Carnegie Mansion
To House Cooper-Hewitt Museum

Secretary Ripley and Alan Pfizer, president of the Carnegie Corporation, formally signed a lease last month that will turn New York's historic Carnegie Mansion into the new home of the Cooper-Hewitt Museum of Decorative Arts and Design within a year.

The ceremony took place before a distinguished group of museum directors and officials of New York's civic and cultural world. Mrs. Jacob M. Kaplan, chairman of Cooper-Hewitt's advisory board, introduced the museum's new director, Mrs. Lisa Suter Taylor (see story this page).

The elegant 64-room house, covering five floors with sub-basement, was built in 1901 at a cost of about $1.5 million. With its gardens, it occupies the block between 90th to 93rd Street on Fifth Avenue and will at last provide adequate space to display the museum's collections. Portions of the house will be restored to their original appearance as much as is possible, including the entrance hall, the dining room, the library, the conservatory and the garden.

An unusually interesting room, originally Andrew Carnegie's dressing room, is paneled in teak wood carved by hand in India and brought to this country by Lockwood de Forest—a personal friend of Carnegie and a founding trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. This room will provide an ideal setting for the Cooper-Hewitt's collections of Far Eastern material. An adjacent adjoining room, formerly the billiard room for jewelry and other precious art objects, is panelled in wood, was intricately carved and will at last provide adequate space to display the museum's collections of Far Eastern material.

Another fascinating part of the house is the old heating plant and utility area.
Research Ship Phyllos Sails To Yugoslavia

The Phyllos, the Smithsonian's marine research vessel, sailed across the Atlantic this month to take part in the International Cooperative Investigation of the Mediterranean.

It was manned by a 14-man crew of volunteers rounded up from the Smithsonian, the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and the U.S. Navy. They were expected to have a rolling deck beneath their feet during the voyage because the 14,000-ton ship has a flat bottomed hull and was not designed as a sea-going vessel.

The Phyllos was built originally as a freighter for Navy Yard work before being taken over as a research vessel five years ago by the Smithsonian's Office of Oceanography and Limnology.

The ship reached Halifax on the first leg of the trip on September 10, reportedly just in advance of Hurricane Gerda.

Phyllos is expected to make a valuable contribution to the Mediterranean area. It will be the only American government ship ever to participate in such an investigation, joining American research ships from private institutions including the University of Washington and Woods Hole Oceanographic Laboratories. Dr. Eugene Waillon, Director of the Smithsonian's Office of Oceanography and Limnology, is American coordinator for the International Cooperative Investigation.

Among the crew on the trip over were Peter Copeland, an illustrator with the exhibition section of the Museum of History and Technology, and a former merchant marine man named Joseph Kornicker, a librarian at MHT who worked his way through college as a cook on a seagoing tug; and Helen, a former Merchant Marine Center employee.

When the Phyllos arrived at its destination, Rijeka, Yugoslavia, the crew was to fly back to the United States, and a new crew was to take over on board the ship for the duration of the investigation.

Since 1967, Phyllos had been for her haunted her home port in the Southern Maine Vocational Institute. The Institution "retired" the ship in June, and it spent the summer at the Navy Yard here undergoing repairs. A great deal of special equipment is being installed to equip the ship with the gavitiety of the Coast Guard, Navy and MHT.

Mel Jackson, an MHT historian who had served for 16 years in the Merchant Marine, was originally to skipper the Phyllos. Because of repair delays he relinquished the job to Gerald Hood of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in Miami, Fla.

Carnegie Mansion

(Continued from page 1)

locate it in the sub-basement flights under the street. It gives the appearance of an engine room in a great boat. Nothing like it can be found elsewhere in the city. Coopper-Hewitt plans to include this room in an exhibition in itself, an example of engineering at the turn of the century.

The lease is for a 16-year period, rent free, with option to purchase July 1, 1981 at fair market value, less the amount spent on permanent improvements. The Smithsonian will have three years to exercise this option at the price established on July 1, 1981. It will pay costs of occupancy and will be responsible for all maintenance, alteration and repairs including preparation of the building for use. It will also be responsible during any period of the lease for adequate assurance of the premises.

Lisa Taylor

(Continued from page 1)

Alone or with other components of the Smithsonian, the Associates staged avant garde musical and play productions, sponsored ballets and folk performances, and played host to Japanese theatrical troupes. Weekend study tours to private homes and public collections on the East Coast were held, as well as high seas field trips to hunt mushrooms and fossils and study industrial archaeology, among other pursuits. Fashion shows, Ziegfeld sketchings, and an annual kite carnival on Washington's Mall were all other activities that helped to establish the Associates in these formative years.

Popular Film Theater Starts 4th Season of Weekly Shows

From the mysteries of Easter Island to the last commercial sailing fleet in North America, the Smithsonian Institution Film Theatre is once again bringing the Washington public weekly movies to suit a broad range of tastes. October 1 marked the beginning of the five fall seasons in a series that has grown increasingly popular and which is expected to continue into the traditional Wednesday night showing of the next season on September 23, 1970.

Each week's film theatre includes one or more films related to the topic for which it was selected by the Associates for adequate assurance of the premises.

November 5, 6

A fascinating expedition led by Thor Heyerdahl, to uncover the mystery of the giant stone heads on Easter Island: "Aku-Aku." The David Humphreys' polar expedition that changed the map of the

Training Program A First for SI.

The Smithsonian is participating in a unique management program that marks the first time the Institution has developed and presented an interagency training course.

The workshop was put together by employee development officers from the U.S. Army at Ft. Meade, GSA Region 3, and SI. Harold Cohea was course director for the Smithsonian.

Designed to help middle managers adapt to rapid changes in administrative techniques, the first session was held at MHT. The program will be repeated at the other agencies during the fiscal year and involve a total of about 40 participants from SI.

MHT Seaman Recounts Rollicking Ride

The Phyllos (see story this page) has safely reached port after an eventful voyage described in a semi-official dispatch from crew member Peter Copeland of the MHT staff.

Following are excerpts from that missive:

News Flash of the month:
That madcap pleasure barge, the fun ship Phykos, has, at last, after fun filled weeks afloat, reached safe harbor at Rijeka, Yugoslavia. The whole crew enjoyed thoroughly by all hands, was enriched by the charm, vivacity, and sparkling wit of our host and commander Captain Gerald Hood of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in Miami, Fla.

The voyage got off to a rather slow start, in that necessary repairs were being made to the ship through the generosity of the Coast Guard, the Navy and MHT. After sailing from Norfolk on September 5, we exhilarated our passengers soon found their sea legs and heartily entered into the adventure of sailing like it can be found elsewhere in the world:

Dr. Peter Copeland, of the MHT exhibits staff.

Handsome Scottish oak paneling, carved and prepared in Scotland, provides a suitably impressive background for the Carnegie Mansion's large wooden staircase. It is typical of the elaborate detail in the sturdy home (above), which has outer walls three feet thick and pavements all around of Vermont granite that will last indefinitely.

DRAW — This undistinguished looking object is packing them in at the Arts and Industries Building. You have to remind yourself that this dull bank of rock is the single most valuable object within the Institution, and that it has often been the object of man's aspirations and even worship throughout history. About a quarter of a million people came to see this first lunar sample placed on public display during its first month on exhibition. It is on indefinite loan from NASA to the National Air and Space Museum.
Ceylon Lures Soderstrom From Green Grass of Home

by Tom Harney

Dr. Thomas R. Soderstrom, associate curator at the National Museum of Natural History's Botany Department, left here the first week in October for a three-month expedition to Ceylon.

When a visitor dropped by Soderstrom's office on the fourth floor of the Smithsonian Institution, he was greeted by numerous bags of plastic specimen vials, an altimeter, hundreds of seed envelopes, a Nikon camera that was plugged in, a plant press, and a pair of field boots and old tennis shoes.

"I'm really excited about the trip," Soderstrom said. "I stopped over in Ceylon in July on my way back from a trip to India and found it a great place, beautiful, cool and tropical."

British writer Arthur C. Clarke, incidentally, once warned about the seductive effect Ceylon could have on a visitor: "A short visit—say one or two weeks—is probably harmless, and may even be an effective antidote if customs officials and weather are uncooperative; but anything over a couple of months may have serious consequences. Though I have never met a lotus in the famous Botanical Gardens at Kandy, the mountain capital of Ceylon, I suspect the story is true." Soderstrom, a native of Illinois, came to Ceylon to study grasses in connection with a proposed project of the FAO, UNESCO and other organizations.

"A lot of the grasses we study are important for agriculture or for pharmaceutical uses," Dr. Soderstrom explained that the cane was woven one square inch for the back or seat of a chair. So tightly that it took 44 plaits to produce one square inch for the back or seat of a chair. So tightly that it took 44 plaits to produce a chair for Dr. Howland. The chairs are scattered throughout the Institution.

"Many of the forest areas are critical because they are cut over for fuel by the Ceylonese, and this may be our last chance to collect some of the species before they vanish," Soderstrom said.

The specimens he collects will be preserved temporarily by wetting with alcohol in the field and later pressed and dried with heaters in Kandy, before shipping back to the United States. When Soderstrom returns he will have the specimens mounted on rag paper and attach a typed label which provides such information as the habitat and altitude where the specimen was collected. The specimens will then be ready to become a part of the Smithsonian's grass collection.

The Smithsonian and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, England, have the largest grass collections in the world. The English collection has the edge in grasses of the tropical region, but the Smithsonian's is stronger in North and South American grasses. Some 7,000 different species of grasses are known to exist.

Soderstrom has been one of the most active travelers on the Smithsonian staff in recent years. In April he went to Tunisia to study grasses in connection with a proposed project of the FAO, UNESCO, and other organizations. In June he flew to Puerto Rico for a symposium sponsored by the Association for Tropical Biology, of which he is the current director, and then in July he went to India to reorganize a project in which he is collaborating with Dr. Cleofe Calderon of Argentina and Professor V. Puri of India.

Soderstrom said he is going to stay put for awhile.

"I don't want to cut grass. I'd rather look at it and enjoy it," he said.

"Let's just say that he had only 10 blocks available to construct the foundations of his study, but because we're doing our study on such an intense scale we'll probably have 500 or even 1,000 blocks to build over," Soderstrom said.

Soderstrom is a grass expert, an agrostologist, and his primary concern while in Ceylon will be collecting and classifying specimens of the island's estimated 400 species of grasses. He will be assisted by three other grass men, Dr. W. Derek Reed of England's Royal Botanic Garden at Kew, Dr. N. A. M. Severtson of the Smithsonian Institution, and Dr. Richard Howland, special assistant to the Secretary.

Dr. Albert Carl Severtsen rebuilt demolished docks in the Pacific during World War II. He is a trained carpenter for a mill working company on wooden furniture, homesteaded in Idaho in the '50s while working part-time on a construction firm and subsequently went to a shop in the task of reweaving two rosewood desks. He was going to remain unidentified by the taxonomists. He said this restoring may not be the only thing he did in the shop for the final touches.

A number of important pieces of furniture that he has restored have been put on display in the Museum of History and Technology. These pieces of furniture include the 18th-century Rooms, Desk, a Pennsylvania Dutch Chest and an Early American Bed. Other items are scattered throughout the Institution.

Severtson's talents were recently tried in the task of reweaving two rosewood chairs for Dr. Howland. The chairs were woven with minute strands of cane. More than a century of wear and tear made the seats of the chairs look as if they had weathered at least one nuclear holocaust. Severston looked around first for someone to do the caning and was refused everywhere he turned. Finally he decided to do the work himself.

To pointing to the original weaves and speaking in a soft, slow manner, Severston explains that the cane was woven so tightly that it was impossible to produce one square inch for the back or seat of the chair, in the over-two-under-two weave that duplicates the original workmanship.

The work involved in restoring an 1850 chair by duplicating the original cane pattern would try most men's patience, but for Albert Severtson it's just part of his day's work. After all, he has a background full of training. A shop full of tools, cans, woods and glues, a disposition full of kindness, and that bulging scrapbook full of compliments.
From Bikes to Biology, SI Projects Delight Interns

One group created an entire exhibition, while another group studied ways to evaluate and increase the educational impact of exhibits. Still others mapped bicycle routes, made clinical studies of bacteria, and worked with polymer materials.

Those disparate projects all had one common tie—they were all conducted by the 80-odd summer interns who worked at the Smithsonian until last month.

A group of two, the Fisk University students offered their summer's efforts for public scrutiny. The young art students earned six academic credits for a special training program in museum exhibits techniques put together for them by Gene Behlen and Carl Alexander of the Office of Exhibits.

A third apprenticeship in every phase of exhibit-making from script writing to silk screening, the five tackled their "final examination," a complete exhibit conceived, designed, and produced by them. The result was "Color Me Man- kind," a display on contemporary ghetto life including photographs, continuous slide and film shows, and a ghetto environment complete with garbage cans and freeway signs. Designed to travel, the show moved to Fisk this month.

Looking for ways to measure and increase the effectiveness of museum exhibits, 15 individuals ranging from undergraduates to a junior college instructor participated in the Office of Academic Programs' "Summer Institute in Display Systems." The institute was conducted by Elisabeth Wuest, chairman of the Lehigh University psychology department, ran the institute, and members were made up of such educators as Harriet W. tuber and Peter Welch.

Institute participants were given a three-week introduction to the Smithsonian, its history, the philosophy and purpose of its exhibits, the design and individual exhibits and halls. They also visited other local museums. Each then did an independent project in some exhibit-related area. Among them were short guides such as the one that could be taken if a visitor had only a certain amount of time to spend, and attempts to measure what visitors did in a given hall.

The group presented their project reports to each other in a three-day seminar at the end of the institute. Their suggestions and observations will, hopefully, lead to ways of measuring and increasing the effectiveness of the exhibits program.

Among other students placed in summer projects by Academic Programs was an unusual young lady who stated in her application that "My academic career has been characterized thus far as what seems like a shaky balancing act between pedantry and academic creativity." A psychology major, she described her hopes of obtaining a true liberal education.

In keeping with that desire, she requested work in the American Studies Program. "Although I offer no specific preparation in the field of history, I feel I do not ask for a completely one-sided risk on your part. After three consecutive summers' work in research, I feel I have a good background in that general and hard-to-describe prerequisite which I shall call Research Appreciation."

She found her summer working on the Joseph Henry Papers under Nathan Reingold to be even more than she had hoped.

"It is common misconception among scientists that they could never have been historians. Scientists have to memorize dates and things, and a scientist's mind is not built to handle such things. But avoids all need for remembering the data. I was typically flabbergasted at Dr. Reingold's ability to expound at great length on all the historical implications of what I thought very dry chemical reactions. I was equally surprised to learn from another historian, James Hobbin, that this was possible without memorizing anything. I grew to realize that my own conceptions of Joseph Henry's friends or the architect for the Smithsonian building. Almost subliminally, I have assimilated a whole 19th Century history of my career, and I am convinced that there is no more effective way to learn history than to work with it."

"...When I compare working at the Joseph Henry Papers with work I have done in the past, in my research laboratories, I think the primary difference is the existence of more 'project identity' at the Smithsonian. I found an esprit, which transcended each staff member's specialty, was present in the project as a whole. The Smithsonian Institution itself was part of the environment, which helped to make it more enjoyable."

Probably the most unusual summer effort was that conducted by Cherry Maurer of Wells College and Bryant Young of Yale. The two spent the summer in what their supervising department, the American Studies Program, viewed as an exercise in solving a problem with historical roots and contemporary implications.

The problem is commuter traffic. Their approach was bicycle routes for suburbanites. The young pair spent their summer driving, walking and mapping. They studied old maps and marked new ones. They ran an estimate on a proposed pilot proj ect budget (about $15,000). They fitted bicycle racks for commuters' businesses, and even considered the most appropriate locales for adding policers if the bike routes are approved.

The final report prepared by Miss Maurer and Mr. Young was presented informally to a meeting of interested citizens, including City Council chairman Gilbert Hahn, and to the D.C. highway department. The D.C. City Council planned to discuss the proposal at a forthcoming session.

Before returning to school, the pair expressed the hope that their work would not meet the fate predicted in one of the history sources they consulted Donkey Horse, and Bicycle, by Dr. C. E. Nash. Published in 1896. Dr. Nash forecast: "A hundred years from now Arkansas will not have a turnpike in every county, but long before that time the bicycle will be piled up with the old wheels and trumpey at the Smithsonian Institution, whether it be buried in a burial place, and serve only as monuments to a deluded age."

No matter what the project's ultimate fate, however, the pair's attitude toward their summer job was the same right that their peers felt, whether working at the Zoo or the Division of Performing Arts. It was an attitude summarized by Norman Dean, Yale intern in the Office of Public Affairs. "I wouldn't say this job's what I expected. It's what I hoped for."

Pottery excavated from an early American privacy is probably not going to be in the best condition. But when Dorothy Briggs, museum specialist in MHT, gets through with it, its old design is restored and it is ready for public display.

Dorothea Bridgwater, a Minnehaha technical assistant in the Division of Cultural History has been excavating Old Town Alexandria for about four years, offer high praise for the vital role Miss Briggs plays in his project. He finds the pottery and rebuilds it with dental plaster, and then it is up to her to fill in the gaps in the decoration. Above all, she works on a Staffordshire pearlware bowl, c. 1790, taken from the rear of Arrel's Tavern, where George Washington was a frequent visitor.

Mazez is written into the redevelopment contracts let by the city of Alexandria for the market square section. He follows the bulldozers, working ahead of the concrete, seeing the site from the viewpoint of the manufacturer, running through the Zoo's diorama of living Vertebrates. Still others mapped bicycle routes in the American Studies Program, viewed as an exercise in solving a problem with historical roots and contemporary implications. The problem is commuter traffic. Their approach was bicycle routes for suburbanites. The young pair spent their summer driving, walking and mapping. They studied old maps and marked new ones. They ran an estimate on a proposed pilot project budget (about $15,000). They fitted bicycle racks for commuters' businesses, and even considered the most appropriate locales for adding policers if the bike routes are approved. The final report prepared by Miss Maurer and Mr. Young was presented informally to a meeting of interested citizens, including City Council chairman Gilbert Hahn, and to the D.C. highway department. The D.C. City Council planned to discuss the proposal at a forthcoming session.

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With the help of SAO, Israel may soon build its first astronomical observatory.

The facility, including a 24- to 36-inch general purpose telescope, will be located on Mount Ramon, which is about 100 miles south of Tel Aviv and within the "old" Israeli borders.

Under the excess foreign currency program, administered at SAO by Ron La Count, the Smithsonian will contribute the equivalent of $330,000 in Israeli pounds—provided, of course, that the money is allocated by the Senate some time next month. The funding will be through SJ's Office of International Activities. The Israeli government is contributing $250,000 to the overall project. According to Dr. Myron Lecar, director of the SAO-Tel Aviv University project, the telescope should be installed by October, 1971.

Bridgwater Appointed

Donald D. Bridgwater has been appointed general curator of the Zoo's Division of Living Vertebrates. Mr. Bridgwater joined the staff of the National Zoo in March 1968. Prior to that he was scientific curator of small mammals and birds for 216 years at the Oklahoma Zoo.

Shannon at Corcoran

The work of Joseph Shannon, assistant chief of illustrations and graphics in MNH Exhibits, will be on display at a corporate exhibition to be held at the Corcoran Gallery of Art beginning November 21.

The show will include some 35 figurative works in polymer, oils and drawings.

Library Committee

The Smithsonian has been elected to a third consecutive term of two years on the Federal Library Committee. The Committee, established in 1965 to improve coordination and planning among research libraries of the federal government, is composed of representatives from the executive agencies and the three national libraries.