13 National Academy of Sciences, notes on meeting, April 19, 1881

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Voted: That to secure economical & harmonious action in whatever relates to the buildings, grounds, fixtures, & the daily (mechanical) routine of the Inst.: it is expedient to appoint a Superintendent or Doctor, who shall have care of the Buildings & their appertenences, have immediate control over the Janitor & other subordinates connected therewith & shall ~~superintend~~ attend to, all repairs & alterations as well as all purchases of fuel & other supplies subject always in questions of expenditure, to the advice & control of the Treasurer.

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The Matter, of the Action of the Academy on the Watson bequest was referred to the ~~Coun~~ Council.

Invitations

Prof. Newcomb invited the Members of the Academy to view his apparatus for measuring the velocity of light ~~now~~ in operation at Fort Meyer.

A letter was received from Admiral & Mrs John Rodgers inviting the Members of the Academy & their families to a reception at the Naval Observatory on Wednesday evening the 20th Inst: at eight o'clock.
Also an invitation from Prest. & Mrs Rogers to attend a reception at Wormley's Hotel on Thursday evening immediately after the reception at the White House.

An Announcement was made that there would be a meeting of the Anthropological Society at the Columbian College on the evening of the 19th to which the Members of the Academy were invited.

A Communication ~~were~~ was received from the Sect. of the Cosmos Club of Washington inviting the members of the Academy to make use of the Club House during their Stay & from the Hon: Mr Corcoran to visit the Corcoran Gallery of Art & the Washington Monument.

Scientific ~~Session~~ Proceedings.

April 19. At the opening (of the Scientific Session) Prest: Rogers delivered an address on "The Recent Progress in some dept: of Physical Science.

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which was followed by the reading of scientific papers.

The following is a list of the scientific papers presented to the Academy during the several days of its session, beginning April 19th.

List of Papers.

1. On the domain of Physiology
   T. Sterry Hunt

   Remarks by Mr Cope.

2. The Compass Plant of the Western Prairies.
   by Gen.l E. Alvord
   (at the invitation of the Academy)

3. The Solar Constant
   S. P. Langley.

4. The color of the Sun.
   S. P. Langley.

5. On Mountain Observations
   S. P. Langley.

6. On the relations of Soils to health.
   R. Rumpelly

7. Reduction to Sea level of Barometric observations made at elevated stations.
   Elias Loomis

   Read by Mr Uhler

   Remarks by Messrs Uhler, Peters & Meigs.

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8. — On Electric Light Photometry.
— George F. Barker.
— Remarks by the President.

9. On the Condenser Method of measuring high tension currents.
George F. Barker.

Remarks by Mr Abbot.

10 On the relations between strains & impacts & the structures of the feet of the Mammalia.
E. D. Cope.

Remarks by Mr Morse.

11. On the Progress of Pendulum work.
C. S. Peirce.

12 On the Carbon lamp ~~filaments~~ fibre in the thermo balance
George F. Barker.

Remarks by Mr Langley.

13. Upon the production of sound by radiant energy.
by Mr A. Graham Bell.
(at the invitation of the Academy)

Remarks by the President.

14. On the later Tertiary of the Gulf of Mexico.
E. W. Hilgard
Read by Mr Pumpelly.

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15. On the utilization of the Sun's rays in heating & ventilating

Edward S. Morse

Remarks by Messrs Hilgard, Coffin & the Pres^t

16. Recent researches in the vicinity of Behring's Strait: comprising

I. An account of the Land Ice of ~~Kotzebue~~ Kotzebue Sound & the Arctic Coast

W. H. Dale

(at the invitation of the Acad^y)

Remarks by Messrs Rumpelly, Morse, Guyot, and The President.

17. II. Additions to our knowledge of the currents & temperature of the Ocean in the vicinity of Behring's Strait

W. H. Dale

(at the invitation of the Academy)

Remarks by Messrs J. E. Hilgard & Guyot.

18. Results just obtained with regard to the molecular weight of Hydro-fluoric acid.

J. W. Mallet.

(at the invitation of the Academy)

Remarks by Mr Barker –

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19. — An method for finding the proximities of the Orbits of Minor planets.
C. H. F. Peters.

20. — On incandescent lights.
Geo: F. Barker.

21. On the auriferous gravels of California.
T. Sterry Hunt.

~~24~~. Biographical Memoir.

At the meeting, on April 21st a biographical Memoir of Louis F. ~~Agassiz~~ Pourtalès, prepared by Mr Agassiz was read by Mr Guyot, the author being absent.

Visit of the President of the United States ~~Garfield~~.

While the reading of the Papers was in progress on the last day of the Session Prest. Garfield entered the room, & at the invitation of the President of the Academy, occupied a seat up on the platform, where he remained till the close of the meeting.

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Resignations

Mr Fairman Rogers having resigned the Office of Treasurer which he had held for sixteen years & Mr Coffin that of Home Secretary resolutions were adopted thanking these officers for their faithful services.

Elections.

Mr Simon Newcomb was elected ~~Home~~ to the Office of Home Secretary of the Academy in place of Mr J. H. C. Coffin resigned.

Mr J. H. C. Coffin was elected Treasurer of the Academy in place of Mr Fairman Rogers resigned.

The following members were ~~elected~~ elected ~~to~~ to the Council for the ensuing Year.

Gibbs (W.) Hilgard (J. E.)
Hall (A.) King (C.)
Baird (S. F.) Rogers (F.)

The New Members elected were

H. A. Rowland of Johns Hopkins University Baltimore.

& Arthur W. Wright Yale Coll: New Haven.

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Amendments to Constitution and Rules.

The pending amendment to Sect 4 Article IV of the Constitution was adopted. Making the Section read as follows: "Nomination of Members and Foreign Associates may be made in writing, signed by any five Members of the Academy, at any Stated Session to be voted on at the next Stated Session, to be held in Washington."

The pending Amendment to Sec 5 Article IV was adopted. The section now reads as follows

"Elections of Members shall be held in the following manner: One name shall be selected by ballot from the nominations presented, the name receiving the highest number of votes (provided that they are at least one-third of the votes cast) shall thereupon be voted on by ballot for Membership, & if two thirds of the votes cast, including blank votes, are in the affirmative, the person voted for shall be declared elected a Member of the Academy. Any name failing to receive two thirds of the votes cast, shall not be voted for a second time on the same day; & unless receiving one third of the votes cast shall not be again be again put in nomination at that session of the Academy.

Absent Members may send their votes to the Secretary, which shall be counted in the ballot for Election, but not in that for preference.

Before each Election a discussion of the merits of the Nominees will be in order.

Elections of Members shall only be held at Stated Sessions, & after that of April, 1872, not more than five Members shall be elected at any one Session."

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(30) Present in Page 25 of Mss.

Section V, Article IV ~~of the as adopted~~
(Nominal)

~~The constitution~~ as adopted ~~in~~ ~~May~~ ~~April 1881~~
~~is~~ as follows -

Elections for membership shall be held in the following manner: Each member may inscribe on a ballot not more than five names of nominees selected from the list. Absent members may send such ballots to the Home Secretary. From the seven names receiving the highest number of votes in this preference-ballot the members present may proceed to elect new members in the following manner: At each ballot each member present may vote for not exceeding three persons, and the person receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected: Provided, that he receive two thirds of the votes cast and that his name appear on not less than twenty ballots: And provided further, that the number of members of the Academy be not already one hundred or over, in which case to be declared elected he must receive four fifths of the votes cast, and his name must appear

on at least twenty five ballots.

Should several candidates have the same minimum number of votes on the preference list the requisite number for completing the list shall be selected from them by a two thirds vote of the members present.

Elections of members shall be held only at the regular stated session of each year held in Washington, and not more than five members shall be elected at that session.

Before and during elections a discussion of the merits of nominees will be in order.

The election of members may be suspended at any time by a majority vote of the members present.

This ~~proposed~~ amendment restricts the election to the seven names receiving the highest number of votes in the preference ballot; requires not less than twenty ballots to elect if the number of the Academy shall not thereby be increased above one hundred, and not less than twenty five ballots if the number shall be increased above one hundred.

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The Council having recommended that the Second Clause of the Rule Regulation amending Rules XI & XIII on Printing, adopted at the last April Session be Amended, so as to read: "not later than one month after" instead of "at the meeting", this amendment was adopted.

The following Amendment to Section 1 Article 1 was recommended by the Council for Adoption to be voted on at the next Stated Session.

Amend Sect 1 Article 1. by adding the words:

"Members shall be citizens of the United States or have declared their intention to become so."

Resolutions of Thanks &c

A Resolution ~~was~~ passed thanking the Trustees of All Souls Church for their Courtesy in granting the use of their Building ~~for~~ to the Academy for its Meetings

Also resolutions were passed ~~& & thanking the~~ expressing the thanks of the Academy to the Hon. W. W. Corcoran ~~&c~~ for his invitation to visit the Corcoran Gallery ~~and~~ the Washington Monument, and to the Anthropological Society & the Cosmos Club of Washington for their kind invitations to the Members of the Academy.

The Academy ~~then~~ adjourned on Friday April 22d to meet in Stated Session in Philadelphia ~~or the Washington City~~ on November 15th 1881.

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1.

Advisory Committee on the Coming Transit of Venus.

The British Minister at Washington in a communication to our government, dated April 11th 1881 stated that the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have deputed to a committee of the Council of the Royal Society of London the preliminary duty of reporting to Her Majesty's Government for approval what arrangements should be made, so far as Great Britain is concerned for taking part in the observations of the approaching Transit of Venus, & that said Committee is desirous of knowing what part in the same work is to be undertaken by Foreign Governments who are likely to take active steps for observing the Transit.

This communication was transmitted by the Secy of the Navy of the United States to Rear Admiral John Rodgers the Superintendent of the U. S. Naval Observatory, who is the President of the Commission appointed by our Government some years since to make arrangements for the observations of the Transit of Venus of 1874 & matters relating thereto.

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This Commission which is regarded as still in force, being desirous to take measures as early as practicable to prepare for the observations by American Astronomers of the Transit of 1882, has through its President, the Superintendant of the U. S. Naval Observatory, requested me, as Presᵗ of the National Academy of Sciences & as a member of said Commission to nominate members of the Academy who shall form an advisory Committee to cooperate with the Commission in determining the best methods of observing the approaching Transit as well as the Stations to be occupied & the Instruments to be used.

In conformity with the request of the Superintendant of the U. S. Naval Observatory, the following members of the Academy have been designated as a committee to aid the Commission in the preparatory work, referred to.

Profᵗ C. H. F. Peters.	Litchfield Obsᵗʳʸ	Clinton N. Y.
" S. P. Langley.	Allegheny Obsᵗʳʸ	Pittsburg Pa.
" E. C. Pickering	Harvard Coll: Obsᵗʳʸ	Cambridge Mass.
" C. A. Young	Princeton Coll	Princeton N. J.
" H. A. Newton	Yale Coll	New Haven Conn.
" Henry Draper	New York.	

These gentlemen have signified their willingness to serve on the Committee.