

Indiana Jones and the Lost Collection



*Rediscovering, cataloging, and revitalizing
the Recent Invertebrates Collection at the
Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural
History*

Dr. Katrina Menard, Dr. Janet Braun, and Dr. Tamaki Yuri



**There is a Natural History
Museum at the University of
Oklahoma???**





Oklahoma Museum of Natural History



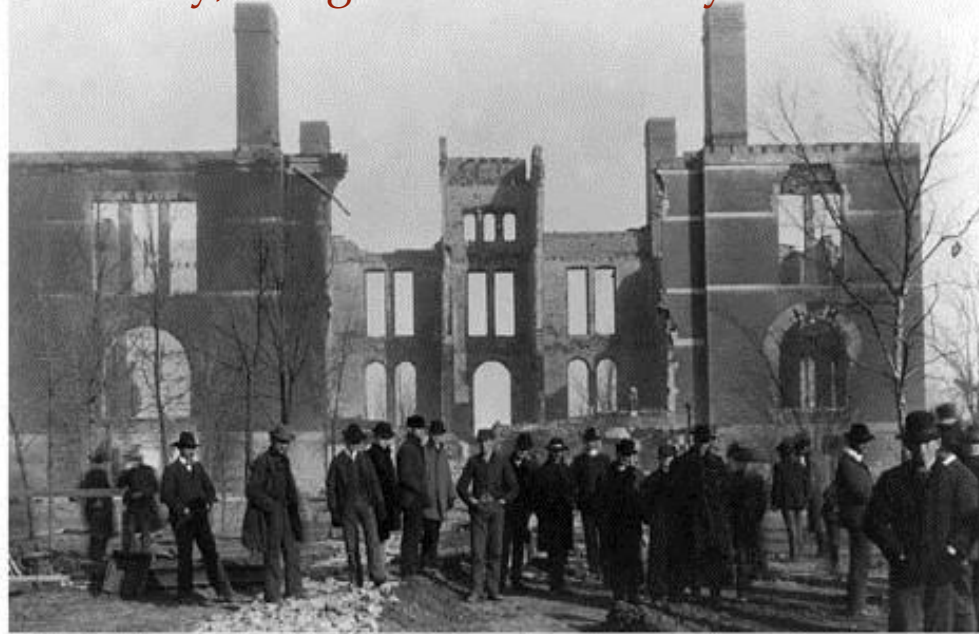
- ❧ Established in 1899 by the Territorial Legislature (before Oklahoma was a state)
- ❧ The official state repository for artifacts and specimens recording the history of Oklahoma
- ❧ Officially part of the University of Oklahoma



Oklahoma Museum of Natural History



Initially, things didn't start very well...



- Two catastrophic fires, one in 1903 and 1918

Stovall Oklahoma Museum of Natural History



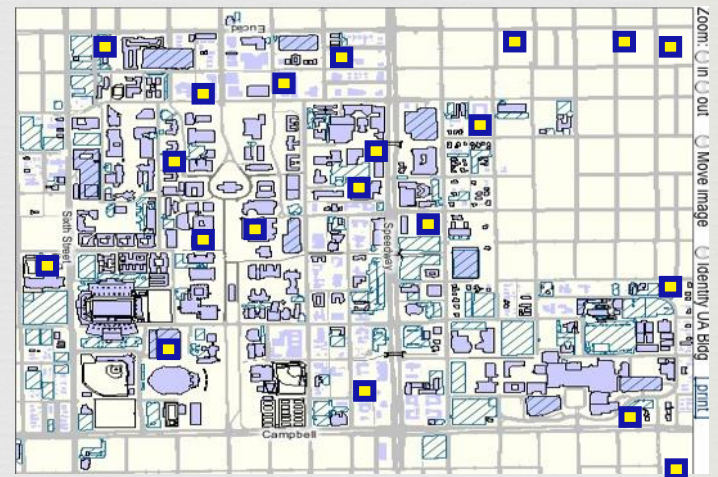
❧ First official museum space in 1943, led by Dr. J. W. Stovall



Stovall Oklahoma Museum of Natural History



- ☞ Most of the research collections were stored wherever they could be on campus



- ☞ Invertebrates were stored in the attic of the Chemistry Building

Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History



☞ Built in 2000, led by director Dr. Michael Mares



Image from Panoramio.com

- State-of-the-art facilities
- Exhibition area
- All of the research collections in one building
- Integrative Pest Management



Sam Noble Museum

Recent Invertebrates



- ☞ Moved into its own Collection room on 4th floor. Collection is housed in 1,100+ square feet



In 2005 Curator Dr. Braun received an IMLS grant to rehouse, recurate, and database the 33,000+ specimen Mollusk Collection



Photos courtesy of Mike Quinn

Recent Invertebrates



- ☞ Since Dr. Janet Braun was first curator in 2004, staff has increased from 0.5 Full Time Employees (FTE) to 4.0 FTE
- 2 Collection Managers (1 full time, 1 half-time)
 - 1 Collection Assistant
 - 2 Undergraduate Assistants.



Recent Invertebrates



Harley Brown Collection



- Dr. Brown professor at OU from 1948-1984; curator of RI from 1962-1984
- Expert on Byrrhoidea
- Collection includes material from all over the world (majority from North, Central and South America)

Harley Brown Collection



☞ At least 150,000 specimens of Byrrhoidea, some of ancillary beetles and other aquatic beetle groups.

- Elmidae
- Dryopidae
- Lutrochidae
- Psephenidae



- ☞ Holotypes and paratypes of several taxa (e.g. *Lutrochus arizonicus*)
- ☞ Adult and larval stages; most specimens in alcohol.

Recent Invertebrates



☞ Hungarian Insect Collection



- Purchased 2,400 and 350 specimens in 1929 and 1935, respectively from Dr. Charles (Karl) Sajó of Hungary.
- Mostly Coleoptera, including several species on the IUCN red list.

Recent Invertebrates



Peter Loy Collection

- ☞ Lepidoptera of Oklahoma, primarily collected in the 1950's
- ☞ Approximately 3,000+ specimens, including several state and county records



Celotes nesus

Recent Invertebrates



☞ Ralph Bird Collection

- ☞ Odontata of Oklahoma, primarily collected in the 1920's
- ☞ Approximately 5,000+ specimens, including several county records
- ☞ Approximately 80% in alcohol
- ☞ Approximately 20% sleeved



Recent Invertebrates



Karl Stephan Collection



Photos courtesy of Mike Quinn

- Synoptic set of beetles and other insects from Latimer Co., Oklahoma
- Approximately 5,000+ specimens
- Contains several rare families and genera from the state

Karl Stephan Collection



Photos courtesy of Mike Quinn

Discovering the Gems



Discovering the Gems



- ❧ Since 2005, specimens of the Recent Invertebrates collection are being:
 - cataloged
 - label metadata made available on museum website, and GBIF.
- ❧ Both efforts are allowing us to systematically discover and record what we have
- ❧ SNOMNH will be the only completely databased entomology collection in Oklahoma.

Discovering the Gems



- ❧ **2010:** Dr. Braun and Mrs. Brenda Smith-Patten received 3-year grant from Institute of Museum and Library Sciences grant to database half of insect collection (>250,000 specimens)
- ❧ Currently have over 68,000 specimens databased and cataloged
- ❧ Completed Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, most of Hemimetabola, part of Coleoptera

Databasing



- ☞ Each specimen can have up to 167 fields entered
 - Verbatim label data, georeferenced localities
 - Preservation status
 - CITES, ESA, or IUCN Red list status
- ☞ Data is entered in an Excel spreadsheet template, then uploaded on FileMaker Pro
- ☞ Taxonomic names are checked and updated by Dr. Menard, metadata checked by both Dr. Menard and Dr. Braun

Division of Recent Invertebrates (Invertebrate Zoology)

The Collection of Recent Invertebrates consists of an estimated 500,000 specimens. Specimen information for 7% of the collection is available on-line, including data for the molluscs, odonates (dragonflies), and the bee genus *Bombus*. Electronic data will be made available for additional taxonomic groups as they are prepared.

Searches across specific fields can be preformed in the search boxes below. Click on "Catalog No." for detailed record information. If you need to retrieve complete specimen information, please contact the Department of Recent Invertebrates.

The Collection of Recent Invertebrates at the SNOMNH has been supported in part by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Research loans of specimens are available to qualified institutions. Contact [Dr. Janet K. Braun](#) or [Dr. Katrina Menard](#) for more information.

Search across the following fields: Family, Genus, Species, County/Territory, Year Collected or Catalog Number.

Search:

all words:

any of the words:

exact phrase:

Catalog No. OMNH-85677	Catalog No. OMNH-85717
Catalog No. OMNH-85678	Catalog No. OMNH-85718
Catalog No. OMNH-85679	Catalog No. OMNH-85719
Catalog No. OMNH-85680	Catalog No. OMNH-85720
Catalog No. OMNH-85681	Catalog No. OMNH-85721
Catalog No. OMNH-85682	Catalog No. OMNH-85722

Each specimen or lot has a unique identifier label

Current Goals



- ❧ Continue the cataloging and databasing effort
 - finish Coleoptera, Harley Brown Material
- ❧ Re-curate the collection
 - update taxonomic names on cabinets, drawers
 - organize the collection by higher taxonomic rank
- ❧ Association of specimens and published research
 - verify paratypes, holotypes.

Current Goals



- ✧ Submitted an NSF grant to acquire funds to replace the old cabinets with a compactor system, increase space (currently at 100% capacity)
- ✧ Meet challenges and goals of increased accessions, visitors, loans, information requests, and outreach



Conclusions



- Our collection has many strengths, most notably **aquatic beetles**
- We will be the only **completely databased collection** of insects in Oklahoma

We're open for business...come visit us!



Don't make me
drag you with
my whip!

Thank You



- Curators, Staff, and Volunteers at the SNOMNH
- Jamie Lentz, Laura Sohl-Smith, Kara Underwood, Eric Bright, Will Winfree, Jessie Tanner for databasing efforts
- Dr. Mike Mares for images of the former Natural History museum buildings
- Roger Burkhalter, Mike Quinn for insect and collection images