

July 2, 1855

I am desirous to give the plan a fair trial, for if it should fail the blame will be laid at my door.<sup>4</sup>

I remain very Respy  
Your friend & servt.  
Joseph Henry  
Secretary.

S. F. Haven, Esq. }  
Worcester }  
Mass. }

AAS Correspondence, 1850-1859, American Antiquarian Society.

In an unknown hand, with Henry's signature.

1. Haven's letter has not been found.

2. Willard Cowles began assisting with the stereotyping project in the spring of 1852. By October of that year he was working full time at a wage of \$60 per month (later raised to \$75). He left the Smithsonian in September 1853. He had also assisted Henry in experiments on the marble for the Capitol. Smithsonian Day-books, vol. 1, p. 370; "Stereotyping and Printing," [pp. 180-181], Ledger, Box 85, RU 100, Smithsonian Institution Fiscal Records, Private, 1846-1859, Smithsonian Archives; *Henry Papers*, 8:260n.

3. On January 2, 1855, Cowles took out a patent for "Improvement in Apparatus for Stereotyping." U.S. Senate, 34th Congress, 1st Session, *Report of the Commissioner of Patents for the*

*Year 1855: Arts and Manufactures*, Senate Executive Documents, No. 20 (1856), 2:222-223.

4. Haven had been a member of a commission that evaluated Jewett's cataloguing rules and stereotyping plan in 1850. The commission had recommended that the Smithsonian begin applying the stereotyping process by working with the Library of Congress to prepare a catalogue of its collections. Congress had appropriated money in 1853 and 1854 in support of that catalog. The Smithsonian spent thousands more of its own funds developing the stereotyping process itself. Ultimately, the process failed. *Henry Papers*, 8:86-88, 157, 293n-294n, 481; John Y. Cole, *For Congress and the Nation: A Chronological History of the Library of Congress* (Washington, 1979), pp. 23, 25; Rhee, *Journals*, p. 68.

145. TO CHARLES MASON

Smithsonian Institution  
Washington, July 2. 1855.

Sir

The Smithsonian Institution has collected, and is collecting, a large amount of valuable statistics relative to the mean temperature—the amount of precipitation and other meteorological phenomena of the United States; and as it is a part of its policy to co-operate with any establishment which may be engaged in similar researches, in behalf of the Board of the Regents, I therefore beg to suggest that the Patent Office

July 3, 1855

unite with this Institution in its meteorological investigations; that a common plan be adopted—joint circulars issued and the expenses divided in accordance with an agreement which may be determined on.

I am, Respectfully  
Your ob<sup>t</sup> servant  
Joseph Henry  
Secretary

To/  
Hon. Charles Mason  
Commissioner of Patents.

Records of the Agricultural Section of the Patent Office, Records of the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture, RG 16, National Archives.

In an unknown hand, with the signature by Henry. Reply: Doc. 146.

146. FROM CHARLES MASON

Copy.

U.S. Patent Office  
July 3. 1855.

Dear Sir,

In the preparation of the annual Agricultural Reports of this office it is desirable that we should obtain specific information relating to the meteorological and periodical phenomena connected with the germination, growth, maturity and destruction of the principal Agricultural products of the various Sections of the Union.

In reply to yours of yesterday<sup>1</sup> proposing that this office should unite with the Smithsonian Institution for obtaining such information as indicated above, I feel justified in offering the sum of seven hundred dollars, to be placed at your disposal, out of the last appropriation made by Congress for the collection of Agricultural statistics etc., and receive in return condensed statements on the following phenomena, confined to the present Calendar year or to a series of years, to be embodied in the next Agricultural Report of this Office.

1; In respect to Climate—the maximum, minimum, and mean of Barometer, hygrometer & thermometer, at various points in the several States & Territories for each month; the amount of rain & snow; the