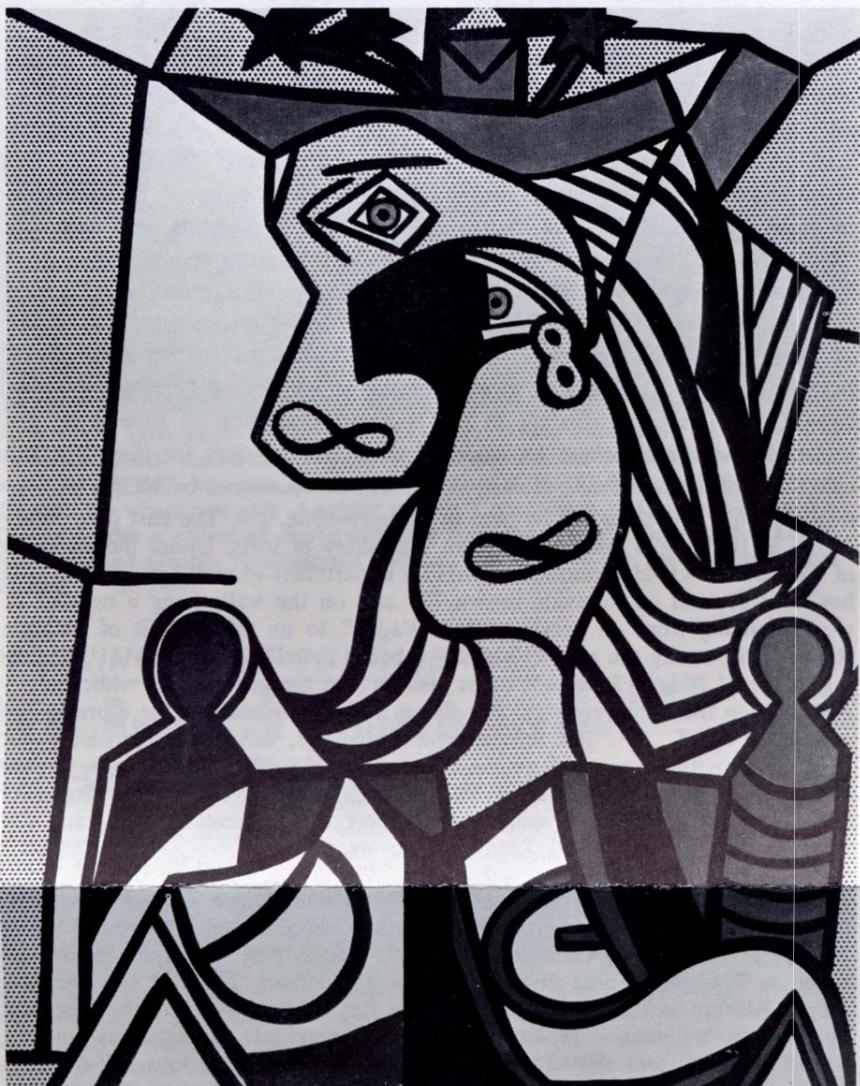




THE SMITHSONIAN TORCH

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. No. 19 (New Series), December 1966

U.S. Biennial Entries Here



This *Woman with Flowered Hat* is now staring as well as her deformed eyes will let her from the wall of the Art Hall in the Museum of Natural History, where she will hang until January 15. Painted in oil and magna by artist Roy Lichtenstein, she is one of the 25 works of art which represented the United States at the 33rd International Biennial Art Exhibition at Venice.

All 25 works, selected by Henry Geldzahler, associate curator of American painting at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, went on display today. The U.S. entry in the Biennial, which featured artists Helen Frankenthaler, Ellsworth Kelly and Jules Olitski in addition to Lichtenstein, was sponsored by NCF.A.

SPECIAL REPORT

How Do We Stand Without Our Cornerstone?

By John B. White
Torch Special Writer

One year and three months ago there was brought forth upon this continent a much marked and long remembered ceremony: powerful men and the great scholars of the world gathered in the City of Washington for the Bicentennial Celebration Commemorating the Birth of James Smithson.

Many fine things happened then.

But one thing didn't.

Nobody found our corner-stone.

* * *

O proud and mighty Institution, unique Smithsonian, where is the sanctified, gold-and-silver-and-history-laden, "true and trusty" Foundation upon which you (one must assume) rest?

* * *

Who knows?

With pomp and circumstance, our Basic Stone was solemnly placed, blessed, and dedicated, 119 years ago.

Where is it now?

* * *

According to the old documents (minutes of the meetings of the SI Building

Committee and the journal, *National Intelligencer*), May 1, 1847, was "the day appointed to lay the corner-stone of the building destined to be occupied as the Smithsonian Institution." On that day unfolded this gorgeous pageantry:

"Early in the morning the banners in front of the City Hall and at other public places gave indication of a holyday and a day of public rejoicing [for] . . . the grand and interesting ceremonies of laying the foundation of an institution whose object is the 'increase and diffusion of knowledge among men' . . .

" . . . unusually grand . . . full regalia . . . splendid banners and emblems . . . a very interesting and imposing spectacle . . . the procession . . . moved from the City Hall to the President's House . . . the marshal-in-chief and his aids were all on horseback, and wore white scarfs and blue rosettes. Three bands of music accompanied the procession, which was more than a mile in length. Of the music we cannot avoid saying, that it was excellent . . ."

At the "presidential mansion . . . the President [Polk], heads of departments, diplomatic corps, etc., were received into

Nine Smithsonian-Related Bills Authorized By 89th Congress; Four Executives Get Pay Boosts

The recently adjourned 89th Congress, considered by some political scientists as the most productive in history, did very well by the Smithsonian, clearing for Presidential approval nine bills affecting Institution programs and personnel.

S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary of the Institution, released to the *Torch* the following landmark Smithsonian legislation passed by the Congress:

The *National Museum Act*, approved by President Johnson in October, is designed to increase the capacity of the Smithsonian to provide information, advice, and assistance to museums in the United States and abroad.

"This act," explained Secretary Ripley, "furnishes the legislative framework for programs of museum training, research, conservation, surveys, and publications" to be carried out by the Director of the National Museum.

"The Institution," Mr. Ripley added, "will conduct programs by cooperating with other museums and national and regional professional societies."

On November 7, 1966, the President approved legislation to establish the *Joseph H. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Gardens*. This act contains a ceiling of \$15,000,000 for funds authorized to be appropriated for planning and constructing the Museum and Sculpture Garden.

The 5,600-piece Hirshhorn collection, valued at \$25 million, will be situated on a site now occupied by the Medical Museum.

Presidential approval was given in July 1966 for the construction of a \$44 million *National Air and Space Museum* on the Mall directly opposite the National Gallery of Art.

When completed the monumental structure will be equipped to handle more than 50,000 visitors daily and make possible the first comprehensive display of the national aerospace collection—less than five percent of which is now available for public viewing.

On November 2, the President approved a bill to compensate at *Executive Salary Act* levels four administrative positions of the Institution.

SI executives who positions now will be classified at levels comparable with those in other Federal agencies include Frank A. Taylor, Director of the U.S. National Museum; Sidney R. Galler, Assistant Secretary for Science; Fred L. Whipple, Director, Smithsonian Astro-

physical Observatory; and the yet-to-be-appointed Assistant Secretary for Arts and Humanities.

President Johnson in July 1966 approved legislation authorizing the Attorney General to transfer to the Smithsonian *Title of the Von der Heydt Collection* of jade, stone, and bronze objects of art.

Edward Von der Heydt, a Swiss national, loaned three objects to the Buffalo Museum of Science prior to and during World War II. By vesting order dated August 21, 1951, the Attorney General acquired these objects as property of an enemy as defined in the Trading with the Enemy Act. The estimated value of this collection is \$250,000.

In October 1965 legislation was approved increasing appropriations authority to support scientific programs at the *Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute* from \$10,000 to \$350,000 per year.

Reappointment of Robert V. Fleming as Smithsonian Regent. By being selected to serve a fourth term in this office, Mr. Fleming joins a very limited group of Americans. Three persons were chosen by the Congress to serve for five terms as citizen regents. Only four other citizens, including Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, have been appointed to four terms.

Other bills passed during both sessions of the 89th and signed by the President include formal Proclamation announcing the bicentennial celebration of the birth of James Smithson, and Smithsonian authority to negotiate concession agreements with non-profit organizations at the National Zoo.

Damkaer to Supervise SI Marine Sorting Center Established Near Tunisia

David Damkaer, 28, formerly supervisor of plankton at SI's Oceanographic Sorting Center, is now in Tunisia as director of the new Mediterranean sorting center there.

The center was set up in cooperation with the National Scientific and Technical Institute for Oceanography and Fishing in Salamambo, a suburb of Tunis. It will be supported by excess foreign currency which has accumulated in Tunisia from the sale of U.S. surplus foods.

A graduate of the University of Washington, Damkaer is the only American staff member of the center.

The Mediterranean Sea has attracted marine scientists for as long as men have studied the oceans. In spite of considerable past efforts, which have seldom been international, the opportunities for oceanographic research in the Mediterranean have barely been recognized.

The Tunisian unit will operate as a regional marine biology center and receive environmental data and bulk collections from oceanographic expeditions, especially in the Mediterranean area.

The Center will sort the bulk collections and distribute data and specimens to scientists and research institutions around the world.

"Such a centrally located regional sorting center," explained Dr. I. E. Wallen, head of the Smithsonian Office of Oceanography, "will be an economical and expedient facility for processing marine specimens collected during existing and planned studies."

Fair Weather Brings Crowds

Easter-like weather brought out Easter-sized crowds during the Thanksgiving holiday last week. With the temperature in the mid-60's, more than 182,000 visitors toured the Smithsonian buildings, an increase of nearly 12,000 over the total for the four days in 1965.

the line. The entire column then moved . . . to the site of the Smithsonian Institution . . ."

There was a prayer, for the country which, although then but 71 years old, had already become "a mighty nation in the western world," and for all who fight to dispel the "gloomy clouds of ignorance . . ." There were suitable rituals. There was deposited "in a cavity in the corner-stone" a leaden box containing gold and silver coins, copies of the New Testament, the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Congressional Directory, and other documents and reports, a speech by the Chancellor, newspapers, and a medallion of Smithson.

And then an official "applied the square, level, and plumb, and pronounced the stone properly squared, duly laid, true and trusty."

* * *

True and trusty that stone proved to be. The Smithsonian Institution has stood, and still stands, firm.

(Continued on Page 2)



"AND THAT, GENTLEMEN, SHOULD END THE CONTROVERSY." Scholars of note from as far away as Copenhagen and Cardiff, Wales, as well as prominent American universities, gathered at the invitation of Wilcomb Washburn, chairman of SI's Department of American Studies, to examine the controversial Vinland Map.

The map, being studied here by some of the conference participants, has caused numerous arguments because it allegedly proves the presence of Norsemen in North America before Columbus. Dr. Washburn arranged for the scholars to discuss the map before it went on display in the lobby of MHT. It is on loan to SI from Yale University until December 15.

Report: Missing Cornerstone (Continued)

True and trusty, and where? Where do we stand—or rather where is our understanding?

* * *

There's the mystery . . .

The accounts of the day did not state specifically just where the corner-stone was laid. The "site" referred to was "upon the center of Tenth Street," where the first building, which still serves as the Institution's headquarters and to most people is "the Smithsonian," was erected, and as Paul Oehser says in his authoritative *Sons of Science* "the northeast corner of the original foundation would have been the customary place" for the

corner-stone. But the actual place of the stone was not noted; "either by weathering off of the inscription or by subsequent landscaping" any plaque which might have marked the spot has been lost, and not for years, perhaps not since the passing of the last witness of the "very interesting and imposing" ceremony of its dedication, has anyone known the precise location of the most significant stone in the whole life of the Smithsonian.

* * *

The stone upon which our fortunes, our very destinies, rest, itself rests, somewhat like that Soldier, in Honored Glory, Unknown . . .

White Tiger Loses Mate; Plaque Will Designate Zoo's Vanishing Species

The National Zoo's handsome Bengal tiger, Samson, died this week at age 11. Samson, who had been ailing for several weeks, leaves Mohini, the nation's only white tiger, mateless. Young son, Ramana, is expected to fill the role, according to Zoo Director Theodore H. Reed.

Endangered and vanishing animals are fast becoming a major problem throughout the world. The zoo, for example, will designate with plaques 24 species in its collection as threatened with extinction: Hairy-nosed wombat, Golden marmoset, Orangutan, American red wolf, timber wolf, Spectacled bear, Grizzly Bear, Polar Bear, Cheetah, Przewalski's horse, and Indian rhinoceros.

Also White rhinoceros, Black rhinoceros, Pygmy rhinoceros, Pere David's deer, Anoa, Bighorn sheep, Komodo dragon lizard, Duncan saddleback tortoise, South Albemarle tortoise, American alligator, Trumpeter swan, Nene goose, and Giant Canada goose.

Incidentally, the Museum of Natural History has an exhibit labeled "Extinction," featuring Martha—stuffed and modestly perched on her perch—the world's last Passenger Pigeon.

Her story, and that of the Zoo's endangered species, is one of the tragic sagas of our nation's wildlife.

Greek Tracker Added To SAO's World Unit

Director Fred L. Whipple said the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory has enlisted the National Technical University of Athens in a globe-girdling satellite tracking network.

The Greek university is the 15th station to join SAO's network subsidized by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

SI Aerospace Museum Gets WW II Documents

The Department of Defense has decided there is no longer anything to hide in some 60,000 German and Japanese aeronautical research documents captured after World War II.

The documents, which had been classified, recently were turned over to the National Air and Space Museum.

NASM Director S. Paul Johnson said the documents are recorded on 900 reels of microfilm which will become part of the museum's research center collection.



COULDN'T STAY AWAY — Jacob Kainen, formerly curator in charge of the Division of Graphic Arts, is now on the job as special consultant on prints and drawings with NCFCA. Kainen, who retired after 24 years with the Smithsonian to devote more time to his own painting and print making, is working two days a week at NCFCA, selecting the works for a "March of America" exhibition to be held early next year. He is also preparing for a show of his own works which will be presented at the Bader Gallery in Washington in 1967.

ABOUT SI PEOPLE

Jack Whitelaw Scores A First; Benson, Van Beek Dig Carthage

Jack Whitelaw, who must have the SI's longest title—special assistant to the assistant secretary—is the first Smithsonian employee ever to be enrolled in the Congressional Fellowship Program. Jack will spend several months on the Hill. . . . Richard H. Benson and Gus Van Beek of MNH are considering the feasibility of a research project in ancient Carthage. Benson is a specialist in marine geology; Van Beek, old world archeology. They envision 5 to 10 years of work there, resulting in a complete excavation of Punic remains. This would be the first project of its kind there. . . . However else you felt about Sophy Burnham's *Washingtonian* article on the Smithsonian, the Fenykovi elephant was never more imaginatively photographed. . . . John Carroll, mail clerk in USNM's office of the registrar, handles about 2000 incoming letters a week, some addressed to "Smith's Onion Institute." . . . John White of SAO and co-author of the British-revered "Stonehenge Decoded," turned up in another recently published book, "John Fitzgerald Kennedy—As We Remember Him." William Walton, made this statement in the book: "In Washington, I lived on N Street, near 34th, and he (Jack Kennedy) rented a house around the corner, in about '48. And I knew Jackie separately. She was working on the "Times-Herald," and I had a friend who was a reporter there, named John White. She thought John White was just about the most intellectual man she'd ever met—he collected all kinds of books." . . . Uta Merzbach, MHT's curator of mathematical instruments, is serving this semester as visiting professor of the history of science and technology at the University of Pennsylvania . . . John Latham, special assistant in the National Collection of Fine Arts, just returned from Brazil where he made advance arrangements for the American exhibition of the Sao Paulo Bienal, which will be sponsored by NCFCA in September 1967. The show will be here in January 1968. . . . The east door lobby of the SI Building is fast becoming an art gallery of sorts. Under the direction of Richard Howland, chairman of MHT's department of civil history, the area has been dressed up in cocoa brown (?) and on the walls hang a number of works ranging from an acrylic, "Red Wagon" to an oil portrait of "Vinnie Ream." (Some say the acrylic is really a beach towel in disguise.) . . . Speaking of the SI Bldg: 13 percent of its visitors sign the guest book, while only 1 percent sign the MHT register. The Torch believes there must be more to see and do in MHT. . . . The Smithsonian Associates, now one year old, count 2600 Washington-area residents on the membership roles. The fledging organization plans to go national in the near future. Lisa Sutor, program director of the Associates, put a lot of work in the group's first educational program, and it paid off: 650 adults and young people are enrolled. . . . Robert Stewart, assistant director of the National Portrait Gallery, informs us that the staffs of NPG and NCFCA will move into the Old Patent Office around the first of the year (Don't count on it). Public openings should come off around Spring 1968. . . . Joe Eberly, Office of Personnel, reports that 50 employees are enrolled in Washington-area university training programs. Joe also said the Employee Welfare and Recreation Association has set up a room in the basement of the A&I Building, complete with desks, typewriters, applications for discounts on tours and theaters, and pamphlets describing various self-development programs. . . . William S. Klein, director of the Radiation Biology Laboratory, is on loan to the Atomic Energy Commission until September 1967. Walter Shropshire will head RBL until Dr. Klein returns. . . . Charles Blitzer, director of education and training, and Tom Witherspoon, Smithsonian Press editor, put together a new 1967-68 "Smithsonian Research Opportunities" publication. It's both handsome and complete. . . . Memo to The National Park Service: Please inform the minitrain operators that the Arts and Industries Building does not "contain the remains of James Smithson," nor was Mr. Smithson the son of "illegitimate parents!" . . . The Torch had a difficult time finding former SI Secretary Leonard C. Carmichael during the summer and early fall. It was no wonder, he spent a good deal of time at meetings in Germany, Moscow, and the University of Virginia, where he lectured in the visiting scholars program. . . . CBS News in New York called the Public Information Office wanting to know about a German scientist and his experiments on the over-population of cats at the National Zoo. Because of busy telephone lines and the Torch's deadline, we were unable to confirm the story. . . . Dr. Leonard Schultz of the Museum of Natural History said the Smithsonian had recorded 1,410 cases of shark attacks in the world since 1958. Of 1,039 humans bitten by sharks, 477 died. . . . The sophisticated men's magazine, *Esquire*, in its December issue, carries a story entitled, "You Own \$10 Million Worth of Gems," featuring MNH's George Switzer and his sparkling friends. . . . Our friends from the National Broadcasting Company reported to the nation's press that one of the flapper dresses of the 1920's displayed in MHT had been on backwards these many years. An MHT seamstress promptly corrected the mistake and the mannequin can now hold "her head up in polite society." . . . Secretary Ripley has been appointed to a three-year term as a Trustee of the Washington Center for Metropolitan Studies. . . . This Bulletin in as we go to press: Eugene Ostroff has been appointed as Curator of Graphic Arts in MHT. Gene moves up from associate curator in charge of photography, a post he has held since 1960.

SMITHSONIAN TORCH

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DOWN BY THE OLD MILL WHEEL—Peter Welsh, curator of the Growth of the United States, checks the progress of reconstruction of the historic water wheel which divides halls two and three of his section of MHT. Built in 1774 by Isaac Thomas, the wheel was part of a grist mill on Crum Creek in Chester County, Pa. The halls, with a variety of displays ranging from the Ipswich house to Ben Franklin's press and George Washington's uniform, will open to the public shortly after the first of the year.

PLANNING GUIDE BEING READIED

Joint Research Projects Studied At Panama Biology Conference

For several years there has been an increasing interest in the biology of tropical America.

This has been expressed in numerous expeditions to many remote parts of the area, by joint educational programs between Latin America and North American institutions, and by various cooperative research programs concerned with the biology, health, and economy of the tropical American region.

To bring together these many diverse interests to plan coordinated, cooperative research programs, the Smithsonian held a conference on tropical biology at the Panama Hilton Hotel in mid-November.

Headed by Smithsonian Secretary S. Dillon Ripley, conferees discussed why biologists should be concerned with the tropics, what kinds of research activities should be launched, who might be involved in these activities, what sources of support might be available, and the timing for such undertakings.

Among the representatives from North and South America were specialists on biological-oceanography, fisheries, anthropology, ecology, climatology, hydrology, botany, entomology, and vertebrate zoology.

"The results of the conference," said Dr. Richard S. Cowan, director of the Museum of Natural History, "will be embodied in a planning document which may serve to join the research interests of Western Hemisphere biologists for many years to come."

Attending the Conference with Mr. Ripley and Dr. Cowan were Dr. Sidney

Galler, assistant secretary; Dr. W. Donald Duckworth, associate curator of the Division of Lepidoptera; Dr. Charles O. Handley, curator in charge of the Division of Mammals; F. Raymond Fosberg, Department of Botany; Dr. Philip S. Humphrey, acting chairman of the Department of Vertebrate Zoology; Dr. Ernest Lachner, curator in charge of the Division of Fishes; Dr. James A. Peters, associate curator of the Division of Reptiles, Dr. Richard Woodbury, acting head of the Smithsonian Office of Anthropology, Dr. J. Laurens Barnard, Department of Invertebrate Zoology, Dr. Helmut K. Buechner, head of the Office of Ecology, and Mrs. Julia E. Taylor, Office of the Director, MNH.

SIE Needs More Research Data

The Smithsonian's Science Information Exchange, located in the Madison Bank Building in downtown Washington, provides a unique service as a center for information on physical, biological, and social research activities actually in progress.

Summaries of proposed and ongoing research projects are currently being received by SIE at the rate of 100,000 per year from 90 federal bureaus of all departments and agencies conducting research, as well as from some 250 non-federal agencies and institutions. All registered research is analyzed and indexed in technical depth by a staff of professional scientists and engineers who, in turn, retrieve this information in response to a broadening range of administrative and subject matter questions.

For 15 years this service has been provided free of charge to members of the research community associated with recognized research establishments.

The number of water research projects now registered with SIE, and thereby available for distribution within the scientific community, is more than 3300. However, information gaps still exist due to incomplete coverage of research activities supported by non-federal funds.

Dr. Monroe E. Freeman is Director of the Science Information Exchange.

Smithsonian's Most Unusual Gift: 19th Century Foundling Left Here

By Sam Surratt

On June 1, 1863, in the midst of the anguish and confusion which gripped Washington during the Civil War, the Smithsonian received from an anonymous donor, what can only be described as its most unusual gift.

Mary Henry, daughter of the first Secretary of the Smithsonian, recorded in her diary that they "had found an addition to the family in the shape of an

infant which had been left at the door of the Institution."

The gift had no accession record, and very little is known now of its eventual disposition: one can only speculate about the infant's origins and what it turned out to be as an adult.

Perhaps it was the product of wartime passion, the father being killed in battle, or merely marching off without the occasion being solemnized or the product legitimized. Then the mother, knowing of the origin of James Smithson, thought that her child would fare best in the hands of Smithson's institution. Or, she might have considered the child as a trophy of war suitable for inclusion in the National Museum.

The Henry family, which lived in the East Wing of the Smithsonian building, had recently suffered the loss of an only son, William, but they did not wish to replace him with the foundling.

After a few weeks residence at the Smithsonian the infant was taken to an orphanage from which he was returned to the Henrys for occasional visits. Mention of the infant disappears after a year or two and its name and future remain a mystery.

Ass't. Secretary Bradley Given SI's Highest Honor

On November 16, James Bradley, Assistant Secretary, was given the Exceptional Service Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Smithsonian Institution.

In making the award Secretary Ripley said:

"The dedication Mr. Bradley has shown to the Smithsonian and the amount of energy he has devoted to the guidance and development of its programs, far exceeds the performance expected of any individual. Mr. Bradley's assistance to me has been unequivocal since I became the Institution's eighth Secretary. Each year he has continued competently and skillfully in achieving our objectives.

"This eminently successful legislative year, I am convinced, has been accomplished in large part through Mr. Bradley's resourcefulness, perseverance and personal drive. Not only have we accomplished a rather unbelievable legislative program, but Mr. Bradley's professional aplomb, his perception and tact, reflect most creditably on the Institution."

A three-part series on the Smithsonian by Geoffrey Hellman begins this week in the New Yorker magazine.



A WHALE OF A FIND—The National Broadcasting Company needed a fossil whale for one of its television programs on the Smithsonian. Al Myrick (above), who has connections all along the Potomac, quickly obliged NBC. Donning turtle-neck sweater and Levis, which didn't remain clean long, Mr. Myrick located a fossil in a cave along the southern banks of the River. He's shown packing the whale's skull in an impregnated plaster wrap for preservation purposes. A specialist in MNH's division of paleontology, Al and friend were featured in the NBC installment on osteology, appropriately titled, "Dem Dry Bones."

Two Christmas Concerts Set For MHT Music Hall

The division of musical instruments will sponsor Yuletide concerts on December 13 and 14 in the Museum of History and Technology.

The concerts, "Christmas Music of the Renaissance and Early Baroque for Voices and Instruments," will be conducted by John Fesperman.

Both concerts will be held in the Hall of Musical Instruments, beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Contact Museum Service (x5542) for ticket information.

DIALOGUE IN CAMBRIDGE

An Observatory's Lament, Or "No Sir, We Do Not Belong To Harvard"

It goes without saying that we cringe at the reference "nation's attic" when applied to the venerable SI. Consider, however, the plight of one James C. Cornell, erstwhile public information officer at SAO, who spends a good time of his day trying to define, defend, describe, and decipher our Cambridge unit to the gentry. Jim offers the following as an example of "a daily dialogue in Cambridge."

CALLER: Hello. Is this the Astronomical Laboratory?

PIO: This is the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Can I help you?

CALLER: I didn't know the Smithsonian Institute was in Cambridge.

PIO: Well, sir, it isn't. What I mean is, the Observatory is here and it's a bureau of the Smithsonian Institution.

CALLER: But I thought the Cambridge Observatory was part of Harvard.

PIO: Oh, no, sir. The Smithsonian Observatory is located on Harvard property, but it isn't a part of the University.

CALLER: You mean the University doesn't have an observatory?

PIO: Yes, sir, er, I mean no. They have the Harvard College Observatory under Dr. Goldberg.

CALLER: Isn't Dr. Menzel the director?

PIO: No, sir. He used to be director of the Harvard Observatory, but now he's joined the Smithsonian staff. Our director is Dr. Fred Whipple.

CALLER: You mean the Harvard astronomer?

PIO: Well, he used to be a Harvard astronomer, I mean, he still is, but he's really director of the Smithsonian, too, and has been since we moved to Cambridge in 1955.

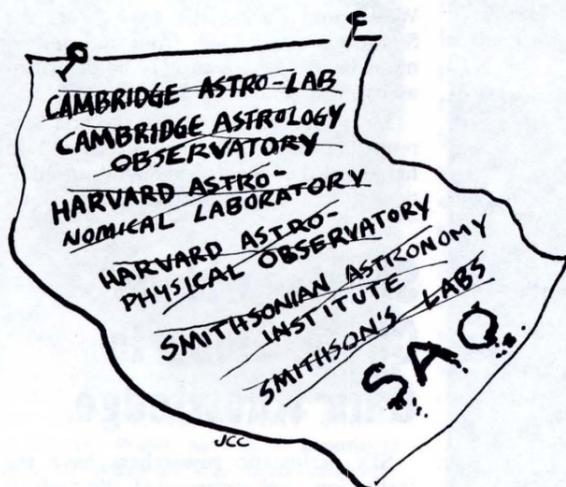
CALLER: Who's Dr. Goldberg, then?

PIO: Oh, he's a former Smithsonian staff member who's the new director of the Harvard College Observatory. Of course Smithsonian and Harvard still cooperate on many projects, but the two observatories are really independent of each other.

CALLER: Well, anyhow, I want to bring my kids to see the exhibits in the museum.

PIO: I'm sorry, sir. You've confused us with the Smithsonian. We don't have a museum here.

CALLER: I thought you said you were part of the Smithsonian Institute.



PIO: I did, but that's the Institution in Washington, and this is a research facility. We only have computers and laboratories in Cambridge.

CALLER: But you said this was an observatory!

PIO: I know I did, sir, but we really aren't an observatory, that is, not in the literal sense. I mean we don't have any telescopes. Our scientists analyze data from satellites and conduct laboratory experiments and make theoretical computations and . . .

CALLER: Then what are all those domes at Garden Street?

PIO: Oh, those belong to Harvard. But they don't use them, either. Actually Harvard's observatory is at Harvard—Harvard, Massachusetts, that is—a little town about 30 miles west of Harvard Square.

CALLER: You gotta have telescopes to be an observatory, don't you?

PIO: Well, we have field stations for tracking satellites and we also send up special telescopes aboard satellites and balloons . . .

CALLER: Oh, so you're part of NASA.

PIO: Well, not exactly, we do track satellites under a grant from NASA, but . . .

CALLER: Don't you do any astronomy at the laboratory?

PIO: Of course the Observatory does. Only it's not exactly astronomy. You see,

we do astrophysics . . . I mean, astronomers only look at the motions of celestial bodies, but astrophysicists are more concerned with the physical properties of these bodies, so our astronomers are really physicists and geodesists who are studying the shape and size of the earth and the atmosphere and the relationships between solar energy and atmospheric phenomena. We also analyze meteoritical material that has fallen on earth and we are studying the origins of life in the lab and . . .

CALLER: But, you gotta do some kind of observing to be an observatory!

PIO: Sure, like I said, we have these 12 Baker-Nunn cameras to provide precise photographic data on satellites and comets, plus other stations such as the Harvard-Smithsonian Meteor Project headed up by Dr. Hawkins of Boston University.

CALLER: Boston University? What happened to the Institute? And Harvard?

PIO: Well, he's also on our staff . . . and Harvard's, too. Oh, and I almost forgot, we'll soon have an observatory—a real observatory—in Arizona.

CALLER: With a big telescope?

PIO: Not exactly. It'll really be a, well, a giant "light bucket." You know, a big dish to look for gamma-rays which no one has ever seen before and . . .

CALLER: Dish? Bucket? Is the government paying for this?

PIO: Well, yes, I suppose you could say so, in a way.

CALLER: Is your Lab a government agency?

PIO: Well, not exactly. You see, the Observatory is a bureau of the Smithsonian and . . .

CALLER: And that's a government agency isn't it?

PIO: Well, not exactly. Actually, it's an "establishment" of the U.S. Government. You see this guy, Smithson, left all his money to the United States and . . .

CALLER: I don't remember any Smithson in my American history books.

PIO: That's because he was an Englishman who had never seen America, but who . . .

CALLER: Forget it. Say, what if I just dropped by to see some of those computers and labs at Observatory Hill on Garden Street?

PIO: Sure, come ahead. There's only one thing . . . The computers are actu-

ally at 185 Alewife Brook Parkway and that's about a mile and a half from Garden Street. And you'd better stop by my office first. It's at 5 Bay State Road, on that little street half-way between the other two buildings.

CALLER: Maybe I should just send you my question in the mail.

PIO: Okay. Send it to 60 Garden Street.

CALLER: I thought you said you were at Bay State Road.

PIO: I did, but all our mail goes to the other building . . .

CALLER: Well, actually my question is for Dr. Menzel. Why don't you just switch me over to his line . . .

PIO: I'm awfully sorry, but he's on a Harvard line and that means I can't transfer . . .

CALLER: I thought he was on the Smithsonian staff?

PIO: Oh, he is, but some Smithsonian people have Harvard phones and some . . .

CALLER: Never mind. Maybe you can answer my question. What would be the best time to invest my money, if Venus and Saturn are in conjunction and I was born under the sign of Libra?

PIO: Excuse me, sir, but I think you are talking about astrology, and the Observatory doesn't . . . Look, maybe we should start from the beginning again . . .

Rembrandt and Stuart Challenge Pop Artists In December Exhibitions

The flashy, modern Biennale art in the Museum of Natural History Art Hall (see page 1) is not the only exhibition drawing art buffs to SI this month. The old masters are proving that their appeal is not outdated in special showings featuring two of the art world's best-known names.

Rembrandt, history's outstanding etcher, is the attraction at MHT, where Peter Morse, associate curator of graphic arts, has gathered all of the master's landscape etchings but one. Only two known copies of the missing print, "The Bull," exist, one in England and one in the Netherlands. A photograph of the missing print is included in the exhibition, which the *Evening Star's* art critic called the most important currently in the area.

The other "big name" is Gilbert Stuart, renowned American portraitist. The first two Stuarts acquired by the National Portrait Gallery are on display with other recent acquisitions in the Arts and Industries Building.

Likenesses of Major General Samuel Smith (1752-1839) and his wife, Margaret Spear, were donated to the Smithsonian by Dr. B. Noland Carter, a Cincinnati physician, and his wife. The portraits, which have never been out of the family, are a major acquisition, according to gallery director Charles Nagel.



COLLIER TROPHY PRESENTATION—Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey (left) joins Mrs. Hugh L. Dryden, James E. Webb (right), SI Secretary Ripley (center background), and other guests for a close-up inspection of the coveted Robert J. Collier Trophy on display in the Arts and Industries Building. Mr. Humphrey presented the trophy to Mr. Webb, Administrator of NASA, and Mrs. Dryden, who accepted for her late husband, NASA's deputy administrator. The award was made on behalf of all Gemini Program teams for "significantly advancing human experience in space flight."

Come Fly with Me

If you like to fly, or think you might, exhibits specialist Ralf Nelsen would like to hear from you. He is organizing a flying club which will purchase its own airplane.

Being a licensed pilot is not necessary, Nelsen says. If interested, call him on 5181.