CHARLES W. AND TITIAN R. PEALE AND THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION OF THE OLD PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM

BY FRANK L. BURNS

The establishment and educational value of Peale's Museum, the first great public exhibition of objects of art and the natural sciences in America, was due to the tremendous energy and enthusiasm of the original proprietor and to its favorable reception by the public. The elder Peale personally collected, prepared, and placed on exhibition many indigenous species and, by purchase or exchange, a great number of exotic species of birds; corresponded with Saint-Hilaire, Cuvier, Lamarck, Weid, and Latham; exchanged with the great scientific museums of Europe and was visited by Humboldt and other distinguished travelers; yet the scientific importance of this pioneer institution, today, is almost entirely due to a small though reliable clique of Philadelphia naturalists, mostly ornithologists, who had either designated Peale specimens as their types, or more frequently, made this museum the repository for their type specimens.

Peale was famous for his natural ability and extraordinary industry as a portrait painter, especially of Revolutionary patriots, and for his great originality as a museum preparator; but he has not been conceded a permanent place among the early American naturalists, although his contributions toward the awakening of the popular interest in the subject, especially ornithology, has doubtless exceeded that of all his American predecessors.

Charles Willson Peale was born at Chestertown, Maryland, April 15, 1741; apprenticed at the age of thirteen years to an Annapolis harnessmaker; began painting portraits with little instruction until members of the Governors' Council sent him to London where he studied under Benjamin West, 1767-69. In 1774 he removed to Philadelphia and set up his studio under the patronage of Cadwalader, Dickinson, and others, and in 1776 he was commissioned an officer in the militia, which gave him opportunities to meet and paint his fellow officers. In a recent exhibition of his paintings there was shown a portrait of the great Commander-in-Chief, painted on a piece of blue and white twilled bed-ticking, while encamped at Valley Forge.

Captain Peale was indeed an indefatigable worker; his museum originated about 1784 in a frame annex to his residence on Third and Lombard Street, and from a portrait gallery, gradually embraced,

in the language of the original American showman, "everything that walks, creeps, swims, or flies, and all things else".

In 1792 he discovered the modern methods for the preservation of birds and beasts, and as he devoted almost his entire time to this work, his industry soon outgrew the accommodations and his collections were removed, in a spectacular parade of all the boys of the neighborhood, to the American Philosophical Hall, 1794.

The earliest museum publication I have seen bears the date of 1796, and although devoted to the quadrupeds, is entitled: "A Scientific and Descriptive Catalogue of Peale's Museum". Later the official title became the "Philadelphia Museum", though both Wilson and Ord designated it by the original name. In an introduction to a course of lectures on natural history delivered at the University of Pennsylvania in 1799, Peale remarked: "So irresistibly bewitching is the thirst for knowledge with science and nature that neither the want of funds, nor the leisure from other occupations, could damp my ardour". The text of these lectures has not been preserved, nor scarcely a scrap of technical matter, though the museum press printed its own guidebooks and pamphlets.

The Legislature having vacated in 1802, Peale was granted at a yearly rental of $400 the use of the State House, in which to exhibit his collections. This was the year in which the Franco-German Rafinesque landed and almost immediately described four supposedly new species of Javanese birds "dans la cabinet de M. Peale".

By 1805 Peale ingenuously stated that "there are in this collection, perhaps all the birds belonging to the Middle, many of which likewise belong to the Northern and Southern States, and a considerable number from South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, New Holland, and the recently discovered islands of the South Seas. The number exceeds 760 without the admission of any duplicates, contained in 140 cases".

Though he stated that each species was correctly identified and labeled with the Latin, English, and French names (with many nondescripts) actually there were many misnomers and no adequate catalogue, for the talented proprietor lacked the patience of the naturalist to study and make known this remarkable collection. He compared his specimens with the figures or descriptions of Catesby, Edwards, Pennant, or Linnaeus; and a refugee, Baron de Beauvois, helped him to identify some species by means of Buffon's works and to compose the French edition of the guidebook. Peale may have painted some of his subjects, and he did some engraving in mezzotint.

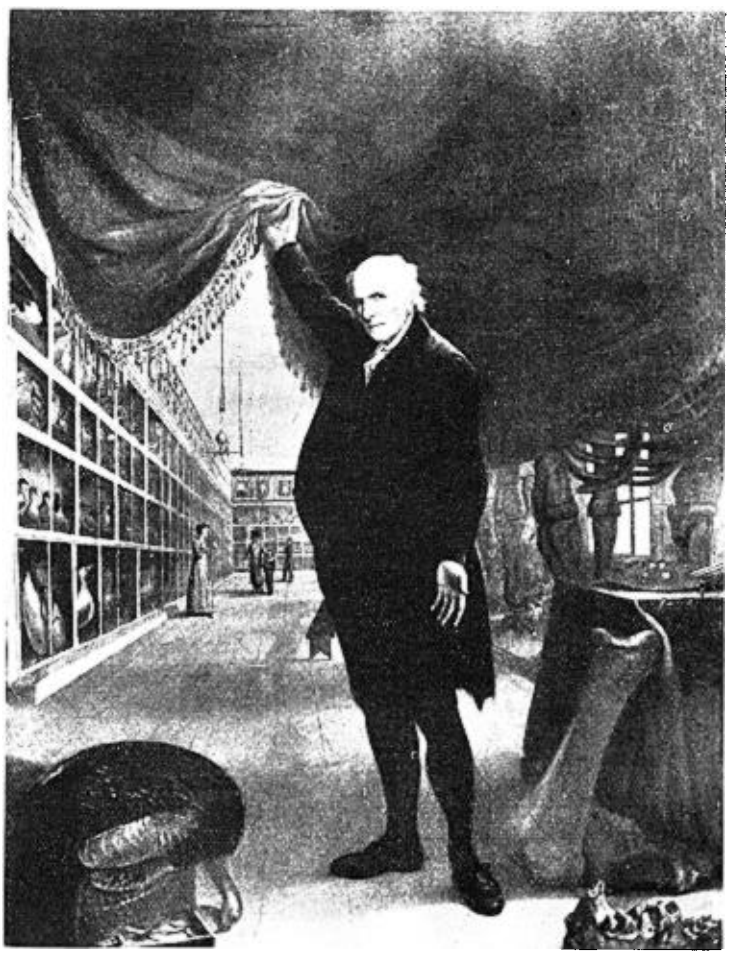

FIG. 7. Charles Willson Peale, and the Long Room of the Philadelphia Museum.

A manuscript, briefly descriptive of the collection, appeared in "A walk with a friend through the Philadelphia Museum, by C. F. Peale", preserved by the Pennsylvania Historical Society. It is undated though obviously it cannot be placed later than 1805. This ancient document is quite lengthy and evidently intended either as a rough draft of a résumé of his lecture in the mammal and bird rooms, or a serious attempt to compose a popular handbook. The "friend" is guided to Independence Hall and his attention called to the inscription on the front of the building, viz., MUSEUM. GREAT SCHOOL OF NATURE; and to the legend over the back door, viz., SCHOOL OF WISDOM. Admission and pamphlet cost twenty-five cents, and for the instruction of those who wished to know the Linnaean classification of birds, on the side of the door entering the long room on the second floor, a large frame contained the several orders and genera with the characters of each.

Knowledge of the arrangement at a later date appears confined to a series of numbers from 11 to 7789, applied by the curators to the types of Wilson, Ord, Say, and Bonaparte, the representatives of nearly 250 species and 300 specimens deposited or indicated by the above persons or by the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-5) and the Long Expedition (1819-20). It appears substantially the same as the antiquated Linnaean system with some adaptations to meet the requirements of the exhibition. A definite space seems to have been reserved for later accessions to all genera, though in some instances, especially the *Sylvia*, an overflow had occurred. There were many inconsistencies, for instance the Raven appears classed, probably for convenience, with the birds of prey, and the Kingbird with the shrikes; but in the latter Linnaeus had been followed; and better judgment than many contemporaries had shown, was evident in the inclusion of the Oven-bird, Water-Thrush, Black and White, Canadian, and Hooded Warblers with the *Sylvia*.

Peale's museum probably furnished Wilson with his only specimens of the Anhinga, Smew, Old-Squaw, Harlequin, and Labrador Ducks, Eider, Ruddy Duck, Flamingo, Scarlet Ibis, Whooping Crane, Purple Gallinule, European Oyster-catcher, Swallow-tailed Kite, besides the new species of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. It is certain that Wilson's accomplishments during his brief career as an ornithologist would have been greatly curtailed without the assistance of this great collection.

A perusal of the aforementioned Peale manuscript, which is sometimes briefly descriptive, often obtuse, but occasionally gives the im-

pression of superior discrimination, strengthens our belief that had he cared to publish the colored figures or a descriptive catalogue with original designations for his novelties, many of the new species now accredited to Vieillot, Wilson, and others, would have borne the name of Peale, even though it must be confessed that he had revealed no aptitude for technical names and descriptions.

The following extracts from his rough notes on some few species (headed by the names in current use and supplemented in some instances by confirmatory or explanatory notes) have peculiar interest as heretofore unpublished records of a very early American collector.

Sterna antillarum (Les.). A rare bird, it was blown from the seacoast across the Jerseys in a heavy storm, and dropped down in the street; we named it the Minute Tern.

Anhinga anhinga (Linn.). This was a straggler, shot at Elkridge Landing, high up the Patapsco River, (Maryland) far distant from where any were seen before. It differs in plumage from the other that was brought from Georgia. (Of this extraordinary species we can give little more than accurate descriptions and tolerably good portraits, which are taken from two fine specimens, admirably set up and preserved in the Museum of Mr. Peale, Nos. 3188 and 3189-Wilson. The Elkridge specimen has the record for being the farthest north on the Atlantic slope. Peale could scarcely be mistaken as to the exact locality since it was at no great distance from his native town.—F. L. B.).

Pelecanus erythrorhynchos (Gm.). This is one which was shot in the mouth of Chester Creek, Maryland. It is ascertained that they are found in the Chesepeake Bay; one, some years past, was taken as high as the Susquehannah. They seldom winter in our rivers although they are known every summer to be along the seacoast, especially of Egg Harbor. One was wounded up the Hudson as far as Albany some years ago.

Nyroca valisineria (Wils.). The Canvas-back duck is most esteemed for the table; a comparative view of the beak with that of the Red-head Duck (*A. rufa*) will confirm knowledge not easily mistaken, although the plumages of both species are very similar.

Camptorhynchus labradorius (Gm.). The Pied Duck deserves our notice as a rare duck, or not much known even to naturalists. They are sometimes brought to our market from Egg Harbor.

Oidemia americana (Sw.). The Scoter came from Sweden, differ from the American Scoter.

Erismatura jamaicensis rubida. The Ferrugenous Duck (*A. ferrugnea*) appears by authors to be a rare bird in Europe. This was shot on the Delaware, it is the only one I have seen. The purity of the blue of its bill while living, greatly surpassed its present appearance. (This very rare duck was shot some years on the River Delaware, and appears to be an entire new species. The specimen here figured, with the female that accompanied it, and which was killed in the same river, are the only individuals of the kind I ever met with. They are both preserved in the superb museum of my much respected friend, Mr. Peale, of this City.—Wilson).

Phoenicopterus ruber (Linn.). Flamingo. (*P. ruber*) inhabit Louisiana, the Bahama Islands, and the West Indies. It has a rather timerous than a lofty spirit. Both of these were living in our city for some time. Our climate is too severe to domesticate them.

Guara rubru (Linn.). Scarlet Ibis. (*T. ruber*) found in Georgia and South Carolina in summer. (One of them lived for some time in the museum of this city.—Wilson).

Grus americana (Linn.). Hooping Crane. (*G. americana*). (No. 3704. Dr. Mease has stated that this specimen came from the Capes of the Delaware).

Gallinago delicata (Ord). There is a snipe that is called the English Snipe. It is said to be found in every quarter of the globe under some trifling variety of plumage and size. The variety which we have here belonging to America, is considerable.

Numenius americanus (Bech.). There is a specific difference between the European (*arquata*) and the American Curlew, the under bill very much shorter on the latter in proportion to the birds; plumage of each species very much alike but the American Curlew is considerably larger than the European.

Charadrius semipalmatus (Bp.) or *C. meloda* (Ord). The Ring Plover (*C. hiaticula*) of Europe is very like a bird of which we have great numbers about Cape Henlopen.

Haematopus palliatus palliatus (Temm.). Singular is the genus *Haematopus* or Oystercatcher. They inhabit Europe and America. The darkest pair is from England, and the other from Cape May, called Sea-Pie, Pied Oystercatcher *H. Ostralegus.*

Tympanuchus cupido cupido (Linn.). Pinnated Grouse. They are numerous on the bushy plains of Long Island.

Meleagris gallopavo silvestris (Vieil.). So common a bird that it might be passed by without notice.

Ectopistes migratorius (Linn.). Migratory or Passenger Pigeon (*C. migratoria*). Visits Pennsylvania and all the middle states in prodigious flights—when our markets are supplied with vast quantities which are taken in nets.

Coragyps atratus atratus. The Carrion Crow. It is said not to go more than fifty or sixty miles from the seacoast of Carolina and Georgia. (The *Vultur atratus* of Bartram).

Elanoides forficatus (Linn.). Swallow-tailed Falcon. (A specimen now in the museum of Philadelphia, was shot within a few miles of that city.—Wilson).

Astur atricapillus atricapillus (Wils.). Black-cap Hawk. (Ash-colored or Black-capped Hawk. This bird was shot within a few miles of Philadelphia, and is now preserved, in good order, in Mr. Peales' museum.—Wilson).

Tyto alba pratincola. A great similarity of the common owl (*Flammea*) of Europe and Asia and one which is sometimes found in the vicinity of Philadelphia. The only difference between them, is the bars of the quill feathers; in all other parts of their plumage they are perfectly alike.

Asio wilsonianus (Less.). A variety of the Long Eared Owl.

Conuropsis carolinensis (Linn.). This is that small parrot with the Auora-colored head, named the Carolina Parrot. It sometimes breeds in that country, but most of them go farther south. They migrate to the western counties of Pennsylvania. (A number of these birds, in all their grades of progressive change from green to yellow, have been deposited in Mr. Peale's museum.—Wilson).

Coccyzus erythrophthalmus (Wils.). The Black Bill Cuckow is not described; beside the bill having none of the white on the under mandible, it is also without the pale rufous quill feathers of the Carolina (*C. americanus*); not very different from the Carolina but it is obvious that they are two separate species; pairs. (Peale exchanged on February 4, 1806, with other specimen, a Black-billed Cuckoo, to Savage of the New York Museum).

Campephilus principalis (Linn.). Ivory-billed Woodpecker. It is not found near Philadelphia, though it is said to inhabit from the Jerseys to Brazil.

Epidonax virescens (Vieil.). There is another species considerably like *fusca,* but a smaller bird, whose manners also resemble it. But this species are only found in the thickest woods, they visit us about one month later than the others, this bird has not been described. Mr. Wilson, a very accurate observer, fond of natural history, gave me this account. (Peale's description is inadequate and the reference may apply almost equally as well to *Myiochanes virens,* which is Bartram's *Muscicapa subviridus* the little olive col'd flycatcher).

Corvus corax principalis (Ridg.). Few of our citizens know that we possess the Raven (*Corvus corax*); it is rarely found near Philadelphia but abounds in the western parts of Pennsylvania.

Icterus spurius (Linn.). Before we leave this genus, it is deserving of notice that authors have been under the mistake of making the black-throat, the female of the Bastard Baltimore (*Oriolus spurius*). Here we see the proper mate to each of them. (Mr. Charles W. Peale, proprietor of the museum, in Philadelphia, who, as a practical naturalist, stands deservedly first in the first rank of American connoisseurs, and who has done more for the promotion of that sublime science than all our speculative theorists together, has expressed to me his perfect conviction of the changes in which these birds pass through; having himself examined them in spring and toward the latter part of summer, and having at the present time in his possession thirty or forty individuals of this species in every gradation of change.—Wilson).

Cassadix mexicanus major (Vieil.). Boat-tailed Grackle (*Gracula barita*). It is so-called because of the folding up of the tail feathers.

Loxia curvirostra pusilla Gloger. The American species we know has charming though not loud notes; they are rare on our seacoast but very numerous in the back parts of Pennsylvania. (The *Loxia rostra forficato* of Bartram).

Ammodramus savannarum australis Maynard. The Yellow-winged Sparrow is a nondescript; green shouldered sparrow; very few of our sparrows have been described by naturalists. (Evidently Peale considered the above named two distinct species. Wilson adopted the first for his common name for *Fringilla passerina*).

Spizella arborea arborea (Wils.). The Russet-capped Sparrow is most common. (The *Passer domesticus* of Bartram and the *Fringilla domesticus* Chipping Sparrow of Barton).

Melospiza melodia melodia (Wils.). Spotted-breasted Sparrow, nest and eggs, the male a fine singer. (The *Fringilla melodia* of Barton).

Piranga erythromelas (Vieil.). Red Tanager (*T. rubru*) is found generally throughout the United States.

P. rubra rubra (Linn.). *T. aestiva*, very few come so far north as Pennsylvania, breed in Maryland and winter near the Mississippi.

Bombycilla cedorum (Vieil.). Waxen Chatterer *A. garrulis* distinct from the American Cedarbird. (Those of our fellow citizens who have still doubts, and wish to examine for themselves, may see beautiful specimens of both birds in the superb collection of Mr. Charles W. Peale of Philadelphia, whose magnificent museum is indeed a national blessing, and will be a lasting honor to his memory. Wilson).

Lanius borealis (Vieil.). The largest of this genus of birds, is our Cinerous Shrike (*Lanius exubiter*).

Vireo flavifrons (Vieil.). Many of this genus of birds have a great part of their plumage of an olive colour but same have red eyes, therefore the English term is preferable. The White-eyed Flycatcher, this is, we consider a proper name for the same reason and it distinguishes it from another species of the same size, much like it except that it has a yellow throat.

Dendroica magnolia (Wils.). Black and Yellow Warbler, male and female; a nondescript. (Mr. Peale has the merit of having been the first to discover this elegant species, which he informs me, he found several years ago not many miles from Philadelphia.—Wilson). Peale identified the "Yellow Rump (*M. maculosa*) male and female" as the Myrtle Warbler.

D. cerulea (Wils.). Blue and White Warbler, also a nondescript, a beautiful bird, rare. (Except my friend Mr. Peale, I know of no other naturalist who seems to have hitherto known of its existence.—Wilson. The merit of having discovered this bird is entirely due to the Peale family, whose exertions have contributed so largely to extend the limits of natural history. The male, which he has accurately described and figured, was made known to Wilson by the late venerable Charles Willson Peale, who alone, and unassisted, accomplished an enterprise, in

the formation of the Philadelphia museum, that could hardly have been exceeded under the fostering hand of the most powerful government. To the no less zealous researches of Mr. Titian Peale, the discovery of the female is recently owing, who, moreover, evinced his sagacity by determining its affinities, and pointed out its true place in the system.—Bonaparte).

Seiurus motacilla (Vieil.). Louisiana Warbler *Ludovicina.*

Wilsonia pusilla pusilla (Wils.). No. 1703, with a black cap, a nondescript, very small.

Troglodytes aedon aedon (Vieil.). (Having seen no accurate description of this bird in any European publication, I have confined my references to Mr. Bartram and Mr. Peale.—Wilson. The *Motacilla domestica* House Wren of Bartram).

Telmatodytes palustris palustris (Wils.). Marsh Wren and its curious nest. (The *Passer palustris* of Bartram).

Hylocichla sp.? Little Thrush (*T. Minor*). They are generally found in the retired places of our woods and very often on the ground; common throughout the United States; here are some varieties of the same kind of Thrush. (Since *Turdus minor* was based in part upon both the Olive-backed and Wilson's Thrushes of Pennant and of Edwards, Peale's varieties doubtless included the Wood, Hermit, and possibly the Gray-cheeked Thrushes. Wilson, who clarified the sparrow muddle, was less successful with the thrushes).

Certhia familiaris americanus. Bp. The plain brown striped bird belongs to Europe, Asia, and America. The American species have the throat and breast whiter than those of Europe; we seldom see birds of the two Continents so much alike. (The *Certhia rufa* little brown variegated creeper of Bartram).

The Peales kept a great daybook or "Memoranda of the Philadelphia Museum", in which were recorded the enormous accessions of specimens through donation and exchange from 1803 to 1837. Alexander Wilson's first presentation occurred July 14, 1804, and consisted of sixteen birds' nests and eggs, and almost his last, March 20, 1813, was a set of Bald Eagle eggs taken at the Great Egg Harbor bay, now in the Brewer collection, Museum of Comparative Zoology. The itemization of the miscellaneous collection presented by Meriwether Lewis by order of President Jefferson covered several pages, and the Long collection was added March 23, 1821. It was the ambition of Peale to make his collections the nucleus of a National Museum, and with this end in view, he formed a national board of visitors; but government assistance was refused, and he retired from active management in 1808, his son Reubens became curator, and Rembrandt, probably a better painter than his father, had his studio in the east room on the first floor. There seemed at that time nothing incongruous in the exhibition of Revolutionary portraits and Nature's own creations in the "Cradle of Liberty", and Peale, a participant in the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Germantown, and Monmouth, would have been the last to desecrate it.

Catalogue No. 1, which by the way was not the only one so numbered and undated, summarized the collections as follows: portraits

130 (eventually increased to 269); wax figures of Indians, etc., 80; quadrupeds 190; birds 1240 (not including duplicates); tortoises 40; lizards 112; snakes 148; fishes 121; insects and miscellaneous, exceeding 6000; fossils and minerals 1920. It is highly improbable that much of importance was added to the ornithological department after the specimens collected by Titian R. Peale on the Long Expedition and his second trip to Florida; if so, it does not appear in the records of the museum.

Under the new management, which included Raphael, Rembrandt, Reubens, Linnaeus, Franklin, and Titian Peale, it was incorporated in 1821 and capitalized at $100,000. Previous to the municipal purchase of the Independence Hall, a project was actually under way to acquire the entire south side of the square, and Latrobe was employed to design a museum to cover the site.

Soon after the death of the elder Peale, February 22, 1827, the museum was moved to the Arcade on Chestnut Street above Sixth Street, and the capitalization increased to $400,000; later a museum was built on Sansom, from Ninth almost to Eighth Street, in 1838. It was a two-storied building 70 by 238 feet, with lofty ceilings, controlled by the Peale family and Pierce Butler. The museum no longer confined its sphere to the natural sciences and fine arts, for the mechanical genius of Franklin Peale had introduced the working models of American inventions; and there were numerous other features of the dime museum caliber.

The colorwork on the plates of the Harrison Hall edition of the "American Ornithology", published 1828-29, by some considered the best colored plates of all, was done by the Lawson sisters from specimens in the Philadelphia museum, presumably the types of the original edition.

The elder Peale had married three times and his children developed mostly as artists, only one of whom, his youngest son, elected to follow the profession of a naturalist. Titian Ramsey Peale (named after an elder half-brother, who showed great promise as a naturalist and who died in his eighteenth year) was born in the Hall of the American Philosophical Society in 1800. As a youth of seventeen years he accompanied Ord, Say, and Maclure on a brief, interrupted trip to Florida; he was assistant to Say on the Long Expedition to the West, 1819-20; he was employed by Bonaparte to collect in Florida and to draw many of the birds for the continuation of the "American Ornithology", 1824; and later, on the authority of a recent writer, he

is said to have accompanied the Burrough's Party to South America, 1831, of which little is known; he was also director and curator of the museum, and illustrator of Doughty's "Cabinet of Natural History and American Rural Sports", 1830-32.

It seems that Peale and Ord had planned a private collecting trip to the Missouri about 1830; but at that time the latter was in Paris studying the French language, and the trip was never accomplished. Nevertheless, it was not all work and no play. Titian returned from the Rocky Mountains an enthusiastic archer; and after reading up on the subject especially as conducted by the Royal Society of England, in 1836 with the help of his brother Franklin, Thomas Sully the artist, Dr. Robert E. Griffith, and other prominent business and professional men, organized the "United Bowmen", destined to endure for more than thirty years.

The regulation field costume, with its gold-laced Lincoln green coat, white pantaloons, black patent leather girdle and gold buckle, tassel and greasebox, and green covered straw hat turned up on the left side with three black ostrich plumes, must have put to shame the most gaudy parrot in his father's collection. The field meets were conducted every Saturday from May to October at Bush Hill, on the south side of Fairmount Avenue near Twentieth Street (where Alexander Wilson had found the Pine Siskin, *Spinus pinus*, about a quarter of a century earlier), and the target distances were not less than 60 and not more than 125 yards—a severe test of strength and marksmanship. The punch-bowl was not the useless piece of bric-a-brac it is today, although the "hailstorm" was partaken with discretion.

Titian Peale's great opportunity came with his appointment as mammalogist and ornithologist of the Wilkes' United States Exploring Expedition, 1838-42, mainly to lands touching the Pacific Ocean; his skill and experience as an animal painter, field collector, and preparator had secured the recommendation of his friends of the American Philosophical Society, though he had heretofore scarcely written a line for publication.

C. W. Peale had written on the very first page of his journal the following aphorism (or sophism?): "I love the study of nature because it teacheth benevolence".

Apparently, upon the return of Titian R. Peale after nearly four years of travel and successful endeavor, similar invidious influences and controversies that overwhelmed John Townsend, were reenacted in the instance of another gentle soul, for others were placed in charge of

FIG. 8. Titian Ramsey Peale.

his materials and he was hampered in many ways. Ord had reassured him: "I deeply deplore the plunder of your hard-earned treasures but it is precisely what I expected. Be of good cheer my dear old friend and fellow traveller. God almighty will not abandon you. Preserve your integrity and honorable bearing, and you shall yet succeed". Peale persevered, for under the date of May 19, 1845, he wrote his friend: "We are 'getting along' here after a fashion, much in need of books and countenance; the big gun of the Exploring exped. 'has gone off', and the echo is rumbling in the distance. I doubt much whether any ammunition will be forthcoming from small arms."

His official report, rather incongruously entitled "Mammalia and Ornithology", published in 1848, included the descriptions of numerous species of birds supposedly new to science, for he had no means of ascertaining that many had been described, owing to the lack of the essential works of reference. His inexperience in work of this nature counted heavily against him, for his contribution was deemed unworthy of the series in scientific value and was suppressed by Wilkes, who had retained command until the reports were completed. In 1852 the revised edition "Mammalogy and Ornithology", by John Cassin, appeared with Peale's folio volume of colored plates, denied the first edition. It is needless to state that Cassin through the liberality of a wealthy patron had the material and necessary works of reference and that the technical descriptions and synonmy were only matters of routine to that accomplished systematist.

Quite naturally Peale was mortified when his work was rejected and destroyed, though his friend George Ord advised him that since he had incurred the hostility of his superior, nothing could be done for his reputation unless he should publish at his own expense under copyright and submit judgment to the future. Nothing further was attempted and the Peale edition is one of the rarest books on ornithology.

Peale was frequently employed by Ord, presumably in the illustration of his contemplated work on the quadrupeds, a work that would have been a credit to all concerned had it been published, but it was discontinued upon a reverse in fortune of the author, and the drawings, descriptions, and some plates engraved by Lawson, probably destroyed after a few impressions of the plates were made. Peale also, at an earlier date began an illustrated work on the moths and butterflies engraved on stone, which he never finished.

In 1845 Ord was an applicant for the position of Secretary for the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, and he wrote Peale who was still in Washington, "Should the efforts of my friends be successful, you may take it for granted that the situation of Curator will be filled by T. R. P." Ord, through Colonel Biddle, with characteristic modesty, urged the appointment of Peale and thought his chances very good, though not so sanguine of his own, and when Prof. Henry was named, he expressed his entire approval. In 1848 Peale was made Assistant Examiner of Patents, later Principal Examiner in the Division of Fine Arts and Photography, in which congenial employment he continued until his resignation in 1873. He died in Philadelphia in 1885. His name is perpetuated in North American ornithology by *Falco peregrinus pealei*, a rather pathetic reminder of the Peales, father and son, whose integrity and perseverance had contributed so much to the material advancement of American ornithology.

The Museum Company failed as a commercial enterprise long after it had ceased to be the resort of the savants of natural science. Over-capitalization and the failure of the United States Bank closed its doors at the outbreak of the Mexican War. The natural history collections were sold to Kimball and Barnum in 1850, and a small part of the ornithological relics eventually found rest in the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Cambridge, Massachusetts—some fifty-three more or less doubtful types of Wilson, Ord, and Bonaparte, the sole survivors of the Ornithological Section, except two type specimens in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and one of Wilson's types in the collection at Vassar College.

The national prominence of the old Philadelphia Museum in ornithology may be said to have extended from Rafinesque's first entry, throughout the activity of Wilson, and terminated with the visit of Bonaparte, a period almost coincident with its occupancy of Independence Hall. It then passed to the Academy for a time, but there was no immediate successor to Cassin, who tolerated neither rival nor neophyte; and the Smithsonian Institution came into its own.

Berwyn, Pa.