

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
BOARD OF REGENTS MINUTES,
September 9, 1846

Washington, D.C., September 9, 1846.

The Board met pursuant to adjournment.

Present, the same Regents as yesterday.

Mr. Owen presented to the Board, in behalf of David Dale Owen, M. D., of Indiana, a plan, drawings, and specifications of a building; for said institution.

Mr. Owen also presented a plan and drawings for the same from Mr. Robert Mills, architect of the city of Washington.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That the Chancellor and Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents be, and they are hereby, authorized, and instructed to take such measures as may be deemed by them most proper to obtain plans for the erection of buildings, fulfilling all the conditions in reference to them contained in the law organizing this institution, and that said committee report such plan as they may approve to this Board, at its next meeting; and further, that said committee specially report in regard to the best material for said buildings, and to the best modes of warming, lighting, and ventilating the same, with estimates of the cost when constructed of different materials; and that they further report in regard to such other matters as they may consider important in the premises.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Board be offered to David Dale Owen, M. D., of Indiana, for the plans of buildings for the Smithsonian Institution, presented on his behalf; and that said plans, with the correspondence explanatory of the same, and any other plans which may be presented to this Board, be referred to the committee just named.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to report at the next session are authorized to purchase such works, per account of the Board, on architecture, bibliography, and the like, as they may deem necessary to enable them to perform the duties of their appointment; to visit any structures and collections in this country; and also to avail themselves of the suggestions of other skillful persons, and to offer therefor, if necessary, such remuneration as the Regents may choose subsequently to make.

Resolved, That the regular meetings of the Board of Regents shall be on the second Wednesday of December and the third Wednesday of February in each year; and on the first Wednesday of June in each alternate year, commencing with the first Wednesday of June in the year 1848.

Resolved, That Mr. Rush be a committee to ascertain, through the solicitors formerly employed by him on behalf of the United States in the suit to obtain the Smithsonian bequest, or otherwise, whether Madame De la Batut still survives; and if not, what steps are necessary to be taken to obtain the fund reverting to the United States at her death; being a portion of the original property of James Smithson retained by the English court of chancery, in order to furnish, in the shape of interest, an annuity to the said Madame De la Batut. And further, in case the said Madame De la Batut survives, to adopt measures by which her decease may be communicated to the Board whenever that event may occur. And that Mr. Rush report to the Executive Committee the legal charge thus incurred, which the said committee is hereby authorized to pay.

Resolved, That the Secretary be requested to contract for the printing, on good paper and in neat pamphlet form, of two hundred and fifty copies of the original law accepting the trust and of the law of last session organizing the institution, the pamphlet also to include the names and residences of the present Board of Regents; and that six copies be sent to each of the Regents and to each member of the Establishment.

Resolved, That the subject of the selection of a site be referred to the committee on the buildings constituted at this meeting, to report at an adjourned meeting of this Board.

Resolved, That when this Board adjourn, it adjourn to meet at the Vice-President's room, at the Capitol, in the city of Washington, on the last Monday of November next, at 12 o'clock, at noon.

Resolved, That Mr. Choate and Mr. Pennybacker be added to the committee appointed yesterday to digest a plan to carry out the provisions of the act establishing the Smithsonian Institution.

Resolved, That the Secretary be requested, without unnecessary delay, to collect, on behalf of the institution, all the documents, Congressional and others, connected with the history of the Smithsonian bequest, and of its legislation, and cause them to be substantially bound, as a commencement of its library.

William Archer, Esq., architect, of the city of Washington, presented to the Board a plan and drawings for a building for the institution, together with specifications and estimates of the cost, &c.; which were referred to the Committee on Buildings.

And then, on motion, the Board adjourned until the last Monday in November next.

