THE DYCHE MUSEUM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

By Dr. ALEXANDER WETMORE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Some years ago I found myself a graduate from Montgomery County High School in Independence, Kansas. The study of birds was a paramount interest with me and I had aspirations for college. Iowa, California, other places, offered inducements, until a friend loaned me a catalogue of the University of Kansas and I learned of the University Museum, now the Dyche Museum. Among other descriptive details I read of a collection of Central American birds. Foreign birds at the time were unknown to me, except for a few that I had seen in circus menageries or stuffed in the parlors of friends, and were an irresistible attraction. I decided at once that the courses in biology offered at K. U. were the ultimate of my desire, and in September several days before the fall term opened I was in Lawrence. My first visit to the “Hill” led me to the cool great hall of this museum, and in this building it was my fortune to spend much of my time during my undergraduate years.

The foreign birds, I may add, proved to be the Gaumer collection from Yucatán, given by an alumnus who had worked with Snow and with Dyche, and who later had settled in Mexico. No one had studied these specimens, so that I had the keen delight of identifying and labeling many of them—and since I have known most of them in their native haunts in life.

1 Address given at the reopening of the Dyche Museum during ceremonies on the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the University of Kansas, June 6, 1941.
Editor's Summary

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