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Department of Arts and Industries - Section of Technological Collections: Annual Report 1893 - 1894

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SEA

1. HOW FAR HAS THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1894, COMPARED WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR, AS FAR AS (1) THE NUMBER OF ACCESSIONS AND (2) THEIR VALUE ARE CONCERNED.

EXAMINED BY
MR. PATRICK
MARCH 1913.

Although the number of accessions for the present year is less than that for the year preceding, the specimens received are believed to be of equal or even greater value from an historical standpoint.

2. NAME, IN THE ORDER OF THEIR IMPORTANCE, THE ACCESSIONS OF THE YEAR WHICH
DESERVE SPECIAL NOTICE, ~~AND STATE IN EACH CASE~~, AND STATE IN EACH CASE
WHETHER GIVEN, LENT, RECEIVED IN EXCHANGE OR PURCHASED.

Mr. E. A. Stevens, of Hoboken, N. J., deposited, for exhibition in the
Museum, the machinery built by John Stevens, in 1804, for the first steam
screw-propeller boat ever constructed. The machinery is mounted in a model
of the original boat. (Acc.27810).

From the South Carolina Railroad, through Mr. R. G. Ward, Roadmaster,
were received 38 pieces of track-rail, plates, spikes, and other articles
used during the years 1830 and 1831; also 15 photographs from the exhibit
made by this road at the World's Columbian Exposition. Gift. (Acc.27860).

A model of a bridge over the Tjitjatt River, Java, was obtained by
purchase from the World's Columbian Exposition. (Acc.27844).

3. WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN CARING FOR THE COLLECTIONS UNDER YOUR CUSTODY,
i. e., IN THEIR PRESERVATION AND INSTALLATION.

Owing to the absence of the Curator, practically nothing has been done
in the direction indicated.

4. INDICATE BRIEFLY THE PRESENT CONDITION OF THE EXHIBITION SERIES AND THE STUDY SERIES, IN YOUR DEPARTMENT.

The floor space assigned to this section in the east hall of the Museum, has been reduced in size, and, as a necessary consequence, the material is now so compactly arranged as to seriously interfere with its value and attractiveness as an exhibit.

5. WHAT SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS HAVE YOU COMMENCED, CONTINUED OR COMPLETED, UPON THE MATERIAL UNDER YOUR CHARGE, DURING THE YEAR.

None.

6. WHAT EXPLORATIONS (1) BY THE MUSEUM AND (2) UNDER OTHER AUSPICES, HAVE
RESULTED IN ENRICHING THE COLLECTIONS UNDER YOUR CARE.

None

7. WHAT MATERIAL FROM YOUR DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN LENT TO INVESTIGATORS DURING THE YEAR, AND IN CONNECTION WITH WHAT SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS WAS THE MATERIAL NEEDED.

PLEASE ARRANGE ANSWER, ALPHABETICALLY, UNDER THE NAME OF THE PERSON TO WHOM SUCH MATERIAL WAS LENT.

No material has been lent.

8. GIVE THE NAMES OF ANY STUDENTS WHO HAVE HAD ACCESS TO THE MATERIAL IN YOUR CARE DURING THE YEAR, EITHER IN WASHINGTON OR ELSEWHERE, AND STATE THE SPECIAL AIM OF THEIR STUDIES.

None

9. GIVE A LIST OF CORRESPONDENTS WHOSE CO-OPERATION HAS RESULTED IN ENRICHING THE COLLECTIONS UNDER YOUR CARE, AND STATE BRIEFLY THE MANNER AND EXTENT OF SUCH CO-OPERATION DURING THE YEAR.

The only correspondents who have rendered material assistance during the year are those mentioned under the head of contributors.

10. GIVE A LIST OF PAPERS PUBLISHED DURING THE YEAR BY YOURSELF, YOUR OFFICIAL ASSOCIATES AND COLLABORATORS, SO FAR AS THE SAME ARE BASED UPON MUSEUM MATERIAL. EACH NOTICE FOR THE BIBLIOGRAPHY SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED WITH A BRIEF ABSTRACT OF THE PAPER.

See printed Bibliog.

11. PLEASE PRESENT ANY PLANS WHICH YOU MAY HAVE IN VIEW FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
YOUR DEPARTMENT.

From the beginning of the work in this section in 1885, the arrangement has been tentative. The transportation exhibit made by the U.S. National Museum in 1888, at Cincinnati, was the first synoptical collection put on view. It covered in some degree the whole field of transportation, and was the first serious attempt made at an exposition to show the development of this important art separate and apart from all others. At the Paris Exposition of 1889 the idea was amplified, and at Chicago in 1893 a splendid exhibit was made, from which at the close of the World's Fair the Field Columbian Museum obtained the material ^{to} from the most important transportation collection in the world.

The seed sown nearly a decade ago having borne good fruit, the function of the section of transportation and engineering of the National Museum will in the future be to present only the more important relics relating to the early steps in the history of steam, electrical, and mechanical engineering, leaving the extension of collections showing the development of the art in detail to the department of transportation in the great museum recently founded at Chicago.

12. INDICATE THE PRESENT STATE OF THE COLLECTION UNDER YOUR CARE, INCLUDING A
TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF SPECIMENS IN THE EXHIBITION, RESERVE AND
DUPLICATE SERIES ON JUNE 30, 1894.

The catalogue is not in condition to furnish this information.

W. E. W.

13. GIVE THE NUMBERS OF THE LAST ENTIRES IN YOUR CATALOGUE ON JUNE 30, 1893 AND
June 30, 1894.

June 30, 1893 181178

June 30, 1894 ~~181192~~

181,195