Among Smithsonian participants in the 139th annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science were (from left to right): Sen. Robert C. Byrd, Secretary Reingles, Dr. Buzas, Secretary Ripley and Dr. Dillon. In center is Anacostia Neighborhood Museum exhibit.

The 139th annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, with Secretary S. Dillon Ripley as honorary chairman and broad SI staff participation and attendance, drew more than 6,800 scientists and interested lay public to sessions held throughout the Washington, D.C., community December 26-30.

The initial day of the meeting was marked by two receptions at SE. The first, in the SI Building, observed the publication by the Smithsonian Institution Press of the first volume of the Papers of Joseph Henry, a project headed by historian Dr. Nathan Reingles. In conjunction with the publication—and the AAAS meeting—a special exhibition of Henry’s career opened simultaneously in the Hall. (Henry served as the second president of the AAAS in 1849.)

The second event, the chairman’s reception sponsored by Secretary Ripley for the officers and directors of the AAAS, was held at the National Portrait Gallery, and coincided with the opening of the NPG exhibit “The Lazarroni,” also specially prepared to mark the occasion of the AAAS meeting. The Lazarroni was a group of scientists, of whom Henry was one, who dominated the American scientific community in the mid-19th century and whose efforts resulted in the establishment of the National Academy of Sciences.

Chairman’s Symposium

Prior to the NPG reception, Secretary Ripley’s Chairman’s Symposium, “Human Learning Capacity in Neurological Perspective,” focused on “Learning in a Cultural Perspective on Early Development,” summarizing studies of children in rural and town settings in Guatamala that indicate that cognitive functions develop very well in spite of a deparate environment where there is no formal schooling.

Organized by Dr. Philip RRitterbusch, former Director of the SI’s Office of Academic Programs, the Chairman’s Symposium explored the revolutionary changes in concepts of human learning derived from recent studies in the sciences. These changes suggest styles of learning broader than those now governing educational practice and bear out Mr. Ripley’s belief that museums are one of the ways outside a school by which education can be acquired.

The two-day Symposium provided ample highlights and an exploration of the frontal lobe function which seem likely to have a future bearing on the study of cognitive behavior and a consideration of ways in which educational design may be expected to release human behavioral potential. One session, devoted to the biological basis of the faculty for productive behavior and the acquisition of language, was chaired by Wilton Dixon, Director of the SI Office of Seminars.

Before the first town of one of its meetings, the AAAS sponsored the Experimental Regional information exchange called “Capital City Readout,” it consisted of 40 exhibits set up at the Washington Hilton Hotel by organizations from the Washington metropolitan area. SI’s Anacostia Neighborhood Museum was one of the participants, with a booth identifying issues confronting the Anacostia area. A feedback system was used to collect visitors’ responses to the issues raised by the exhibitors.

A series of demonstrations has been held in January to introduce Smithsonian personnel to the potential application of portable 1/4-inch video equipment for educational purposes. A series of five workshops will instruct employees on care of the equipment and present techniques of taping, editing, collating, and producing, and editing, and producing its own tapes.

Registration for classes will be honored in order of receipt. For information, call Extension 6491.
Dr. James Peters, Reptiles Curator
At MNH, Dies

Dr. James A. Peters, 50, curator in charge of the Division of Reptiles and Amphibians since 1966, died December 18 at Sibley Hospital in Washington after a month-long illness.

Dr. Peters was interested in the fields of systematic zoology and zoogeography of reptiles and amphibians, especially those of Latin America. He was an expert on the amphibians and reptiles of Ecuador, and pioneered in the application of computer technology to systematic zoology and museum curatorial operations.

He was the author of more than 100 scientific papers, including Classic Papers in Genetics, which is used as a college text, and A Dictionary of Herpetology. In 1970 his work Catalogue of the Neotropical Squamata was published by the Smithsonian.

Dr. Peters became interested in herpetology during high school and attended a Chicago meeting of the professional American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists when he was 17. He remained active with that society over the years and was later its secretary and president.

Dr. Peters was born in Durant, Iowa. He received his doctorate at the University of Michigan in 1953. He was an associate professor at Brown University from 1952 to 1958; was Fulbright Professor at the Universidad Central de Ecuador from 1958 to 1959, and taught at San Fernando State College from 1959 to 1964. He came to the Smithsonian in February 1964.

He was a member of the Southern California Academy of Sciences, the Biological Society of Washington, the Society for Study of Evolution, and many other scientific societies.

Interests included Greenup, Ill., the town in which Dr. Peters grew up.

Dr. Peters

BMD Supports Veterans’ Program

The Buildings Management Department is supporting the effort to assist Viet Nam veterans in their transition from military to civilian life, by participating in a program in which a veteran that has six months or less to serve on his enlistment is brought into BMD and serves within his skill or trade until he is discharged from the military.

Thus, the serviceman is oriented to a civilian employment and the Smithsonian gets a typical, seasoned, experienced and skillful employee.

Participating in the program is Chief Alfred C. Clark, who is retiring from the Navy after 20 years. His services have taken him around the world several times. He holds a tug master’s license as well as being qualified as a rigger for structures and the handling and movement of material and equipment.

Chief Clark is assigned to the Silver Hill warehousing facility and is applying his technical expertise in the moving and warehousing effort.

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Dr. Peters

Mr. Clark

About SI People Curator Honored, Publishes Work

Greenwood Press, Inc., has published a work by Arthur J. Breton, Curator of Manuscripts at the Archives of American Art. It is A Guide to the Manuscript Collections of the New York Historical Society. Mr. Breton was assistant curator of manuscripts at the NYHS until he came to the Smithsonian in 1970. The work took about ten years to complete. Mr. Breton was also in the news recently when he received the official thanks of the Washington Metropolitan Police Department for his action in preventing the escape of a man who was planned to be in an alley after attempting to assault a woman. Mr. Breton was hospitalized eight days with wounds after the incident. In a letter, Secretary Ripley commended Mr. Breton for his "courageous action as a citizen in preventing a serious crime at great personal risk."

Honor for Archivist

Eldo F. Freivogel, Assistant Curator of Manuscripts in the Archives of American Art, has been elected to a four-year term on the Council of the Society of American Archivists, the principal professional organization of archivists and record managers in the United States and Canada. He has been a member of the Society seven years and formerly was head of the manuscript division of Washington University Libraries in St. Louis.

Pinkney to Business Post

James F. Pinkney has been appointed Assistant Business Manager in the Office of the Treasurer. He formerly was chief of the sales section of the Photographic Services Division. He will be concerned primarily with the development and management of the SI licensing and product development program and operations of the Museum Shops, Belmonost Conference Center, and concessionaire arrangements.

NAFMA Acting Director

James S. Hutchins has been designated Acting Director of the Staff of the National Armed Forces Museum Advisory Board. Mr. Hutchins has been assistant director of the NAFMA staff since 1963.

Foundation Director

David O. Le Conte has been appointed Executive Director of the Smithsonian Research Foundation, succeeding Harry R. Albers who left to take an administrative post at Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona. Mr. Le Conte has served on the Foundation staff 2 ½ years.

Fosberg Honored

Dr. F. Raymond Fosberg, Curator in the MNH Department of Botany, recently received the George Davidson medal of the American Geographical Society for his distinguished contributions to the ecology of the Pacific. The medal was presented at the Society’s annual dinner by Dr. William A. Hance, Society president, who praised Dr. Fosberg as “a scientist who puts his enormous knowledge and experience to work for the benefit of others.”

SIE President Appointed

Dr. David F. Hersey, President of the Smithsonian Science Information Exchange, was recently appointed Chairman of the National Institutes of Health Primate Research Centers Advisory Committee, through 1975. Dr. Hersey is a virologist by training and the author of a number of papers in the area of microbiology and virology.

Skold Joins OIA

Elmer Skold has been appointed Deputy Director of the Foreign Currency Program Office of International Activities. Mr. Skold served with the Peace Corps nearly ten years, working primarily in Southeast Asia.

Mrs. Helms Departs for Iran

Cynthia Helms, producer of Radio Smithsonian, has resigned to accompany her husband, Richard Heims, former CIA director, who has been appointed ambassador to Iran.

EOO Issues New Action Plan

By Archie D. Grimmett

The Office of Equal Opportunity has issued a revised Equal Employment Opportunity Plan of Action.

The new plan contains many new action items and changes, bringing the Smithsonian’s EEO program in line with the requirements of the 1972 Amendment to the Civil Rights Act.

The plan commits a new approach to the elimination of upward mobility programs for each work area where there are dead-end positions, and serves notice that the Smithsonian’s intent is to increase its liaison with the Washington area minority community. It also assures that there will be affirmative recruitment of minorities and women for consideration in the filling of vacancies, particularly at the higher grade level.

The plan contains a new reporting procedure on actions taken in response to items in the plan. Each item has its action completion date by which a report will be made by the responsible office to the Office of Equal Opportunity. The EO office will make a written semiannual report on February 7 and August 7 to The Assistant Secretary, Executive Committee, Director of Personnel, Union EEO Committee, and the Smithsonian Women’s Council. The EO office report shall be available to all interested employees.

Equal Employment Opportunity Officers are now being appointed by the personnel office and are required to assure that the plan is implemented at all levels of the Institution, and, like the previous plan, is subject to review by the Equal Employment Opportunities Office, to receive employees’ formal EEO complaints.

The plan also requires each major organization unit to publish its own plan and policy taken from the Institution plan which was distributed to all employees on December 27, 1972. It furnishes dramatic proof of the Smithsonian’s EEO commitment.

The plan, issued as Office Memorandum 763 (Revised) will be given to all new employees.
Three SI employees have received awards for suggestions to improve Smithsonian operations.

James L. Bailey, Buildings Management Department, received an award for suggesting that a key should beavailable to lock a door that does not lock at night.

Richard Hofmeister, Photographic Services Division, received an award for suggesting the use of a mirror on the roof so that performers in the Traveling Theater may see themselves.

Following employees have received sustained superior performance awards for exceeding the standards for satisfactory performance and achieving individual records of program accomplishments:

Marge B. Porter, Secretary for the Division of Postal History, NMH;

William G. Wells, General Foreman, Head Shop, BMD;

Larry Swanson, Supervisory Zoologist, NZP;

Sandra Jones, Air Traffic Controller, BMD;

John Randolph, Harry Banks, Jessie Washington, Chief Negotiator, BMD;

Mr. Doyle and Mr. Ripley, Acting Director, BMD.

Doyle said.

The program of awards is called the Smithsonian Institution’s Career Development and Training Section.

The third new staff member is James B. McCracken, Jr., an employee developed through the Career Development and Training Section. He previously worked for the Department of Commerce. He received his graduate degree from Florida Atlantic University, and attended the American Management Association Management Intern Program for eight months in 1970. He is now working on a management program and is a member of the American Society for Training and Development.

His responsibilities will include analysis of training needs, particularly in the area of supervisory development; designing, conducting and evaluating Institution-wide training programs, and generally assisting and expanding the types and frequency of training programs within the Institution.

The SI Libraries and the Office of Personnel Administration have joined in an effort to assist employees relating to administration, supervision, use of records and training.

Temporarily, the materials will be located in the Career Development and Training Section (A & I 1412) and will be available for loan. Among the titles on hand are:

The Economic Role of Entrepreneurs, by Douglas Metcalf; The Ethical Supervisory, by William Leonard; Management, by Edgar H. Schein; The Conflict Between Superiors and Subordinates, by stirring up the situation, by James W. Freeman; The Social Psychology of Work and the Nature of Organizations, by John H. Flaherty; Organizations, by James N. Flaherty; The Effectiveness of Managers, by Peter S. Drucker; The Administration of Organizations, by L. H. Rust; Management and Administration, by L. H. Rust; The Ethics of Management, by L. H. Rust; The Role of Management, by L. H. Rust; The Professional Manager, by L. H. Rust; and the Executive Course, by Peter S. Drucker.

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The program is sponsored by the Human Resources Division of the Personnel Administration Department.

The Department of Agriculture as a personnel generalist. She is active in professional associations, holding memberships on two committees of the International Personnel Management Association and serving as editor of the Classification and Compensation Review.

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New Employees Join Personnel Staff

The newest staff member of the Office of Personnel Administration is Mildred Smith, a clerk in the Processing Section, who transferred to the Office of Personnel Administration from the U.S. Department of Justice.

She is a graduate of Calvin Coolidge High School in Washington, D.C. Prior to joining the federal service she had worked for the National Geographic Society.

Since joining the Personnel staff, Lyn Tremblay, a member of the Career Planning and Development and Personnel Evaluation, equal employment opportunity, labor-management relations, and special projects. She earned a BA degree from American University and did graduate work at George Washington University.

Prior to transferring to the Institution, she worked for the Department of the Army as a psychologist and personnel management specialist in the Department of Agriculture as a personnel generalist. She is active in professional associations, holding memberships on two committees of the International Personnel Management Association and serving as editor of the Classification and Compensation Review.

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**Tribute Paid by Cosmos Club**

**Third Volume of Study By Dr. Wtemore Published**

The third volume of the monumental study *The Birds of the Republic of Panama, by Dr. Alec W. Wetmore, former Smithsonian Secretary, has recently been published by the SI Press.

The new volume covers the first series in the order Passeriformes (the perching birds) in the eight families from woodcreepers to sharp-shills. Although the work is taxonomic in organization, considerable information on natural history is included.

It is distributed by George Braziller, Inc. The price is $15.

Dr. Wetmore began his studies in Panama in 1944 and has continued them for approximately three months each year since 1946. The final volume in the series will contain an account of Dr. Wetmore's field work, a review of other ornithologists' studies, general discussions of the avifauna, a complete bibliography and a gazetteer of localities.

Dr. Wetmore's career is reviewed in the following tribute by Ralph Gray which was printed in the November 1972 issue of the *Cosmos Club Bulletin*.

**ALEXANDER WETMORE**

In approaching a short biography of Dr. Alexander Wetmore (25), it is tempting simply to list this prodigious scholar's honors, publications, degrees, titles, and tenures. These would more than fill the space allotted.

But no one acquainted with Alec Wetmore would be satisfied with this; it would leave out so much of what we know of his organization, friendliness, generosity, and modesty—in short, his human nature.

One prefers to remember warmly such quotes from this world-renowned ornithologist as "that bird is unhappy." This simple but astute remark came some years ago when Dr. Wetmore was shown a picture of a sparrow beside a pool in his garden. From this pool he had once seen a frog burst to seize an unwary sparrow and he wanted a picture of the phenomenon for his book of *Song and Garden Birds of North America* being prepared at the time for the National Geographic Society. But the sparrow in the photograph, standing alone beside the pool, seemed "unhappy," and Wetmore wondered if it might be tied down. When confronted, the photographer said "Of course, the bird was tied. How else do you expect to get a picture of a frog catching a sparrow?"

But such stratagems are unacceptable to Wetmore and the Society's editors; an artist was asked to draw the scene with a "happy" sparrow.

Such insights speak better of Dr. Wetmore's long and valuable association with the National Geographic Society than does a recital of his nearly 40 years' work with it. Board of Trustee for 22 years and 35 years on the board's Committee on Research and Exploration.

Wetmore (in March 1972) recalls Dr. Wetmore's even longer association with the Smithsonian Institution.

"That reporter called me 'an old scientist,'" he said in mild reproach. "He added a year to my age; I'm only 66." Wetmore's life story was music to Dr. Wetmore's ears; it concerned the reopening to nesting barn owls of the northwest tower of the original Smithsonian building. As a young man, he had spent uncounted hours in the tower studying the owls and their droppings. Later, as Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution (1921-1952), he resisted suggestions that the opening in the tower be closed to keep the troublesome birds out. Eventually a non-ornithologically oriented administration closed the tower, which remained the case until Dr. S. Dillon Ripley, another bird man, became Secretary. When Ripley ruled in favor of the barn owls, it gave Dr. Wetmore (at 86, not 87) an opportunity to climb the tower and personally remove the tin shield from the opening.

Wetmore's life must be inspiration to every young person who reads of his early years, for he converted a boyhood interest in birds into an illustrous scientific career. A remarkable photograph of the young scholar at 15 captures the long look of one who already found his field. Quiet zeal shines from his eyes as he sits in his high Freedom, Wisconsin, home in 1905, checking a mounted blue jay under the hill and holding a copy of *Bird Lore* (the precursor of *Audubon*) on his lap.

Two years before, that magazine had carried an item titled "My Experience with a Red-headed Woodpecker," by Alick Wetmore (age 13), the first of his splendidly published writings.

But the budding scientist was reading more than writing in those days, a period which could be chaptered under the heading "On first looking into Chapman's Handbook." A few years before, his mother had given him Frank M. Chapman's *Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America.* One day a "Missus" brought a red-winged blackbird to the wetmore household (the precursor of *Audubon*) on his lap.

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Indeed the Wetmore name is associated with many aspects of birdman in both of his books. His recent, more inclusive classification of birds is widey followed. His lifelong investigation of fossil birds continues in North Carolina where recent discoveries include an ask the size of a desk that could fly. He is a particular authority on migrating birds of North and South America.

"My studies since the middle 1940s," he recently stated, "have centered largely on the birdlife of the Isthmus of Panama" (the narrow flyway that funnels birds to and from South America). He has spent more than 20 years in the country. His conclusions on the habits of birds are authoritative, his authority is his dedication and effectiveness of his professional staff. Wetmore is a prime example. He literally devoted his career to the advancement of the Smithsonian's goals across a broad spectrum of sciences, curation, education, international activities, and administration. But for nearly 50 years, 40 of them at the Smithsonian, the unifying thread of his professional life was his devotion to marine mammals. He was a biologist, conservationist, paleontologist—committed to a multi-disciplinary approach long before the words came into fashion. Today, not only the Smithsonian's flourishing marine mammal program, but also in no small measure the national, even international concern for marine mammals, springs from his decades of effort and accomplishment."