It took an all-out effort by the Smithsonian to reorganize the Folklife Festival that will span the Mall this year.

To bring to Washington the 100 craftsmen, artists, and musicians who will create, dance, and sing in front of MHT and MNH over the four-day weekend, Museum Service Director James Morris first called upon two special consultants. Ralph Rinzler from the Newport Folk Foundation and Henry Glassie from the Pennsylvania Historical Commission.

In January these men, assisted by Marian Hope, Kesa Sukai, Beth Fein, Jeannette Gladstone, Leslie Schaberg, Tim Linek and others, began seeking out the folkspeople for Festival.

Letters went to New Mexico mountain huts, villages in the Florida swamps, igloos in the Alaskan snowfields, and houses in the back hills of Kentucky.

But often the craftsmen could not be contacted so easily. Mrs. Elinice Beck, head switchboard operator, had to call neighboring ranches, police departments, and Interior Department Indian Agents to put messages through.

The New Mexico police brought Mrs. Joe Mondragon down from the mountains to talk to the Smithsonian about her stone carving.

Alaskan Airways was the agent bringing the Indian agents and the Interior Department to the Smithsonian for the first time after several years.

The wool crisis weathered, the final plans fell hectically into place.

Along with the festival, Museum Service also managed to organize a folklore conference for July 2 and 3. Seventeen scholars from the U.S., Mexico, and Europe will attend. They will discuss ways of promoting and preserving America's traditional culture and suggest future Smithsonian programs in folklore.

Henry Glassie, chief organizer of the conference, said, "It is very important that more organized study of folklore be begun. We don't have too much time, it's needed before it's too late."

"This conference should help fill the need."

Summer Concerts Set for Mall Feature Symphony, Barber Shop

Working after hours this summer can turn out to be a treat instead of a chore if you keep your windows open. Special concerts will fill the Mall area with music every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evening.

The Mall Summer Orchestra, sponsored by the D.C. Recreation Department, will perform on the MNH Mall steps at 8:30 each Wednesday. On Fridays the same spot will be occupied by local chapters of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, in 8 p.m. concerts. Arrangements for both groups were made by Museum Service.

On Monday nights the Division of Musical Instruments' annual Tower Music concerts are staged on the SI Tower at 7:30. (See May TORCH.)

The Mall Orchestra is appearing at the Smithsonian for the first time after several seasons as the Watergate Symphony. Its programs will include an appearance by the Washington Civic Ballet Company July 5, opera selections on July 12, the music of Sigmund Romberg and Victor Herbert July 19, and a symphony July 26.

The barber shop groups will also be making their first appearances here after performing at the airplane-pluged airport. The History Club Chorus of Fredericksburg and Massanansats of Prince William County will be here July 7. They will also be followed by the Loring's Arlonetes and the Marylandaires of Prince George's County July 14, the Annapolis Barber Shop Chorus of the Potomac July 21, and the Singing Capital Chorus of the District of Columbia July 28.

The President's Safety Award for the renovation of the SI building and the Renwick Gallery heads the list of awards to be given this summer. Architect's plans for interior renovation of both buildings should be completed soon and bids invited. Interior work on the Renwick has already been started, Robert Engle, engineering assistant to Assistant Secretary Bradford Washburn, said.

Actual construction in SI should begin this fall and be completed in about one-and-one-half years at a cost of about $2 million. Architects Chan, Beroe, and Nolan have nearly finished drawings for three main objectives, preserving the historical atmosphere, installing central air conditioning and new wiring, and improving utilization of the building's space.

The Renwick Gallery, formerly the Court of Claims Building, next door to the Blair House at 17th and Pennsylvania Avenue, is being reconditioned as a proposed exhibition area for American folk arts and handicrafts.

NCFA's Donald McClelland is completing drawings for the building's interior. Construction should begin in the fall.

Scalafolding has been erected around the outside of the red stone building, which is now being cleaned. The stone is "badly deteriorated," according to Engle, and a painstaking examination of the entire building will be conducted to determine restoration needs.

Early photographs of the two-story building show statues in niches where the second-floor windows now are. Although not in the present plans, the statues are to be salvaged.

Changes in the SI building will include removal of James Smithsonian's tomb to the foyer and opening of the entrance to the public. The temporary offices in the old historic room will be removed and two stories of new offices constructed, for use by the proposed new Center for Advanced Studies. The west end will be a two-story lounge area, also for the potential use of the Center.

The construction will add 20,000 feet of office space to SI.

The south foyer may be made into a Smithsonian Commons, relating to the Institution's founder, when the tomb is placed there. When the Air Museum is placed in the south lobby, SI employees will be closed to the public while the north foyer is open to the entrance to the public. The temporary offices in the old historic room will be removed and two stories of new offices constructed, for use by the proposed new Center for Advanced Studies. The west end will be a two-story lounge area, also for the potential use of the Center.

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Dear Editor:

With the Independence Day Bicentennial almost exactly nine years in the future, work has already begun to insure the validity of that prediction. Although nothing specific has been decided early this year, ideas have been flowing from, to and in the eyes of official and semi-official sources.

Keith E. Melder, chairman of Political History, and E. Peterson, chairman of Armed Forces History, and Wilcomb E. Washburn, chairman of American Studies, have been appointed to develop MHT's part in the national celebration. Ideas that have been proposed include a major exhibition displayed from 1974 to 1976. Howard B. Munroe, a number of halls, would give special prominence to the Washington headquarters tent and the get-up of Philadelphia, military equipment and uniforms would contrast the British professional with the colonial citizen soldier, making the point that the Revolution was a people's war.

Large-scale treatment of Revolutionary life and times is also anticipated. According to Dr. Melder, SI's collections of cultural material are limited for this period and arrangements must be made in the near future to borrow or otherwise acquire them.

Lack of museum objects has already been a problem in the special displays Political History has put together on such pre-revolutionary themes as the Stamp Act and Act, due to open later this year. Original material is largely archival and must be borrowed from such sources as the Library of Congress. Other small pre-revolution displays are tentatively planned.

Among the possibilities being considered for publication to complement the bicentennial exhibitions is a richly illustrated national inventory of objects surviving from the Revolutionary period. It would be published by the Smithsonian Institution Press. There may also be a series of exhibit-related pamphlets prepared for a popular audience and suited to classroom use.

A full range of research and academic activities will accompany the special exhibits, publications, conferences dealing with Revolutionary subjects will bring together SI and university historians, and a seminar may be developed to attract graduate students from area universities.

As early as last July members of the SI staff were invited to submit ideas on the celebration to Frank Taylor, director of the U.S. National Museum. The House Appropriations Committee reported in March, 1966 that "it is not too early to begin adequate preparation and plans for the celebration of this momentous occasion. Certainly such an observation falls within the purview of the activities of the Smithsonian Institution."

Priceless Coin Collection to SI

A coin collection said to be worth millions will be given to the Smithsonian Institution at a recent report by the Indianapolis Star.

Assembled by the late Josiah K. Lilly, the 600-piee piece collection is expected to become the property of the American people as soon as the Indian delegation in Congress can iron out a legislative problem associated with the dispersal of the coins.

Vladimir Clain-Stefanelli, MHT's curator of numismatics, rates the Lilly collection "priceless" and a "national treasure."

Dr. Stefanelli, who has been given the opportunity to examine and analyze the scope of the Lilly collection, said that "it surpasses any other collection of gold coins ever assembled by one person."

The United States section, for example, consists of 1,227 pieces with only the extremely rare $3 dollar coin of 1870 missing. Latin American coins number 1,236, including 665 8-escudo pieces. For comparison purposes, the famed Emilie Carles-Tolra collection contained only 256 8-escudo pieces.

If the collection is turned over to the Smithsonian, it would probably raise the issue of a 80th call of coins above that of the Soviet Union.

If legislation is not introduced and enacted, the collection — under inheritance laws — must be liquidated.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Dr. Stefanelli, chairman of the department of botany, and Philip S. Humphrey, chairman of the department of vertebrate zoology, are leaving MHN on July 1 to return to the academic community. Dr. Humphrey, a noted wood anatomist, has accepted a post as professor in the University of Maryland's department of botany. Dr. Humphrey, an ornithologist, has been named director of the University of Kansas' museum of natural history and chairman of KU's department of zoology. Stern, incidentally, will continue an official relationship with SI, having accepted a research association.

SCOTT ELECTED TO HIGH ART POST

David W. Scott, director of the National Collection of Fine Arts, has been elected to the presidency of Art Museum Directors. A very distinguished group presenting the top art museums directors in the country, the AAMD permits only 75 members on its rolls. Scott joins Charles Nagel, John Pope, and Adelyn Breskin as SI members.

INSTANT EDITORIAL

Some members of SI's editorial reacted vehemently to the front-page picture of the hush-hush Hirshhorn Museum models that appeared recently in the Washington Post. The cooler heads knew that, judging from the quality of the picture, photographer Douglas Chavez obviously made his shots in a hurry and without the help or permission of anyone here. The TORCH, believing strongly in a free and competent press, applauds Mr. Chevalier for his successful scoop. That he had ample opportunity is without question: the models were accessible to anyone with the ingenuity to peek over the barricades set up in the Great Hall.

WEDEL LAUNCHES THIRD KANSAS DIG

Dr. Waldo Wedel, MHN archeologist, has launched his third dig in as many years in Rice County, Kansas. His nine-member crew is working the site of a Quiveran Indian village between Lyons and Geneseo, known to have been occupied at the time of Coronado's visit to central Kansas in 1641. In 1941, Dr. Wedel found pieces of chain armor of the type worn by Spanish soldiers during Coronado's time, substantiating the fact that Coronado visited central Kansas more than 400 years ago.

MHT'S FIRST SENIOR HISTORIAN

Howard L. Chapelle, for many years curator of transportation, has been appointed MHT's first senior historian. Mr. Chapelle is widely respected by authorities on sailing vessels. The author of several distinguished books on watercraft, Mr. Chapelle has been named director of the “Hall of American Merchant Shipping,” which traces the development of U.S. vessels from Colonial times to the present by means of more than 200 detailed and often contemporary ship models.

ONE-LINERS

Frederic Phillips of the Department of Commerce has been appointed special assistant for public affairs here . . . David Chase has succeeded Hugh Latham as director of the Smithsonian Center. Latham resigned recently to set up a prep school in Pennsylvania's Appalachian Mountain range . . . Rosa Moore reports that the Smithsonian Bridge Club is now organized. Interested employees may contact her on ext. 5847. . . Waldo Schmitt of MHN observed his 60th birthday on June 30 . . . Director Ted Reed reports that the Zoo's birdhouse will be closed until October while it is being remodelled . . . Carl Fox has opened the new MHN sales shop. While the emphasis is on quality merchandise, prices begin at 10 cents . . . Frank Kreysa, MHT’s first assistant, has been named a staff member of the World's Fair and Panama-Pacific International Exposition . . . Maturi secretary, of the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Chemists. Both Kreysa and Maturi are employed by SIE.

SMITHSONIAN TORCH

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Mary M. Krug, Managing Editor
James Cornell, SAO Correspondent, Marion McCrone, Zoo Correspondent, John White (Features), Sam Orton (Specs), Jim Robinson (Photos)

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Greenery Enlivens Exhibits Through Ludes' Efforts

Mary M. Krug

How does a sculptor get to be a duck at all? The answer to this question is not found when you consider the fact that the sculptor in question is not a bird at all. He is called Horace Ludes, and he is responsible for all of the indoor plants on display at the Smithsonian Institution.

Ludes is a man who has spent his life working with plants. He has been engaged in the regular work of caring for plants for over 30 years. He has been involved in all aspects of plant care, from planting to watering, and he is well-versed in the needs of both houseplants and greenhouse plants.

Ludes is also a sculptor, and he is known for his unique ability to create beautiful sculptures from plant materials. He is particularly skilled at creating sculptures that look like birds, and he has created many pieces that have been displayed at the Smithsonian.

Ludes' sculptures are made from a variety of plant materials, including cactus, succulents, and houseplants. He uses a combination of natural and artificial materials to create his pieces, and he is able to make them look incredibly realistic.

Ludes' sculptures are often displayed in conjunction with his plant care demonstrations. He is a popular speaker at botanical gardens and other events, and he is often asked to give lectures on the care of houseplants.

Ludes' work is not only beautiful, but it is also educational. He is able to share his knowledge of plant care with people of all ages, and he is able to inspire others to care for their plants.

Ludes' sculptures are displayed in the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, and they are also featured in many other museums and galleries around the world. They are a testament to the power of plant care and the beauty of nature.
Protests Won't Change Plans for Zoo Hospital

The site for the new Zoo hospital-research center will remain as announced despite protests from the Kalorama Citizens Association. This is the conclusion of a statement prepared for the Regents in reply to the group's arguments.

The civic organization has submitted a letter and petition to Chief Justice Earl Warren, chancellor of the SI Board of Regents, objecting to the new facility's location near the Holt House administration building. The petition was followed up with a letter printed in the Washington Daily News last month.

The hospital site is quiet and secluded, and therefore ideal for nervous, excited or disturbed animals and conducive to research observations, the statement reports. The buildings will be on land which cannot be economically developed for public use, and will not be readily visible from surrounding residential areas.

"The National Capital Planning Commission was especially pleased with the architect's solution of a 'very low building to the existing terrain,'" the report says. "Due to the very need for isolation of this animal facility the existing dense woods between the new facility and the Zoo property line will be carefully protected."

The group's specific objection was that Holt House is a landmark whose preservation has been called for by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The report states that its potential as a future sitting of the Animal Hospital and Research Complex near the Holt House, a careful evaluation of its historical significance was made. A historical research report prepared by the Chairman of the Department of Civil History of the Museum of History and Technology, while last month, a report of the Consulting Committee for the National Survey of Historical Sites and Buildings, states that there is no evidence to indicate an association of the Holt House with persons of National significance.

Renovation

(Continued from page 1)

mer. Bids have already been invited for the project. Also on this month is a renovation of the Oceanographic Sorting Center at the Navy Yard. The construction will be complete by March and will provide more work space.

While execution begins on all these plans, an architect yet to be named will be preparing proposals for the Arts and Industries Building. A new air conditioning and mechanical improvement and be remodeled for use as an exposition hall.

Holt House was included on a list of historic landmarks in the District of Columbia prepared by the Kalorama Citizens Association. This is the conclusion of a statement prepared for the Regents in reply to the group's arguments.

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Nepal Gives SI Plant Specimens

American botanists for the first time will have a chance to study a major series of specimens from the rich and relatively unknown Nepalese Himalayas.

The Nepalese government has contributed 1600 herbarium specimens from the Botanical Survey of Nepal to the Smithsonian, reports Dr. Dan H. Nicolson, associate curator of the Botanical Department's Division of Phycology. The specimens were collected in Nepal for the past nine months on a Senior Fulbright Research Fellowship, and has collected some 1500 specimens himself.

The gift, the first official relationship between the two nations, is rich in new climatic and altitudinal variations, is rich in different kinds of plants ranging from tropical regions to the alpine regions.

CRUISE

Guion L. III, an associate of the Rhythm band will provide the music for the Institution's annual moonlight cruise on the Potomac August 5. For tickets or information phone Mrs. Dorothy Lewis, 5226.

The Smithonian "navy" sets sail this summer.

The Phykos, a World War II Army freighter obtained by the Smithsonian for oceanographic research, is being renovated by the Southern Maine Vocational and Technical Institute under a cooperative agreement completed last week. Dr. E. E. Wallen, head of the Office of Oceanography and Limnology and chair of the Smithsonian Ships Committee, announced the arrangement.

The ship had been sitting at the Navy Yard while the committee studied what facilities it should have and sought resources for putting it in operation. Under the recent agreement, the Maine institute is putting the vessel in condition in return for use of it during part of the school year. SI will have it the rest of the school year and during the summers, beginning this month.

Dr. Melvin H. Jackson, associate curator of the Division of Transportation and Aircraft, also decided how the Ellida should be used, the ships committee's consultant on the SI staff members, said that the vessel will be used for both near-shore research and supporting shore parties.

In addition to the now research-worthy Phykos, the Smithsonian has one other ship in its "fleet," the motor-powered sailing boat Ellida. Charged with deciding how the Ellida should be used, the Ships Committee tried it out last summer and determined that it was not suitable for research. The Ellida is now up for sale, and proceeds will go into the Ships Committee Fund, to be used someday to help the Institution obtain its needed vessels.

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