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VII
REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY
FOR THE YEAR 1915

BY
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President of the Academy

For the year which has just closed the Academy can again record progress. The construction of the Museum building in Golden Gate Park had been sufficiently advanced in August, 1915, to make possible a transfer of the Academy's collections, of its library, and of its offices, from the temporary quarters of the last few years at No. 343 Sansome Street.

This annual meeting is notable, therefore, because it is the first annual meeting, and in fact, the first meeting, at the Academy's new quarters in its Museum building in Golden Gate Park. It may be well in passing again to call attention to the fact that the privilege to build here was granted by the people of San Francisco at a public election on November 15, 1910.

The Academy has planned a building which is specially adapted to Museum purposes but which will also afford adequate space and facilities for research work and for the storage and preservation of research material.

Of the proposed building a first section only has been erected, covering about one-third of the ground space which it is proposed ultimately to occupy. The cost of the building

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to February 1, 1916, has been in round numbers \$175,600 of which all except about \$125 has been paid.

The building has not yet been opened to the public, but it is expected that the installation of the habitat groups of mammals and of birds will have been sufficiently advanced to justify a formal opening sometime in May of this year.

The acceptance by the Academy of the offer of Mr. Win. M. Fitzhugh to exhibit in the Museum building the Fitzhugh-Lowe collection of Indian baskets, Indian stone implements and related articles, has resulted in a well filled hall whose contents are most attractive and instructive. I desire to record at this time not only the Academy's appreciation of having this valuable collection added to its museum, but also the fact that the entire installation including the exhibition cases was made at the expense and under the personal supervision of Mr. Fitzhugh. The Indian baskets in this collection are said to constitute the largest and most complete exhibit of the kind in existence.

Owing to lack of suitable cases and space the Hemphill shell collection remains largely boxed, but it is hoped that something may be done soon toward making it available for study and a portion of it for exhibiton.

The Academy found opportunity to be represented, in a small way, at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, where, in the Food Products Building, space was secured for a joint exhibit by the Academy and the California Fish and Game Commission. While the allotted space, the best that was available, was altogether too restricted for results that might otherwise have been secured, the exhibit, prepared with material from the Academy's stock by and under the direction and supervision of Mr. John Rowley of the Academy, was nevertheless an effective, attractive display which forecasts what we are now beginning to realize in the habitat groups that are being installed in this building.

The Academy has received a number of valuable donations from the Panama-Pacific International Exposition Company and from various countries which were represented at the Exposition. Full reference to these will be made in the report of the Director of the Museum, and I wish only to say that the Academy is sincerely appreciative

of the good-will which these donations manifest and that it will make the best possible use thereof. Australia, Argentina, New Zealand, China, Japan, Honduras, Guatemala, and the Netherlands are among the contributors. These donations consist largely of minerals and woods, and many other objects, including some desirable pieces of furniture. Similar donations were received from various states, including California, Montana, Missouri, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. The government of Porto Rico gave a good relief map of Porto Rico and nine excellent large photographs of Porto Rican natural scenery.

A fine specimen of the Florida Manatee was donated by the late Mr. Warren Frazee ("Alligator Joe"), at the suggestion of Mrs. Nellie Waterhouse Dorne, one of our members. The skin and skeleton have been saved.

A large number of valuable specimens and desirable cases and tables were received from the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries.

A large series of minerals, woods, etc., has been contributed by the various Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley County Associations.

The many other donations made during the year to the Academy's museum and library are too numerous for enumeration in this report. They will be referred to in more detail in the report of the Director of the Museum.

The publications of the Academy cover Parts I to VI of Vol. V of the Fourth Series of Proceedings, in all 193 pages.

The activities in the various departments during the year are fully set forth in the reports of the Director of the Museum and of the several curators, and do not require repetition. It need only be stated that the large and continuing demand upon the Academy's financial resources for the installation of the exhibits, has made it necessary to keep the allotments for work in these departments at the lowest possible amounts. The Academy is not in command of resources, in other words, that would enable it to do all that an institution of its character should do for California, for the Pacific Coast, and for the entire Pacific Ocean region.

The curator of botany has been active during the year in enlarging and caring for the herbarium to which many important additions have been made.

The department of paleontology has been very active. Many additions to the collections have been made and several scientific papers based on the department's collections have been published or prepared.

The curator and assistant curator of herpetology have the immense collections of that department installed on shelving and have done much toward increasing the collections.

A few accessions have been received by the departments of mammalogy and ornithology and a beginning has been made with the department of invertebrate zoology.

The curators and their assistants have been alert and efficient in caring for the collections in their charge and their earnestness and enthusiasm deserve and should receive the encouragement of the community and of the entire Pacific Coast.

We may hope that the high class work that is being done, of which some samples of educational value will soon be on display, will attract the attention of the public, and will make clear that ours is an institution for service worthy of generous support by those whose means will permit.

Our building will quickly be filled to capacity. We already know that we will be short of space to display all that has been collected and prepared for attractive educational exhibits.

The Academy's thanks are due, and I take pleasure in expressing them, to those who are devoting of their lives to the scientific and educational work under the Academy's guidance and for which the Academy can provide only inadequate compensation.

The interest displayed in their work, combined with the high order of skill, ability and talent possessed by those who are installing the habitat groups in our Mammal and Bird halls, may be accepted as an assurance that these exhibits will have artistic merit ranking with the best that has yet been produced.

The courtesy of the Mechanics Institute has made it possible to hold the Academy's stated monthly meetings since August at the Mechanics Institute. Up to the present time the Council has not deemed it wise to arrange for these meetings in the Museum building, whose auditorium is not yet ready

for them, and which lacks the convenience of location which can be claimed for the Mechanics Institute.

On behalf of the officers of the Academy I wish to express their appreciation of the help received from members and friends in advancing the Academy's work, and as President I wish to thank all who have in any way contributed to extend the Academy's usefulness.

The present total membership in the Academy is 472, made up of:

Honorary Members	27
Life Members	86
Resident Members	359

During the year 1915 there was an accession of 63 new members, and the Academy lost by death 6, by resignation 25, and by being dropped for arrearages in dues, 9. The net gain in membership during the year has been 23.

The losses by death were:

Greene, Prof. Edward L.....	Life Member	November 10, 1915
Günther, Dr. Albert.....	Honorary	1914
Hilgard, Prof. Eugene W....	Honorary	January 8, 1916
Holladay, Mr. S. W.....	Life	February 16, 1915
Putnam, Prof. Frederic W...	Honorary	August 14, 1915
Wilson, Mr. J. C.....	Resident	1915

LECTURES

During the year 1915, 14 free lectures have been delivered at the stated meetings of the Academy, as follows:

JANUARY 18.	"The Significance of Glaciation in Geologic Time." Dr. Marsden Manson.
JANUARY 29.	"The Work of the United States Biological Survey." W. L. McAtee, U. S. Biological Survey.
FEBRUARY 17.	"Explorations of a Sacred Cave in Arizona." Dr. Walter Hough, Curator of Ethnology, United States National Museum.
MARCH 17.	"Liquid Air." Prof. E. C. Franklin, Professor of Chemistry, Stanford University.
MARCH 26.	"International Peace." Chancellor David Starr Jordan.

- APRIL 21. "Physiographically Unfinished Entrance to San Francisco Bay."
Dr. Ruliff S. Holway, Professor of Geography, University of California.
- MAY 19. "The Status and Life History of the Tree Mouse, *Phenacomys longicaudus* True."
Dr. Walter P. Taylor, University of California.
- JUNE 16. "The Food of the Roadrunner in California."
Dr. Harold C. Bryant, University of California.
- JULY 21. "The Lessons of the Southeast Wind."
Dr. Marsden Manson, San Francisco.
- AUGUST 18. "Administration of Fish and Game Laws."
Ernest Schaeffle, Secretary California Fish and Game Commission.
- SEPTEMBER 15. "Snap-shots in Brazil."
Prof. E. C. Starks, Stanford University.
- OCTOBER 20. "Pearls and Pearl Culture."
Prof. Charles A. Kofoed, University of California.
- NOVEMBER 17. "Some Fishes and Fishing in California and Nevada."
Prof. John O. Snyder, Stanford University.
- DECEMBER 15. "Ancient Climates of the West Coast."
Dr. James Perrin Smith, Stanford University.

FINANCIAL

The financial transactions of the Academy are fully set forth in the Treasurer's report and in the financial records. From these it appears that our gross annual income is about \$67,500, of which about \$46,272 is the net return from the Academy's Market Street property and about \$1500 is the amount received from members as admission fees and dues. The Academy has recently borrowed the sum of \$32,175 in order to advance the completion of its building and the installation of exhibits. The total obligations on which interest is now being paid is in round numbers \$332,000.

The gross annual receipts from the Market Street property for twelve months are about \$64,272, and the interest on the \$300,000 for which this property is mortgaged to the New York Mutual Life Insurance Company is \$18,000, leaving the net annual return from this property \$46,272, as above stated.

The expenditures in the calendar year 1915 will give some idea of how the available funds, apart from the investment in the Museum building and in exhibits, have been used. The amount of interest paid was \$18,257.05, and interest received

was \$1,633.28. The salaries paid during the year amounted to \$15,705.35; the insurance paid was \$2,120.03, and the general operating expenses were \$3,339.94.

These figures show that about \$28,000 of the Academy's receipts were available in 1915 for construction and installation of exhibits and that a fair annual surplus may be expected which, after a year or two, will in part be available for reducing the Academy's financial obligations.

The fact that it has been necessary to thus anticipate for a period the usual surplus should cause no regret. We know that the time will come when the results achieved will fully justify the course which has been pursued.



Grunsky, C. E. 1916. "Report of the President of the Academy for the year 1915." *Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences, 4th series* 5, 195–201.

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