RECEIVES GERMAN AWARD

In recognition of the significant contribution she has made to the reestablishment of cultural relations between the United States and Germany, Dr. Annemarie Pope, chief of the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service, has been awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. The presentation was made by German Ambassador Heinz L. Krekeler on April 28 in the chancery of the German Embassy.

Mrs. Pope organized the Traveling Exhibition Service five years ago, and under her direction many important collections of American art have been sent abroad for exhibition and outstanding examples of the art of other countries have come to the United States to be shown in museums here.

It was on Mrs. Pope's initiative that the first exhibition to be sent abroad by the German Government since the war, a magnificent collection of German drawings from five centuries, was brought to the United States. So far, it has been seen in five of this country's most important museums. This show opened at the National Gallery of Art in October 1955, and its tour will end at New York's Metropolitan Museum in June. The United States showing of another German collection of drawings, those by the Swiss artist Carl Bodmer and owned by Prince Karl Viktor zu Wied, was organized and circulated under her direction. She has planned other exhibitions of German art for the near future.

Mrs. Pope has also sent to Germany many important exhibitions of American art, and these have been seen in the American Houses in Germany under the auspices of the United States Information Agency.

In making the award, Ambassador Krekeler said that Mrs. Pope has "assisted preeminently in restoring the traditional friendship" between the United States and Germany and that the Traveling Exhibition Service under her "imaginative direction... has become a major medium of cultural exchange."

Mrs. Pope was born in Dortmund, Germany, and received her Ph.D. in art history from the University of Heidelberg. She came to the United States as an exchange student and did postgraduate studies at Radcliffe College. Her husband, John A. Pope, is the assistant director of the Freer Gallery of Art.

THREE NEW REGENTS

By a joint resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives, approved by President Eisenhower on April 6, three new members have been appointed to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution. The newly named members, all distinguished scientists, are Everett Lee DeGolyer of Dallas, Tex.;...
McNaughton. He is also Caryl Parker Haskins of Washington, D.C., president of the board of directors of Wilmington, Del.; and of the Saturday Review of Scientific societies including the E.I. du Pont de Nemours Co. and a trustee of the National Academy of Sciences. He has not only in the field of chemistry but also in ornithology. He is a number of educational and civil organizations. He has been a member of the Carnegie Institution Traveling Exhibitions for one year under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution.

The exhibition will tour United States museums and galleries for one year under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. According to Mrs. Annemarie Pope, chief of the Traveling Exhibition Service, the artist has used his flaring yet sensitive technique to capture the essence of Mozart's last and most highly developed operatic masterpiece.

Kokoschka's stage designs were made for the Felsenreitschule in Salzburg where no changes of stage equipment are possible during performances. Under these forbidding circumstances, which at first made the artist doubt the practicability of the undertaking, Kokoschka based his solution for changes of scenery upon lighting effects: yellow to red for the "Sarastro" scenes, symbolizing the Myth of the Sun and expressing the idea of human brotherhood; and blue and violet emphasizing the lunar Myth of the Queen of the Night.

Perspective and depth were achieved by foreshortening architecture "in the manner of the old-fashioned peepshow-stage." To create the illusion of a temple region inside a rocky cave, a rainbow-colored frame eliminated the upper part of the setting, while the enclosed colonnades were illuminated from within the darkened stage and red and blue vapor was made to emanate from all gates and the roof during the fire and water tests. In contrast to this, the triumph of light over the powers of darkness is demonstrated by gradual illumination of the Temple of the Sun with the sunrise as the finale.

Although the application of expressionist principles to a musical work represents the Viennese rococo might seem a bold step, Kokoschka has achieved this combination with extraordinary success. NEWSWEEK commented, on seeing the sets: "No architexte could have objected. Somehow, without ceasing to be Kokoschka's, they seemed to add some eighteenth-century depth and gaiety to Mozart's magic."

Kokoschka's own comment was: They still speak about perspective, light, space, and all that sort of thing. For me a design, especially for the opera, begins and ends with color. In my 'Magic Flute' I have tried to open a window which throws a ray of light on the mythical marriage between music and color." A catalog with introductions by Kokoschka, Furtwängler, and Bernhard Pauwes has been published. It contains 17 illustrations of the sketches in full color.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Better jobs are always available for persons with a better education. Turn your spare time into an investment for your future. Summer school catalogs are available in the rack outside the personnel office.

BARRO COLORADO ISLAND (Part I)

The Panama Canal Review, in its March issue, contained an interesting article about Barro Colorado Island. The story was written by the magazine's assistant editor, Eleanor H. McIlhenny, and is reprinted here by permission of the editor of the Review, J. Rufus Hardy. The original article was titled 'Canal Zone's Barro Colorado Island Is Unique Natural Wildlife Preserve.' THE TORCH will reproduce the article in three installments, the first of which follows: "If you like your monkeys tied to organ grinders, your snakes in zoos, and your orchids in conservatories, and if you think that a steep hill can be climed only by a funicular, then Barro Colorado Island is not for you.
"But, if you thrill to the sight of shadowy shapes swinging through trees, if you don’t flinch at a coral snake curled up on a patch of sunlight, if you can gaze and enjoy gaping at thousands of air plants with hundred trees, and if you have the fortitude -- not to mention the wind -- to climb 801 steep, narrow steps straight up an almost perpendicular hillside, then, by all means, try to visit Barro Colorado.

"Technically the island is known as the Canal Zone Biological Area. It is under the jurisdiction of the Smithsonian Institution; all arrangements to visit it must be made in advance through James Zetek (whose title is Research Specialist but who is really the Baron of Barro Colorado), or through his Girl Friday, Mrs. Adela Gomez.

"Narrow steps, no one has enough breath if you don’t rlinch at a coral snake curled up on a patch of sunlight, if you can gaze and enjoy gaping at thousands of air plants with hundred trees, and if you have the fortitude -- not to mention the wind -- to climb 801 steep, narrow steps straight up an almost perpendicular hillside, then, by all means, try to visit Barro Colorado.

"The value of the island in the world of science is too well known to go into here. But even the most amateur of naturalists cannot help speak up some of the wonders of the jungle during a visit there.

In Everyone’s Backyard

"The Canal Zone is so small, comparatively, that Barro Colorado is practically in everyone’s backyard and the physical trip to the island in the middle of Gatun Lake is simple, once arrangements have been made. Morning trains from either side of the Isthmus drop visitors at the Prijoles Station, only a few hundred feet from a landing where the launch Snook is waiting, its triangular pennant lettered C.Z.B.A whipping from its staff in the stiff morning breeze.

"Twenty minutes, and three and a half miles later, the Snook pulls into a lovely little shaded inlet, set about with billboards and bordered with plants which "like their feet wet." As the launch ties up, the surrounding water is filled with tiny fish, of the perch family, waiting for their breakfast of bread. They gulp down slices after slice, with more speed than manners.

"From the head of the dock, the hill on top of which sits the laboratory’s buildings seems to go straight up heavenward. The perished baggage and supplies ride up aboard the single car of the Dock and Skyline Limited -- a cableway -- but the people walk -- up, and up, and up. Novices take it fast, at first. Barro Colorado veterans lag behind so they can stop to puff and blow. By the time everyone has reached the top of the steps, no one has enough breath to talk.

"At the main building, overlooking the Canal channel and mile on mile of the Gatun Lake shoreline, there are rooms where visitors may change clothes and smokers before they set out along the island’s trails. Then, single file like a group of Indians, led by Fausto Bocanegra, who has been coiling parties around Barro Colorado for three years, they move into the jungle.

"The Bocas’ carries a machete, but not for any defensive purposes. He uses it to slash down the lianas and branches which have sprung across the trail since the last party went through a few days before. And although his function is that of guide, the trails -- each of which bears the name of scientists who helped Barro Colorado into being -- are so well marked that a visitor has little chance of being lost should he stray away from his group.

Jungle Hothouse

"The smell of the jungle, like thousands of hot-houses rolled into one, is everywhere. Every once in a while the hikers walk through patches of heavy, heady perfume. Here and there a tower -- at their own risk -- to see what a jungle looks like from above.

"Not far from the clearing the Paul Bunyan part of the jungle begins. Here, ants an inch long roam the jungle floor. Just off the trail huge old bogla trees with buttressed roots deep enough to conceal a grown man stretch almost a hundred feet into the air before they send out their first branches, covered with air plants. A coral snake, coiled on a patch of sun-touched leaves, looks out of scale in his monstrous surroundings. And a thousand, no, thousands of unseen eyes watching him. An occasional bird will fly over head, or a flock of parrots will set up a clatter in the trees, and sometimes a gato solo which is a coati will cross the trail since the last party went through a few days before. And although his function is that of guide, the trails -- each of which bears the name of scientists who helped Barro Colorado into being -- are so well marked that a visitor has little chance of being lost should he stray away from his group.

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"After lunch and a brief rest; the island visitors start out again, this time on the opposite side of the island, and by the time they board the Snook to catch the evening train back home most of the tenderfeet are just exactly that."

ARGENTINE PAINTING

A special loan exhibition entitled "A Century and a Half of Argentine Painting" was opened at the National Gallery on April 17. This exhibition was made possible through the cooperation of the National Gallery of Fine Arts of Buenos Aires, the Museum of History of Argentina, and many private collectors. It comes to this country under the auspices of the Argentine ambassador, Dr. Adolfo Vicchi, as a gesture of friendship and good-will on the part of his government. The show's 113 paintings will be on view at the National Gallery through May 16.

The work of both primitive painters and those well-versed in contemporary European tradition.

The exhibition will give the visitor an opportunity to survey the evolution of Argentine painting over the last 150 years. The earliest works are predominantly portraits of outstanding personalities of the time, and scenes depicting the life and landscape of Argentina's early settlers. They date from 1810, when Argentina gained its independence from Spain, and are so far the scientists haven't found anything that positively can be identified as belonging to the first settlement.

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The Smithsonian Institution and the Food and Drug Administration have announced the opening of a new exhibit commemorating the 50th anniversary of the passage of the original Federal Food and Drugs Act. This legislation was signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt on June 30, 1906.

The exhibit, located in the Smithsonian's gallery of medical history, opened on May 4 at a special ceremony at the Institution by Dr. Carmichael, Assistant Secretary Bradshaw Minter of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and Commissioner George P. Larrick of the Food and Drug Administration.

The exhibit highlights the story of the 23-year battle carried on by Dr. Harvey W. Wiley to secure a Federal law which would curb the sale of contaminated foods and harmful drugs. Dr. Wiley came from Purdue University in 1893 to be Chief Chemist of the Bureau of Chemistry of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. One of his first official acts was to assign several chemists to study food adulteration. Their work was reported in the Bureau's famous "Bulletin 13," a 1,400 page document which was issued in 10 parts, covering 15 years of research. This scientific indictment was the basis of Wiley's case for a Federal pure-food law.

This period was the heyday of the "patent medicines." Typical products, shown in the Smithsonian exhibit, carried extravagant claims of effectiveness for every disease known to man. Labels gave no hint of the presence of dangerous or habit-forming ingredients; warnings against excessive use or misuse were unheard of, and ineffective products were labeled as sure cures for the most serious conditions.

In 1903 Dr. Wiley opened what became the world's most famous "boarding house." Officially it was known as the "hygienic table," but popularly it was described as the "Poison Squad." A group of young men volunteered to eat all their meals at a dining room in the Bureau's Washington headquarters where they were served food containing measured amounts of the chemical preservatives then in use. Medical records were kept of the reactions and symptoms of the "human guinea pigs."

These records, with pictures of the "Squad," and Wiley's original balance (used to weigh the chemicals), are included in the Smithsonian exhibit, along with cartoons and magazine articles by crusading journalists who joined in his campaign.

A second section of the exhibit, titled "50 Years of Progress in Food and Drug Protection," includes displays showing improvements brought about by the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act of 1938 (the present law). Under this law official standards were established for food products; safety of new drugs must be proved before they are put on sale; medical devices and cosmetics are required to be safe and to bear truthful labels. Packages illustrating these requirements are included in the Smithsonian exhibit.

A third section of the Smithsonian display describes how the Food and Drug Administration protects the consumer today. It features special tools used by food and drug inspectors for sampling various products, including equipment for detecting fill-in-contaminated foods by ultraviolet light and portable scales used to check the net weight of packaged products.

In the event of atomic attack the Food and Drug Administration is responsible for determining the safety of foods and drugs exposed to dangerous radiation. Packages in the exhibit show how containers are affected by atomic blast and heat. Examples of food-damaged foods and drugs are also shown. Food and Drug Administration inspectors routinely follow up in disaster areas to prevent salvage of goods which may be dangerous to health.

The new exhibit was prepared under the direction of George Griffenhagen, acting curator of the Smithsonian's division of medicine, and Wallace F. Janssen, assistant to the Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration. It is located in the A & I Building and will be open to the public for the remainder of the year.

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Next to understanding yourself, endeavor to understand those around you.

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PAINTINGS OF SEAL HERDS

Twenty-eight watercolors by Henry Wood Elliott (1846 - 1930), naturalist, painter, and secretary to Joseph Henry, the first Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, went on view in the Foyer Gallery of the Natural History Building on April 29.

After its showing here, which concludes on May 17, the exhibition will be circulated among United States and Canadian museums by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

Lent by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, these works constitute the first pictorial record ever made of the seal herds that populated the Pribilof Islands in the 1870's. At the age of 26, Elliott was sent to these islands, part of America's purchase of Alaska in 1867, to secure as much information as possible about the fur seals. His powers of observation were tremendous.

The naturalist wrote freely and in great detail, and his extraordinary talent with the brush enabled him to illustrate his reports with sketches and paintings. Though not formally educated in natural sciences, his diligence and alertness quickly gave him high rank among fieldmen.

Elliott devoted the rest of his life to the preservation of the fur seal, which he feared was becoming extinct, and it is in part due to his devotion that the only important fur-seal herd in the world is now preserved and that the American Government today harvests more than two million
A man cannot be called great unless he has both a soaring ambition and the capacity to almost four million.

The following are extracts from a letter sent by Dr. Marshall S. Newman on April 8 from Macleod Vicos in Peru.

"My boat shipments arrived in Lima on March 15, but the aduanas is still moving around. I brought all I needed with me, except that I have only one change of field clothes. I dare say I'll get the shipment sometime."

"In Lima I made arrangements for a nutritional team of 4 people and an X-ray technician to come to Vicos for a forced draft 3-week study of the school children. This study should start about the first of May. At that time Dr. Collacq will examine the kids and I will measure them. At present there are only about 50 pupils at school (with a registration of 250!), but this week the principal is invoking the compulsory school attendance law, with fines, so by May 1 we will have plenty to work on."

"My first week here (April 24-30) I was cut out a horse with the Blanchards every day going over much of the hacienda. But this second week, after Armass returned from vacation, I have been measuring full days. Frankly, I'm glad to give my tail a rest from that horse."

"I have had a fairly rough time with sooroche, which didn't really hit for about a week. Mostly manifested in shortness of breath, which made me feel I was suffocating when I tried to go to sleep. Probably the worst was four almost sleepless nights in a row. Blanchard thought that maybe I ought to go down to lower altitude for a while, but I couldn't see that. But I'm doing better now, and I can get my work done. The elevation here is 10,000 - 11,000."

"There are so many intriguing things about this population, that most will have to wait for my return. Most are small, and one 20-year-old I measured this morning was 138 cm. The women are tiny and doll-like, and I suspect are quite slim. Can't tell really because of the many skins. The men's chests are, of course, tremendous and the lower back muscles terrifically developed. While the men are really tough, they are pretty pared down. My skin fold measurements attest to that."

FINNISH ART EXHIBIT

A new exhibition of work by Tapio Wirkkala and his wife, Rutt Bryk, two of Finland's finest artists and foremost craftsmen, was opened on April 29 by the Finnish Ambassador John A. Nystrom in the Foyer Gallery of the National Collection of Fine Arts. The exhibition is under the auspices of the National Collection of Fine Arts.

Included are approximately 130 works. Among them are sculpture, wood carvings, metal, glass, and silver designs by Mr. Wirkkala and ceramics by Rutt Bryk, all shown in a handsome 8-case installation designed by Mr. Wirkkala. The art pieces were lent by several Finnish manufacturers and were brought to this country through the cooperation of the Finnish-American Society in Helsinki and the Finnish Embassy in Washington.

The exhibition will continue here through May 17, when it begins a nationwide tour under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.
several tiles. Imagination and a masterly way with color characterize them all.

PREY AND PREDATOR

Dr. Gunnar Thorson of the Zoological Museum in Copenhagen, Denmark, gave an illustrated lecture on "The Relationship between Prey and Predator on the Sea Bottom" in the auditorium of the Natural History Building on May 10.

Dr. Thorson has been investigating the life of the sea bottom for many years and has been able to study the marine animals of such diverse parts of the world as Denmark, Greenland, Iran, and Florida.

In his lecture at the Smithsonian Dr. Thorson discussed the general similarity of animal communities inhabiting the level sea bottom areas throughout the world, their adaptation to varying temperatures, and especially the balance between predatory animals and those organisms on which they feed.

NOTES FROM DIVISION OF MEDICINE

Maj. Gen. Howard McCrum Snyder, USA (MC), personal physician to President Eisenhower, and Mrs. Snyder honored the division of medicine and public health recently with a visit to view an exhibit of portraits of physicians to our Presidents.

The portraits ranged from one of James Craik, physician to George Washington, up to and including the portrait of General Sasser. This fine collection of portraits were on loan from the art section of the Armed Forces Medical Library. Miss Helen Cameron, chief of that section, collaborated with George Griffenhagen, acting curator of the division of medicine and public health, in arranging the exhibit.

The above exhibit has now been replaced by an exhibit on "The Evolution of the Hospital," which consists of 12 original prints also on loan from the Armed Forces Medical Library, art section. These prints show interior and exterior views of hospitals from the early 15th century one in Siena to a modern one.

As a bit of personal news from the division of medicine, Mr. Griffenhagen elected a council member of the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy and Secretary of the American Pharmaceutical Association's Section on Historical Pharmacy at a meeting of these groups in Detroit from April 11-13. Mr. Griffenhagen attended the meeting.

U. S. SAVINGS BONDS

A joint meeting of all team captains for the payroll savings campaign was held on April 26 in the auditorium in the Natural History Building. Dr. Carmichael presided and Martin Miller represented the Treasury Department. Preliminary reports from the campaign indicate a good response of new participants in the Payroll Savings Plan. Final results will be reported in the next issue of THE TORCH.

CREDIT UNION NOTES

The new merchandise discount list and membership cards issued by the District of Columbia Credit Union League are now available.

Members of the Credit Union may obtain the discount list by applying at the fiscal division or by calling Mrs. Allen on Ext. 399.

Please destroy all previous lists as they are no longer in effect.

Members report that they have made substantial savings by using the discount list when making purchases of electrical equipment, plumbing supplies, furniture, jewelry, photographic supplies, hardware, automotive supplies, and other merchandise.

The Credit Union does not guarantee the quality of the merchants or products listed. You must be the judge of suitability of products and prices when buying.

ANTHROPOLOGISTS SPEAK IN CHICAGO

Three members of the staff of the division of physical anthropology, Dr. T. D. Stewart, Miss Lucile E. Hoynick, and Dr. Thomas W. McKern, read papers on the determination of sex and age from the pelvis at the 25th annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists in Chicago on April 8.

Dr. McKern, who is a collaborator in the division, presented some of the results of his study of the data obtained by Dr. Stewart in Japan on the skeletons of American soldiers killed in Korea.

PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

Twelve frames of exceptional material selected from the national postage stamp collection in the A&P Building were shown in New York April 23 to May 6 at the Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition. This was one of three major shows opening the new $36-million Coliseum in New York.

The display (authorized by National Museum Director Remington Kellogg) emphasized the Smithsonian Institution - past, present, and future - insofar as the stamp collection was concerned.

Four frames emphasized the transfer of United States material from the Post Office Department in 1911-13. Two others stressed the loan of original documents for stamps by the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the original "Farley" sheets, lent by former Postmaster General James A. Farley.

Yet another frame was devoted to U.S. Internal Revenue issues, including the world's most valuable block of four - four $29,000 revenues.

Four other frames stressed material received as bequests and gifts. Two double-tier cases also featured memorabilia, such as "Oney," postal mascot; a mail sorting rack, circa 1802; old mail bags and sacks, dead-letter records of 1776, and other objects on display.
The specimens were collected
by native collectors, mostly in
the general neighborhood of Luanshya,
Major Haydock's headquarters.
The collection contains species
hitherto lacking in the U. S. Na-
tional Museum collections, says Dr.
Friedmann, curator of birds, and is
a good general representation of
an ornithologically little-known part
of the world.

Prominent in the collection
are numerous species of the African
weaverbirds, of which Dr. Friedmann
has made special studies. These
birds are among the foremost nest
builders of the avian world, their
name being derived from this out-
standing ability.

NEW APPOINTMENTS:

Clerk-Typist: Dorothy C. Blanton
Evelyn L. Jackson
Administrative Clerk: Frances C. Crudup
Guard: Earl C. Day
Leon Goldstein
Laborer: Charles F. Dorman
Roy Ferguson
Annie W. Grant
Lonnie F. Long
Meude Solomon
Animal Keeper: James F. Edwards
Clerk: Joseph E. Freeman
Clerk-Stenographer: Vieno V. Panta

SEPARATIONS:

Minor J. Click
George S. Stuart
Richard L. Lewis
Nina B. Lafoon

Barbara Herrnstein
Frances M. Fee
Elzie A. Leverich

FOR "AFTER DARK" WEAR

A special temporary exhibit
on "New Safety for After Dark
Pedestrian Wear," was recently
installed in the A&I Building.
The specimens for this exhibit
were furnished by William Skin-
ner & Sons of New York City.
The principle of this newly
developed textile is shown by
having the visitor look down a
90-foot corridor. Here he sees
two figures wearing raincoats
that appear to be identical in
stiling, color, and fabric un-
der the dim light that simulates
after-dark visibility.

Continuing to look through
a make-believe windshield, the
visitor sees the auto headlights
been brightly. The cost on the
right is lost to the viewer,
while the one on the left, made
corona of New York City, ap-
ppears to glow. Incorporated
in the weave is a yarn that
utilizes the same principle as
reflecting traffic signs—tiny
pieces of glass reflect the
lights of the car and warn the
driver. This safety fabric was
developed commercially after
four years of cooperative re-
search.

The exhibit is in the South
Hall of the A&I Building and
will be shown through September.

Two heads are better than one,
unless they are on the same per-
person...Lee.

Since Jack Newman and Daisy Fields, chief and assistant chief, respectively, personnel division, are concerned with the over-all management of the personnel office and spend a great deal of time coordinating and planning for over-all agency needs, some "specialization" has become necessary. The people named above may be consulted directly on any matter within their province.

Drop in to visit us in our new quarters; you’re always welcome.

NEW CUT STONES

A pale yellow amblygonite weighing 6.08 carats, from Minas Gerais, Brazil, and a clear barite of 60.08 carats, from Westmoreland, England, have recently been placed on exhibition in the case of unusual cut stones in the mineral and gem hall of the Natural History Building.

The amblygonite, lithium-aluminum phosphate, is the first gemmy cut stone of this mineral to be added to the national collections. And the barite, barium sulphate, is unique as a cut stone due to the difficulty encountered in faceting and polishing the material.

The stones were received in exchange from Capt. John Sinkankas of the U. S. Navy, who fashioned them from the rough material.

5-YEAR CLUB AT BSIE

The Bio-Sciences Information Exchange, which will celebrate its sixth birthday on July 1, announces the formation of its "Five-Year Club." The club holds no meetings and collects no dues. The only qualification for membership is five or more years service on the staff of the BSIE. Present membership consists of Dr. Stella Leche Deignan, Nolasco Icaranagal, Edward Long, Mrs. Ophymia Mertitt, Miss Esther Miller, Mrs. Evelyn M. Roll, Mrs. Mary Runreich, and Miss Margaret Shotton.

STUDYING IN EUROPE

Dr. Ernest A. Lachner, associate curator of the division of fishes, is in Europe visiting various institutions to study the types and other specimens of tropical marine fishes and some North American freshwater fishes. He left on March 12 and is expected to return the latter part of July.

Dr. Lachner is carrying on his European study as a result of a grant awarded to him by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation.

VISITS FORMER CURATOR

Mrs. Hope Simmons of the library reports that on a recent trip to Florida she stopped in Winter Park to call on Dr. and Mrs. Frederick Lewton.

Dr. Lewton, former curator of textiles who retired several years ago, now has the position of archivist at Hollins College. The Lewtons have a charming home with a lovely garden and Mrs. Simmons came home laden with citrus fruits from their garden, and also a great many plants which are now flourishing in her own garden.

VISITORS TO MOLLUSK DIVISION

Mr. and Mrs. John Q. Burch of Los Angeles spent several days in the division of mollusks in April. Mr. Burch is an ardent conchologist and is well-known throughout the world as a dealer in fine shells and in natural history books. The Burches’ son and daughter-in-law are both physicians attached to the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda.

Jay A. Weber of Miami spent about 10 days in the division identifying some minute marine shells from his collection that he brought with him. Several years ago Mr. Weber donated to the National Museum his fine collection of about 10,000 bird skins from North America.

GETTING WELL FAST

Friends of Bertha M. Wiscott, librarian at the Freer Gallery, will be happy to know that she is making an excellent recovery from her recent surgery. She says their visits, phone calls, and messages have cheered her up and that she hopes to be back soon.

"Now, men, the first step we take in becoming umpires is we all go right down and join Blue Cross."
John A. Pope, assistant director of the Freer Gallery, received an accolade last month for his knowledge of Far Eastern art objects. He was flown by Presidential plane to Abilene, Kans., where he examined approximately 100 such objects that have been presented to the Eisenhower Museum.

He did not return empty-handed, but brought with him 12 sacks of rich Kansas soil for the Freer Court and a plant that was slipped by Mamie's mother. He donated the plant to the Freer office, but the workers there are not sure just what they have and would like an assist from Botany.

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YOUR JOB AND GOVERNOR

When the National Federation of Federal Employees was organized in 1917 there was no retirement system, no classification system, there had been no salary increase for fifty years, leave and working hours were not standardized, and there was no worthy system of personnel administration.

Today, the N.F.P.E. must still protect retirement and extend and protect the merit system. It strives to broaden and further improve the classification system and to raise the whole standard of personnel throughout the Federal service.

On April 11 the subcommittee on retirement, headed by Sen. W. Kerr Scott, favorably reported an amended retirement bill (S.2875) to the Post Office and Civil Service Committee. At the same time, the subcommittee, by a vote of 8 to 1, defeated the Case bill (S.3562), which would have coordinated Civil Service Retirement and Social Security.

The N.F.P.E. rejoices, as should all federal employees, that the Case bill was defeated. However, the Johnson retirement bill (S.2875) has the full support of the N.F.P.E., especially since it has no tie-up with Social Security. The Johnson bill contains most of the recommendations made at the N.F.P.E. convention at Dallas last year. The full text of S.2875, which would raise the annuities of present federal employees by about 25 percent, is given in the March issue of the Federal Employee, the official monthly publication of the N.F.P.E.

Members and nonmembers are asked to familiarize themselves with the contents of this bill and its benefits to themselves, Federal employees and to write their senators asking them to support S.2875 when it comes before the Senate. Smithsonian N.F.P.E. members are urged to attend the monthly meetings held in room 43, Natural History Building. The next meeting will be held at noon on Thursday, May 17. Visitors and prospective members are welcome. (Printed at request of N.F.P.E. officers)
LECTURES IN WISCONSIN

Jack Clarke was scheduled to leave on May 10 to deliver three lectures at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. The subjects of his lectures are: "Entomology in the Islands of the Pacific," "Museums - their collections, purposes, and functions," and "Host specificity on certain microlepidoptera."

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QUERY

Herbert Friedmann wants to know who first defined a taxidermist as a man who knows his stuff.

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SEITZ DIES

The many friends of Mr. John A. Seitz, former guard at the Smithsonian, were saddened to hear of the news of his death, which occurred suddenly at Bethesda Naval Hospital on Sunday morning, May 6. He retired on March 31st of this year, as he had reached the age of 70.

Mr. Seitz had been assigned to the post at the east door of the Smithsonian Building for many years and was able to give special service to many of those contacting the various offices in this building.

Services were held at St. Anthony's Church, 14th and Monroe Sts. N.E. and burial was at Arlington Cemetery on May 9.