

# HISTORY OF THE OREGON ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

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Although the National Academy of Science was not established until 1863, there existed in America other scientific organizations much earlier than this. The Philadelphia Academy of Natural Science celebrated its centennial in 1912. Also there are numerous state academies of which the California Academy of Science, dating from 1853, is the best known in the West.

On January 6, 1892, under the leadership of P. C. Eastwick of Portland, there was organized the Science Club of Portland, which became incorporated in December of that year as the Oregon Academy of Sciences. The officers of this early organization were: Dr. A. E. Rockey, president; Dr. H. D'Arcy Power, first vice-president; P. G. Eastwick, second vice-president; Prof. J. Burnham, third vice-president; B. R. Baumgardt, secretary and treasurer; M. W. Gorman, B. S. Pague, C. F. Jewett, members of executive committee; P. G. Eastwick, librarian; M. W. Gorman, assistant librarian, and Dr. H. D'Arcy Power, curator.

Meetings were held monthly at which scientific lectures were delivered. The titles of these early papers follow: "The Electrical Transformer," W. C. Cheney; "The Development of Astronomy in the Last Four Centuries," B. R. Baumgardt; "The Microbic Origin of Disease," A. E. Rockey; "Glimpses of Past Civilization at Intervals of One Thousand Years," H. D'Arcy Power; "Topography of the Upper Columbia," Wm. Cuthbert; "The Evolution of Man," John Fiske; "Hereditarity—A Study in Phycology," J. Burnham; "The Spectroscope," Rev. Father O. Summer; "The Nebular Hypothesis," B. R. Baumgardt; "The Formation of the Earth's Crust," Prof. Leonard C. Cochran; "The Succession of Plants," Prof. Henry Bolander; "The Origin and Distribution of Animal Life," Prof. F. L. Washburn; "The Advent of Man," Dr. H. D'Arcy Power; "The Development of Mind," Prof. J. Burnham; "The

Growth of Civil Institutions," Prof. Frederick Young; "Practical Meteorology," B. S. Pague; "Is the Position of the Humane Society on Vivisection Truly Humanitarian," A. E. Rockey; "The Condition of the Atmosphere in the Carboniferous Period," H. D'Arcy Power; and "The Food Plants of the American Natives West of the Rocky Mountains from Mexico to Alaska," M. W. Gorman.

The constitution and by-laws of this early Academy provided for the eventual establishment of a museum. Some donations were actually received, particularly in the fields of entomology, geology and paleontology. The charter of the corporation provided that should it, at any future time, fail to continue its proposed work or allow its charter to become forfeited its collection and library should revert to the City of Portland to be placed by it in some public institution for general use and benefit. The organization at the end of 1892 numbered 115 members.

The records of the Corporation department in Salem show that the Academy was dissolved on August 6, 1910, in order to make way for a new Oregon Academy of Science, which received its charter on August 18, 1910. The incorporators were J. D. Lee, president; Frank W. Power, secretary-treasurer, and A. W. Miller, curator and librarian.

The state press, particularly in Portland carried between 1892 and 1912 numerous newspaper accounts of meetings of these two organizations, both in Portland and other towns of the Willamette valley. The papers were always on subjects of general interest rather than in highly specialized fields. No records appear of activities of the Academy after 1912, and the name was dropped from the Portland city directory in 1914.

On April 3, 1943, in Corvallis on the occasion of the Fifth Annual Biology Colloquium, a group of scientists gave

consideration to the desirability of reorganizing the old Oregon Academy of Science. A committee was appointed to investigate the needs of science in Oregon, and if it were considered feasible, to proceed to lay plans for such a reorganization and to report back at the time of the meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Corvallis on June 14-19, 1943. The committee appointed consisted of Dr. A. Knowlton, physics, Reed College; Dr. D. B. Charlton, chemistry, representing industry; Dr. Warren D. Smith, geology, University of Oregon; Dr. C. R. Monk, zoology, Willamette University; Dr. H. P. Hansen, botany, Oregon State College, Mr. Stephen N. Wyckoff, U. S. Forest Service, Portland, Mr. Leroy Childs, Hood River Experiment Station, representing agriculture, and Dr. F. A. Gilfillan, science, Oregon State College, chairman. Due to the cancellation of the AAAS meeting scheduled for Corvallis the committee did not convene until October 16, 1943, when it gathered in the office of Mr. Wyckoff in Portland and recommended the adoption of a constitution based upon the constitutions of the state science academies of California and of Ohio.

Final organization of the Academy was effected on October 27, 1943, on the occasion of Oregon State College's Diamond Jubilee. Officers were elected at that time to serve until the first program meeting which was planned for January in Portland. These first officers were as follows: Dr. A. L. Strand, Oregon State College, president; Professor J. S. McGrath, University of Portland, president-elect; Dr. F. A. Gilfillan, Oregon State College, secretary (for a two-year term), and Dr. R. R. Huestis, University of Oregon, treasurer.

In accordance with these plans the first program meeting was held in Portland, on Saturday, January 15, 1944. Dr. Strand presided. An address of wel-

come was given by Commissioner Dorothy McCullough Lee, representing Mayor Earl Riley of the city of Portland. Papers were delivered in five divisional meetings, as formal sections of the Academy had not yet been organized, a total of 39 papers being presented. In the 4 o'clock business meeting, officers for 1944 were elected as follows: Prof. J. S. McGrath, University of Portland, president; Mr. Stanley Jewett, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, president-elect; Dr. R. R. Huestis, University of Oregon, treasurer, re-elected.

Provision was made for the organization of sections in Biological Sciences and in Geology and Geography, and officers for the latter section were elected as follows: Dr. Warren D. Smith, University of Oregon, chairman, and Dr. Ira S. Allison, Oregon State College, membership chairman. The general meeting held in the evening was open to the public. On this occasion, Mr. Ivan Bloch of the Bonneville Power Administration delivered the address on the "Application of Power to Postwar Industrial Development in Oregon." At the close of this address, Professor McGrath took over the gavel as president of the Academy for 1944.

The purpose of the Academy is best set forth by President Strand as follows: "War-time emphasis on science, together with the imminent postwar industrialization of the state, has created an interest in, and a demand for, scientific information that only such a state organization can supply. To meet this demand, both now and in the future, the Oregon Academy of Science pledges its all-out support to our great Commonwealth."

The interest of scientists in the state of Oregon gives assurance that the Academy is now launched on a permanent foundation and will continue to render valuable service to the state of Oregon.