

December 5, 1850

become a mere curiosity shop with a number of retired politicians as its keepers— I am anxious now to give it such a direction in the beginning that it cannot lapse into such a state without the contrast being obvious to the world and for this purpose I am pleased that you have concluded to give me your aid.

Our affairs are now in a much better condition than I had any reason to expect they would be when we commenced—

The finishing of the building is to be postponed. The accrued interest ↑previous to 1846↓ has not all been spent on the building and after finishing the whole of the exterior and all the rooms of the towers and the wings we shall have on hand 150000 dolls. This sum the Regents have directed me with the consent of Congress to place to the credit of the Institution in the Treasury of the U.S. so as to increase the original principal and give us an annual income of 40,000 instead of 30,000 dolls.

I have also some hope, if the usefulness of the Institution becomes apparent to the world, that congress will be induced to finish the building.

I send you a copy of the programme<sup>B</sup> on the 1<sup>st</sup> page of which you will find a synopsis of my views of what ought ↑to have↓ to governed in the establishment of the Institution. I remain very truly

Your friend & servt  
Joseph Henry

Prof. Silliman

Daniel Coit Gilman Papers, Ms. 1, Special Collections, Milton S. Eisenhower Library, The Johns Hopkins University.  
Reply not found, but dated December 7, 1850, according to Henry to Silliman, December 12, 1850, same location as this letter.

1. Not found.

77. TO EPHRAIM GEORGE SQUIER

Smithsonian Inst  
Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> 1850

My Dear Sir

Your two letters have just been received.<sup>1</sup> You will oblige me very much by attending to the matter of the charge for the Idols.<sup>2</sup> The charge cannot be paid until the matter is investigated.

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Your Report on the monuments from Central America has also been received and will be appended to my next Report to Congress.<sup>3</sup>

I regret the delay of the paper. I hope Jenkins<sup>4</sup> has written to urge on Magarge & Cope<sup>5</sup> to forward it.

I think in future it will be better for us to order paper from the mill in N.J. if we can do so in small quantities.

I agree with you as to the importance of an archeological Museum. My idea of the museum of the S.I. ↑is↓ that it should be of special objects and not an omnium gatherum of the odds & ends of creation.

I applied about a year ago to Dr Davis<sup>6</sup> to furnish the Smithsonian Institution with a set of directions for the examination of mounds to be published for the use of persons who might be disposed to make explorations for the S.I. The Dr. has not prepared the article and engaged as he now is in the arduous duties of a new Professorship I fear he will not attempt it. I therefore write to ask that you will draw up a paper of the kind also to be appended to my report.<sup>7</sup>

I remain very  
truly yours &c  
Joseph Henry

E. George Squier Esq

You can perhaps get a copy of the *Telegraphic<sup>A</sup> Evidencer<sup>8</sup>* from Alex<sup>n</sup> Jones<sup>9</sup> M D *Telegraphic Agent* for the New York press.

I have not myself received a copy though I have been promised one.

J-H-

Squier Papers, Library of Congress.

1. Not found, but a portion of one is quoted in Henry to B. Blanco, December 17, 1850, copy, Squier Papers, Library of Congress.

2. On November 29, 1850, Henry received a bill from B. Blanco for \$192.50 for freight and charges on "three images from Central America," which Squier had shipped from Nicaragua. Henry felt that the Smithsonian was being overcharged; the shipping charges were eventually waived. Henry to Blanco (cited above); *Smithsonian Report for 1850*, p. 23.

3. The *Smithsonian Report for 1850* printed (pp. 78-80) a letter from Squier to Henry dated December 2, 1850. In the letter, Squier described some of the Mesoamerican statues he had seen in the vicinity of Lake Nicaragua. He also argued for the creation of a national archaeological museum within the Smithsonian.

4. Edward O. Jenkins, a New York City printer, was printing Squier's *Aboriginal Monuments of the State of New York: Comprising the Results of Original Surveys and Explorations*, [1851], *SI Contributions*, vol. 2 (Washington, 1851).

5. Edwin R. Cope and Charles Magarge operated a paper warehouse at 52 Commerce in Philadelphia. Philadelphia City Directory, 1850.

6. Edwin Hamilton Davis, Squier's former co-author, had just joined the faculty of the New York Medical College. *Henry Papers*, 7:59n.

7. Although Squier responded positively to Henry's request, the manual was either never completed or never published. See Doc. 102.

8. Not identified.

9. The general agent for the New York Associated Press. *Henry Papers*, 7:576n.