

In considering the importance of preserving these collections, it should be remembered that they have a value which cannot be estimated in dollars and cents. They are especially valuable to the University because they represent the work of the faculty and students for a third of a century, and because they contain many specimens which no other museum in the world contains, and which, if destroyed, could not be duplicated.

Whatever the real value of these collections, however, they are of little practical worth unless they can be so displayed as to be made available for illustrative purposes to the students and properly exhibited to the thousands of persons who each year visit the University. Yet such are the present museum accommodations that more than one-half of the material is necessarily packed away in boxes and attic storerooms; this, too, in a building of a dangerously combustible character, and particularly liable to destruction by fire because used for laboratory purposes. On sound business principles, a fire-proof structure ample for the display and safe-keeping of these collections should be immediately provided. For the erection of such a building \$100,000 will be required.

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All of the preceding statements of recommendation for a museum facility were either written by a chancellor of the University or members of the Board of Regents. Their purpose being to recommend necessary improvements for the University. These were sent to the Governor for review in order to be introduced to the legislative session for state funds. These funds were finally obtained in 1901.

The final steps for the construction of the Museum were up to the Board of Regents. The following are minutes from various board meetings concerning the future of the Museum. The date for the first entry is 2-28-1901

"Whereas in view of the fact that the legislature has appropriated \$75,000 for a natural History Museum, the Board hereby requests that the presence of Professors Dyche, Williston and Haworth be obtained for the purpose of consultation in reference to the building of said Museum. Carried unanimously."

"Moved that the Vice-President procure competitive plans for the construction of a Museum Building to be considered by the Board at the the April meeting. Carried."