Clermont-Ferrand’s first museum opened its doors in 1822. Henri Lecoq is at the origin of the current day museum. Henri Lecoq, a pharmacist being native of the north of France was assigned to Clermont-Ferrand and appointed to the chair of natural sciences and director of the garden, which now carries his name, as well as museum. From 1826 until 1871 he combed Auvergne taking notes and specimens and published many botanical and geological works and maps. His works characterise rather well the scientific fervour that animated the provinces during the 19th century and especially Auvergne. At his death he bequeathed his collections to the town, which bought his town house and opened up the Lecoq museum.

As this museum was exceptionally rich in terms of amount and variety of preserved objects, it was the only museum in the Auvergne to be classified. Today the museum enjoys the title “Musée de France” and continues its mission by adding to its collections and displaying them to a large public in the form of exhibitions and publications.

**History**
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**Vertebrates**
Mammals, birds, reptiles and fish, stuffed or preserved in alcohol, eggs and skeletons. Regional and worldwide references, rare or extinct specimens. (7 000 specimens)

**Herbals**
Flowering plants, ferns, mosses, algae, lichens and fungi from the whole of Europe. Regional references and types. (100 000 herbarium vouchers)

**Minerals**
Regional reference collection and remarkable specimens. (20 000 specimens)

**Insects**
Around 20 collections consisting mainly of Lepidoptera and Coleoptera. Regional references, rare or extinct types and species. (200 000 specimens)

**Rocks**
All categories of rocks, especially volcanic rocks, taken from the Massif Central bedrock. (50 000 samples)

**Molluscs**
Worldwide and regional marine and non-marine shells. Reference series of many types. (120 000 specimens or sets)

**Fossils**
The primary basins and the Limagne have given us numerous fossils, amongst which certain type fossils and parts of the largest known tusk, from the Mammuthus meridionalis. (10 000 specimens)

**Zoology**

**Plant History**
Collections of seeds, fruit, pollen and medicinal plants. (3 000 sets)

**Insects**

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From the Paleozoic to the arrival of Man.

Regional Natural Heritage

Natural Environments

Biological and Geological Features

Geology

Mineralogy

Paleontology

Discoveries in Parisian Blocks with Volcanic Rocks

Excavations of the Old Henri Lecoq Garden

Natural Environments

The natural environments of the region have been reconstructed with all their diversity, representing their fauna and their flora. (mountains, forests, bridges, lakes, swamps, ponds, rivers and loft barns)

LOST FAUNA AND FLORA

Since historical times, numerous species have disappeared from the region, (bear, lynx, wolf, eagle and different plants)

At the museum, revision and portraits

Back in the life of Henri Lecoq, (reconstruction of the office)

THE NATURALIST CATALOGUES

Examples of the richness of Auvergne.

Three emblematic natural environments.

Three displays presenting exhaustive catalogues of the regional natural heritage.

The tree of Life

Modern classification of living beings in the form of a family tree.

More than 400 species and models in thirteen modules

Presentation of the collections and the national inventories of scientific heritage. (installing machines and other instruments)

THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A programme of temporary exhibitions.

A permanent science activities hall. Documents and teaching aids are available.

MUSEUM'S MEDIATOR

Independently or accompanied by the museum’s mediator, around the expositions or in the science activities hall.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Presentation of the collections and the national inventories of scientific heritage. (installing machines and other instruments)

Display of the variety of minerals.

Dive to the centre of the Earth.

From the universe to a mineral, the rock cycle and plate tectonics

SCIENCE HISTORY

The history of the life of Henri Lecoq.

Remembrance of the life of Henri Lecoq. (reconstruction of the office)

THE GREAT SCIENTISTS

Parial, inventor of the first calculating machine. (two Pascal calculators, a functioning 16th century model and portraits)

Laumonier, Inventor of modern chemistry. (one stone from his natural history cabinet)

Pastour, inventor of modern microbiology. (the famous Pasteur flask and a press for making beer)

PLANETS, INVENTORS OF MODERN CHEMISTRY, SCIENTIFIC DETERMINATIONS ON-SITE.