The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute is a center devoted to the study and support of tropical biology, education and conservation. Its research focuses broadly on the evolution of patterns of behavior and ecological adaptations. The Trophies offer the richest natural laboratory for these purposes and Panama further offers its unique zoogeographic characteristics—a bridge to terrestrial life forms of two continents and a burt to marine life of two oceans.

Within the span of a few hours, field studies in Panama on the history of an extraordinary array of different habitats—rain forest, montane cloud forest, savannah, mixed grassland and coastal Pacific and Atlantic Oceans and the great fresh water body of Gatun Lake, a multitude of living coral reefs, sandy bottom, rainforests, mangrove swamps, estuaries, the offshore islands of San Blas and Bocas, and still further habitats. The Institute operates Barro Colorado Island, which was set aside for science in 1923 as a 55 acre nature preserve, and Gatun Lake at the center of the Panama Canal Zone. Traveling on the islands, including at least 465 species of land vertebrates, provides laboratory and living quarters for use by scientists and students.

STRI is also making increasing contributions in the way of marine environments. Two marine biology laboratories have been developed on the Caribbean and Pacific sides of the isthmus at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

Cryptic insects photographed by STRI entomologist Michael Robinson.

Tooh rough to attempt getaway.... May 23 Too rough again. Weather not very good.

The photos, souvenirs and tapes of voices of the past were stored in a drawer.

"Read told me that I'd know the proper moment to give the log to the Smithsonian and I guess this is it."

Steirman decided to write Triumph by voice recorder. He had gone to the library to look up "The Lost Battalion" and in so doing came upon the front page of the New York Times of May 28, 1919, headlining the first successful flight across the Atlantic.

He considered himself a flying buff, having served as flight lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Air Force in World War II, but he had never heard of the NC-4. He found three paragraphs in the World Almanac and a few lines on Commander Read in the Washington Post.

With the book finally completed, the log presented to the Smithsonian Institution of Panama.

STR3 Offers Rare Research Opportunities

by Edward H. Kohn

NC-4 Log Presented to SI, Chronicles Historic Flight

Fifty years after a small, matter-of-fact New Englander displayed both brilliance as a navigator and more than his share of courage commanding the first plane ever to cross the Atlantic, his thought-marked, carefully written log of the flight has come unexpectedly to light.

The small historic volume—the log of Commander Read—was presented to the Smithsonian during commemorative ceremonies on the Mall on May 8, 1969, by Rear Adm. A. C. Read, USN(ret.), took the log from his desk drawer and gave it to Hy Steirman, a young free lance writer researching a book on the NC-4 and its pioneering transatlantic flight in 1919—a feat comparable in its way and its day to a transatlantic journey in 1919—a feat comparable in its way and its day to a transatlantic journey in 1919—a feat comparable in its way and its day to a transatlantic journey in 1919—a feat comparable in its way and its day to a transatlantic journey in 1919—a feat comparable in its way and its day to a transatlantic journey in 1919—a feat comparable in its way and its day to a transatlantic journey in 1919—a feat comparable in its way and its day to a transatlantic journey in 1919—a feat comparable in its way and its day to a transatlantic journey in 1919—a feat comparable in its way and its day to a transatlantic journey in 1919—a feat comparable in its way and its day to a transatlantic journey in 1919—a feat comparable in its way and its day to a 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—Lexington—

Super Runner, Super Sire, Out to Pasture in MHN

by Mary M. Krug

When 1969's promising three-year-olds have established themselves in this spring's Kentucky Derby, Preakness, and Belmont Stakes, will there be another Lexington among them?

Lexington never ran in any of the Triple Crown races, or in any other currently well known stakes race, but he is nonetheless remembered as one of America's greatest horses. So great was he, in fact, that his bones have been made part of the permanent collections of the Smithsonian Institution, and were on public display until a few years ago. Lexington lost only one race in his career, and that on a day when he was less than healthy. He subsequently set a four-mile record of 7.193 at the Metairie Course in New Orleans, a record that stood for some 20 years. He started seven races and won six, earning $56,600, but his greatest fame came as a sire.

Carl Grant Joins Personnel Staff

Carl E. Grant has joined the staff of the Office of Personnel and Management Resources as a Senior Personnel Consultant.

He came from the U.S. Civil Service Commission, Bureau of Executive Personnel, where he served as an Occupational Specialist concerned with the development and administration of an executive personnel program for the Federal Government.

From 1960 until 1966 he was employed by the Department of the Army in various capacities in the personnel field culminating in his appointment as a Personnel Officer. In 1966 he transferred to the Defense Contract Audit Agency as a Staff Specialist in Career Management Programs.

He will provide personnel and organizational consulting service to the Secretariat.

SI, MIT to Collaborate

In Sao Paulo Bienal Entry

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology will collaborate with the Smithsonian on producing and exhibiting the official United States entry in the X Bienal de Sao Paulo (10th Sao Paulo Biennial).

Largest of the international art biennials, with entries from more than 70 nations, the Brazilian event will be held this year from the last week of September through December.

Georgy Kepes, Director of M.I.T.'s Center for Advanced Visual Studies, will direct the design and construction of what is expected to be a trend-setting American entry. He will work with a number of Fellows at the Center for Advanced Visual Studies.

They will produce an exhibition made up of two parts. The first section will have a theme Kepes describes as a "community, or society," of objects ranging from simple to more complex forms, which will interact with each other and produce "a sort of fabric." The second part of the exhibition will be an "information center" using a wide range of simultaneous techniques—films, slides, video tapes, all showing aspects of the American art scene. The two sections of the exhibition will be constructed in a large room. The room, its contents, and the environment produced will thus constitute the work of art.

It will be the first time a national art biennial has ever been a team effort without individual artists being featured.

Following exhibition in Brazil, the U.S. entry will be brought to this country and displayed at the National Collection and in Cambridge, Mass., at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Alexander Calder's jet black 40-foot stabile, a gift to the Smithsonian from Mrs. Gwendolyn Cafritz, takes shape in its large room. The room, its contents, and the environment produced will thus constitute the work of art.

It will be the first time a national art biennial has ever been a team effort without individual artists being featured.

Benson Attending Czech Meeting

Compiled by Francine Berkowitz

Palaeontologist Richard H. Benson will represent the Smithsonian this month in Czechoslovakia at the 170th anniversary celebration of the birth of Joachim Barande. He will then go on to Turkey, Cyprus, Italy, Great Britain, and Yugoslavia to discuss international cooperative programs.

Other May travelers include:

W. Thomas Chase, Free, in England, Scotland, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, and Sweden visiting conservation laboratories and museums.

Richard Cifelli, Palaeontology, visiting Spain, Tunisia, and Italy to conduct research on planktonic foraminifera.

Paul Gardner, Ceramics and Glass, in Great Britain, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, France, and Belgium to study ceramics and glass collections.

Richard H. Howland, special assistant to Secretary, attending meetings at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens.

Mendel L. Peterson, Armed Forces History, attending the International Congress of Museums of Arms and Military History in Rome and studying artillery collections throughout western Europe.


Wallace R. Ernst, Botany, in Morocco to explore opportunities for cooperative botanical research and perform botanical field work.
A Glimpse of STRI

Ornithologist Neal Smith gathers data on nesting oropendolas in a current study.

Stone steps on Barro Colorado, infamous landmark in field of tropical research, lead from the shore of Gatun Lake up the side of the heavily forested tropic island.

Galeta Island corals are a research specialty of STRI marine biologist Peter Glynn. Underwater photo by Anthony Mann.

Cebus monkeys—photogenic subjects in broad behavioral research under way at STRI. Photo by John Oppenheimer.

Dr. and Mrs. Ira Rubinoff search for specimens at low tide in marine biology studies that include the potential ecological effect of joining the Atlantic and Pacific by a proposed new sea level canal.

Visiting graduate fellow Ron Larkin is studying a peccary—one of hundreds of species of fauna on Barro Colorado.
NCFA Offers Kid Stuff—Touchable Art Displays

by Benjamin Ruhé

A miniature art museum they can call their own has been opened for children by the National Collection of Fine Arts. Touching and rearranging of sculptures is encouraged. Some objects are climbable.

Opening May 1 with a party for children of staff members and docents, the unique one-room art gallery is located across from the museum shop on the first floor.

The Junior Museum, as it is called, has been fostered by Susan Sollins, museum programs assistant to NCFA director Dr. David G. Hackett.

"We want to take away the idea of many children that a museum is a scary place," she says in discussing the project. The museum will be used every day at scheduled times, and always under adult supervision. Exhibits will change at least yearly. There is space in the museum for up to 60 people.

On display are only two paintings, an 18-foot striped canvas by Gene Davis and Robert Indiana's "The Figure Five." Lyman Kipp's four-foot minimal sculpture, designed specifically for the Children's Museum and a gift of the artist.

NC-4 Log (Continued from page 1)

log went into his files and was almost forgotten in the pressure of his current work as publisher of Cornucopia magazine. But he will never forget "Putty" Read.

"He was the first man to fly across the Atlantic Ocean," Steierman wrote in the closing lines of his book. "He had changed the world.

In addition to the log, he also turned over other historic NC-4 material including photographs, then-Lieutenant Commander Read's scrapbook, and tape recordings of the 1939 interviews with Read.

Other participants in the ceremony included Read's widow, E. S. Rhoads, one of the two survivors of the crew: Admiral Thomas H. Moorer, Chief of Naval Operation; Dr. J. C. Hunsaker, a retired former head of the University of Indiana's aeronautics department; and Robert Indiana, a musicologist as well as an artist.

May lunchbox speakers at NASM's Wednesday morning seminars in the conference room include:

May 14-Harvey Lipincott, engineer and historian, Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Division, "Early High Altitude Tests for the Pratt and Whitney Wasp Engine.

May 28-Captain Robert A. Lavender, USN Ret., radio officer for the NC-3 transatlantic flight and radio officer for the NC-3, "The First Transatlantic Flight."