Washington July 2nd 1867

My dear Mr. [Name]

You can do the Smithsonian Institution an important service, just as this time, if you will give me a brief statement of the condition in which the character and operations of this establishment is held in Europe and especially in Germany. I have a number of new projects, where it is important to impress with a further idea of our organization and the fruits it is producing. They are not uniformly but deserve to be fully assumed as to the results of the system of action operations.
Your uncle, I am informed, is expected in this city next week. I shall endeavor to have some conversation with him in regard to his imminent indentures.

Mr. Johnson of Baltimore informs me that the building menace has somewhat subsided among the Trustees of the Institute, but that it may break out again.

I remain very truly
your friend,

Joseph Henry

Professor C. C. March
Yale College
My dear Sir,

Although you have doubts had many opportunities of learning in what high estimation the Smithsonian Institution is held by men of learning in all parts of the world, I have thought it might interest you to know somewhat more fully how it is regarded at the present time in Europe, and especially in Germany, where an opinion on the subject would be most likely to be correct.

During my late residence of three years in Europe, most of which was spent at the German Universities, it was very satisfying to hear the Smithsonian so frequently spoken of with approval. I found, that the Institution was very generally regarded as the fountain-head of science in America. This may, perhaps, have been owing in some measure to the fact that the Smithsonian is, in great measure, the great medium of intercourse between the scientific men of Europe and this country, but it must be seen, the general object and aim of the Institution were fully understood.
for science

The work accomplished by some local institutions in their locality, however, in most cases, is the fully appreciated, but the Smithsonian Institution was considered a occupying far higher ground, and this exerting an important influence over the whole country.

That feature of the institution which provides, for the increase, as well as the diffusion of knowledge among men, seemed to give especial satisfaction, and the rich, was not infrequently expressed that the assistance given by it, is without instruction to original investigators in science might be made more personal.

The reputation of the Smithsonian Institution abroad has, however, mainly based on the character of its publications, which are among the most important contributions to science which this country has made, and most of them, such as would reflect honor on any country.

Such being the prevailing opinion among scientific men in Europe in regard to the Smithsonian Institution, any American ought to feel a personal pride in it, and I thought you would read this letter as a single act. You might consider that the honor is so largely indicated for it that it

Prof. John Henry.
The Smithsonian Institution,

has received from Prof. O. C. Marsh, New Haven,

"Structure of the skull and limbs in mosasauro-

mite reptiles"

a gift for which it returns a grateful acknowledgment.

Joseph Henry

Smithsonian Institution,

Washington City, U.S.A., July 13, 1872
Dear Sir:

We beg leave to inclose herewith a copy of a letter from one of our correspondents, Dr. Jules Le Carpentier, in which he offers for sale his collection of minerals, Indian curiosities, etc. We would state that the Institution has no appropriation from its funds for the purchase of the specimens in question, and thinking that probably you might desire to increase the collections in your charge we have thought proper to submit the proposition of Mr. Le Carpentier to you.
consideration.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

[Address]

Prof. O. C. March,
New Haven,
Ct.
Elizabeth City, Colfax Co. N. M.
September 10th 1872.

Prof. Joseph Henry.

Dear Sir,

I have still in my possession the collection of Indian curiosities and minerals spoken of in your communication of May 1st, 1871.

As I think of remaining in this country permanently, I should like very much to dispose of my curiosities so as to cover my expenses.

Please let me know what would be the best plan to attain that object.

I am Sir, Very respectfully,
Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) Jules Le Carpentier
U. S. Examining Surgeon for Pensions,
Territory of N. Mexico.
Letter of Prof. Henry,
OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 13, 1873.

To the Chairman of the
Library Committee of Congress:

* * * * I would respectfully urge the importance of purchasing these valuable records of the previous inhabitants of North America, which, if not secured at this time, will be dissipated and lost to the world. They will grow in importance with advancing years, and when the race of which they are the representations shall have entirely disappeared their value will be inestimable.

No scientific subject of the present day is exciting more interest than that of the past history of the world, as it is now being reconstructed, as it were, from the materials hitherto almost neglected of the remains of ancient times, which are now being collected and presented for scientific study by every enlightened government of Europe. It is proved by cumulative arguments the most irresistible that the ancestors of the most civilized races of the present day were at one time savages, of whom the manners and customs can only be understood by a comparative study of the lives of savages now existing in different parts of the world. Comparative ethnology forms the basis of pre-historic science. Unfortunately the data of this science exhibits many gaps to be filled up, and our Government would be justly censured by the intelligence of the world were it to permit the valuable documents, as they may be called, of a disappearing race to be suffered to be lost by the failure to grant the small appropriation necessary to procure them.

JOSEPH HENRY,
Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute.
Catlin's Indian Collection.

AN UNIQUE MUSEUM

Fully representing the Manners, Customs, Sports, Religious Ceremonies, Costumes, and Individuality of the Tribes of

NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS,

consisting of

Three Hundred and Fifty Portraits

Of distinguished Men and Women of the different Tribes, such as

Sacs, Kansas, Osages, Comanches, Pawnee-Picts, Sioux, Choc-taws, Missouries, Mandans, Blackfeet, As-sin-ne-boins, Delawares, Cherokees, Crowns, &c.

Of which the Portraits of

Osceola, Keokuk, Black Hawk and his Sons,
Ioway, Red Jacket, King Philip, and John Ross,

Are all prominent in American History.

Two Hundred and Fifty other Pictures,

Descriptive of Indian Countries, their Villages, Games, and Customs, containing in all above

3,000 FIGURES,

All of which were painted on the spot forty years ago, when the Indian modes and customs were much more primitive than at the present time. The views of mountains, rivers, prairies, and waterfalls, painted at the same time, give points of American scenery long ago effaced by the advance of civilization. Among these pictures are

FOUR VALUABLE AND HIGHLY-FINISHED PAINTINGS,

Representing the singular Religious Ceremonies of the

MANDAN TRIBE,

(Now extinct)

A very valuable collection of

Lances, Calumets, Pipes, Tomahawks, Scalping Knives,
Bows, Quivers, Shields, Necklaces, War-Clubs,
Whistles, Saddles, Cradles, Masks, &c.

Skulls from different Tribes, particularly several from the Flat-head Tribes, showing the character of this unaccountable custom, and Flat-head cradles illustrating the process.

In addition to the above is the

CARTOON COLLECTION,

Containing 600 paintings of North and South American Indians, recently on exhibition at the Smithsonian Institute.
Indian Portraits.

Certificates.

I hereby certify that the persons whose signatures are affixed to the certificate used below by Mr. Catlin are officers in the service of the United States, as herein set forth; and that their opinions of the accuracy of the likenesses, and correctness of the views, &c., exhibited by him in his “Indian Gallery,” are entitled full credit.

J. R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War, Washington.

With regard to the gentlemen whose names are affixed to certificates below, I am fully warranted in saying that no individuals have had better opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of the persons, habits, costumes, and sports of the Indian tribes, or possess stronger claims upon the public confidence in the statements they make respecting the correctness of delineation, &c., of Mr. Catlin’s “Indian Gallery;” and I may add my own testimony with regard to many of those Indians whom I have seen, and whose likenesses are in the collection and sketched with fidelity and correctness.

C. A. HARRIS,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington.

I have seen Mr. Catlin’s collection of portraits of Indians, many of which were familiar to me, and painted in my presence; and as far as they have included Indians of my acquaintance, the likenesses are easily recognized, bearing the most striking resemblance to the originals, as well as faithful representations of their costumes.

W. CLARK,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs, St. Louis.

I have examined Mr. Catlin’s collection of the Upper Missouri Indians to the Rocky Mountains, all of which I am acquainted with, and indeed most of them were painted when I was present, and I do not hesitate to pronounce them correct likenesses, and readily to be recognized. And I consider the costumes, as painted by him, to be the only correct representations I have ever seen.

JNO. F. A. SANFORD,
U. S. S. Indian Agent for Mandans, Ricketts, Mandan, Crees, Kikate- nea, Antelope, Blackfoot, &c.

Having examined Mr. Catlin’s collection of Portraits of Indians of the Missouri and Rocky Mountains, I have no hesitation in pronouncing them, so far as I am acquainted with the individuals, to be the best I have ever seen, both as regards the expression of countenance and the exact and complete manner in which the costume has been painted by him.

J. L. BEAN,
S. Agent for Indian Affairs.

J. PECK.
Agent for Upper Missouri Indians.

It gives me great pleasure in being enabled to add my name to the list of those who have spontaneously expressed their approbation of Mr. Catlin’s collection of Indian Paintings. His collection of materials places it in his power to throw much light on the Indian character; and his portraits, so far as I have seen them, are drawn with great fidelity as to character and likeness.

H. SCHOLLGRAF,
Indian Agent for Wisconsin Territory.

Having lived and dealt with the Blackfoot Indians for five years past, I was enabled to recognize every one of the portraits of those people, and of the Crows also, which Mr. Catlin has in his collection, from the faithful likenesses they bore to the originals.

J. E. BRAZEAU.
St. Louis, 1855.

Having spent sixteen years in the continual acquaintance with the Indians of the several tribes of the Missouri, represented in Mr. Catlin’s Gallery of Indian Paintings, I was enabled to judge of the correctness of the likenesses, and instantly recognized every one of them when I looked them over from the striking resemblance they bore to the originals; so also of the landscapes on the Missouri.

HONORE PICOTTE.

The portraits in the possession of Mr. Catlin, of Pawnees, Piets, Kio- was, Comanches, Weecons, and Osages, were painted by him from life, when on a tour to their country with the United States dragoons. The likenesses are good, very easily to be recognized, and the costumes faithfully represented.

Henry Dodge, Colonel of Dragoons; R. H. Mason, Major of Dragoons; D. Hunter, Captain of Dragoons; D. Perkins, Captain of Dragoons: M. Duncan, Captain of Dragoons; T. B. Wheelock, Lieutenant of Dragoons.

We have seen Mr. Catlin’s portraits of Indians east of the Rocky Mountains, many of which are familiar to us. The likenesses are easily
recognized, bearing a strong resemblance to the originals, as well as faithful representations of their costumes.

J. Dougherty,
Indian Agent.

J. Gantt.

November 27, 1837.

We hereby certify that the portraits of the Grand Pawnees, Republican Pawnees, Pawnee Loups, Tappage Pawnees, Otoes, Omahas, and Missouries, which are in Mr. Catlin’s Indian Gallery, were painted from life by Mr. Catlin, and that the individuals sat to him in the costumes precisely in which they are painted.

J. Dougherty,
I. A. for Pawnees, Omahas, and Otoes.
J. Gantt.

New York, 1837.

I have seen Mr. Catlin’s collection of Indian portraits, many of which were familiar to me, and painted in my presence at their own villages. I have spent the greater part of my life amongst the tribes and individuals he has represented, and I do not hesitate to pronounce them correct likenesses, and easily recognized; also his sketches of their manners and customs, I think, are excellent; and the landscape views on the Missouri and Mississippi are correct representations.

K. McKenzie,

We hereby certify that the portraits of the Seminoles and Euchees, named in this catalogue, were painted by George Catlin, from the life, at Fort Moultrie; that the Indians sat or stood in the costumes precisely in which they are painted, and that the likenesses are remarkably good.

P. Morrison,
Capt. 4th Inf.
J. S. Hathaway,
2d Lieut. 1st Art.
H. Wharton,
2d Lieut. 6th Inf.
F. Weedon,
Assistant Surgeon.

Fort Moultrie, Jan. 28, 1838.
Smithsonian Institution
March 27, 1875

Dear Sir:

The Smithsonian Institution recently received from the Alaska Commercial Company several mummies from a cave in the Alaskan Islands and at the request of General Miller I send you one of these by express for the Museum of Yale College. The one sent is the second best of the series.

Very truly yours,

Joseph Henry

Profs. C. Marsh,
Yale College
New Haven
Ct.
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 1, 1875

Dear Sir:

In behalf of the Smithsonian Institution, we have this day forwarded by the Adams Express Company the specimens mentioned in the accompanying receipt—a present from the Institution, upon the following conditions:

1. That an acknowledgment be made to the Secretary of the Institution immediately on receipt of the specimens, by signing and returning the accompanying blank.

2. That full credit be given the Institution for the donation, on the labels of the specimens, in published reports, and under all other circumstances.

3. That free access to and use of these specimens be allowed, under the proper restrictions, to all persons engaged in original investigations requiring such material.

4. That suitable returns be made from the duplicates in the collections under your charge, whenever the Institution may desire and call for them.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH HENRY,
Secretary S. I.

Prof. O. C. Marsh
Yale College Museum
New Haven, Conn.
To be signed and returned prepaid to the “Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington.”

I have received from the Smithsonian Institution, through Adams
Express — in behalf of Yale College Museum,
New Haven, Conn.

the following collections, subject to the conditions mentioned in the accompanying circular letter:

1 Skeleton Citharos moschatus No 14444 (without head)
   Rosmanus, sh. No 7156
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

U. S. National Museum,
Washington City, May 5, 1875.

Sir:

We take the liberty of sending to you by Adams Express the specimens mentioned below, with the request that you will examine them and make a report upon their character as soon as convenient, naming and labeling such as require it.

When the investigation is completed, please return the collection to the U. S. National Museum.

Very respectfully yours,

[Signature]
Joseph Henry
Secretary S. I.

4 boxes containing types of vertebrate fossils, rt. by Prof. Agassiz
1 box

Prof. O. C. Marsh
Yale College Museum
New Haven, Conn.

The remaining boxes of the lot received from Prof. Leidy have been found.
May 1875

To Prof. O. C. Marsh
Yale College
New Haven, Ct
My dear Sir:  

It has been proposed to this Institution by the officers and council of the American Philosophical Society and also by a number of naturalists that advantage be taken of Mr. B. Waterhouse Hawkins' presence in this country to have restorations made of some of the extinct animals of the United States.

I therefore beg leave to ask that you will allow Mr. Hawkins to examine the rich collection of remains belonging to yourself with a view to their restoration, and furthermore if it be concluded to proceed
with the work that you give
him all the necessary facilities
for its accomplishment and your
valuable suggestions and advice
for its perfection.

I am, with much respect,
truly yours

[Signature]

Prof. O. C. Marsh.
New Haven.
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