9. Henry may have read the *New York Times* article of December 2, 1871, headlined “Fire in the Museum at Central Park.” That fire, however, was in the old Arsenal, which housed the collections of the American Museum of Natural History, and did little damage. Hawkins’s collection had been dismantled and destroyed on May 3, 1871, by a gang of vandals under the command of Henry Hilton, a member of the notorious group of corrupt New York City officials known as the Tweed Ring. The Tweed Ring, led by William Marcy “Boss” Tweed, had gained control of Central Park in 1870. The destruction may have been retaliation for comments Hawkins had made about their activities. *New York Times*, April 28, May 23, December 2, 1871, and February 16, 1872; Debus and McCarthy, pp. 108–109; Adrian J. Desmond, “Central Park’s Fragile Dinosaurs,” *Natural History*, October 1974, 83:69, 71.

Henry was later quoted as having exclaimed that he “would have paid a good price” for Hawkins’s work if it had been offered to the Smithsonian rather than destroyed. Hawkins may have been the source of this quotation. *New York Times*, February 16, 1872.

10. In 1869, Torrey’s daughter Eliza purchased land in New Jersey from Ezekiel P. Johnson. Part of that purchase was covered by a mortgage of $1,200. In turn, Johnson assigned Torrey’s mortgage to Henry. Eliza now had a purchaser for her land, but Henry had noticed some apparent problems in the paperwork for the mortgage and assignment, and wanted these issues resolved before the sale went through. Henry finally forwarded all the paperwork on January 29. Henry to S. Hastings Grant, December 13, 1871, and January 29, 1872; receipt enclosed with Henry to John Torrey, May 3, 1871; all in Private Letterpress, Henry Papers, Smithsonian Archives.

11. Seth Hastings Grant was Torrey’s foster son. He was a businessman who was handling the details of the arrangements between Eliza Torrey and Henry. *Henry Papers*, 5:384n–385n; Henry to Grant, December 13, 1871, and January 29, 1872, cited above.

180. HENRY DESK DIARY

Jan⁹ 29th [1872]

Took up paper presented by H. J. Clark Lucerniae for publication.¹ It was submitted to Alexander Agassiz for examination and reported upon favourably.² Prof Baird will submit the plates to the Coast Survey engravers for estimates but thinks we can get them done at much less cost abroad.³

Thermometer min 10°

Read Report on Fog signals Col. Duane.⁴

Mr Peelor the inventor of a self registering barometer⁵ lives at Johnstown Penn⁶. I suggested the invention of a light apparatus for recording the height of the barometer in balloon voyages for meteorological observations.⁶

An air thermometer with two bulbs one kept at an invariable temperature by immersion in ice water the other exposed to the variation of the atmosphere my suggestion.

Dr. Haden desires me to speak to Garfield relative to the nature of his explorations. This for the purpose of obtaining 100,000 dollars for surveys and publications.⁷
January 29, 1872 (Doc. 180)

Intends to include in his great paper the collections of fossils made by other surveys as those of the northern boundary. 8

Dictated a letter to Mr Cheesborough 9 suggesting the compilation of a history of the Chicago fire and offering to pay the expense of any clerical expense which might be incurred in the work. 10

Promised to meet the lawyer of Dr Toner 11 and Dr Woodward to discuss the best manner of expending the income of the small estate of Dr T for the advance of medical knowledge.

Met Dr Toner and Dr Woodward—discussed the subject of the fund for the advance of medical science—prepared a draft of the terms and character of the foundation. 12 Sum $ given about 3000 dollars in money and property— Each memoir to contain some new truth established by experiment or observation. Trustees Coroner of District, Pres Medical society—Surgeon General Secy the Smithsonian Inst 13 and Dr Toner. 14

Henry Papers, Smithsonian Archives.

1. Henry James Clark, Lucernariae and Their Allies . . . , 1878, SI Contributions, vol. 23 (Washington, 1881). Clark (1846–1873) was a former protégé and employee of Louis Agassiz but had broken off relations with him over the issues of credit and back pay. ANB.

2. Agassiz had "strongly" recommended publication, judging the memoir "of a kind rapidly passing out of fashion" but immensely important. From the "fulness of the observations," and the "discussion of the general affinities of the group of which it treats," the memoir would be "a standard of comparison." Alexander Agassiz to Henry, May 15, 1871, RU 26, Smithsonian Archives.

3. All but one of the plates were engraved in Paris. Joseph Henry, "Advertisement," Clark, p. iv.

4. James Chatham Duane (1824–1897, DAB) was an army officer and the engineer for the first and second lighthouse districts in New England. Register of Officers and Agents . . . in the Service of the United States, on the Thirtieth September, 1871 (Washington, 1872), p. 73.

Duane conducted experiments with various fog-signaling devices near Portland, Maine, during the summer of 1871 while Henry was traveling to the West Coast. Henry was puzzled by some of Duane's results, which contradicted his own experimental results, and debated whether to report them. Although Henry included Duane's report when he finally published an article in 1874 on the Light-House Board's fog-signal experiments, he interspersed it with his own comments and clarifications. Duane's findings were later used as ammunition by John Tyndall in his dispute with Henry over the causes of loss of sound from fog signals. Joseph Henry, "Report of the Operations of the Light-House Board Relative to Fog-Signals," Light-House Board Report for 1874, pp. 99–107, 116–117. For Duane's report as part of the Henry-Tyndall dispute over fog signals, see Doc. 252.

5. David Peelor had been a Smithsonian meteorological observer since 1849. He had invented a mechanical self-registering barometer, which he used in making his observations. Desk Diary, January 28, 1871.

6. Patrick Adie and James Glaisher had developed special balloon-borne meteorological instruments in the early 1860s. There appear to have been no major improvements in such instruments until the 1890s. W. E. Knowles Middleton, Invention of the Meteorological Instruments (Baltimore, 1969), pp. 289–290.

7. Ferdinand Hayden had spent 1871 surveying the Yellowstone River valley. He returned with many images of the region and became the first public advocate of the establishment of a national park there. He was seeking funds to return to the area in 1872. James A. Garfield, chair of the House Appropriations Committee, agreed to recommend an appropriation of $75,000. Mike Foster, Strange Genius: The Life of Ferdinand Vandeveer Hayden (Niwhot, Colorado, 1994), pp. 199–239.

8. The exact allusion is unclear.

9. Letter not found. Ellis Sylvester Chesbrough (1813–1886) was the engineer for the Chicago Board of Sewerage Commissioners and the designer of the city's sewerage system. Appletons'
February 29, 1872 (Doc. 181)


10. No such history was written.

11. James Meredith Toner (1825–1896), a physician who devoted much of his career to writing and collecting books on medical science, public health, and American history. In 1868, he started a library at the Smithsonian for the American Medical Association. He would later become known as the donor of a twenty-seven-thousand-volume collection to the Library of Congress. DAB.


13. When the trust was finally established, there was one change in the list of trustees: the surgeon general of the navy replaced the coroner. Smithsonian Report for 1872, p. 101.

181. TO THORNTON ALEXANDER JENKINS

Smithsonian Inst
Feby 29th 1872

My Dear Admiral:

Many thanks for your kind letter, the wisdom and spirit of which do honor to your head and heart.¹ I shall not fail to send you a copy of my communication on Fog Signals, and to give the several suggestions you have made that attention which their importance demands. I know you are truly interested in the welfare of the Light-House establishment, and not in the least governed by that narrow selfishness which would desire mismanagement in order that your own administration might be the more exalted. The course which your feelings have prompted is not only the most generous, but also the wisest for whatever reputation the establishment may attain. It will always be a monument to your talents your wisdom and industry.

I owe whatever success I have met with in life to the fact that in whatever position I am placed I endeavour to ascertain what is right and to act in conformity with this, without regard to my own immediate interest. This is not only the most correct principle of action but also the best since I have [?] rarely] ever known in Professional life a case in which a man has been alone actuated by the desire to benefit himself that he has succeeded in the long run in gaining what he sought. You who have been governed by similar principles are now enjoying the reward of an enviable reputation in being called to discharge the duties of a position for which according to the Secretary² no one in the Navy is so well qualified as yourself.