

# Hall of Fame for Agassiz and Morse

*History of Science*

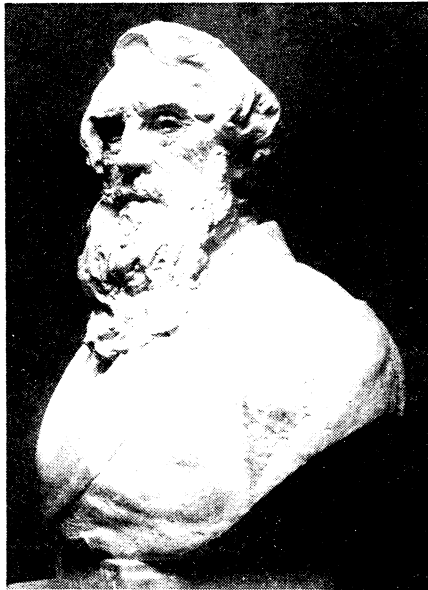
The Hall of Fame for Great Americans, located on the campus of New York University, was visited on Thursday, May 10, by thousands of people from many different states and cities, who witnessed the unveiling of the busts of five great Americans.

The men honored with busts this year were Louis Agassiz, Rufus Choate, John Paul Jones, Samuel Finley Breese Morse, and John Greenleaf Whittier.

The busts were the gifts of patriotic organizations, societies and individuals, honoring persons whose names have already been inscribed in the Hall of Fame. Many distinguished representatives of the different arts and professions, together with many descendants of the persons honored, participated in the ceremonies.

Presentation of the bust of Louis Agassiz, the zoologist, modeled by Anna Vaughn Hyatt (Mrs. Archer M. Huntington), the gift of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and of an admirer of Agassiz, was made by J. Walter Fewkes of the Smithsonian Institution. Mrs. Huntington's father and Mr. Fewkes were both pupils of Agassiz. The unveiling was by Dr. Anna Agassiz Prince, great-granddaughter of Agassiz. An address was made by Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn.

Louis Agassiz, zoologist, was born at Motier, Switzerland, May 28, 1807, and died at Buzzard's Bay, Mass.,



*SAMUEL F. B. MORSE, from the bust now in the Hall of Fame*

December 14, 1873. He early showed a strong leaning toward zoology, and after being graduated in medicine at Munich, he began an intensive study of natural history. He was professor of zoology at Harvard. He founded a summer school for the study of zoology. He ranks as the most influential of American naturalists and is regarded as a great teacher and inspirer of scientists.

A granddaughter of Samuel Finley Breese Morse, the inventor of the recording telegraph and founder

and first president of the National Academy of Design and a member of the faculty of New York University, Miss Leila Livingston Morse, unveiled the Morse bust modeled by Chester Beach, which was the gift of the Morse Hall of Fame Memorial Committee. Richard E. Enright, former Commissioner of Police, New York City, and chairman of the committee, presented the bust.

Samuel Finley Breese Morse, inventor of the electric telegraph, was born at Charlestown, Mass., April 27, 1791, and died at New York City, April 2, 1872. He was graduated at Yale and took up the study of painting, becoming first president of the National Academy of Design. In 1837 he exhibited a perfected electric telegraph instrument. He was the originator of submarine telegraphy.

Dr. John H. Finley, president of the American Geographical Society, spoke of Samuel Finley Breese Morse as an inventor, while Professor Frank Jewett Mather, Jr., of Princeton University, spoke of Morse's relationship to art.

Of the sixty-five personages enrolled in the Hall of Fame, busts of forty-nine have now been provided. New names are chosen every five years by approximately one hundred electors, composed of Americans, men and women representing every state in the Union. Only Americans who have been dead for twenty-five years are now eligible for election.

*Science News-Letter, May 12, 1928*

## Rays Show Tooth Cavities

*Dentistry*

Teeth, shining like jewels in the dark under the invisible rays of ultra-violet light, reveal by dark spots the places where cavities are beginning to develop, before they become visible to ordinary inspection. If the technique of this kind of examination can be sufficiently perfected, we may expect dentists' offices to be equipped with the largest types of ultra-violet lamps, to enable up-to-date practitioners to catch cavities before they happen, and so perhaps prevent them.

This possibility is an outgrowth of experiments by Dr. H. C. Benedict, of Northwestern University Dental School, on the fluorescence of

teeth under ultra-violet radiation. Like many other substances, human teeth react to these invisible rays by shining brightly with a visible light. This phenomenon is known as fluorescence.

The white spot that marks the beginning of cavity-forming troubles, Dr. Benedict found, does not fluoresce even though no coloring matter has begun to form on it. This seems to be associated with the removal of a thin protective film, for it was found that a similar effect could be obtained by treating a paraffin-coated tooth with acid. Whenever the paraffin had been scratched through, the tooth failed to fluoresce.

Dentine, which forms the foundation substance of teeth, fluoresces more brightly and with a bluer light than does the hard outer coating of enamel.

Calculus, the so-called "tartar" that has to be scraped off teeth, fluoresces. There are two kinds of calculus. The kind formed through the influence of the serum, or blood fluid, fluoresces very little, but that formed by saliva shines with a bright orange color on living teeth. On some old museum specimens, the salivary calculus fluoresced with a white light.

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