

Mr Duncan, by whose courtesy we were to be permitted to carry on our examinations and collections during the sinking of the shaft. Since the date of this arrangement Mr Duncan has retired from the management of the company and comparatively little progress has been made in carrying out the original plans for excavation. Should, however, the undertaking be continued we expect to prosecute our examination as originally purposed.

Proposed exhibit for the St Louis Exposition. At the request of the state commission proposals have been made in various form for an exhibition of the work of this department. The proposition which has seemed to best meet the approbation of the commissioners involves the exhibit of the slab of trails from the Potsdam sandstone, already described, supplemented by a series of our publications. I have been authorized to proceed with the preparation of this exhibit.

Purchase of the Ruedemann collection. Previous to his appointment on the staff of this division Dr Ruedemann had brought together an interesting collection of Silurian fossils from this State, in which was included the material utilized as the basis of his study of the graptolites and Conularia. We have acquired this collection by purchase and it constitutes one of the important acquisitions of the year, its type specimens being both numerous and important. A list of its contents is given in full among the accessions.

Appointment of lithographer. By the death of Philip Ast, who had been connected with this department as lithographer for upward of thirty years, it became necessary to fill the vacancy under the civil service requirements. In due conformity therewith William S. Barkentin has been appointed to the position.

Present staff

Permanent and temporary

John M. Clarke, state paleontologist
Rudolf Ruedemann, assistant state paleontologist
D. D. Luther, field assistant
George S. Barkentin, draftsman
William S. Barkentin, lithographer
Jacob Van Deloo, clerk