

Emperor of Japan Visits MNH



(Photograph by Vincent P. Connolly)

Emperor Hirohito of Japan in an historic visit October 2 spent more than an hour at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History while he and Empress Nagako were in Washington on their tour of the United States. The Emperor was welcomed to the Smithsonian and MNH by Secretary Ripley and Dr. Porter Kier, MNH Director. While at the Museum, the Emperor, who is a marine biologist, conducted laboratory studies of a variety of marine specimens with the aid of (from left above) Dr. Frederick M. Bayer, research curator in charge of the MNH coelenterate collections; Dr. Joseph Rosewater, curator in charge of the MNH marine mollusk collection, and Professor Hidemi Sato of the University of Pennsylvania, who acted as interpreter. The Emperor also toured the storage area at MNH where hydroid-type specimens are kept. He said he had long wanted to see the SI collections of marine organisms and commented on how well the material was classified and maintained. Mr. Ripley presented the Emperor with a highly-prized specimen of the Caribbean slit-shell *Entemnotrochus adansonianus* in commemoration of his visit. (Other photos on page 3.)

Sherburne to Lead SI-Peace Corps Joint Program

Dr. James A. Sherburne has been appointed manager of the Smithsonian Institution-Peace Corps Environmental Program. The program is a joint effort by the Smithsonian and the Peace Corps to provide persons trained in the environmental sciences to serve as Peace Corps Volunteers in developing countries.

Dr. Sherburne, who recently returned from an 18-month leave in Botswana where he served as a wildlife consultant to the government, takes over from Robert K. Poole, the program's founder, who now heads the Nairobi, Kenya, office of the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation.

Prior to his work in Botswana, Dr. Sherburne served for nearly two years as the Smithsonian-Peace Corps program's deputy manager. He holds a B.A. and M.S. in entomology from the University of Maine and a Ph.D. in ecology from Cornell University.

Gretchen Hazen, formerly a program assistant, has been named deputy program manager. She joined the program in 1973 after receiving her M.S. in zoology from the University of Michigan. Jeffrey Vonk, who

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Dr. James A. Sherburne

King of Norway Visits Smithsonian

King Olav V of Norway spent nearly two hours at the Smithsonian October 11, visiting the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the National Air and Space Museum and the National Museum of History and Technology.

King Olav was met at the Sculpture Garden by Secretary Ripley, who welcomed him to the Smithsonian, and presented him with a copy of *Bark Canoes and Skin Boats of North America*, by Edwin T. Adney and Howard I. Chappelle.

At the Museum of History and Technology, the King, who is known to be interested in boats and watercraft of all types, was especially pleased by the Hall of American Maritime Enterprise.

SI, Universe Books Sign Agreement

The Smithsonian Institution and Universe Books have signed an agreement that will permit Universe Books to publish calendars drawn from the Smithsonian collections, Gilman Park, President of Universe Books, and Richard Griesel, Smithsonian Business Manager, have announced.

The contract with Universe provides for the publishing and distribution of calendars with themes based on original artifacts and works of art in the Smithsonian collections.

A desk engagement calendar and a variety of wall calendars will be offered annually, with pictures and written material designed to inform the public about the history and significance of the objects.

An engagement calendar featuring American leisure pastimes and three wall calendars will be published for 1976. Themes for the wall calendars are:

- "Pictures at an Exhibition" - drawn from the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and including works by Rivers, Gottlieb, Dubuffet, Davis and Marin.
- "The American Vision" - drawn from the National Collection of Fine Arts, with Sloan, Homer and Wyeth among the artists represented.
- "Passion Flowers & Other Exotic Tropical Blossoms" - featuring photos of blossoms taken in the field by researchers of the National Museum of Natural History.



THE SMITHSONIAN TORCH

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

November, 1975

President Authorizes SI to Seek Funds for Support Facility

President Ford signed legislation September 19 authorizing the Smithsonian Institution to request an appropriation for planning a museum support facility to be built adjacent to the present SI installation at Suitland, Maryland.

The bill passed by the Senate and House of Representatives authorizes the Regents to prepare plans for a museum support facility "to be used for (1) the care, curation, conservation, deposit, preparation, and study of the national collections of scientific, historic, and artistic objects, specimens and artifacts; (2) the related documentation of such collections . . . and (3) the training of museum conservators."

The bill directed that the facility shall be located on federally owned land within the Washington metropolitan area and authorized any federal agency to transfer land under its jurisdiction to the Institution for such purposes without reimbursement. The bill also authorized the Smithsonian to request an appropriation to proceed with the plans.

The Institution is proposing in its Fiscal Year 1977 budget request to seek funds for planning the new facility.

In testimony before the House Subcommittee on Library and Memorials, Secretary Ripley explained that the support facility will house expanding national collections and museum support and maintenance services, and will permit greater utilization of the museum buildings on the Mall for public exhibitions to serve increasing numbers of visitors.

The Secretary pointed out that at the request of Congress the Institution for many years has accepted responsibility for the development, preservation, study, exhibition, and interpretation of the national collections.

"As more of the natural world is destroyed, as civilizations change, and as habitable space decreases, museums such as the Smithsonian's have increasing responsibilities for preserving the material documentation of our history," Mr. Ripley said. "As the nation grows and changes, the Smithsonian will continue to expand. . . ."

"Even though acquisitions are rigidly screened, the rate of increase of the national collections over the past two decades has averaged about one million objects and specimens a year. The rate of increase is in many respects beyond the Institution's control. . . . This selective growth of collections is an essential part of the Smithsonian's mission to increase and diffuse knowledge. Like books in a library, the specimens, objects, and artifacts in these collections are available

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Mrs. Owen Heads Women's Committee



Mrs. Dudley Owen

Mrs. Dudley Owen has been elected as the new chairman of the Women's Committee of the Smithsonian Associates.

Mrs. Owen was born in Chicago and received her B.A. degree from Smith College. Since moving to the Washington area, Mrs. Owen has donated much of her time to community activities. Most recently she was co-founder and first president of THIS (The Hospitality and Information Service for Diplomatic Residents) and a trustee of MHI (Meridian House International). Mrs. Owen currently serves on the Children's Hospital Ladies Board and Board of Visiting Nurses Association as well as with the D.C. Citizens for Better Public Education, and a member of the Women's National Democratic Club.

The Women's Committee, formed in 1965, advances the interests of the Smithsonian Institution by promoting public participation in Associates activities. The 50 members of the Committee donate their services to numerous projects each year. For the past several years proceeds from the annual Christmas Dance have been used for Resident Associates scholarships to classes for city children as well as for museum educational services. During the past year the Committee supported an Insect Zoo and

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FUNDS FOR CHINA EXHIBIT - T. Ames Wheeler, Smithsonian Treasurer, on September 3 presented a check for \$5,000 to Paul Perrot, Assistant Secretary for Museum Programs, to be used for an exhibit on Presidential china by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. At the presentation were (from left) Anne Gossett, SITES Program Officer; Mr. Perrot; Mr. Wheeler; Margaret Klaphor, Chairman of the Department of National and Military History at the National Museum of History and Technology and author of the SI Press book on Presidential china; Richard Griesel, SI Business Manager, and James Lyons, Deputy Director, SI Office of Development. The funds came from the sale of Haviland Co. reproductions of Presidential china in the Museum Shops and through an advertisement in *Smithsonia* magazine.



Washington Star-News photo by Walter Oates

Secretary Receives French Honor

Secretary S. Dillon Ripley was presented the "Medaille d'Officier des Arts et des Lettres" (medal of an officer in the National Order of Arts and Letters) by French Ambassador Jacques Kosciusko-Morizet in a ceremony October 7 at the French embassy (shown above).

"By admitting you into this prestigious order which was created to honor individuals who achieve outstanding accomplishments in the intellectual field, the French Government has rewarded the illustrious talents of the eighth Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution," the ambassador said.

"These talents you started demonstrating very early: higher education in two of the most famous universities in the United States, Yale and Harvard, and then you became a member of the Yale faculty during 18 years; afterwards, you served as director of Yale University's Peabody Museum of Natural History for four years and finally you were designated to be Leonard Carmichael's successor as the Head of the Smithsonian.

"Internationally well-known as a biologist, an ecologist and even more as an ornithologist — to whom the birds of the Far East have no more secrets — you have been on the staffs of a large number of scientific institutions and you are associated with numerous distinguished honorary and professional groups here and overseas.

"Since taking office at the Smithsonian,

this large empire which includes both a leading research center and a vast museum complex, your watchword has been 'Increase and Diffusion.' On one hand, emphasis has been placed by you on scholarships and research in accordance with your concept of the Smithsonian as an open university. And at the same time, your determination that museums should serve a wide public in imaginative ways has provided livelier exhibitions and a greatly expanded range of activities that has brought into being such units as the Smithsonian Associates with its *Smithsonian* magazine and the Division of Performing Arts.

"And so, within a decade, you gave evidence that your gifts as a manager and an animator were just as outstanding as those you demonstrated as a scholar and a professor. And no doubt that you can be very satisfied thinking that the institutions within the Smithsonian attract now more than 20 million visitors a year to their Washington facilities without even speaking of the additional millions of museum-goers throughout the Nation with your Traveling Exhibition Service.

"Mr. Secretary, it is indeed a great privilege for me to give you this very high award that you deserve so well. I would like you to consider it as a token of our admiration as well as the expression of the great concern we have for Franco-American cooperation in cultural affairs."

Dr. Buechner, SI Ecologist, Dies

Dr. Helmut K. Buechner, Senior Scientist at the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park, died October 7.

Before assuming the post of Senior Scientist, Dr. Buechner was head of the Office of Ecology at the Smithsonian Institution. Under his guidance the Smithsonian sponsored wildlife research in Ceylon, India, Israel, and Korea.

Dr. Buechner was a member of the Zoo staff for three years and greatly influenced development of captive propagation programs for the ungulates. Active in research and teaching, Dr. Buechner specialized in the ecology and the behavior of large mammals.

His early research concerned the management of the pronghorn antelope in Texas for which he won the George Mercer Award from the Ecological Society of America in 1950.

During the past 15 years Dr. Buechner was active in research on African game, in particular the Uganda kob. The discovery of territorial behavior in the male of this species by Dr. Buechner and his wife, opened a new research dimension in game biology since it focused attention on behavior as a vital component for game management.

A native of Scotia, New York Dr. Buechner was a *magna cum laude* graduate of New York State University. He received an M.S. degree from Texas A. & M. University and Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University.

He served in the U. S. Air Force from October 1942 to July 1945 and was awarded the Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Before coming to the Smithsonian, Dr. Buechner taught and conducted research at Washington State University. A member of numerous learned societies, he was especially active in the American Society of Ecologists and the Wildlife Society.

Dr. Buechner retired from the Smithsonian on Aug. 29 and was named Emeritus Senior Scientist.

Mrs. Buechner has requested that Dr. Buechner's research fund, to be now known as the Helmut K. Buechner Memorial Fund, be used to support students engaged in research on large mammals at the National Zoological Park. The fund was established from revenues received for his film on the Uganda kob. Contributions will be received by the Office of the Director, National Zoological Park, Washington, D.C. 20009.

Museum Support Facility Moves Ahead

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for the information and enjoyment of the citizen and for the research of the scholar.

"A national committee of scientists recently estimated that if acquisitions are restricted to the scientists' essential needs for research, natural science collections will increase at the rate of between 2 and 3 per cent a year. Our experience over the past five years with seven representative collections of the National Museum of Natural History is that these have increased at the rate of 1.7 per cent a year, and 1.8 per cent in the previous five years. Using the lower figure as a compounded rate, it is a reasonable assumption that the collections of the Museum of Natural History will increase by about one half by the end of this century. Furthermore, scientists estimate that in spite of more than a century of exploration, collecting, and classifying, 15 to 20 per cent of the world's organisms remain unknown.

"The Smithsonian can attest to the growth of natural science collections. Today, collections overflow into corridors and stairwells of the Natural History Building. Curators and visiting scientists work in cramped areas surrounded by collections. Forty thousand square feet of space designed for exhibits are closed to the public and occupied by collections and laboratories. These crowded collections are less accessible than they should be for efficient use and study. At a time when concern for the quality of the environment and the proliferation of impact studies have increased the research demands on the collections, it is increasingly urgent that we improve their accessibility. Careful and continuing studies by the administration and staff of the National Museum of Natural History show that an additional 310,000 net assignable square feet of space are required outside of the Natural History Building to remedy the overcrowding and provide for growth of collections until the mid-1980s in which time the first building of the proposed support facility could be planned, constructed, and occupied. This is the extent of the need of one museum.

"Space for the Smithsonian Oceanographic Sorting Center, a component of the Museum of Natural History now housed in the former Naval Gun Factory, a small visitor reception center, support activities, and the initial expansion of the Smithsonian's conservation program, which

would include training of conservators, will require another 193,000 net assignable square feet. In addition a small allocation of 25,000 square feet is required to meet urgent remedial needs of the Museum of History and Technology for its musical instrument and transportation collections. Thus, a total of 528,000 net assignable square feet is required in the first building for which authorization to plan is now being requested.

"Conservation is an example of an essential museum service now severely hampered by crowded laboratory and work spaces in the Smithsonian museums. The construction of the first building of the support facility will provide much needed additional space to permit the development of conservation programs to meet the needs of the Smithsonian collections more adequately and to assist museums in other parts of the country in solving their conservation programs by evolving new techniques and by offering training for outside conservators at the Smithsonian."

Mr. Ripley said the Smithsonian is planning to develop a larger training program within its conservation function which would be initiated on completion of the first facility. It is anticipated that the program would start with 10 trainees and possibly build up to a total of 50 over a five to 10-year period.

In the past, Mr. Ripley said, it has been possible to build new museum buildings on the Mall and to construct additions to existing buildings. He pointed out that no more land is available for this, and that the best solution is to develop a museum support facility a reasonable distance away. He said the Institution's experience of the past 20 years in developing a depository and shop facility at Silver Hill had demonstrated the feasibility of concentrating future support in that area. The location proposed for the new facility is next to the existing one, 6½ miles from the Smithsonian.

The General Services Administration has estimated that it would cost \$37,638,000 at February 1975 prices to meet the immediate requirement for 528,000 net assignable or 776,000 gross square feet of building space. The ultimate cost will be subject to prevailing price indices. The long-range development of the support facility would be undertaken in stages over a period of years and would ultimately provide 1,852,000 square feet, gross.

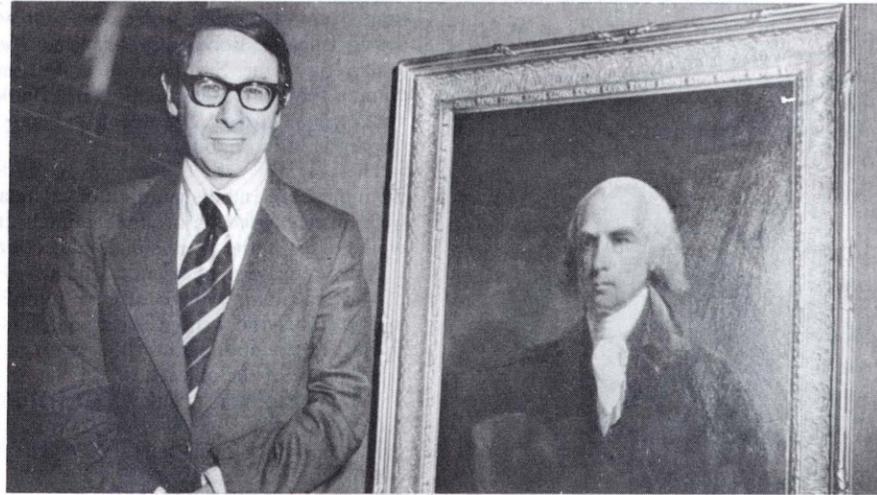
Mr. Ripley said GSA was planning to transfer 35 acres of land adjacent to the Institution's present 21 acres at Silver Hill available as soon as legal requirements were met. The Smithsonian, through GSA, is also seeking an adjacent 26 acres, now used for military housing. Ultimately, GSA would transfer to, or reserve for, the Smithsonian some 71 acres, depending in part on the final design by GSA of the easterly end of the site but including a buffer zone of wooded land along Suitland Parkway.

Some of the MNH activities that would be conducted in the first building of the new facility include space for some of the entomology collections and for processing of plant material. The national fungus collections would be transferred, as would many other collections of economic and scientific value such as ores, minerals, and sea bottom cores.

SITES Publication Wins Award

A set of three publications produced by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration to publicize the "International Salute to the States" program has been selected a winner by the American Institute of Graphic Arts in its annual competition.

The SITES publication, designed by Ashton-Worthington, Inc., was one of 182 pieces selected from more than 10,000 entries.



GOLDWIN LEADS SEMINAR — President Ford's special consultant on academic affairs, Dr. Robert A. Goldwin, recently led a discussion on "The Pre-conditions of Voluntarism" at the Smithsonian in a seminar organized by the Office of Smithsonian Symposia and Seminars as part of the ongoing series "Voluntarism and the Public Interest in American Society." The seminar group was made up of historians at the National Museum of History and Technology, Woodrow Wilson Center Fellows, professors from local universities, and members of Congressional staffs. Dr. Goldwin is shown with a portrait of President Madison from the National Portrait Gallery, appropriate since the seminar examined Madison's Federalist Paper No. 10.

Japanese Emperor, Empress Visit Smithsonian



The Emperor greeted MNH staff members inside the building, including James F. Mello, Assistant Director of the Museum (right) and Dr. Frederick M. Bayer, research curator in charge of the MNH coelenterate collections. Secretary Ripley and Dr. Porter M. Kier, MNH Director, are in background.

Emperor Hirohito of Japan was welcomed October 2 to the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History by Secretary Ripley (above) and Dr. Porter Kier, Museum Director. While the Emperor was examining marine specimens in the NMNH collections, the Empress was touring the Freer Gallery of Art. The royal couple returned to the Smithsonian the evening of October 3 when the SI Building was the scene of a state dinner.



Secretary Ripley and Dr. Kier conferred with members of the Emperor's staff in the Director's office as the Emperor was engaged in laboratory studies.



Empress Nagako was escorted on a tour of the Freer Gallery by Dr. Harold P. Stern, Gallery Director, and Mrs. Mary Ripley, wife of the Secretary. The Empress had asked to see certain items in the Freer collection of Japanese works, as well as Whistler's works.



The Emperor and Empress and President and Mrs. Ford welcomed guests in a receiving line in the Great Hall of the Smithsonian Institution Building prior to the state dinner held in the SI Commons. Forty Japanese art treasures from the imperial collections, including five paintings by the Empress, were on view in the Great Hall.



Secretary and Mrs. Ripley and the Emperor and Empress at the entrance to the SI Building.



The Emperor addresses the guests from the head table.

(Photographs by Vincent P. Connolly and Richard K. Hofmeister, Smithsonian Photographic Services Staff Members)

Regents Observe First Anniversary of Hirshhorn Museum



A dinner honoring the Hirshhorn Board of Trustees and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Hirshhorn was held in the Smithsonian Institution Building after the September 30 meeting of the Smithsonian Board of Regents. In commemoration of the first anniversary of the opening of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Mr. Ripley presented to Mr. Hirshhorn a book containing letters from visitors to the Hirshhorn Museum during its first year of operation. Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller and other guests including many of the Regents later toured the Museum with Mr. and Mrs. Hirshhorn and Abram Lerner, Director.

The Hirshhorn: As Seen by Media Critics

The Smithsonian's Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden has been the subject of many favorable comments in the nation's media since its opening last October. Following is a sampling of some of the comments from San Francisco, Milwaukee, Baltimore, Los Angeles and New York City as well as "home-town" reviews:

San Francisco Chronicle

By Terrence O'Flaherty, March 22, 1975

"TV Critics' Day Off In Siberia" (Extracted)

"The gem of the Smithsonian complex is the new Hirshhorn Museum — a splendid circular gallery that acts as a giant display case for a fascinating collection of painting and sculpture. No such museum I have ever seen equals it for style and comfort. Even the children who visit here are subdued by the surroundings."

Washington Star-News

By Benjamin Forgey, September 28, 1974

"Bunshaft's Hirshhorn: A Cornucopia of Great Art" (Extracted)

"The inaugural exhibit is an arresting assortment of some 900 works selected by Hirshhorn Director Abram Lerner 'to indicate the nature and scope of our collection in a manner that would delight and inform.' The show abundantly delights and informs, albeit sometimes in curious ways."

"Bunshaft's building is hard, emphatic, forceful and imposing on the outside, and elegant and intimate on the inside. In all respects, it will take some getting used to, not necessarily a bad sign in a building of that much character."

Washington Star-News

By Benjamin Forgey, February 23, 1974

"Hirshhorn Art Survey: Striking and Surprising" (Extracted)

"Looking at the Joseph H. Hirshhorn collection of paintings and sculpture is the aesthetic equivalent of getting bowled over by a bulldozer."

"You forget all the things you've heard about gaps in the collector's buckshot-buying habits, about store-rooms jammed with second-rate works by first-rate artists, and worse."

"There is so much, and so much that is absolutely first rate, that you come away almost mesmerized by a brief encounter with the art."

The New Yorker

By Harold Rosenberg, November 4, 1974

"The Art World" (Extracted)

"Despite its great collections of modern art, the U.S. has no museum of twentieth-century American painting and sculpture comparable, say, to the museum of modern Italian art in Rome. Gaps granted, the Hirshhorn Collection comes close to supplying this lack: it does so all the more successfully because of the unexpectedness and unorthodoxy of many of its inclusions."

Milwaukee Journal

By James Auer, December 29, 1974

"Hirshhorn: Newest Jewel in Capital's Crown" (Extracted)

"The Hirshhorn is an 'instant major museum' in which, thanks to the 'inspired greed' of one energetic enthusiast, now 75, virtually all major movements in European and American art over the past 125 years can be traced and studied. It is a collection whose potential, both as an educational tool and as a means of inspiring delight among viewers, is only now beginning to be plumbed."

"One can only conclude, after visiting the Hirshhorn, that the Smithsonian complex, with its National Gallery, Freer, and National Portrait Galleries, must surely rank among the great centers of the visual arts in the world today."

National Observer

By Bill Marvel, October 12, 1974

"A Bagful of 'Inspired Greed'" (Extracted)

"The new building, right on the Mall about midway between the Capitol and the Washington Monument, is imposing, even formidable, and the paintings and sculpture on display and stacked away in the cavernous store rooms — about 6,000 works in all — constitute one of the most impressive private collections of art ever to be made public."

Evening Sun (Baltimore)

By Leslie Freudenheim, May 1, 1975

"It Runs Rings Around Its Rivals" (Extracted)

"Although there are many ways to judge a new building, it has always seemed to me that the most important consideration is its ability to function as intended. Based on such criteria, the Hirshhorn is a success. The art collection is magnificent, and the architecture which houses it deserves acclaim."

Los Angeles Times

By Henry J. Seldis, October 6, 1974

"The Hirshhorn Museum: Capital Plays Catch-Up" (Extracted)

"With this week's opening of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, the Nation's capital has caught up to the country's major art centers. Going back nearly 100 years and encompassing almost every aspect of contemporary American and European art, the 900 works shown in the inaugural exhibition are a tribute not only to Joseph H. Hirshhorn's life-long love affair with art and its creators but also a rebuff to those who made unjustified criticism of this magnificent gift to the Nation."

"The inaugural exhibition within Bunshaft's controversial building opens with some truly outstanding works of the 19th century, including some of the most moving paintings of the museum's unmatched assemblage of paintings and sculptures of Thomas Eakins."

"We are then presented with an incredibly subtle installation of sculpture, ranging from the academic work of 19th century artist Jean Baptiste Carpeaux to pieces by Modigliani and Brancusi."

Wall Street Journal

By Benjamin Stein, October 4, 1974 (Extracted)

"The opening of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, a great event not only for the visual arts in Washington, but for the study of art in all countries, marks the accessibility to the public of one of the world's great art collections."

"The feeling of never being out of touch with nature and with sunlight is enhanced by the way major portions of the collection are housed entirely outdoors. And what a fantastic collection it is. Paintings, other graphics, sculptures, and mixed media objects jam the inside galleries, dazzling the visitor from one room to the next."

"About 900 great art works are lodged now in the Museum-garden itself. They are an inspirational addition to the stock of beauty which is available to the ordinary citizen."

Washington Post

By Paul Richard, September 29, 1974 (Extracted)

"Assessing the Hirshhorn Museum on the Eve of Its Opening" (Extracted)

"Despite the flaws in its collections, and they appear to be significant, the Hirshhorn's holdings are so rich, so eclectic and inclusive, that it ranks, at birth, as one of the few museums capable of tracing the mainstreams, and the tributaries, of the art of the past century."

"Its construction on the Mall, rather than in London, Los Angeles or Florence, and its prominent location, within easy reach of the National Gallery of Art, the Corcoran, the Freer, the Phillips, the National Collection of Fine Arts and the Library of Congress, significantly enhances Washington's position as a major international museum for the study of art."

Washington Star-News, October 15, 1974

Editorial (Extracted)

"Well, we've seen it (HMSG) now. And we're in love with it. It's exciting, it's full of old friends and many new ones that we haven't had the pleasure of meeting before, and it's, above all, great fun."

Greensboro Daily News (North Carolina)

By Patricia Krebs, February 16, 1975

"Hirshhorn Draws Crowds" (Extracted)

"The Hirshhorn Museum has become a mass popular attraction here in the Nation's Capital, defying all expectations for a museum of contemporary art."

"As for the buildings, it's so much better than most of what's already on the Mall: it's an absolute haven in an enormous grid that seems designed to reduce people to the measure of ants — the sculpture garden in particular where so much care has been taken to keep the scale intimate."

The New York Times

By Hilton Kramer, October 2, 1974

"A Collection That Puts Museum in the Select Class" (Extracts)

"With the opening of the Joseph H. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, all of the uninformed carping — the apocryphal anecdotes, the condescending criticisms and the general gossip-mongering — can now be consigned to the oblivion it so richly deserves."

"It is a marvelous exhibition, containing some superb paintings and especially notable for the scope and quality of its sculpture. On the basis of this exhibition alone, in which less than one-sixth of the collection is represented, the Hirshhorn museum joins that select body of institutions essential to the study of modern art."

"The installation of the sculpture within the museum, both in the painting galleries and in the two inner rings of galleries given over exclusively to sculpture, is likewise superb."

"Mr. Hirshhorn's magnificent gift to the nation is unlikely to be equaled in our lifetime. He has given us a great collection and Washington has responded to the challenge — and the opportunity — with a rare combination of intelligence and vision. Bravo!"

The Washington Post

Editorial, September 30, 1974 (Extracted)

"The opening exhibition which fills three gallery floors of the new museum as well as its plaza and sculpture garden, displays less than one-sixth of the enormous collection Mr. Hirshhorn has donated — some 900 of the 6,000 paintings and sculptures. So vast an assortment obviously varies in quality. There are critics who complain that some of the work, including objects displayed in the inaugural exhibition are less than outstanding. But critical tastes, after all, are capricious. Art works that only yesterday were disparaged as mediocre are suddenly discovered to be magnificent."

"The sum of Mr. Hirshhorn's collection, in short, is far greater than its many parts (and the parts include masterpieces such as Rodin's "Burghers of Calais", Eakins' "Portrait of Mrs. Thomas Eakins," and Picasso's "Baby Carriage")."

"There are no strings attached to the gift. That means that under the protective mantle of the Smithsonian Institution, the new museum can sell and trade individual items and thus gradually turn this grand private collection into a great public museum."

SI-Peace Corps Program

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recently completed his M.S. in wildlife management at the University of Maine, is now program assistant.

Since its inception in 1971, the program has helped plan projects and provide personnel for more than 450 Peace Corps environmental assignments. These assignments mainly are in the area of conservation and the rational utilization of natural resources.

"Smithsonian involvement with the Peace Corps stems from a recognition that such service provides an excellent opportunity for young scientists to gain professional experience," says Mr. Sherburne. "Many are working in projects of interest to Smithsonian scientists and there is a continual exchange of information between here and volunteers in the field."

Requests from host countries and applications from potential volunteers are increasing rapidly, Mr. Sherburne notes.

Women's Committee

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a student intern at the National Museum of Natural History. Additionally, the Women's Committee operates the popular Free Film Theatre and is currently assisting in organizing Slide/Lecture files for the Institution.

Offices for the Women's Committee of the Smithsonian Associates are located in the Arts & Industries Building, Room 1201. The Committee can be reached by telephone on 381-6638. Ms. Donna Stein and Mrs. Martha Swaim serve as Smithsonian liaisons to the Committee.

SMITHSONIAN TORCH

October 1975

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