
Edmund M. Speiker (1895-1978) (portrait is above the stairs to the balcony), Professor of Geology, 1924-1965; Chairman of the Department of Geology, 1944-1952.


New England Coast (Monhegan Island, Maine), 1921. Artist: Alexander Bower – American Impressionist. Probable location for this work is the crag and cliff bound east side of Monhegan Island, 16 miles off the coast of Maine. Shows the wave erosion of the igneous and metamorphic rocks of the region.


The Orton Memorial Library of Geology

180 Orton Hall
155 South Oval Drive
Columbus, OH 43210
(6140) 292-2428

Fall, Winter and Spring Quarter Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sunday: 2 - 6 p.m.

Summer Quarter and Quarter Break Hours

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday: Closed
The Orton Memorial Library of Geology was a gift to The Ohio State University from Dr. Edward Orton, Jr. in honor of his father, Edward Orton, Sr., the University’s first president and first Professor of Geology. In addition to books, journals and furnishings, Edward Orton, Jr. donated his collection of paintings with geological themes.

Interspersed with the landscapes are portraits of early Ohio State geologists and chairmen of the Department of Geology.

The following is a list of the paintings and sculpture housed in the Orton Memorial Library of Geology. The list begins with the art on the south west side of the entrance and continues counter-clockwise around the room.

**Dr. John Bownocker (1865-1929)**  Artist: Yeteva Smith. State Geologist (1906-1928), Professor of Geology (1898-1928), Chairman, Department of Geology (1916-1928).

**Petrified Forest – Arizona, 1904; Artist: Thomas Moran.** His sketches of Yellowstone were instrumental in the designation of Yellowstone as the first National Park in 1872. Acquired by Edward Orton, Jr., in 1925. He stated that “(the work) illustrates rather strikingly the well known geological process by which fossils are preserved.”

**The Eternal City – Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah, 1926; Artist: Lewis A. Ramsey.** Dr. Orton considered this work the “best of it’s” type.

**Yellowstone Geyser – Yellowstone National Park, 1886; Artist: Albert Bierstadt.** Bierstadt was the first technically sophisticated artist to travel to the American West and adapt European and Hudson River School prototypes to a new landscape. Dr. Orton purchased this work in 1923. He enjoyed the work but did not consider it one Bierstadt’s best.

**John Newberry (1822-1892)** State Geologist of Ohio 1869-1878.

**Charles Prosser (1860-1916)** Professor of Geology (1899-1916), Chairman, Department of Geology (1901-1916).

**Quartzite Peak, 1890.** Artist: Albert Bierstadt. Mt. Sir Donald in the Canadian Rockies, painted before the Canadian Pacific Railway went through the setting. Dr. Orton commented on this work in 1923: “I have never seen a Bierstadt that I considered any better than the one I now have, excepting possibly the two owned by the Metropolitan Museum in New York, namely the very large picture of the Rocky Mountains and a similar picture of Yosemite.”

**The Dark Cove, 1923, Cape Elizabeth, Maine.** Artist: Alexander Bower – American Impressionist. The rocks are metamorphic, greatly folded and contorted. An anticline is in the middle and a syncline is to the right.

**Edward Orton, Sr. (1828-1899)** Artist: James Hopkins. First president of The Ohio State University, 1873-1881; Ohio State Geologist, 1882-1899; Professor of Geology, 1873-1899.

**Bust of Edward Orton, Sr.** Artist: Mrs. Annetta Johnson St. Gaudens.


**Wild Basin, Mt. Orton, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado, 1922.** Artist: Dean Babcock (commissioned by E. Orton, Jr.). Edward Orton, Jr. and other faculty members from the Geology Department climbed this mountain. It is name in honor of Dr. Orton. Peaks in the background are on the Continental Divide. Long Peak (14,255 ft.) in the right background; Mt. Orton (11,682 ft.) is in the center middle distance; on the left and right are U-shaped glaciated valleys leading back to cirques on the higher mountain slopes.

**Eruption of Mount Vesuvius, i771.** Artist: Pierre Jacque Antoine Volaire.

**Der Maderana Thal und Ober Alpstock** (Swiss Mountain Valley) Artist: August Johann Jacob Vollweider. Gift to E. Orton, Jr. by Charles A. Bloomfield, 1922. The Ober Alpstock (10,925 ft.) towers in the background, the Maderaner Valley is the result of erosion from streams and glaciers. The Maderaner River flows into the Reuss slightly above the point where it empties into the Lake of Luzerne at Flüelen.