

# Timeline of HISTORICAL EVENTS

- **1839** Creation of the Professorship of Natural History to complete the experimental studies that were taught in the building of the University of Santiago (currently the Faculty of Geography and History). The first professor to be appointed was **Antonio Casares Rodríguez** in 1840. The **Cabinet of Natural History** officially began in the academic year 1840-41. The first inventory is dated 31 May 1841.


- **1845** Rector **Juan José Viñas** travels to Paris to buy material for the Physics, Chemistry, Anatomy and Natural History departments. He makes the first purchase of the **Type-animals collection** (mammals, birds and reptiles), on the advice of Antonio Casares, to complete the Zoology Section. Contribution of the **Gerónimo Piñeiro de las Casas Malacological Collection**.
- **1847** Arrival of the 1,024 regular forms of minerals from the **René Just Haüy's Collection of Crystallographic Models** through the heirs of the Bermés mathematician **José Rodríguez González**. The Mineralogy Section is consolidated with the purchase of mineralogical collections and the creation of a **Collection of Galician minerals** by Antonio Casares Rodríguez.  
**Felipe Teijeiro Fernández** takes over the Professorship and the Cabinet and Antonio Casares takes over the Professorship of General Chemistry.


- **1849** Appointment of **José Planellas Giralt** as Professor of Natural History. He creates the first herbarium of Galician flora, promotes the Botany Section and the future **Botanical Garden** for teaching. The location chosen was an annex to the Fonseca building.  
**Gerónimo Macho Velado** is appointed as the first 'assistant taxidermist' for the Professorship of Natural History, after the approval and creation of the position of preparator.
- **1850** Second acquisition in Paris of more 'representative species' for the **Type-animals Collection**.
- **1853** **Isidoro Sánchez Salgués** takes the post of specialist in Taxidermy. He signed the acquisitions as 'ISS' and was in charge of 'shaping' the leather and feather donations that arrived at the Cabinet.
- **1857** The University of Santiago creates the **Faculty of Science**, with the professorship of Natural History, General Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics, the first dean being **Antonio Casares Rodríguez**. Collections of Galician scientists (the **Víctor López Seoane Collection of Herpet Specimens**), donations from Galician emigrants (doctor Rivas Rodríguez), contributions from the National Museum from the **Pacific Scientific Commission** (1862-1866) and new specimens of type-animals were purchased in Paris.


- **1867** Suppression of the Faculty of Science (decision of the minister Manuel de Orovio) and reduction of the allocation to the professorship of Natural History. During this period, **Isidoro Sánchez Salnés** (the former taxidermist, 1869), **Augusto González Linares** (1872) and **Vicente González Canales** (1877) were appointed to the professorship. The Cabinet incorporated the Víctor López Seoane Fish Collection (1864) and the French Fish Collection (1865). The Dr. Auzoux Collections of Clastic Models, recognised as the best builder of clastic figures at the time, were introduced. Creation of the Comparative Anatomy Section for both zoology and botany.


- **1900** **Antonio Vila Nadal** takes up the Professorship of Natural History after years of interim tenure and after a brief period of **Pascual Náchter Vilar** (1897). The Cabinet of Natural History enters its worst years with very limited increases in its assets.
- **1905** A period of expansion of the collections begins under the influence of the Museo de Ciencias Naturales de Madrid directed by Ignacio Bolívar. One of his disciples, **Antonio García Varela**, is appointed professor and curator of the Natural History Cabinet of the University. Under his direction, a period of renovation of the collections with more modern ones began.


- **1906** The Cabinet changes its name to **Natural History Museum**, coinciding with the end of the extension work on the space available to it in the faculty.
- **1909** The Santiago Section of the Royal Spanish Society of Natural History was set up and promoted the creation of the 'Regional Museum'. Contribution of the **César Sobrado Maestro Collection of Galician Fungi** and the **Baltasar Merino Educational Herbarium**.


- **1911** Contribution of the Collection of marine invertebrates preserved in alcohol from the **Santander Marine Biology Station**.
- **1914** Donation of the **Adriano López Morillo Malacological Collection**.
- **1922** After many years of long and unsuccessful attempts, the University **recovered the Faculty of Science**, which was essential for the development of the Natural History Museum. The museum had been without a director since 1919. This task was assigned to Luis Iglesias Iglesias, as temporary assistant to the University and in charge of the professorship of Mineralogy and Botany and Zoology from 1920. In 1923, Isidro Parga Pondal was appointed assistant professor of the Professorship of Chemistry, who was to collaborate actively with the museum.
- **1927** The University buys part of the **José Viqueira Mineral Collection** at the request of **Isidro Parga Pondal**. The rest of the collection was bought from the heirs in 1940.


- **1932** **Luis Iglesias** won the Professorship of General Biology at the Faculty of Science and became **director of the Museum of Natural History**. He built up an important **Collection of Galician insects** and promoted a **Collection of Galician birds and mammals**, adding a specimens prepared by the taxidermist **Santiago Vez Quijano**.


- **1933** The University creates the **Geochemistry Laboratory**, a pioneer in Spain, at the request of **Isidro Parga Pondal**, following the European trends of the time. Isidro donates the **Collection of rocks from the Swiss Alps** and updates the **Collection of minerals, rocks and fossils of Galicia**.
- **1934** The MHN incorporates the natural history items included in the **América Library**, whose collections had been incorporated into the University in 1909. The Library had been founded in Buenos Aires in 1904 by the Galician emigrant Gumersindo Busto. These American contributions continued years later with donations of various collections of minerals, flora and fauna.
- **1961** **Transfer** of the Museum to a **new Faculty of Science** (currently the Faculty of Chemistry) under the supervision of Luis Iglesias and the collaboration of assistant professors Alfredo Llecha Ferrer and Carmen Sanmartín Cornes.
- **1965** **Luis Iglesias Natural History Museum**. After the retirement of the former director for 33 years, the Board of the Faculty of Science named the museum after him. The following directors Ernesto Vieitez Cortizo, Celso Rodríguez Babío, Darío Díaz Cosín, Francisco Novoa Docet and Carlota García Paz continue the conservation of historical and scientific collections. They begin a new phase of collecting and 'elaborating' new collections from their role as researchers at the University of Santiago de Compostela.
- **1984** Contribution of the **Manuel Rodríguez Solórzano Collection of Galician Fish**. This section of marine fauna is completed with the Victoriano Urgorri collections.
- **2003** Contribution of the type library and the **Emilio Rolán Mosquera Malacological Collection**, the largest collection received by the museum in terms of number of specimens.


- **2014** On October 8, the 'Luis Iglesias' Natural History Museum opens its doors as the **USC Natural History Museum** in the new building at Finca Vista Alegre in Santiago de Compostela. The transfer of all the material and organisation of the exhibition rooms began in 2011 under the direction of **M<sup>a</sup> Isabel Fraga Vila**, and the collaboration of the curator Xan Guerra Bouzas and the assistant José Ramón Sarabia Puga.