

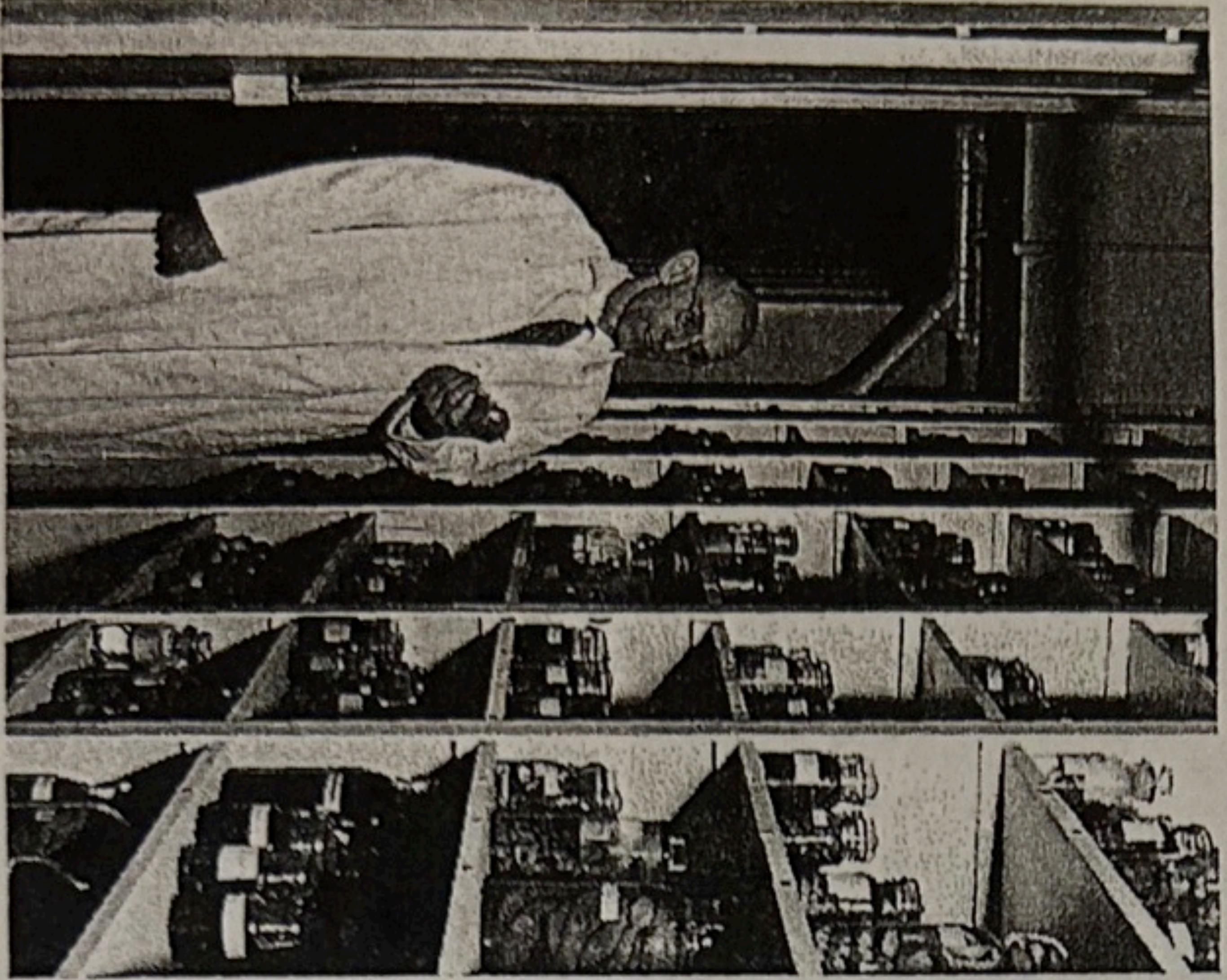
THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

See p. on front cover  
Natural History

# Natural History

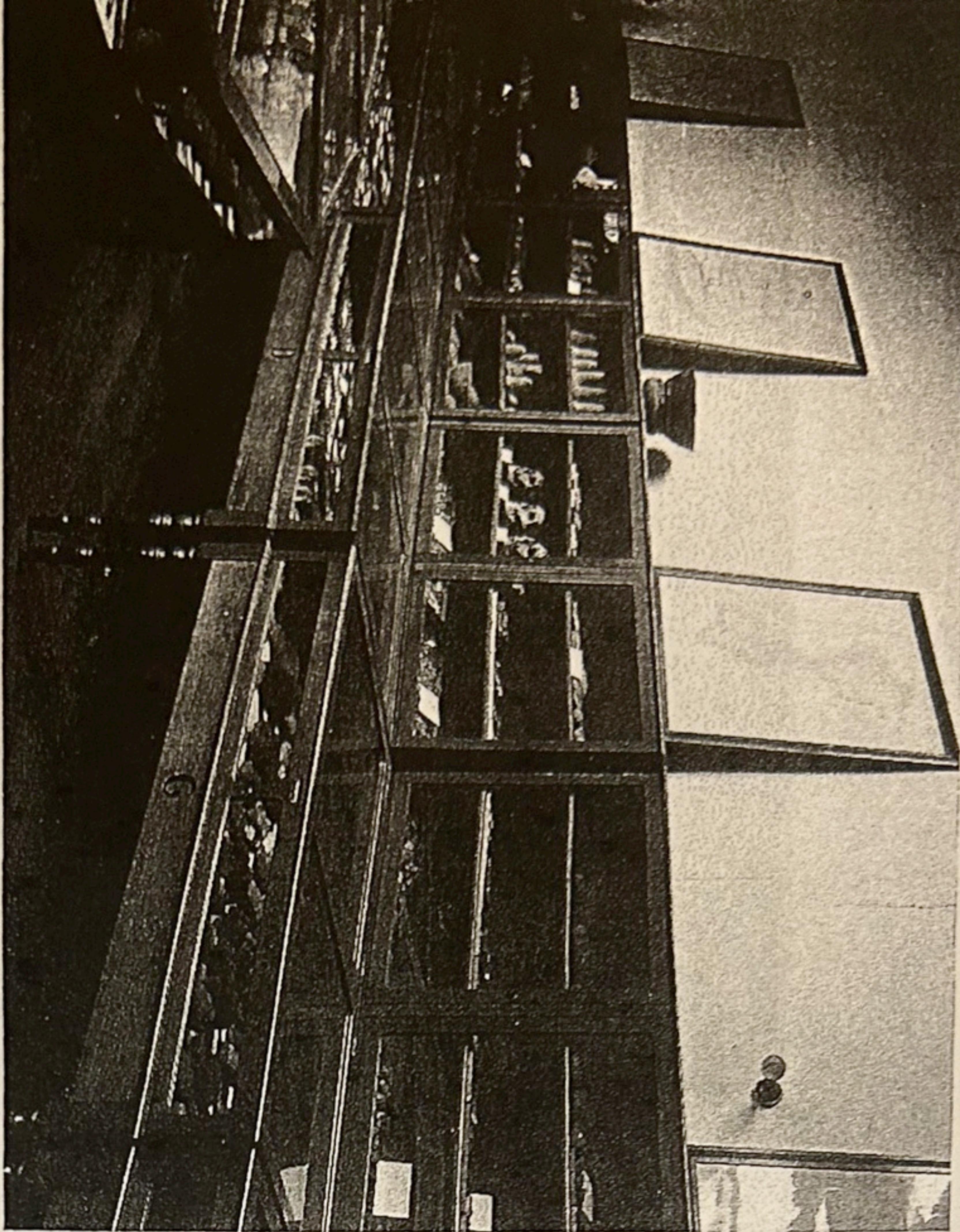
The department of natural history was established in 1925, partly at the urging of Ohio State University instructors who saw the value as teaching aids of exhibits in this field. In the next few years extensive collections were transferred by the university to the Ohio State Museum. Naturalists from all over Ohio and from other states as well have been ardent in contributing specimens and groups to the Society. The department has been active in collecting and adding to the wonderful storehouse of natural history, which now boasts an extensive mineral collection, 13,000 birds and 10,000 birds' eggs, 1,500 mammals, 1,200 reptiles, 12,000 amphibia, over 100,000 fishes, and 80,000

A Scene in the Reptile Collection, Ohio State Museum

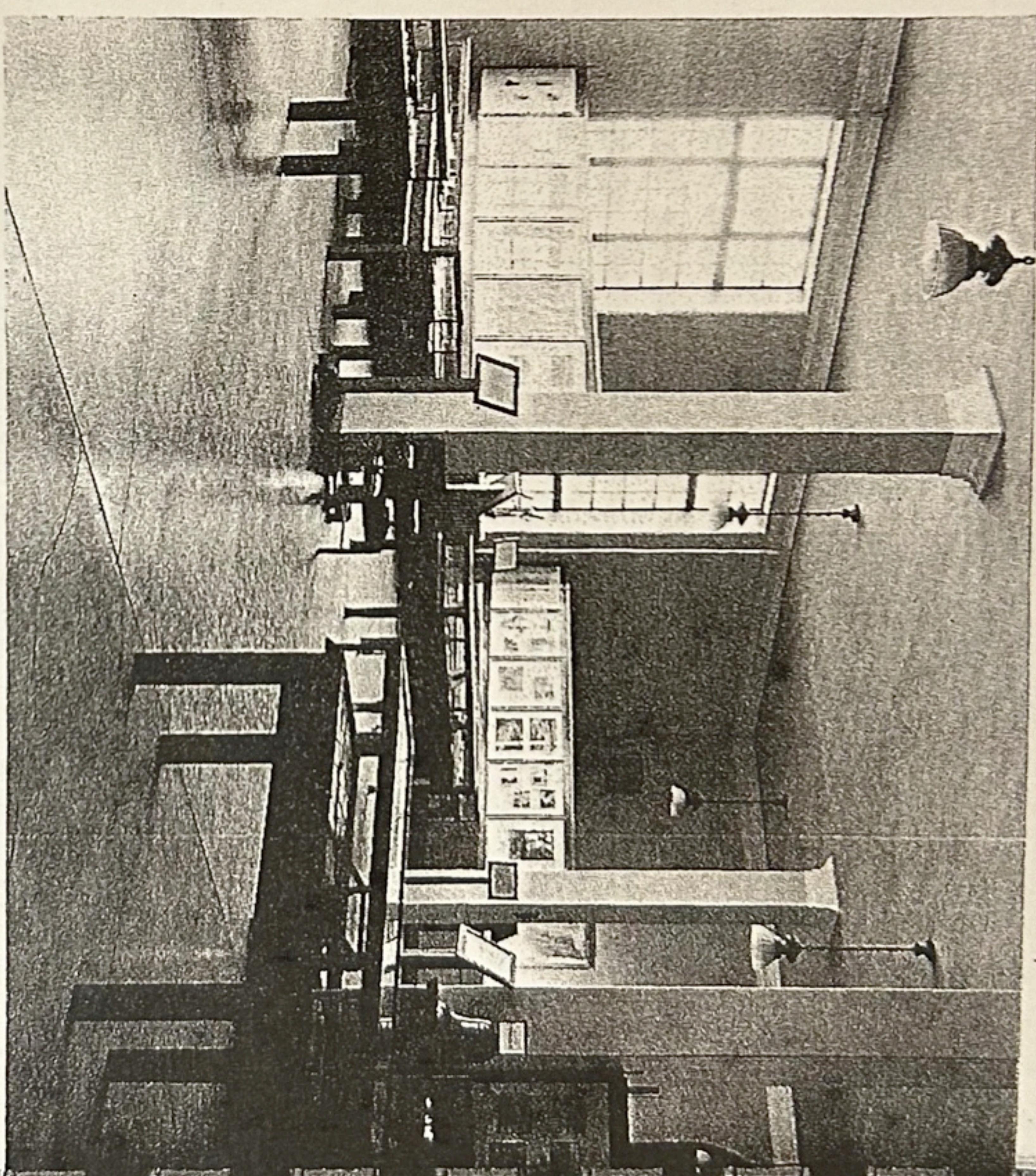


insects, including fine collections of butterflies and moths, grasshoppers and their relatives, and sucking bugs. The Society also serves to protect and preserve such fine natural history areas as Cedar Swamp, Wahkeena, Fort Ancient, and Fort Hill. During the year 1959 the additions to the collections included thirty-one specimens of robber flies, twenty-one specimens of rare beetles, forty-seven spread bird wings, and two very rare Ohio birds—the king eider and the brant. The department's staff continued its collecting of the flora and fauna of certain Ohio natural areas which are fast disappearing in the face of an exploding population and the demands of agriculture and industry. It is estimated that fully forty percent of the specimens in the museum have come from places which have since been destroyed.

The entire bird skin collection of 12,491 specimens as of January 1, 1960, was restudied and reorganized during the year, and the mammal collection was indexed according to genera, using Gerrit S. Miller, Jr., and Remington Kellogg, *List of North American Recent Mammals*, as the authority. Researches in the collections on the part of the staff resulted in reports or articles or furnished data for other students. Researchers from Oregon State College, the universities of Cincinnati, Kansas, Michigan, and Ohio State, the Rocky Mountain Laboratory, of Hamilton, Montana, and the United States National Museum worked in the collections.



*The Society's Museum in Orton Hall, 1899*



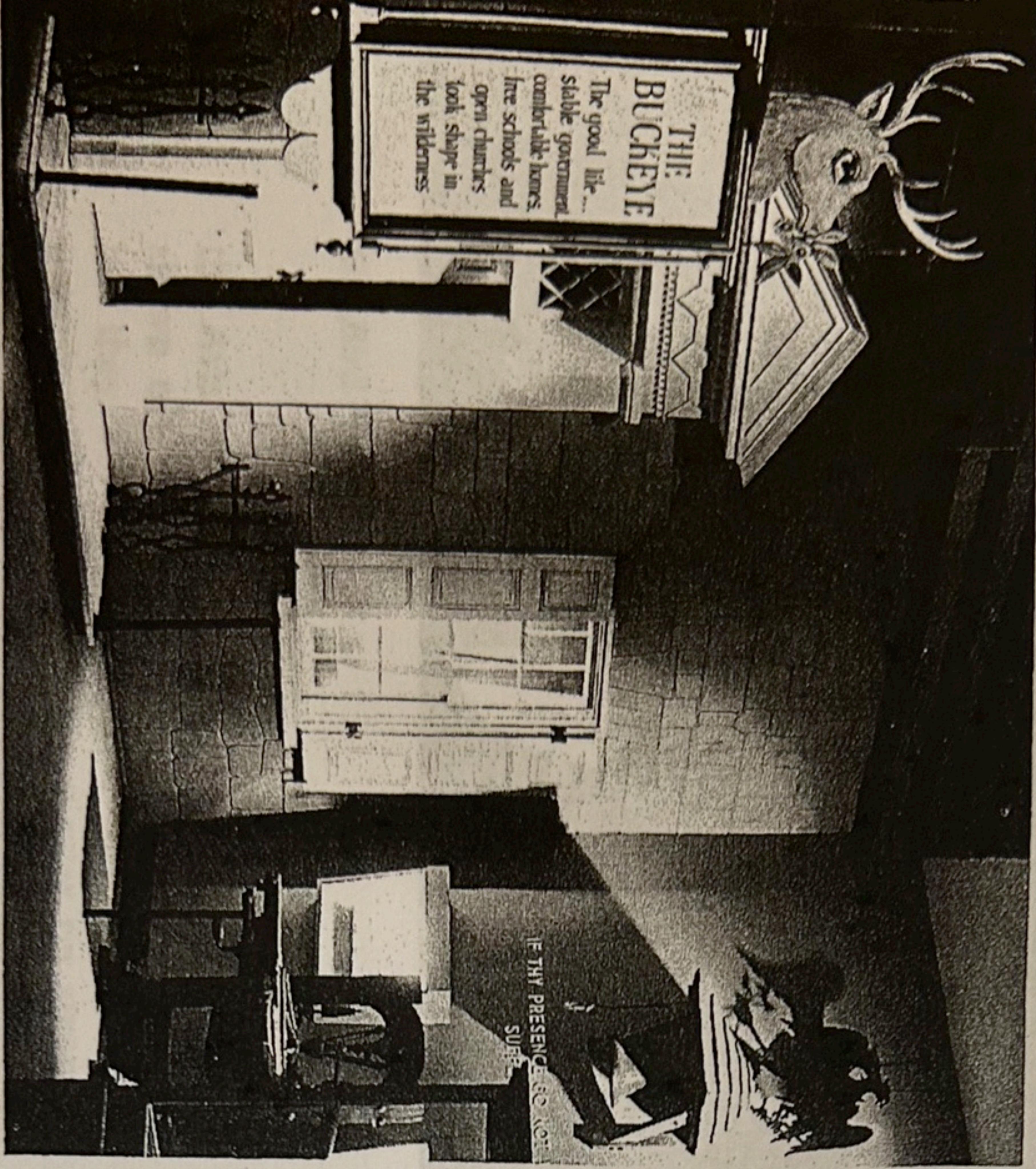
*Old History Hall, Ohio State Museum, 1940*

## Exhibits

For many years the Society's exhibits were simply accumulations of objects displayed either on open shelves or table tops or under the glass of flat wooden or store-type display cases. The items were considered as relics or curios, each piece having its own distinctive significance and story. The cases were overcrowded with objects, were unlighted, except for the general light of the rooms, and frequently were built of heavy or wide boards which restricted the visitor's view of the displays. Nevertheless, in their time the early curators prepared exhibits which were outstanding, attracted thousands of visitors, and brought distinction to the Society.

Unfortunately, perhaps, the cases in which the displays were shown were so substantial that they would not wear out. As a result they tended to fix the method and technique of display, even after newer and better techniques had been developed. Indeed, many of the old cases still house exhibits. In recent years, modern installations have been begun, and plans call for redoing the exhibits in the entire museum. This will involve not only the use of new techniques of display, but also the installation of integrated and interpretative exhibits, that is, exhibits that tell a story, explain meaning and significance, and point out relationships.

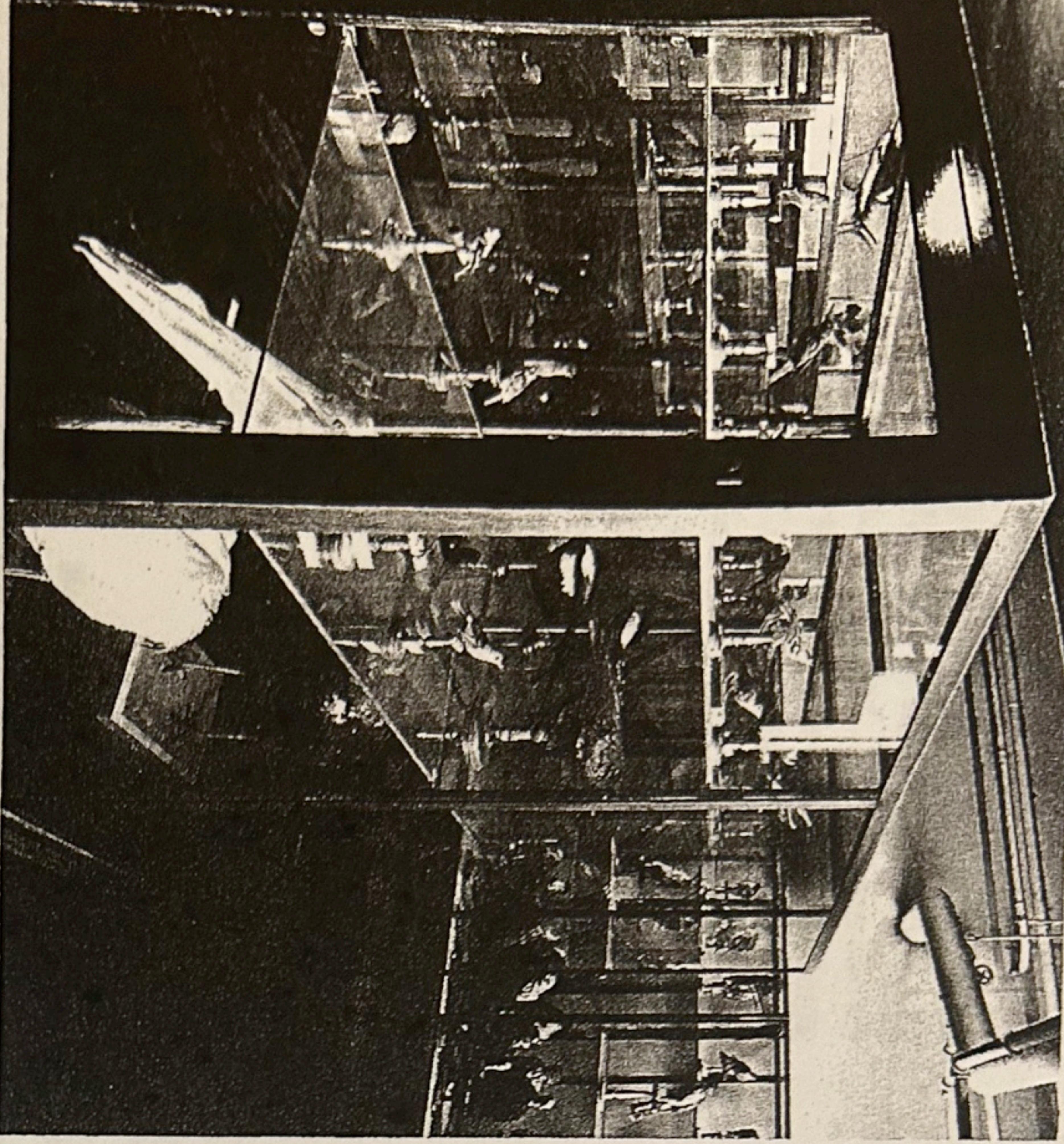
During the past year two new distinguished exhibit halls were in process—the Bird Hall and



New History Hall, 1958

the Arts and Crafts Hall. In the former will be shown not only exhibits of the birds themselves, but they will be presented in such a way as to provide information for the viewer on summer, fall, winter, and spring birds, on prairie, swamp, woods, and water birds, and on their migrations, coloration, flight, beaks, feet, wings, food habits, nests, eggs, and songs. This will constitute an excellent example of the type of exhibit which fulfills the interpretative or teaching role of the Society. The latter hall presently offers the finest display of Lotus Ware ever shown, including over one hundred pieces collected by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Brunner, of Dayton, and a group of rare and exquisite pieces of Lusterware from the collection of Perle M. Riley, of Lebanon. These model ex-

*Old Bird Hall*



*An Exhibit of Winter Birds in New Bird Hall, Now under Construction*

hibits are indicative of the types of displays the Society plans to install in the other halls and in other museums.

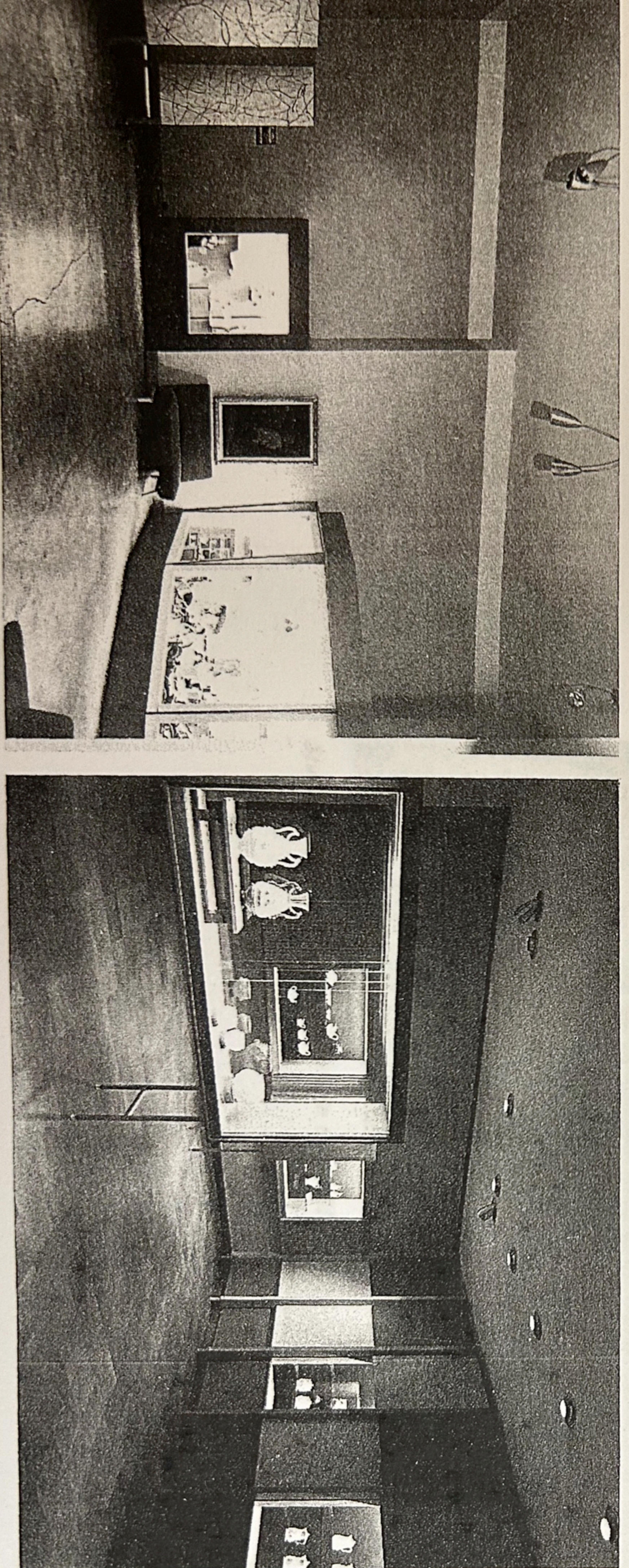
Smaller exhibit efforts included a showing of paintings and prints of Lilly Martin Spencer, the remarkable nineteenth-century painter of Marietta and New York City, and a display of nineteenth-century costumes and accessories, supplemented by period furniture and furnishings. The exhibits in the Fort Ancient Museum, damaged by the January flood, were completely rehabilitated and provided with new labels and maps.

The Society has had to keep abreast of new developments in the forms of exhibition. One of these is the use of television. The Society has joined with WOSU-TV, operated by Ohio State



University, to present a series of shows which are rebroadcast on other educational stations. Last year the Society presented fourteen shows in which materials at the Ohio State Museum and other State Memorials were exhibited. There were shows on the historical collections, costumes, presidents from Ohio, canals, Zoar, nineteenth-century American painting, the history of Ohio in photographs, birds, insects, and the prehistoric Indians. The Society also furnished materials from its collections for shows on other television stations, and joined in sponsoring "The Visitor," an hour-show on Lincoln's visit to Columbus in 1861, presented by Columbus station WBNS-TV. This drama, the research and basic script for which were done by a member of the Society's staff, has received national recognition, and was recently shown in Madison by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

*Before and After—Arts and Crafts Hall, Completed January 1960*



*Students of Archaeology at Work in the Field*

*Today Well Over Three Times as Many School Children in Classes Study in the Museum as in 1940, When This Picture Was Taken*



This report is based upon the divisional and departmental reports of members of the Society's staff. The historical research and writing were done by James H. Rodabaugh, the Society's editor and head of its division of history and science, who also selected the illustrations. The photographs are from the Society's collections, with the exception of the photograph of the W. P. Snyder Jr., which was kindly furnished by Mr. S. Durward Hoag of Marietta, and the scene in the reptile collection, which was supplied by the Ohio State Monthly.

The design and typography were done by W. E. Marshall of the Society's staff. The printing is offset lithography by the Warner P. Simpson Company of Columbus. The text paper is 80 lb. Beckett Hi-White, the color dividers are 65 lb. Kilmory cover, and the cover is double thick Beckett Hi-White cover. The body type is 10 point Times Roman, the headlines are 18 point Clarendon Craw, and the headlines in the personnel section are 10 point Stymie Bold.