SI Cosponsors Conference To Study Uses of Cable TV

The Smithsonian Institution, the National Education Association, and Mount Vernon College recently cosponsored a national Publi-Cable Conference which brought together more than 200 persons interested and involved in public service cable television applications.

Participants joined workshops on public access, pay cable, future uses of technology and applications of cable in health, education, museums, municipal services, churches, libraries, and minority interests.

Publi-Cable is a national consortium of educational and community organizations and individuals concerned with public television and public interest in the growth and development of cable communications, particularly its non-commercial possibilities.

Its objective is maximum public participation and involvement in decision-making processes for cable at the local, state, and national levels.

This year's annual conference, held at Mount Vernon College in Washington, D.C., began June 9 on the campus with a reception and chance to meet the people most knowledgeable in the field. The two succeeding days were filled with discussion and panels ranging from the prospects for cable in major cities to funding cable experiments.

Chairman of the conference was Robert W. Mason, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Service. He explained that the Smithsonian holds an institutional membership in Publi-Cable because the organization serves an important educational purpose and can aid the Smithsonian in planning its future use of this medium.

In addition to Mr. Mason, Smithsonian participation included Barbara Benson who served on the planning committee for the conference; Russell Shank, Director of SI Libraries, and Herbert White, Assistant Director for Programming, Residency and Associates Program.

Employees Urged To Donate Blood

Smithsonian employees have been urged to donate blood on Monday, August 19, when a bloodmobile crew will be in Room G-25, at the lower level of the Hirshhorn Museum (Independence Avenue and Seventh Street) from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Anyone between the ages of 17 and 66 is eligible to donate, but parental permission is required of 17-year-olds. Donors between the ages of 18 and 21 also need parental permission unless the donor is married or living away from parents and self-supporting. Forms are available in the Office of Personnel Administration.

All donors must weigh at least 110 pounds.

Those wishing to donate should call Extension 5226 or 5227 to make an appointment. A four-hour leave policy is applicable to those who donate.

The Career Development Section of the Office of Personnel Administration has invited employees to see two motion pictures on the need for blood donations. They are Three Pins You and Blood Is Life—Pain Is On. Showings will be continuous between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Friday, August 16, in Room 1471 of the Arts & Industries Building. The films are 15 minutes long.

Hot Weather Attire Okayed

The Smithsonian has adopted the Federal Energy Administration's standard of setting air conditioners at 78 degrees during extended periods of high heat and humidity.

For employees' comfort and on-the-job effectiveness during extremely hot weather, heads of organization units have been urged to adopt a lenient dress policy whenever possible. General guidelines being followed are that men may wear open-necked, short-sleeved shirts instead of coats and ties, and women may wear cost and comfortable business attire.

However, groups of employees who have distinctive uniforms prescribed by their camps have been urged to continue to wear them. For special events, meetings with the public, and business contacts men will wear coats and ties as good judgment dictates, and women will dress as called for on such occasions.

Women's Council Takes Nominations

Nominations will be accepted August 9 through 16 for persons interested in becoming voting members of the Women's Council.

Nominations will be by petition, which can be picked up in the Office of Equal Opportunity, Arts & Industries Building, Room 1310B, extension 5864 or 5865. Full-time or part-time permanent employees are eligible. (See stories on page 4.)

Folklore Festival Features Native Americans, Visitors From Abroad

The Festival of American Folklife drew 800,000 visitors to the Mall during July 3 through 14 this year, the longest Festival yet sponsored by the Smithsonian and the National Park Service. During one day of the six-day event, "Native Americans" section featured Eskimo Olympians. Spectators are shown participating in the Eskimo blanket toss (left). "Old Ways in the New World" featured folk artists from many countries including these Norwegian dancers performing the hullying dance or men's acrobatic dance (right). A post-Festival tour called "Old Ways in the New World: On Tour" has been designed to share with communities across the nation the authentic experience of the Festival of American Folklife. Dancers, musicians, and story-tellers from Norway, Finland, Sweden, Tunisia, Greece, Nigeria, Trinidad, and Tobago will join in community celebrations and concerts throughout the United States.
Edward P. Henderson Meteorite Fund Is Created

Dr. Edward P. Henderson, Curator Emeritus of the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C., announced the Edward P. Henderson Meteorite Fund at a meeting of the Washington group of the Smithsonian Associates at the United States Department of Commerce in Washington on January 24. The new fund, intended to support research in meteorite studies, is the first endowed fund for meteorite research in the United States.

Dr. Henderson's gift is the first large meteorite endowment specifically designated for meteorites in the history of the Smithsonian Institution. It comes from a man who has devoted the last 44 years to building up the Institution's meteorite collection, which is now the largest in the United States, numbering more than 1,200 documented specimens.

Dr. Henderson is a meteorite expert who is a leader in the field. He has been interested in meteorites since he was a boy, and he has made his career studying them. He has written numerous articles and books about meteorites and has also taught courses on the subject at various universities.

Dr. Henderson's gift will enable the Smithsonian to support research in meteorite studies, which is a field that is still relatively new. The fund will provide the means to buy meteorites, which are expensive, and to support the research that will help us understand more about the history of the universe.

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Mulchay Selected
For NZP Position

Robert Mulchay of Chicago has been selected for the National Zoological Park as its new Chief on the Office of Graphics and Exhibits. Mr. Mulchay is a graduate of the Institute of Design, where he subsequently taught. He gained initial experience while working at the Center for Advanced Research in Design of the Container Corporation of America.

At the Zoo, Mr. Mulchay will direct his own design and production team and work closely with the Office of Exhibits Central, which assists the Zoo in its exhibits program.

Cummings Selected
Editor of Journal

Paul Cummings has been selected editor of the Journal of the Archives of American Art. Mr. Cummings has been oral historian for the Archives and was founder of the Print Collector’s Newsletter. His book American Drawings of the Twentieth Century will be published by Viking Press in 1975. He is editor of Dictionary of Contemporary American Artists and edited the Praeger series of Documentary Monographs in Modern Art and Bowker’s Fine Arts Market Place.

Mr. Cummings’ plans encompass expanding the quarterly Journal to 32 pages, commissioning writers who are experts in American studies, and stimulating further use of the Archives by providing space to publish articles researched in the Archives collection.

CBCES Sponsors
Ecology Program

The Smithsonian’s Chesapeake Bay Center for Environmental Studies is sponsoring the First Ladies Ecoling Program for children who have completed grades five through eight.

The 2,600-acre center located near Edgewater, Md., provides a natural setting for children to explore and study plant and animal communities.

Classes for elementary grades meet from 9 a.m. to noon and for junior high from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. The weekday sessions last five through eight. For further information call 798-6424.

SHOO-BIRD SUCCESS—Secretary Ripley is shown with a “Shoo Bird,” sold by the Museum Shops in a package with complete instructions for application. The “Shoo Bird,” developed and donated to the Shops by Mr. Ripley, has met with such success that the Shops have reordered in addition to shops of Exhibits Central a new series of birds flying into windows, local birds coming to a feeder, however, will soon get used to the silhouette.

New Lighting Design
Saves Energy at SI

Among the new policies and practices initiated by the Smithsonian to lower energy consumption is a relighting project undertaken by the Lighting Design Branch of the Office of Exhibits Central. With the active cooperation of design staffs and building managers at the National Museum of History and Technology and National Museum of Natural History, the branch has instituted or completed several significant new designs in lighting.

The exhibit displaying the First Ladies Gowns has been improved with lighting as bright or slightly brighter but with a net savings of 7,000 watts. Not only had lighting there been reduced from 8,000 watts to 1,000 watts, but fixture maintenance will also be greatly simplified.

In the NMNH rotunda, 12,000 watts of difficult-to-maintain lighting in the dome has been replaced by highly efficient new lighting with a great increase in the dome’s brightness. As well as saving energy, the safety hazard of requiring relamping from a ladder of 120 feet above the floor will be eliminated.

The Railroad Hall at the NMHT will have approximately 9,500 watts of new high intensity discharge lighting replacing over 22,000 watts of existing lighting. This will increase the illumination by more than 50 percent and maintenance will drop from 150 lamps every six months to 44 lamps every two years.

Carroll B. Lusk, museum lighting consultant in the Office of Exhibits Central said, “We are keeping our eyes open for saving energy in all of our buildings that we come in contact with and are trying to promote conservation of energy in any way we can.”

El-Baz Lectures
In Mideast Nations

Dr. Farouk El-Baz of the National Air and Space Museum made a good will lecture tour in the Arabian Peninsula at the invitation and sponsorship of the United States Information Agency during the three-week period of May 16-June 6.

He lectured in five Arab countries on scientific aspects of the U.S. space program and results of Apollo lunar exploration. The five nations were Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait.
Women's Council Reports Progress
by Francine C. Berkowitz

The first Smithsonian Women's Council, which was inaugurated in 1972, established basic priorities for investigation in the interests of women and minority groups which the Council represents.

The second Council, now operating, reaffirmed these priorities and through its committees has acted as an advisory group to the Office of Equal Opportunity and the Smithsonian administration. The Recruitment and Promotion Committee, chaired by Sherill Berger, has conducted a study of the SI merit promotion system with special attention given to the Secretarial Skills File. The report, including specific recommendations such as abolishment of the Secretarial Skills File and open recruitment for all secretarial positions, has been presented to the Office of Personnel Administration. OPA will report back to the Council on the recommendations.

The Upward Mobility Committee, chaired by Vernetta Williams, has familiarized itself with the SI upward mobility program for employees. The committee has filed recommendations with OPA and OEO, including recommendations for extension of the program through grade 9 and endorsement of an upward mobility program under OEO.

The Career Development committee, chaired by Diane Della-Loggia, has examined the career development services available at the Smithsonian and has made specific recommendations for opportunities, orientation of new employees, employee evaluations, and career counseling. A committee has requested that career workshops be offered to employees.

Barton Chosen Supply Director

Harry P. Barton has been appointed Director, Office of Supply Services, Office of Support Activities, effective July 1.

Mr. Barton came to the Smithsonian as a Staff Officer in December 1972 and has served as Assistant Chief, Supply Division.

Prior to joining the SI staff, he served as Chief, Contractual Services Branch at the General Services Administration, Mr. Barton, who hails from Lowell, Mass., attended the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Council Sponsors SI Women's Week

The Smithsonian Women's Council, under the auspices of the Office of Equal Opportunity, is sponsoring its second annual "Women's Week at the Smithsonian Institution" August 26-30.

An outstanding speaker will deliver the keynote address. Activities include a two-part career development program which will be conducted by the SI Training Office, as well as a supervisor's training program concerning raising awareness of the status of women at SI. Films will be shown in each building (location and times to be announced). Special guests will be speaking on such subjects as "The Real Role of the Black Woman," "Equal Rights Amendment," and "Reproductive Freedom." The week will close with a reception in the SI Commons.

All supervisors will be asked to adjust schedules so that interested employees may participate. For further information, please contact Ms. Edith Mayo, MHT, Extension 5689 or Ms. Ellen Myette, Renwick, Extension 5611.

Renovation Work Completed On Tomb of James Smithson

For the first time the room containing James Smithson's tomb in the original Smithsonian Institution building has been opened to the public.

Previously the tomb could be viewed only through a window. Renovation and opening of the crypt area are part of a major plan begun in 1968 for improving the entire building. Renovation of the ceiling was initiated last year by James M. Goode, Curator of the building.

The crypt room, which is the east room next to the main north entrance, now includes a display case containing various items relating to Smithson. These include his original will of 1826 which laid to the founding of the Institution; an oil portrait of him while he was a student of Oxford in 1786; a piece of smithsonite, a variety of zinc ore identified as "Smithson's stone" in 1802 and later named for him; a pamphlet on minerals, written by him; some books from his library and his calling card. Also on display is the Smithsonian mace made in 1865 and used for ceremonial purposes.

There have been other changes made in the process of renovating the room. Four brass wall sconces from the 1900 period have been installed to take the place of spotlights. A false ceiling with fluorescent light fixtures was removed. Red paint was removed from the floor to show the original floor of granite. The marble relief portrait of James Smithson, originally erected at his tomb by the Board of Regents in 1896 was moved from the south to the north wall.

Mr. Smithson, who died in 1829, James Smithson was buried in an English cemetery in Genoa, Italy. In 1904 when the burial ground was to be displaced by enlargement of a quarry, the Board of Regents voted to bring his tomb and remains here. Alexander Graham Bell, a Regent, was delegated to go to Italy as an official escort. After ceremonies appropriate for a dignitary, Smithson's remains were reinterred in the crypt room which was prepared at that time. Gates across the door were made from the fence around his original resting place. Those gates have now been removed to storage, properly catalogued, so that permitting visitors to enter the room.

During the renovation, Smithson's coffin was removed from the tomb and opened in the presence of the Institution officials. A scientific study was made of Smithson's skeleton by Dr. J. Lawrence Angel, Curator of Physical Anthropology in the National Museum of Natural History. Among other things, Dr. Angel determined that Smithson was 5 feet 6 inches tall; that he died a natural death; that he had an extra vertebra; that he was a student of Oxford in 1786; a piece of smithsonite, a variety of zinc ore identified as "Smithson's stone" in 1802 and later named for him; a pamphlet on minerals, written by him; some books from his library and his calling card. Also on display is the Smithsonian mace made in 1865 and used for ceremonial purposes.

The Alter Ego Annex program will be launched in August on a test basis. Both the Smithsonian (through its free distribution of federally funded publications) and the ALA are regularly in touch with thousands of libraries throughout the United States and other parts of the world. Under the agreement, announcements of ALA programs will be included in the ALA communications with libraries. The SI Press will pay a small commission to the associate to offset any increase the ALA incurs in handling charges.

Burton Elected Archives President

Dr. Irving F. Burton was elected president of the Archives of American Art at the spring meeting of the Archives Board of Trustees at its national center in New York.

Dr. Burton, a leading Detroit pediatrian, was a vice president of the Archives and president of its Detroit Committee for many years. He is a trustee and major benefactor of the Detroit Institute of Arts and president of the Antiquaries at the Institute.

Other officers elected at the meeting were: Mrs. Otto L. Spauld, chairman of the board; Mrs. Alfred Negley and Mrs. E. Blaine Parkinson, vice presidents; Joel S. Ehrenkranz, treasurer; Henry de Forest Baldwin, secretary, and Gilbert Kinney, Stephen Shalom, and George H. Waterman III, members of the board.

The Archives of American Art, founded in Detroit in 1945, became a bureau of the Smithsonian in 1970. It preserves and protects documents for use by scholars, graduate students and writ-

Museum Shop Employees Honored

Thirty Museum Shop employees were honored for their merit, performance, and contributions during the past year in an awards ceremony held May 16 in the Regent's Room.

J. Ames Wheeler, Treasurer of the Smithsonian, presented the medallions, which are in recognition of employee contributions and services to the institution.

The Regent's Room, which was inaugurated by Vernetta Williams, has familiarized itself with the SI upward mobility program for employees. The committee has filed recommendations with OPA and OEO, including recommendations for extension of the program through grade 9 and endorsement of an upward mobility program under OEO.

The Career Development committee, chaired by Diane Della-Loggia, has examined the career development services available at the Smithsonian and has made specific recommendations for opportunities, orientation of new employees, employee evaluations, and career counseling. A committee has requested that career workshops be offered to employees.

This display case with Smithson memorabilia was added during the renovation of the tomb chamber in the SI Building.

SI Press Announces Book Discount Plan

Gordon Hubel, Director of the Smithsonian Institution Press, and Robert Wedgeworth, Executive Director of the American Library Association, announced at a meeting in New York City July 8 an agreement under which libraries will be guaranteed a minimum discount of 30 percent on the purchase of all SI Press privately funded books.

They explained that the agreement is the result of several months of intensive study and negotiation.

The ALA-Smithsonian program will be launched in August on a test basis. Both the Smithsonian (through its free distribution of federally funded publications) and the ALA are regularly in touch with thousands of libraries throughout the United States and other parts of the world. Under the agreement, announcements of ALA programs will be included in the ALA communications with libraries. The SI Press will pay a small commission to the associate to offset any increase the ALA incurs in handling charges.

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