

THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

CENTRAL PARK WEST AT 79TH STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10024

1292
New York (City)
Dept. of Parks

WALTER F. MEISTER
Assistant Director and Controller

April 22, 1968

The Honorable August Heckscher
Commissioner of Parks
Arsenal Building
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10021

1116

Re: Modification of Contract dated December 22, 1877
between the Department of Parks of the City of New
York and The American Museum of Natural History

Dear Commissioner Heckscher:

The first sentence of Paragraph "Fourthly" of the
above agreement between our institution and the Department
of Parks reads as follows:

1187.1

"Fourthly. - That the exhibition halls of said
building shall, on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and
Saturday of each week, and on all legal or public
holidays, except Sundays, be kept open and accessible
to the public, free of charge, from nine o'clock A.M.
until half an hour before sunset, under such rules
and regulations as the party of the second part shall
from time to time prescribe; but on the remaining days
of the week the same shall be only open for exhibition
to such persons, upon such terms as the said party of
the second part shall from time to time direct."

This section has been modified three times to enable
the trustees to open the Museum to the public: (1) "throughout
the year, excepting Mondays, but including Sunday afternoons
and two evenings of each week," (2) "throughout the year for
five days in each week, one of which shall be Sunday afternoon
and also two evenings of each week" and (3) "on all days
throughout the year."

April 22, 1968

However, neither the agreement nor any of these modifications gives the Museum any latitude in closing the Museum on legal and public holidays unless such holidays shall fall on a Sunday.

We have found in a recent survey, that our attendance on Christmas Day and on Thanksgiving Day, when the Museum is open from 1 P.M. to 5 P.M., has dropped to less than 2,000 persons. We believe that the expense of keeping open for such a small number is not warranted, and we respectfully request, if you agree with us, that you sign and return the enclosed copy of this letter.

Henceforth, the first sentence of Paragraph "Fourthly" shall read as follows:

"Fourthly. - That the exhibition halls of said building shall, on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday of each week, and on all legal and public holidays, except Sundays, Christmas Day and Thanksgiving Day, be kept open and accessible to the public, free of charge, from nine o'clock A.M. until half an hour before sunset, under such rules and regulations as the party of the second part shall from time to time prescribe; but on the remaining days of the week the same shall be only open for exhibition to such persons, upon such terms as the said party of the second part shall from time to time direct."

Very truly yours,

THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

By- Walter J. Neuster
Executive Secretary

The above is hereby consented to.

August Heckscher
Commissioner of Parks