

JAN 3 1917
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The University of Minnesota
Geological and Natural History Survey
Zoological Division
Minneapolis

OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
THOMAS S. ROBERTS, M. D.
ZOOLOGICAL MUSEUM

December 29, 1916.

Dr. Geo. E. Vincent,
Pres. University of Minnesota.

Dear Dr. Vincent,

I had not heard of the appropriation concerning the removal and installation of the Caribou Group and I am very glad to know that it is provided for as the matter had been worrying me somewhat.

Some time ago you looked over with me the discarded mounted mammals and birds from the old museum and directed me to offer them for sale to three or four people and get if possible, bids for them. I had an itemized and descriptive list made and sent a copy to three different taxidermists and one fur dealer in the twin cities. Two replied that they did not care to purchase any of the specimens and two totally ignored the offer. These specimens are wholly unsuitable for museum purposes in our plan, and are worse than in the way. Most of them stand at present in the spaces intended for groups, on the third floor of the Animal Biology Building and as they are badly mounted; much injured by dust, handling, and museum pests; infested with moths, and give a bad impression to persons visiting the museum floor it is highly desirable that they be disposed of at as early a date as possible. If authorization to destroy or give them away can be obtained, measures will be taken at once to get rid of them.

I enclose an itemized list with museum numbers, where the latter are still attached to the specimens. Most of the specimens are without records of any kind. More than half are in such condition that they could not possibly be preserved even as skins and the expense of working over the remainder would be very great and the resulting specimens even then would be unsatisfactory. There is nothing in the list that cannot be replaced by better material at less cost.

I am

Very sincerely,

Thos. S. Roberts

Associate Director Zoological Museum.

Animals for Sale by Museum.

Mammals.

Register
Number

1594	2 Black Bears Adult.
1717	
1633	1 Young " (very small cub)
10	1 Bull Moose Adult (good horns)
none	1 Cow Moose.
none	1 Yearling Moose Spike horns- 15 in. long.
none	1 Mule Deer(Doe)
none	2 White Tailed Deer (Small without horns)
none	1 White Tailed Deer(Doe)
none	1 Albino White Tailed Deer(Doe)
1595	1 Albino Bison (small Size)
25	4 Beavers (2 small and 2 large)
1605	
none	
none	
13	4 Raccoons
1610	
1611	
none	
none	1 Coyote (good condition)
1620	4 Woodchucks (1 poor; Mounted on rough board)
1619	
12	
2s2699	
14	3 Porcupines (1 on rough board;1 on tree trunk)
2s2699	
none	
1642	1 Opossum. (poor condition)
none	1 Rocky Mountain Rat (poor condition)
17	5 Mink
1622	
1621	
none	
none	
1612	3 Badgers(poor condition. 1 has no standard)
none	
none	

Mammals (cont.)

none	3 Gray Squirrels
1639	1 Fox Squirrel
none	2 Flying Squirrels (large)
1614	2 Skunks Adult (faded. no standard for one)
none	
1616	2 Young (very small)
11	1 Jack Rabbit
644	1 Varying Hare (white)
12	2 Sable
none	
none	1 Lemur (small)
16	4 Wild Cats (fair condition; 1 without standard)
978	
979	
none	
45	1 Wolf Hound ^{Said to have been Genl.} (Once owned by Custer)

Birds

none	1 Peacock (fine plumage but much soiled and somewhat injured)
1240	4 Pelicans (soiled and injured)
395	
none	
none	
none	1 Bald Eagle (1 wing injured. Wings spread)
1015	2 Golden Eagles (Fair condition)
1016	

Other Specimens

none	1 Crocodile (medium size. 4 ft. long)
none	1 Tarpon
none	1 Pig Monstrosity ("3 in 1" Embryonic; Mounted).

(All the above old specimens, but mounted, faded and more or less infested & injured by moths and other museum pests.)
J.S.P.

1/8
Call up
CONFIDENTIAL

Jan. 3, 1916.

Dean Johnston:

Will you please give me your confidential judgment on the enclosed letter from Dr. Roberts under date of December 29th relative to disposal of discarded mounted mammals and birds from the old museum?

N

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hp Conn

The University of Minnesota
College of Science, Literature, and the Arts
Minneapolis

January 9, 1917.

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

President George E. Vincent,
University of Minnesota.

JAN 10 1917

My dear President Vincent:-

Replying to your memorandum of January 3rd regarding the disposal of certain old museum materials in the Animal Biology Building, I would say that I have examined these specimens and found them -- as represented by Dr. Roberts-- in very poor condition. While one hesitates to pronounce the larger specimens (moose, bison) as worthless, it is clear that they were poorly mounted many years ago and have become infested with vermin, which makes them of danger to the new museum material.

The Department of Animal Biology has selected all the specimens which they consider worth while for teaching and demonstration work with classes.

When we consider the money that is being put into carefully selected and mounted groups of animals, with the expectation that other groups will be furnished by men interested in the development of the museum, these old specimens represent relatively a very small value, even if they were not a menace to the new collections. I would therefore recommend that Dr. Roberts be authorized to dispose of these specimens in whatever way he can.

Sincerely yours,

JBj-B

J.B. Johnston

Jan. 13, 1917.

My dear Dr. Roberts:

The question of the disposal of old museum material will be brought before the Board of Regents at their next meeting, the latter part of the month.

Sincerely yours,

C

Dear Johnston:

Mem - Zoological Mus

Feb. 16, 1917.

My dear Dr. Roberts:

The Board of Regents at its meeting January 31st
voted to authorize the disposal of old museum materials
as requested by Dr. Thomas S. Roberts.

Sincerely yours,

Copy to Dean Johnston and Mr. Hayes

10-28-20

1869 Lee Road
Cleveland Heights, O.

The Museum:

In a summary of evidence Father Edmund Hogan, Page 91 of this book "The Wolf Dog" says, paragraph 152

"In 1882, during a visit of a lady named O'Brien to America, she had pointed out to her in the museum of Minneapolis, Minnesota, a stuffed specimen, labeled "Irish Wolf Hound". It was rough, pure white in colour, and of good size" (that's all.)

Is this correct in every way?

Does the specimen still exist?

Was it pure white? Rough or smooth coated?

Do any photos, cuts, or catalog mention exist?

Can the height to fore shoulder and length over all be secured?

What can be learned as to the date and origin of this specimen?

If it still exists, how can I arrange to get a photo of it, side and front view?

I would greatly like all particulars available - the matter is of wide interest, here and in England and Ireland.

Very truly

Geo. Murray

Perhaps in University Museum

OFFICE OF LIBRARIAN
PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINNEAPOLIS
MINN.

GRATIA A. COUNTRYMAN
LIBRARIAN

November 12, 1920.

Dr. Thomas Roberts

The University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

My dear Dr. Roberts:

I am in receipt of the enclosed letter which I cannot answer. The request is regarding a specimen seen in 1882 in the museum of Minneapolis. Of course the Library was not built at that time, and the museum of the Academy of Science must have been rather small, and it occurs to me that the specimen that she describes might have been in the University museum. It certainly does not relate to anything with which I am acquainted. Will you kindly answer the letter?

Yours truly,

Gratia A. Countryman

Librarian.

Enclosure
GAC/MP

November 28, 1920.

Mr. George R. Murray,
1869 Lee Road,
Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

My dear Sir:-

Your letter of Oct. 28th. last came into the hands of Miss. Gracie A. Countryman, Librarian of the Minneapolis Public Library where the collection of the Minnesota Academy of Sciences is placed, and was referred by her to me.

The hound^{old} in regard to which you are seeking information was in the collection of the Minnesota Geol. and Nat. Hist. Survey at the State University and I presume it was there that the lady quoted by Father Edmund Hogan saw it, as it was presented to the Museum by a Rev. E. S. Williams in 1879. I have seen the specimen many times in years past and it was still ~~in~~ among the old discarded material when I took charge some five years ago. It was very badly mounted, was both eaten and dirty, was discarded sometime ago and I am sorry to say has entirely disappeared. I have made a search for it since your inquiry but cannot find it and presume it was destroyed when we moved into the new building (Animal Biology) where the Museum had inadequate quarters.

So far as I and others can remember it was never "pure white" but a grey in color. However it was so dirty and discolored of late years that it is difficult to say just what color it may have been originally. It was rough coated; hair long. There are no photographs of it so far as I know. It was recorded as a male Irish Greyhound. This hound was said to have belonged to Gen. George A. Custer

Nov. 28, 1882

who was killed June 25, 1876 while fighting the Indians on the Little Big Horn River as you will recall. Now Rev. E. S. Williams came into possession of the dog I cannot say and am not sure that I could find out at this late date. But if the matter is of any special interest to you I could try to trace it through some of the residents of that time who are still left hereabouts. There are probably no written records and it would be all hearsay and rumor.

Under the circumstances I am very sorry that the specimen has disappeared but it was in dreadful condition and seemed to be of no interest to anyone.
XXXXXXXX

I am, Very Sincerely Yours,

Director Zoological Museum.

12-3-20

My Dear Mr Roberts:-

I am gratefully obliged for yours $\frac{11}{28}^u$
Irish Greyhound: You have started
me on the right road! The important
thing is the color - white as reported
by an early eyewitness to gray from
color breeding; Some breeders or zoologists
of England are arguing it.

I think there is a son of Giral
Custer still in the service and
have asked the War Dept to put
me in touch that I may follow
it out while within the certain
memory of living people. If you
should by any chance learn of a
fiction or other details it will be
of great interest.

One of this old breed is at my feet
as I write - a noble fellow - and
one of the two best in England is being
conditioned for shipment to me.

Yours Geo W Murray

December 3, 1920.

Miss. Gratia A. Countryman.
Librarian Minneapolis Public Library.
Minneapolis, Minn.

My dear Miss. Countryman:-

Your letter of Nov. 12th. with inclosed letter from Mr. Geo. H. Murray in regard to a mounted dog received. The specimen referred to was formerly in the University collection but was in such a bad state of preservation that it was discarded when we moved into the new building. It was known as the "Custer Hound". I have written fully as possible to Mr. Murray.

I see you are going to begin building a "Chinese" Museum in the spring. Great. Marvelous are the ways of reporters.

With kind regards, I am,

Very Sincerely Yours,

Director Zoological Museum.

OFFICE OF LIBRARIAN
PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINNEAPOLIS
MINN.

GRATIA A. COUNTRYMAN
LIBRARIAN

December 6, 1920.

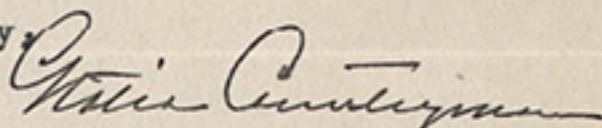
Dr. Thomas Roberts
The University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Dr. Roberts:

I have your letter giving me the information asked for by Mr. George R. Murray.

Curiously, I received a letter Saturday just before your letter came referring to a paragraph in General Custer's "Boots and Saddles" which says that General Custer's dog, Cardigan was mounted and placed in one of the public buildings of Minneapolis. Your letter stating that this mounted dog was known as the "Custer Hound" probably answers this other man's inquiry. It is likely that the Custer Hound was General Custer's own dog mentioned in his volume of "Boots and Saddles." I am sorry it had to be discarded.

Yours truly,



Librarian.

GAC/MP