The Organization and Conservation of the University of Alabama's Human Skeleton Collection

This grant permits the University of Alabama to restore and reorganize its human skeletal collection. This collection contains over 5,000 individuals and includes large skeletal series from Archaic, Woodland, and Mississippian sites from the southeastern United States. The over 1,000 skeletal remains from the Mississippian Ceremonial Center of Moundville are perhaps the best known part of this collection. Additional large series were recovered by Webb's WPA Tennessee River Valley excavations. The Pickwick and Guntersville basins were emphasized in this work and the sites tested span practically the whole human occupation of the region. The "Shell Mound archaic" and "Mississippian" peoples are especially well represented by 2,500 individuals. Unfortunately the collection is being destroyed because of improper storage. The decomposing affects of weather, and the action of rodents and other vermin take an almost daily toll.

These funds will provide for the minor renovation of a one-story, 2,250 square-foot brick concrete and steel building to make suitable space for proper storage. They will also provide for the purchase of dust-proof, rodent and bug-proof storage cabinets for the housing of the stabilized and reorganized collection.
Dr. Kenneth R. Turner  
13 ten Hoo  
University, AL

Dear Dr. Turner:

We have received grant number BNS78-11213 in the amount of $30,649.00 from the National Science Foundation. This grant is for partial support of the project entitled "The Organization and Conservation of the University of Alabama Human Skeletal Collection." The period of this grant is from August 1, 1978 through January 31, 1980.

I am enclosing a copy of an approved budget revision in the amount of $30,649.00. We have assigned account number 3-3-30-1115-01 for expenditures.

This grant is excepted from the cost sharing provisions of NSF regulations, however, in order to receive the grant we agreed that the Department of Anthropology will provide contributions in the form of furniture, equipment, and services of student assistants.

All billing and financial reports concerning this grant will be handled by this office. All requisitions, personnel recommendations, and other documents will be submitted in accordance with existing University regulations through the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Sincerely yours,

Patton B. Seals

PBS:jrs

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Richard Krause  
Dean Douglas E. Jones  
Mr. John W. Quayle