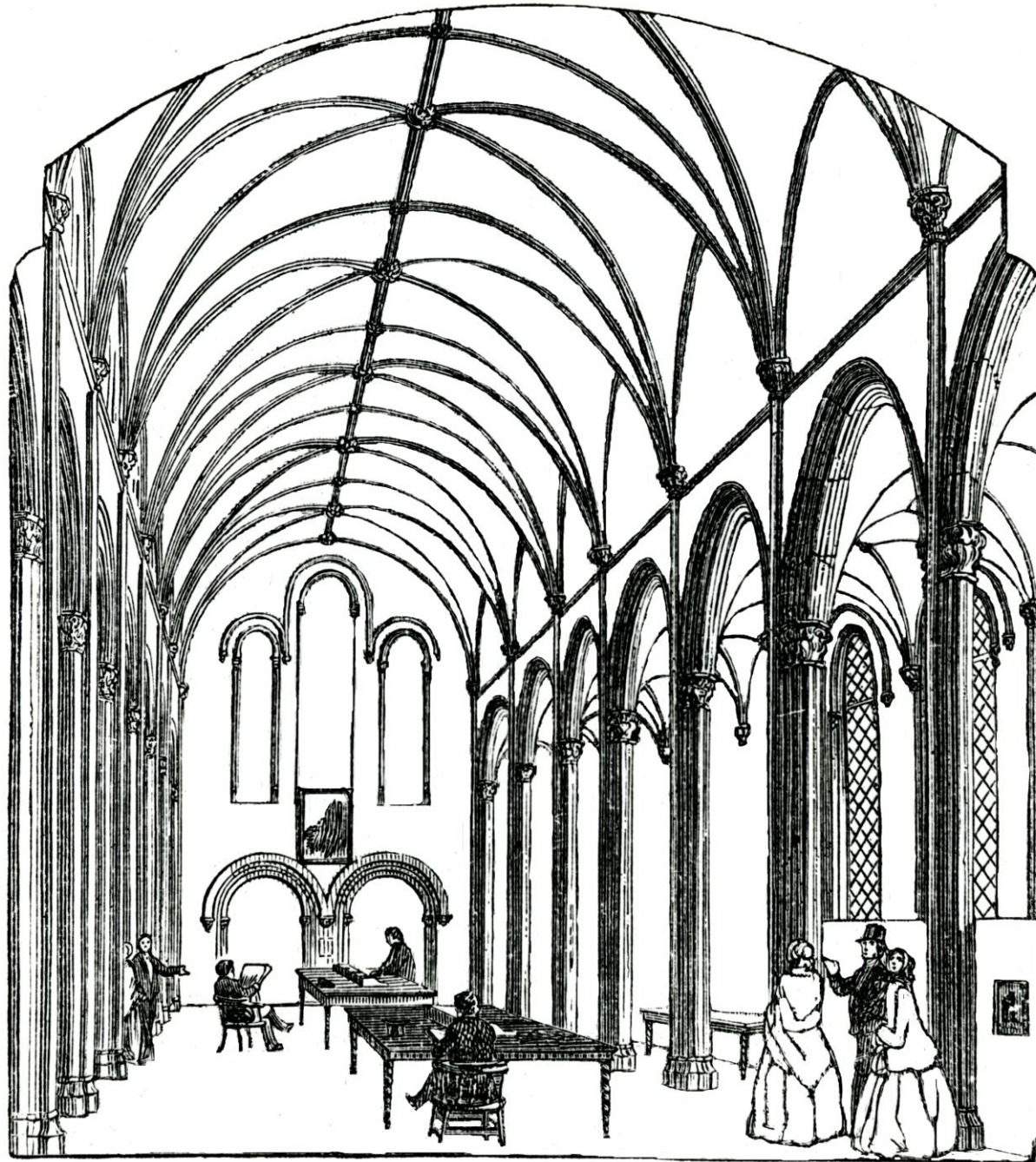
The Regent's Room was located in the second story of the South Tower. It was used for meetings of the Board of Regents, the overseeing body of the Smithsonian Institution, and held the personal effects of the Institution's founder, James Smithson, which included trunks, umbrellas, a walking cane, sword, plume, riding whip, set of silver plates, miniature travelling chemical laboratory, thermometers, snuff box, scales, and candlesticks.



### **The Library**

The Library was located in the west end of the building. It held books, journals, engravings, maps, music, and other printed materials. It was open to the public to read for fun or for research.





### **The Reading Room**

The Reading Room was connected to the Library in the west end of the building. It held the most recent copies of journals and periodicals published throughout the world. Visitors at the Smithsonian Library could sit here and read the many available books.





### **The Museum**

The Museum was located in the main hall of the Smithsonian Institution Building. It contained many animal specimens, especially birds and fish, and other physical and natural history objects, such as fossils, minerals, and plants.