

The American Museum of Natural History

SEVENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT
JULY, 1947, THROUGH JUNE, 1948

"For the purpose of establishing and maintaining in said city (New York) a Museum and Library of Natural History; of encouraging and developing the study of Natural Science; of advancing the general knowledge of kindred subjects, and to that end of furnishing popular instruction."

FROM THE ACT OF INCORPORATION,
APRIL 6, 1869

SEVENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The past year has been a period of extreme crisis for The American Museum of Natural History. Those responsible for its administration have been faced with a series of problems which threatened the very survival of the institution, or at least jeopardized its ability to fulfill its responsibilities.

These problems have been met and solved in part by the adoption of extraordinary economy measures. While we are far from being out of the woods, there are definite signs of progress in our continued battle to attain sound financial health. One heartening indication is the fact that although our anticipated annual deficit for the year 1947-1948, was set at \$471,000, (less contributions) we ended the year with a deficit of \$231,500—still a staggering figure.

This year we are determined to reduce this annual deficit still further. We are hopeful that through severe budget reductions we can lower the deficit to \$159,000 or less. We are well aware that even such a sizeable reduction in the annual deficit will constitute but a partial solution to current problems, but it is an indication that we can ultimately gain that financial security for which we have been striving. In addition, we can be grateful that during this troublesome year we received accretions through gifts and bequests to our endowment funds of over \$400,000.

In spite of our troubles, I think it can be fairly said that we have maintained almost intact our basic organization despite economies so severe that our entire future scope of operation has seemed in danger. We have had to make painful personnel reductions which have thrown an even greater load on scientific and educational departments which are already undermanned, but I trust that regardless of this, we have learned how to produce more with less.

A striking indication that the public is interested in the museum is that again attendance for the year showed a surprising increase.

*Preparing for the
opening of San-
ford Hall*



The Museum's New Look



*Appreciative
groups study the
exhibits*

Another source of extreme pleasure was the opening of the Leonard C. Sanford Hall of Biology of Birds after almost a decade of intensive research, preparation and construction. This Hall, which has received the most lavish praise from scientists, educators and the general public, has enhanced the Museum's service potential many fold. It is most fitting that this Hall, which well may be the forerunner of an extensive new exhibit plan, has been named in honor of Dr. Leonard C. Sanford, whose interest and unflagging devotion to the Museum typify the spirit we must all possess in these trying times.

We can also take consolation in having been able to maintain, at least on a limited basis, our important field work.

One thing is clear however, and that is that we cannot be an effective institution and truly live up to our charter responsibilities relying solely upon our present support.

Further drastic economies would not permit us to fulfill the functions we were created to perform, nor enable us to be the credit to the City and the community which we believe we have been and should continue to be.

Our income from endowment has been about the same for the past few years, but as everybody knows the dollar buys far less than it used to and consequently that source of revenue has been increasingly less effective.

We have received most considerate help from the City of New York in meeting our maintenance costs which have always been the City's responsibility. Even here, however, costs have mounted so rapidly that actual basic maintenance expenses have had to be met from funds diverted from other Museum activities.

We have then, the following alternatives; we can maintain our programs as we have done for the past few years, gradually eating into our capital funds; we can operate for a long period by drastically reducing our program, which would take us ultimately to a state of deterioration which would not merit support from any quarter; we can battle to carry out our programs and even expand them by developing and intensely cultivating our present sources of income, both public and private.

I believe that we must choose the last alternative, and we are now actively engaged in seeking this additional support. This source, in brief, will be built around the community-minded citizens of New York City and their representatives, and those believers in the necessity of supporting institutions such as ours.

We already have a strong group of loyal friends who have done much in

past years to aid us in our financial needs. We are highly indebted to the devoted work during the year just past of Mr. Alexander M. White, and his Men's Committee, Mrs. Augustus K. Mills, III, and her Women's Committee, and Mr. H. Nelson Slater, for his work in interesting business men in the Museum's needs. Only through the efforts of these loyal committees was it possible for us to avoid an even more staggering deficit. These groups provide the base for our broadened appeal for public support and upon their efforts will rest much of the success of our drive for financial stability.

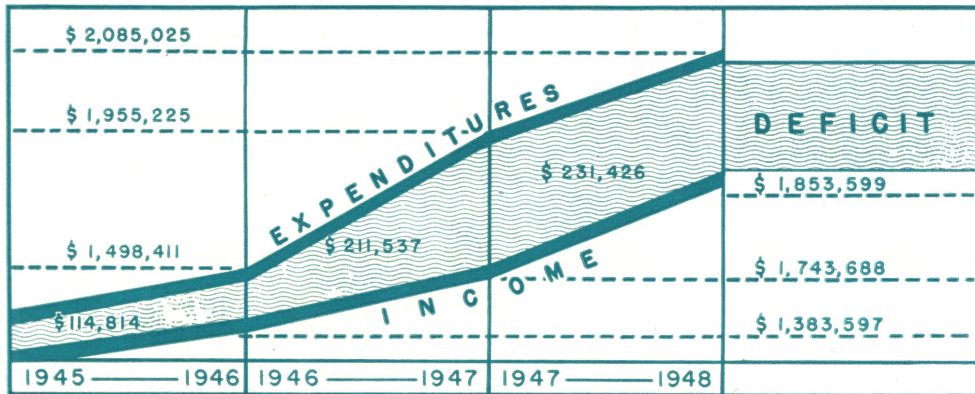
We are not seeking capital funds through these agencies; rather we are inviting citizens, and business, to contribute on an annual basis to the preservation and future development of a worthwhile dynamic Museum.

To this end I am incorporating in this report a partial program of development and an exposition of some of our needs. I feel that our old friends will immediately recognize the importance of continuing their support on an even more generous basis and that many new friends will join us in our work.

For an institution of this kind to stand still is to retrogress, and any such tendency must be resisted with utmost vigor. I believe that we should institute, insofar as we can, our new broad educational exhibition plan, depicting the relationships of man and his environment.

The value of our contributions to the community and the nation can, in a sense, be measured by the use of our halls. The fact that since the war the Museum attendance has been steadily growing proves that our visitors still enjoy and are benefited by using our facilities. It is imperative that we not only provide proper maintenance for our present exhibits, but keep pace with scientific progress in interpreting science and nature to the general public in an appealing way. The value of our entire philosophy and technique of exhibition has been recognized throughout the world, despite the fact that but a small portion of our planned modernization program has been instituted because of our severe financial situation. This program must not be further delayed because upon it we must base our continued existence as an effective scientific, educational force.

We must also expand our educational services to children. In cooperation with the City of New York, through the Board of Education, we have developed and maintained a supplementary educational program for classes from the City public schools which has drawn wide-spread praise from educators. This program has become a model for similar programs being set up in many other



A graphic illustration of the Museum's constantly increasing deficit

cities. More than 60,000 New York City school children profited from this unique educational experience during the past year, while a total of nearly 500,000 children benefited from this and other activities such as special film programs, guided tours, and special exhibit programs. In addition to these activities conducted within the Museum, a total of more than 14,000,000 persons were reached by circulating educational exhibits, films and slides. It is estimated that at least ten million children were included in this group. And this in spite of the fact that our restricted budget has made it impossible for us to handle more than approximately half of the specialized service requests for children's groups.

None of these things that we are doing or should be doing can be properly executed without an adequate and top scientific staff. Within the past five years practically no new appointments have been made in our scientific departments. This is doubly disturbing because of the fact that during this period many of our outstanding scientists have been lost through death, retirement, or the inability of the Museum to meet competition from similar institutions or private industry. In many departments we find that through this process of attrition we have no logical, trained scientific successors for our leaders in science.

We must plan for the gradual rebuilding of our scientific strength, now cut in half. This must be done to assure an effective Museum educational program, for only through the research of our curators can we gain the knowledge upon which our exhibits are based.

We realize that these plans constitute a prodigious challenge to an institution which has been forced to operate with a serious deficit. We are de-



*The Museum's
marine research
center on the Ba-
bamas island of
Bimini*

terminated, however, to work our way out of our financial dilemma, lest a great cultural and scientific investment become of gradually decreasing value to the community and the world at large.

Such a tragedy would mean not only the loss of this institution as a first rank Museum, but would mark such a retrogressive step that its after effects would affect every other similar institution and agency.

The success of our plans for the future rests squarely on the willingness of the community and its public-spirited citizens and believers in science and education throughout the nation to contribute annually through public and private means, to an exciting cultural program which will bring the story of the natural sciences to millions of people.

We are not inviting help for a mere survival program. We are well aware that there are many demands on the time and resources of everyone ~~these~~ days. We are appealing for help in carrying out a dynamic program designed to probe deeper into the mysteries of nature, and to give us the means to tell that fundamental and fascinating story in an interesting and dramatic way to untold millions of adults and children.

THE YEAR'S WORK

A review of the year's work provides a revealing picture of the wide range of scientific and educational fields embraced in the Museum's program. Even the highlight digesting of significant activity as set forth here indicates that considerable progress was made in both scientific and educational phases.

Perhaps the most inspiring opening of the year took place on May 25th, when the Leonard C. Sanford Hall of the Biology of Birds was formally named in honor of Dr. Sanford, a Museum trustee and a patron of the Museum for almost half a century. The Hall contains one of the most comprehensive series of exhibits on the life of birds in the world.

The first new major hall of the 1947-1948 season was opened on December 2nd when the curtain was drawn on a colorful exhibit titled, "From the Neck Up." The first exhibit of its kind to be held in the City of New York, "From the Neck Up" contrasts above the shoulder fashions of primitive man with those commonly employed by modern civilized society. It has proved to be, understandably, one of the most popular exhibits in the Museum.

New Mexico Ghost Ranch excavations yield rich fossil finds



The establishment of the Museum's marine research center on the Bahamas island of Bimini was also completed during the year. The new field base has been named the Lerner Marine Laboratory for its founder Michael Lerner,

prominent naturalist and Museum Trustee. Mr. Lerner has not only made a gift of the base but also established a fund, in which others have participated, for its maintenance.

1945 - '46 1,569,742

1946 - '47 1,696,250

Many of the Museum's Departments had expeditions in the field during the past year and reported excellent results.

1947 - '48 1,756,456

On July 28th, 1947, John C. Pallister, museum entomologist, returned from a nine months expedition in Peru with a collection of

Comparative attendance chart

more than 28,000 insects and spiders representing the first complete collection of Peruvian insects ever brought to this country.

On September 30, 1947, a magnificent collection of early dinosaur and mammal fossils arrived at the Museum from New Mexico. The Paleontological field programs which led to these discoveries were led by Dr. George Gaylord Simpson, who directed the early mammal search and Dr. Edwin H. Colbert who supervised the search for dinosaurs.

Dr. Mont A. Cazier, Chairman of the Department of Insects and Spiders, led an expedition into Mexico for a period of three months and returned during the month of October with the largest and most diversified collection of insects and spiders ever obtained in northern Mexico. Over 100,000 specimens were brought back and this number included scores of new species.

During the summer months a unique expedition made its way to the Peruvian Andes in search of prehistoric marine fossils and met with great success. It was led by Dr. Norman D. Newell, Curator of historical geology and fossil invertebrates and Professor of Geology at Columbia University.

The first major American expedition to the remote Cape York Peninsula in Australia was conducted by our scientists during the year and began operations during March. Led by Leonard Brass, botanist, it is known as the Archbold Cape York Expedition and will concentrate most of its attention on the collection of mammals and plants.

In January of this year the Museum's first major expedition to the remote Turkana District of Africa returned after having covered more than 30,000

miles making studies of the Turkana Tribe and its little known cultures. Colonel William J. Morden, veteran explorer and leader of the expedition brought back comprehensive motion pictures which should furnish an invaluable documentary record for future study.

A Central African Expedition, under the direction of Dr. James L. Clark also returned recently after several months on that continent. This full-scale expedition succeeded in attaining most of its objectives including the first record motion pictures of remote tribesmen in the geographical heart of Africa.

Of outstanding interest during the year was a field project conducted by Dr. Theodore C. Schneirla, Curator in the Museum's Department of Animal Behavior. This group spent five months in the field on Barro Colorado Island in Gatun Lake in Panama and brought back a colony of live Army Ants for further laboratory study.

April 14, 1948 marked the return to this country of a five months expedition to New Zealand and the subantarctic Snares Islands under the direction of Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy. This group brought back the first complete skeletons of individual Moas, prehistoric Pacific birds and the remains of other extinct birds which inhabited New Zealand from one thousand to hundreds of thousands of years ago.

The Museum's Director and Curators were active during the year in the preparation of material for publication and the work of many of our scientists appears in a variety of scientific publications.

The Department of Education through its broad program of temporary exhibitions, special lectures, ethnographic dance programs, and circulating slide, motion picture and exhibit collections, again interpreted the basic truths of natural history to many millions of people.

Our research program in pure and applied science was extensive this year. In the Department of Anthropology research was continued on genetic studies in Hawaii, anthropometric survey of Polynesia, population of the United States and survey of endocrine data relating to problems of human growth.

In the Department of Mammals research activity was largely centered on the mammals of North America and of Central America. Considerable research was also carried on at the Archbold Biological Station at Lake Placid, Florida. Studies were continued on the mammals of the South Pacific area.

In the Department of Preparation and Installation further scientific data was sought regarding all exhibits while special attention was given to the casting of bronze veiner dies and the Plastic Acetate Sheet.



A section of the Museum's popular, "From the Neck Up" exhibit

Boys, Girls and Bonnets

A few of the nearly 500,000 children who enjoyed the Museum this year





THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURES
FOR THE YEAR JULY 1, 1947 TO JUNE 30, 1948

OPERATING FUNDS

INCOME

Appropriations from the City of New York	\$849,699.14	
Income from Invested Funds	716,310.08	
Income from Outside Trusts and Foundations	40,320.97	
Contributions	122,497.90	
Membership Dues	57,290.00	
Sales and Services, etc.	50,152.52	
Transferred from Unrestricted Funds	17,328.70	\$1,853,599.31

EXPENDITURES

Administrative and General Expenses	\$527,747.72	
Care and Use of Collections and Supervision of Exhibitions	510,536.53	
Education and Exhibition	282,527.61	
Operation and Maintenance of Physical Plant and Other General Services	757,220.37	
Transferred to Restricted Funds	6,992.91	2,085,025.14

DEFICIT

\$231,425.83

OTHER FUNDS

	Receipts	Disbursements	Balances
Endowment and Unrestricted Funds	\$ 448,257.14	\$893,289.18 (a)	\$445,032.04
Pension Fund	285,399.44 (b)	173,372.51	112,026.93
Restricted Funds	1,104,213.22 (b)	622,979.40	481,233.82
Self-Supporting Auxiliary Activities	462,103.57 (b)	454,428.60	7,674.97

(a) Authorized transfers from Unrestricted Funds for Exhibition Hall Rehabilitation Program and Operating Funds Deficit

(b) Including transfers between funds

A tremendous amount of research is of course being done at Bimini and in addition to this the Department of Fishes and Aquatic Biology is continuing its studies of Mexican cave fish, carangin fishes, revisional studies of marlins and the distribution and migration of tuna.

The study of broader aspects of evolution in fishes is being continued and considerable progress being made in the studies on *Parula*. Taxonomic work is being continued on Caridean material from the Askoy and Thetis expeditions.

The Department of Geology and Paleontology reports research activity on fossil mammals including completion of study of the St. Louis cave collection made in 1946. A large research project on the Triassic dinosaurs of North America has been started and a continuation of the general program on Triassic reptiles is in progress.

An extensive program on American Triassic fishes is being continued and work on the great collection of Triassic coelacanths found on the Princeton University campus has been started.

In Invertebrates several major research programs are under way and considerable progress has been made on these.

The Department of Insects and Spiders reports research on the control of mosquitoes, house flies, etc. with very successful results. Work has continued on a limited scale on the faunal study of the Mexican spiders and on the cave spiders of Mexico, Panama and the United States.

In the Department of Amphibians and Reptiles the project dealing with the thermal requirements of reptiles has been continued and a great amount of data has been assembled. A project to study the social behavior of lizards has begun on Bimini and studies of South American frog genera are being continued.

Department of Birds reports continued studies of the relationship and distribution of oceanic birds. It is also making considerable progress in the study of Peruvian birds and the birds of the Belgian Congo. In addition to these several minor studies have been made by the Department.

Ten new experiments have been undertaken in the research of the Department of Animal Behavior and during the year this department completed fifteen different experiments.

All Museum Departments report considerable over-all activity for the year past and have high expectations for the execution of their plans during the coming year. It is to be hoped that conditions during 1948-1949 will allow our Department heads and all staff members to realize, at least in some measure, the fulfillment of these plans.

THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
JUNE 30, 1948



ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 982,289.93
Investments	18,083,219.46
Accounts Receivable	119,648.92
Inventories	78,345.88
Prepaid Expenses	<u>7,807.11</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$19,271,311.30</u></u>

LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	\$ 6,083.31
Deferred Income	72,381.65
Working Fund	<u>15,000.00</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ 93,464.96

FUNDS AND DEFICIT			
	<i>July 1, 1947</i>	<i>Net Change</i>	<i>June 30, 1948</i>
Endowment Funds	\$15,162,053.95	\$445,032.04*	\$14,717,021.91
Pension Fund	2,965,762.28	112,026.93	3,077,789.21
Restricted Funds	1,058,128.41	481,233.82	1,539,362.23
Self-Supporting Auxiliary Activities	<u>67,423.85</u>	<u>7,674.97</u>	<u>75,098.82</u>
	19,253,368.49	155,903.68	19,409,272.17
Operating Funds Deficit	<u>375,135.98</u>	<u>143,710.15</u>	<u>231,425.83</u>
	18,878,232.51	299,613.83	19,177,846.34
Total Funds and Deficit			<u><u>19,177,846.34</u></u>
Total Liabilities and Funds			<u><u>\$19,271,311.30</u></u>

*Actual accretions to Endowment Funds amounted to \$448,257.14. Authorized transfers to finance Exhibition Hall Rehabilitation Program and to eliminate 1946-1947 operating deficit amounted to \$893,289.18 resulting in a net decrease during the year of \$445,032.04.

THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY PLANETARIUM AUTHORITY
SUMMARY STATEMENT OF INCOME, EXPENSES AND DEFICIT
FOR THE YEAR JULY 1, 1947 TO JUNE 30, 1948

Income:			
Admission Fees	\$123,452.38		
Other Income	6,902.62		
Profits From Sales of Publications	<u>3,797.12</u>	\$134,152.12	
Expenses:			
Operating Expenses	94,026.87		
Administrative Expenses	31,041.19		
Publicity Expenses	2,244.30		
Navigation Course Expenses	1,377.36		
Interest on Bonds	25,650.00		
Interest on Loans	1,843.86		
Depreciation	<u>14,603.46</u>	170,787.04	
Deficit For The Year			<u><u>\$36,634.92</u></u>

BALANCE SHEET
JUNE 30, 1948

ASSETS

Cash:			
Operating Fund	\$68,216.46		
Surplus Fund	<u>1,425.00</u>	\$69,641.46	
Accounts Receivable			130.60
Inventory of Publications			6,643.70
Prepaid Expenses			<u>1,580.22</u>
Building & Equipment	646,771.04		
Less: Depreciation	<u>54,991.91</u>	591,779.13	
Planetarium Instruments	<u>156,869.27</u>		
Less: Depreciation	<u>133,276.16</u>	23,593.11	
			<u><u>\$693,368.22</u></u>

LIABILITIES

4½% Refunding Serial Revenue Bonds and Interest Thereon:			
Interest:			
Unpaid Coupons, Past Due	\$173,700.00		
Accrued Interest (Current)	2,392.50		
Accrued Interest on Unpaid Bonds	<u>46,207.50</u>	222,300.00	
Principal:			
Past Due	251,000.00		
Due in Annual Instalments From May 1, 1949 to May 1, 1959	<u>319,000.00</u>	570,000.00	792,300.00
Advances from The American Museum of Natural History and Interest Thereon:			
Advances	72,545.62		
Interest	<u>15,118.31</u>	87,663.93	
Deferred Income			<u>1,454.54</u>
			881,418.47
Deficit July 1, 1947	\$439,209.15		
Deficit For The Year	<u>36,634.92</u>		
	<u>475,844.07</u>		
Less: Contributed Capital	<u>287,793.82</u>		
Deficit, June 30, 1948			<u><u>\$188,050.25</u></u>
			<u><u>\$693,368.22</u></u>



*Primitive instruments never fail
to fascinate little visitors*

Music and Rhythm

*Indian dances are always a
popular Museum feature with
children and adults alike*



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Associate Members	(annually)	\$5	Life Members	\$1,000
Annual Members	(annually)	15	Patrons	5,000
Sustaining Members	(annually)	25	Associate Benefactors	10,000
Contributing Members	(annually)	50	Associate Founders	25,000
Supporting Members	(annually)	100	Benefactors	50,000
Fellows		500	Endowment Members	100,000
Honorary Life Members			Honorary Fellows	
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THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York 24, N. Y.

FORM OF BEQUEST

I do hereby give and bequeath to "The American Museum of Natural History" of the City of New York.

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