

## Geology collectors in Nova Scotia, Canada, and the provincial museum from 1839–1939: an historic overview

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Additions to the modern geology collection of the Nova Scotia Museum (NSM) consist primarily of specimens acquired from private donors, amateur collectors, and researchers. However, the foundation of the NSM was originally comprised of collections from the Halifax Mechanics' Institute and World Expositions, and submissions of mineral samples from the Nova Scotia Department of Mines. While notable geologists such as Lyell, Dawson, Gesner, and others collected specimens in their quest to better understand geology in general and the geology of Nova Scotia, few of their specimens have been retained in the province, instead ending up in other institutions. Surprisingly, some of the longest lasting contributions to the early NSM geology collection were left, not by famous geologists, but by relatively lesser known curators, Rev. David Honeyman and Harry Piers, who established a tradition of actively collecting and receiving specimens for the promotion of Nova Scotia, the preservation of scientific knowledge, and the education of the public.