

April 13, 1857

Smithsonian Report for 1858, pp. 13-16, Henry wrote that the Smithsonian had offered to become curator of the national collections if the government paid for their transfer and arrangement and agreed to make annual appropriations for their care.

U.S. House, 34th Congress, 1st Session, *Report of the Secretary of the Interior*, Senate Executive Documents, No. 1 (1855), 1:130; Douglas E. Evelyn, "The National Gallery at the Patent Office," and Nathan Reingold and Marc Rothenberg, "The Exploring Expedition and the Smithsonian Institution," in *Magnificent Voyagers: The U.S. Exploring Expedition, 1838-1842*,

ed. Herman J. Viola and Carolyn Margolis (Washington, 1985), pp. 227-241, 243-253; Rhees, *Journals*, p. 125 (quotation); J. S. Black to Jacob Thompson, June 10, 1857, Letters Received from the Smithsonian Institution, General Records of the Department of the Treasury, RG 56, National Archives.

6. On March 3, 1857, on the last day of the Thirty-Fourth Congress, the House appropriated \$15,000 for the construction of cases to house the collections, and \$2,000 for their transfer. The Smithsonian is not mentioned in the bill. *U.S. Statutes at Large*, 11:219.

258. TO SPENCER FULLERTON BAIRD

Smithsonian Institution
April 13th 1857

My Dear Bair

It is impossible for me to settle the number of copies of Brewer's paper to be coloured unless I have the data before me.¹ I understood from your previous representations that the stones could be kept and that the coloured plates could be furnished as they might be wanted.

The publications and exchanges are in my opinion the most important operations of the institution and cannot be placed secondary to any thing else. The matter of the plates ought to have been settled after full discussion before you left.

I send you the proof of Hitchcock's paper² with a few corrections.

I hope Mrs Baird reached Phil^d without injury and that she may be much benefitted by the visit.

In haste I remain
truly yours
Joseph Henry

Professor S. F.^A Baird

Baird Papers, Smithsonian Archives.

1. Thomas M. Brewer's paper, *North American Oölogy. Part I. Raptores and Fissirostres*, 1857, SI Contributions, vol. 11 (Washington, 1859), included five lithographed plates. The paper was accepted in February 1856 and published separately in June 1857, although volume eleven did not appear until 1859. The colored

plates were so expensive that the Smithsonian did not publish anything beyond part 1. *DAB*, s.v. "Brewer, Thomas Mayo."

2. Edward Hitchcock, *Illustrations of Surface Geology*, 1857, SI Contributions, vol. 9 (Washington, 1859).