

Not in TPL

At a Meeting of the Trustees of the OTTAWA MECHANICS' INSTITUTE and ATHENÆUM, held on Wednesday, the 3rd October, 1855, it was

RESOLVED---

That this Society do offer Prizes for the best collection of Insects, Reptiles, Crustaceans, Shells, Plants and Minerals, made in all or any of the following Counties: Renfrew, Pontiac, Carleton, Ottawa, Lanark, Prescott, Russell, Leeds, Grenville, Argenteuil and Vaudreuil, the said collections to be sent in on the 1st of October, 1857. The prizes to be as follows:

1. INSECTS, best collection of

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| Coleoptera } and Hemiptera } Lepidoptera } and Neuroptera } Hymenoptera } and Diptera & Aptera } | Ex. Beetles, Earwigs, Bugs, Locusts, Grass- hoppers, Tree Lice, &c., Moths, Butterflies, Drag- on Flies, May Flies, &c., &c..... Bees, Ants, Flies, Centipedes, Fleas, Spiders, &c., | £2 10 0 2 10 0 2 10 0 |
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2. Reptiles and Crustaceans,
 Ex. Snakes, Frogs, Proteus, Crayfish.
 &c., &c., 2 10 0
3. River and Land Shells, 2 10 0
4. Best named collection of dried specimens of Indigenous Plants, 10 10 0
5. Best collection of Mineralogical specimens, with the name of the locality where found attached, 10 10 0

The successful collections to become the property of the Society. Any of the unsuccessful collections may be acquired by the Society upon paying half the foregoing prices.

Should the best collection under any of the foregoing heads prove palpably inferior, the Trustees reserve the right of refusing the premium.

That the following directions be issued for the guidance of those who compete:

To PRESERVE INSECTS.—Get a box made of White Pine or Spruce, fifteen inches square, and one inch deep. Line it with paper, pasted in. Transfix the insects through the breast with a pin, which drive into the bottom of the box. In the case of such insects as butterflies, moths, beetles, &c., it is necessary to arrange the wings, feet, and feelers in the natural position before they dry. To kill insects speedily, and without impairing their value as specimens, it suffices to touch the mouth with a drop of spirits of turpentine. Insects too small to impale, may be fixed in their places by a solution of gum arabic or common paste. Keep similar insects as much together as possible, and number

them distinctly on the paper underneath, beginning at the upper left hand corner. When the box is filled cover it with a pane of glass, which fix in its place with putty, having previously fastened a small piece of tallow by a pin to the bottom of the box.

Reptiles and Crustaceans are best preserved in the strongest high wines, taking care to cork the bottle closely.

For preserving plants, unsized paper should be used. Books of Botany give the necessary directions for making a Hortus Siccus. The locality where found must be carefully noted.

Mineralogical specimens must be wrapt up separately in paper, and when fragile add cotton wool, as the perfection of the angles and fractures are of great consequence to the scientific. Although the Society do not demand the scientific names, it must not be overlooked that they rigorously require the locality where found to be legibly written and enclosed in the wrapper; writing the locality on a long riband of paper, and rolling it round the specimen, previous to wrapping it, is most secure.

Shells, like Minerals, should be wrapt up separately, and furthermore, require cotton wool in addition in every case, as the edges and hinges often determine specific differences. A label should be rolled around, stating where found, and whether on land, or near, or in a river or brook. Fresh Water Mussels, technically called "Unio," are at present of great scientific interest; and as the specific differences are so trifling, as to be undiscernable except to a student, it is advisable that all specimens found by any competing collector should be preserved and sent in.

The Society, in offering the preceding prizes, do not pretend that they are proffering anything like the money value of the collections solicited, but they desire and hope, that the prizes offered, may be the means of exciting many to embark in the pursuit of science, who otherwise would never have thought of so doing, at the same time, that the Museum of the Society would be enriched by their labors, for the mutual benefit of the inhabitants of the Ottawa country generally.

And be it further Resolved, That one thousand copies of this resolution be printed for circulation among the leading inhabitants of the aforesaid counties.

C. R. CUNNINGHAM, Secretary.

Please show this to those whom it is likely to interest.