Members of the Board of Regents posed for a group photograph at their January meeting at Hillwood, home of Mrs. Marjorie Merriweather Post. At the meeting the Board formally accepted Mrs. Post's bequest of her estate. They also called for further study on proposals to establish a Mid-America Center of the Smithsonian in Arkansas and to publish a national magazine. A proposal is now before Congress that would add three more citizens to the Board to view in the Institution's increasing sphere of activities. In the photograph from left are: Caryl P. Haskins, Secretary Ripley, Frank T. Bow, Chief Justice Earl Warren, Seneca, C. H., from, Congressman J. Frank, J. Krum, Crawford H. Greenewalt, John Nicholas Brown, Senator Hugh Scott, Congressman George H. Mahon, Senator J. William Fulbright, and William A. M. Borden. Seated are Mrs. Post and former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey.

Dr. Boorstin Will Become Head of MHT

Historian Daniel J. Boorstin will become director of the Museum of History and Technology in October.

Dr. Boorstin, present in Oklahoma, Dr. Boorstin holds an undergraduate degree from Harvard College, two law degrees from Balliol College, Oxford, which he attended as a Rhodes Scholar, and a doctorate in juridical science from Yale.

Dr. Boorstin is a member of the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission which, looking toward 1976, has been formulating plans for a national commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the nation's independence. He also played a primary role in censorship projects opening the National Portrait Gallery last fall.

Looking toward assumption of the Directorship of the National Museum of History and Technology, Dr. Boorstin said: "I am delighted at this new opportunity to help make our history live.

To any historian worth his salt, this great museum of our Nation offers an irresistible challenge."

"In my writing about America, I have been searching mainly for two things. What was it like to be alive? What have we learned and how? For answering these questions—for discovering the American Experience and for defining the iridescent American Civilization—our National Museum, in the great tradition of the Smithsonian Institution, offers the best laboratory in the world."
Osceola, painted by Catlin at Ft. Moultrie, from the SI collection of Catlin.

Osceola's grave at Ft. Moultrie, where he had died a prisoner, and claimed to have conquered Florida. He refused, however, to show them to anyone.

The National Park Service, which maintains the grave site, exhumed a coffin.

MNH Scientists Hold Monthly Dinner Forums

Guess who's coming to dinner?—Scientists from the Museum of Natural History. Members of the Senate of Scientists are gathering about once a month for informal dinner forums at which they can get to know each other better and hear talks by a variety of speakers. The scientists and their guests will hear Dr. Nathan Reingold, editor of the Joseph Henry Papers, speak on "Joseph Henry's Dilemma" February 27, Dr. Sherwin Carlquist, of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, California, will discuss "Realities of Long-Distance Dispersion" April 22. Dr. David M. Gates, director of the Missouri Botanical Garden, chairman of the New York Flora Survey, Flora North America Project, and advisor to Congress on environmental problems, addressed the group in December. He discussed factors degrading our environment and what the Senate of Scientists can do about it.

Most recent speaker was Dr. Harve Carlson, director of the National Science Foundation's Division of Biological and Medical Sciences. His talk on "Perspectives of Prospects of Biological Sciences" drew enthusiastic response and a lively question period, one of the benefits of the loose-structured dinner format.

Outside speakers are invited to come early and spend a day being shown around the Museum. They are often struck by the wealth of information and the ability of the Smithsonian scientists to communicate it. They are often surprised at the number of people interested in these dinners. At the end of the dinner, the program includes the presentation of a book, which is proudly given to each of the dinner guests. It is often a book that has never been published. It is often a new book. It is always a Smithsonian publication. It is always something that those who are dedicated to the National Museum of Natural History, the National Museum of History and Technology, the National Museum of American Indian, the National Portrait Gallery, the American Museum of Natural History, and the National Museum of African American History and Culture, want to share with the world. It is always a book that is published by the distinguished botanist, Dr. George J. Berkley.

Dr. Eberhard Walker has spent much of his 69 years studying the botany of Okinawa, culminating in a major reference work on the plants of that Pacific island and the southern Ryukyus. The nearly completed manuscript, now exceeding 2,000 pages, is being prepared for publication by the distinguished botanist, Dr. Walker.

The Washington Senate of Scientists will continue to mark the Ft. Moultrie grave as Osceola's final resting place.

Dr. Eberhard Walker—Okinawan plants. Those plants whose personalities color their writings.

"Authors of popular books and pamphlets—no matter how landmark their sales—have become significant for their influence on the public. The most influential of all, the author, is not infrequently the only author whose name is known to the public. All other authors are forever in the shadow of the one. Authors are not only the leaders of the public, but the leaders of the nation. They are the spokesmen of the nation. They are the spokesmen of the nation's schools. They are the spokesmen of the nation's libraries. They are the spokesmen of the nation's museums. They are the spokesmen of the nation's public libraries. They are the spokesmen of the nation's public schools.

Walker Completing Major Work on Okinawan Flora

by George J. Berkley

Dr. Eberhard Walker has spent much of his 69 years studying the botany of Okinawa, culminating in a major reference work on the plants of that Pacific island and the southern Ryukyus. The nearly completed manuscript, now exceeding 2,000 pages, is being prepared for publication by the distinguished botanist, Dr. Walker.

The Washington Senate of Scientists will continue to mark the Ft. Moultrie grave as Osceola's final resting place.

Dr. Walker's manuscript, envisioned as an 800-page book entitled Flora of Okinawa and the Southern Ryukyus, describes in depth all species of higher plants—some 2,500 of those that produce seeds, plus the forms—in the research area.

It is a thorough work based on full-time studies, field collection, exploration, museum specimens, and collaboration with botanists in many parts of the world as well as Okinawa.

Further, the work provides means for obtaining the proper scientific Japanese names, as well as the botanical relationships, of these plants.

A unique feature of special interest to Americans is the translation into English of the Japanese names. Each species of that island is described in the Japanese name for the crepe myrtle is Sabi siberi, which means "monkey slobber," because of its smoothness too slippery for monkeys to climb.

Perhaps the most important feature in Walker's Flora is the inclusion of botanical keys, computer-like devices for finding the proper name of a plant.

Walker's Flora also reveals that many plants in the past have been introduced, apparently with hopes of improving the economy of Okinawa and the Ryukyus, but often with little success.

It shows what kinds of native and introduced plants are already on those islands, thus suggesting others that may be profitably brought in; contains many references to publications pertinent to economic botany; and provides keys to identifying destructive or dangerous flora.

"Weeds and harmful plants that have come into this country need intelligent control" emphasizes Dr. Walker. "However, they first must be properly identified.

He concludes: "Students in many disciplines must know the plants; even poets should know them."

Latin America Attracting Bulk Of SI Travelers

Compiled by Francine Berkowitz

Latin America is the most popular area of the world with Smithsonian travelers this month. The February travelers include:

James Peter, Repulse and Amphibians, in Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Peru and Colombia studying reptiles and amphibian collections in museums and related institutions.

Paul J. Springer, Entomology, in Venezuela; Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil, French Guiana, Surinam, Tahiti, and the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, to rear and collect aquatic beetles for research purposes and for inclusion in the collection.

Charles O. Handler, Jr., Mammals, Brazil, studying and collecting bats.

Philip Humphrey and Peter Farb, MNH Director's Office, in Brazil to study research programs on the tropical rain forest near Belen to gain information for the production of a proposed tropical rain forest exhibit in the Biophere Hall, MNH.

Alexander Wetmore, Birds, in the Netherlands Antilles to study local bird populations.

Larry R. Collins, NZP, in New Zealand and Australia to visit zoos and private collection and study animals in the field in connection with the construction of a multiclimatic house at the Zoo.

Toastmasters Pick Officers

Smithsonian toastmasters are off to a new year of talking with a fresh slate of officers.

Dr. Philip Bishop succeeds Paul Garber as president. Other officers include Sam Falbo, educational vice president; Earl Williams, administrative vice president; Walter Angst, treasurer; William Dunn, secretary, and Richard Farrar, sergeant at arms.
Hillwood Houses Treasures Of Imperial Russia, France

(Continued from page 1.)

Russian art of the 18th and 19th centuries. The design of the rooms and the artistic presentation of these rare, beautiful and historic objects combine to make Hillwood particularly suitable as a distinguished addition to the complex of Smithsonian museums."

"My two major interests," Mrs. Post has written, "have been in the art of eighteenth century France and in that of Imperial Russia—painting, porcelain, glass, jewelled articles, textiles, furniture. Perhaps, at this point, I should mention that the French eighteenth century art was my earlier interest and the Russian collection was only really started while I was en poste in Russia (1936-1938), but I have gone on collecting during all the twenty-nine years since then, and as the influence of the French artists and artisans was very strong in old Saint Petersburg and Moscow, it seems quite natural that these two artistic expressions should be brought together here."

Among the treasures of Hillwood are a number of creations by Faberge, jeweler to the czars, particularly famed for his bejeweled and enameled eggs exchanged as gifts on Easter by Russian royalty; Sevres porcelain; Beauvais tapestries; portraits of French and Imperial Russian nobility; and 18th century French furniture.

There is a full room dedicated to Russian porcelain. Another, the Icon Room, which contains the major portion of the Russian collection, houses a group of chalices that Mrs. Post says "is probably unique outside of Russia."

One of the most recent items to enter the collection, the nuptial crown made for the marriage of Marie Alexandrovna to the Grand Duke Alexander Alexandrovitch, later Tsar Alexander III, is also on display in this room. The only imperial crown outside of Russia, it has been exhibited in MHT on loan from Mrs. Post.

Mrs. Post has been equally generous in making other items from her collection available for special exhibitions, and has frequently opened her home to students and scholars.

Her bequest, formalized last month, will provide a permanent reminder of that already legendary generosity.

Hillwood's French drawing room, with portrait of Empress Eugenie of France by Winterhalter. At left are vitrines with rose de Pompadour Sevres, at right with turquoise Sevres. The vases on the mantle are from the Russian Imperial Porcelain Factory. On the chairs is Gobelins tapestry given to Prince Henry of Prussia by Marie Antoinette and Louis XVI.

Portrait of Alexander I of Russia by the famous French miniaturist Tschey (set in a gold box).
Sadik Tapped To Head NPG

Marvin S. Sadik, 36, director of the University of Connecticut's Museum of Art, will become director of the National Portrait Gallery July 1, succeeding Dr. Charles Nagel, who is retiring. Sadik graduated magna cum laude from Harvard in 1964. He has served as a curatorial assistant at the Portrait Gallery and the National Portrait Art Museum, a teaching fellow in the arts at Harvard, and curator and then director of the Bowdoin College Museum of Art. Dr. Nagel, who is immediately succeeded at the Portrait Gallery since it was established by Congress seven years ago. A former museum director in Brooklyn and St. Louis, Dr. Nagel came out of retire­ ment to supervise renovation of the his­ toric Old Patent Office Building and the opening of the Museum. Leopold, a teacher of philosophy, Mr. Sadik hopes the Gallery can help revive the art of portraiture in America and believe­ that the Gallery has a significant number of important artists who though not cur­ rently involved in portrait painting could be persuaded to do so personally, par­ ticularly for a cause such as national patriotism.

Sadik notes that although a significant number of portraits the Gallery would like to acquire already committed else­ where, the potential of the collection remains great: "If the British National Portrait Gallery, the Louvre, and the Hermitage can do it, why not is another matter. In the first place, it is the only his­ torical museum in this country with a staff of major pro­ portions comprised of historians. This staff is the equiva­ lent of a first-rate, well-staffed university department of the history of science; it also includes historians in the fields of political, cultural, military, and social history. Thus there are ample resources in qualified people to interpret the exhibits. When a staff is trained to do this, one is concerned with presenting" the facts" to the best of its ability. There is also an exhibits department which is probably the best in the Nation through which facts and ideas can be re­ stated when research has shown the emphasis to be at another point. This situation has resulted in a teaching museum in the best sense, geared to research and flexible about changing exhibits and exhibition objectives.

Preservation Trap

It has become apparent, however, that even such a won­ derful museum as our own Museum of History and Tech­ nology was opened in January 1964, it has been on a near-starvation diet. In the ensuing years, wars and neces­ sary domestic programs have swallowed up the federal dollar. The Museum educational and research staffs of the Smith­ sonian, the need to change exhibits and to improve their teaching quality and character, have received a low prior­ ity. The urgent needs to develop cultural and social history in our museums are hard to meet. But the need is there. We have failed to give the true historical picture, to describe the whole panorama of our cultures. Young people representing Negroes, Indians, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese and other subcultures would not see the evidence that they are part of the stream of history of the United States with a noble, a past vital, and an unlimited future. If our Institution is to play a valid role in the Bicentennial, then we must get it right. We should be prepared to correct what is in effect a series of oversights in history, the history of our country and of the multiplicity of our peoples.

One of the ways that we can do this is to emphasize in our exhibits the people and especially the ordinary, everyday people who built the roads, sailed the ships and planted the crops that made it possible for the ordinary non-privileged people to do simple things. Because of this, many of these people, the very stuff of our basic concern, will be revealed to belong to a wide variety of subcultures and of ethnic minorities, quite as well as the treasure found in our museums. Indeed we do not simply have museums of history, or of art, or of natural history so much as we have museums for and about men, either man's way of looking at the world of nature, or man's way of coping with the world of nature. And in some art museums we have a clue perhaps to the varieties of means by which man looks at himself.

MHT Has Moral Responsibility

By S. Dillon Ripley

The Museum of History and Technology is more than ever in the spotlight this month, with the appointment of a new director (see page 1). Following are some of Secretary Ripley's observations on the museum, taken from his statement in the forthcoming "Smithsonian Yearbook 1968.

"In a year of compulsive impact on the people of America, one theme, I think, has been borne in upon the Smith­ sonian Institution. This theme is that the Institution has a moral responsibility to consider its exhibits for the effect that they may have upon all sorts and conditions of people. Many of our exhibits are directly involved with history—the history of people and their machines and their material culture. The teaching of history itself has changed radically in a generation. In fact, perhaps, perhaps it has simply taught "the facts," whatever they may be, attempting to relate them without bias, as best they under­ stand it. Gradually this course of study as factually as possible must be seen to be in effect not rigidly and exactly true. At present history is coming to be thought of as social science. History indeed is now interpreted and is representative of a disillusionment of how things have been, indeed painful, but it is here to stay.

The Museum of History and Technology is one of the first of its kind in the world. It is in effect a teaching museum. Most museums that have little or no collections tend to be petrified. The reasons for this are various, but essentially revolve around people and money as might be expected. Historical collections have a strong personal bias and for too long have been brought in to museums out of the history of people and the collector's passion. Such collec­ tions are frequently steeped in myth. The provenance of the objects is seldom called into question.

"Fossilized" Museums

The second problem is money. Even if years later it becomes apparent that the information on the label is wrong, there is the expense of changing the label, or indeed of reordering the exhibit. Thus historical museums tend to become fossilized. Entrance into these "cemeteries" is considered by historians not only as dreary but as a trial. "Sensible historians tend to shun museums in principle, for it is known that the exhibits are merely of objects presented as memorials of the past. They speak or tell anything, and besides the chances are that the information that they are intended to convey is faulty. The Museum of History and Technology should be a representative museum of history, but whether it is or not is another matter. In the first place, it is the only his­ torical museum in this country with a staff of major pro­ portions comprised of historians. This staff is the equiva­ lent of a first-rate, well-staffed university department of the history of science; it also includes historians in the fields of political, cultural, military, and social history. Thus there are ample resources in qualified people to interpret the exhibits. When a staff is trained to do this, one is concerned with presenting "the facts" to the best of its ability. There is also an exhibits department which is probably the best in the Nation through which facts and ideas can be re­ stated when research has shown the emphasis to be at another point. This situation has resulted in a teaching museum in the best sense, geared to research and flexible about changing exhibits and exhibition objectives.

Overseas in History

Part of the Smithsonian's problem has been lack of money. A generous Congress has awarded money for buildings, but the annual budgets for installation and research have not kept up with the obligations created by the building. Since the Museum of History and Tech­ nology was opened in January 1964, it has been on a near-starvation diet. In the ensuing years, wars and neces­ sary domestic programs have swallowed up the federal dollar. The Museum educational and research staffs of the Smith­ sonian, the need to change exhibits and to improve their teaching quality and character, have received a low prior­ ity. The urgent needs to develop cultural and social history in our museums are hard to meet. But the need is there. We have failed to give the true historical picture, to describe the whole panorama of our cultures. Young people representing Negroes, Indians, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese and other subcultures would not see the evidence that they are part of the stream of history of the United States with a noble, a past vital, and an unlimited future. If our Institution is to play a valid role in the Bicentennial, then we must get it right. We should be prepared to correct what is in effect a series of oversights in history, the history of our country and of the multiplicity of our peoples.

One of the ways that we can do this is to emphasize in our exhibits the people and especially the ordinary, everyday people who built the roads, sailed the ships and planted the crops that made it possible for the ordinary non-privileged people to do simple things. Because of this, many of these people, the very stuff of our basic concern, will be revealed to belong to a wide variety of subcultures and of ethnic minorities, quite as well as the treasure found in our museums. Indeed we do not simply have museums of history, or of art, or of natural history so much as we have museums for and about men, either man's way of looking at the world of nature, or man's way of coping with the world of nature. And in some art museums we have a clue perhaps to the varieties of means by which man looks at himself.