By Elizabeth McIntosh

Are there "limits to growth" for the Smithsonian? Secretary Ripley takes a cautious look ahead in his annual statement, a part of Smithsonian year 1975. He selects a program of museum growth based on future limitations on natural resources, as reflected in a growing environmental consciousness.

The Secretary notes that museums are especially concerned with expansion: "Often think that today's museums are the only legitimate growth industry," he observes, adding that it is the "nature of a museum to acquire objects."

At the same time, Mr. Ripley states, museum keepers know that the supply of objects, whether made by man or by nature, is finite and eventually must be preserved for the future, and a museum thus becomes "both a growth industry and an instrument of conservation."

In reviewing the past ten years, Secretary Ripley points to highlights in Smithsonian progress: the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, which has provided a new dimension in art; the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum, a new experiment in community relationships; the vast thrust into space marked by exhibits at the new National Air and Space Museum; the newest created facilities at the Chesapeake Bay Center for Environmental Studies, near Annapolis, Md.

He also notes that the Smithsonian Associates program has led to a greater national awareness of the Institution, with a national membership totaling more than 60,000.

"This means that for the first time Americans across a greater portion across the land have a feeling of belonging to the Smithsonian and are in the process of understanding more about their own heritage," Secretary Ripley comments.

What can visitors to Washington in the decade ahead expect to find in Smithsonian museums where concern for measured growth will be a prime guideline?

In the statement, Secretary Ripley has projected a series of priorities for museum development with considerable attention given to improvement of collections now in hand, a thrust also to be found on the expanding recording of acquisitions, collating and cataloguing, while continuing to produce improved presentations in existing exhibits.

"In all this," he states, "we feel that our most immediate concern is the appropriate use of the resources that the Institution has committed, and not the hasty creation of new exhibits which are most attractive."

For example, the Smithsonian's National Museum of History and Technology has a fine collection on the evolution of railroading in the United States, but it lacks a "holy," small, now, shuttering engine used in logging operations.

In the field of ceramics, the Smithsonian possesses an important collection of European hard-paste porcelain, Mr. Ripley says, but in the next decade the present collection could be augmented in a more comprehensively historically by acquisitions of 17th and early 18th century soft-paste French porcelains.

One new Smithsonian exhibit of some magnitude is being planned in the area of archaeology, where Dr. Margaret Mead in commemoration of Washington's bicentennial will be launched, entitled: "Washington's Bicentennial Slide Show."

He says that in the next ten years hopefully we will see the completion of a consolidated Museum Support Facility in suburban Suitland, Md., to house, catalogue, conserve and store collections away from the Mall, where museum space is at a premium.

"We need to create a new way of looking at collections," Secretary Ripley observes, and to this end want to create conservators as a prototype for a national conservation school," the Secretary states, observing that present plans to construct our legacy of man-made objects are still in the hands of a museum technician.

The Institution's fiscal year 1975 is summarized in the report as one of continued growth despite a reduction-bent in the coming decade in the concept of limits to growth," the Secretary says.

"Each research center, museum and zoo has some "holy" left," he adds, "and the only legitimate growth industry is science.

The Secretary encourages the Science community to look for ways to conserve energy and to save it for the future, and to consider the needs of man-made objects.

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W. Dr. Herman Viola, director of the Smithsonian Institution Archives, gave an illustrated lecture on "Washington's First Museum: The Office Collection of Thomas L. McKenny." McKenny served as the first commissioner of Indian affairs, a post held later by Dr. Philip Nash, current president of the A.S.W., who introduced Dr. Viola.

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Dr. Lawrence Angelo, curator of physical anthropology, spoke on "Biological Changes in the American Population Since Colonial Times."

Drs. Nash and Dixon also appeared together in February at the all-day tribute to Dr. Margaret Mead in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of her first field work in Samoa, which is being held in Boston during the recent meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Dixon's paper was "Margaret Mead as World Citizen" (see story on AAS meeting in this issue).

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MH—Thronged as Ali Presents Gloves, Robbie for Bicentennial ‘Nation of Nations’ Exhibit

By Geraldine Sanderson

March 17 will be remembered affectionately in the annals of the Museum of History and Technology as the day a pair of boxing gloves from the Mecca to the Nation of Nations exhibit and the day the Museum came to a complete standstill for an hour.

Staff members caught in the excitement of the moment were unable to cope with the deluge of handshakes or autographs. Museum guards who had to deal with the deluge were polite, calm and masterful in their handling of the crowd.

It was to be a simple presentation ceremony with Ali, Museum Director Brook Whipple, and Charles E. Schreiber, chairman of the Nation of Nations Committee, present to exchange a few words and have their pictures taken. A total of 300 reporters and TV-Camera people had been in touch with Ali’s staff in Chicago, and they had requested a pair of boxing gloves for the sports section of the exhibit which included a chapter on boxing history.

The answer finally was yes, and when Ellen phoned Ali, the last thing she expected was to be handed the gloves to be mailed to the Museum. She was told Ali would be in Washington the next day and asked could he deliver them in person? Was the Museum interested? Did they know when Ali was coming? Ali then instructed his staff to make arrangements and a phone call was sent from the Museum to an AMA invitee to photograph the presentation.

Within 45 minutes the public affairs office phoned to confirm Ali arrived on March 17, the day before Ali arrived on March 16 to make arrangements for the gloves, they were mailed to the Museum on Monday, March 21. They arrived at the Museum Wednesday afternoon, and were on exhibit by Friday afternoon. The Museum had been notified of Ali’s presence on the afternoon of Thursday, March 17, and the Museum staff members worked together to plan the ceremony and the press conference.

History and Technology staff members worked together to guide Ali through the Museum as he walked in a leisurely manner, stopping to look at objects along the way. Ali was led to the exhibit area of the Nation of Nations Committee by curator Tim Hinchman.

As Ali was introduced as the “heavyweight champ” and given a standing ovation, he responded, “What am I doing here? I thought you were going to introduce me as a Muslim, an Athlete, a Movie Star, a Good Guy. But you have introduced me as a Heavyweight Champion of the World.”

Ali was presented the gloves from the Foreman fight in Zaire and a robe (which was unexpected) he wore for six months while he trained for the fight in Deer Lake, Pa.

Ali paused before the statue of Thomas Jefferson at the entrance to the exhibit and addressed a small audience of New Hampshire Catholics.

It is believed that many of the visitors to the exhibit will bring reminders of Ali to the Museum, so Warren Danzenbaker, MHT Director’s staff, escorted him on an impromptu tour.

Word of his presence in the building spread like wildfire, and soon teenagers began to follow, and a relaxed Ali shook hands, hugged, and warmly greeted the eager fans.

To everyone’s delight, Ali presented the gloves from the Foreman fight in Zaire to a core group of Museum of History and Technology staff members who have been involved in the planning and development of the exhibit.

George Washington and on an impromptu tour, Ali wanted to see more of the Museum but the hundreds who wanted to meet and see Ali prevented this. And so after a few handshakes he departed as he had come in a screwdriver and a hammer.

A recent project which has been effective in putting this Museum on the map is carbon dating. A recent project which has been effective in putting this Museum on the map is carbon dating. A project which has been effective in putting this Museum on the map is carbon dating.

Museum of History and Technology

A crew of enthusiastic fans surrounds Muhammad Ali at NMHT. The “Regional Program” of the Smithsonian National Associates will focus on Tuscon the weekend of April 22-25, when Southern Arizona members of the Mt. Hopkins Observatory and hear first-hand about the Institution’s science programs.

The more than 4,000 Smithsonian National Associates, living in the Tuscon area will be invited to attend one of two special programs designed specifically for this area. The Mt. Hopkins Observatory, directed by Dr. Chadallion, Smithsonian Assistant Secretary for Science, on Friday evening, April 22.

The National Board of Smithsonian Associates, an advisory group drawn from the professionals of the Institution, will also hold its annual meeting in Tuscon at the same time. National Associates will participate in the general program.

The weekend is one of several regional programs of the National Associates to take Smithsonian projects and people from the Mall to other cities around the country.

The National Armed Forces Museum Advisory Board: This year the Board has given special attention to the development of plans for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Institute for History and Technology at the National Museum of History and Technology. This study center is currently under the direction of Dr. William H. Griswold on U.S. Occupation Policies.

National Collection of Fine Arts: This important collection of over 17,000 works represents all aspects of American art, including European art, in- cluding when it was acquired and the names of the people who acquired it. A recent acquisition this year was Charles Wilson Peale’s portrait of Mathias and Thomas Bondley, probably his most famous portrait miniature painting. Many of the NCA acquisitions have suffered physical neglect.

Associates to tour Hopkins

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Grover Loening, Recipient of Langley Medal, Dies

Grover Loening, 87, a pioneer in aviation invention and recipient of the Smithsonian's Langley Medal for Innovation in Aeronautics Technology, died February 29 after a long illness.

Mr. Loening and Leonard Carmichael, former Smithsonian Secretary, were instrumental in obtaining the expertise to develop the first successful aircraft. In 1931, Mr. Loening served as a member of the NASM advisory board for about 20 years.

In addition to the Langley Medal, Mr. Loening was a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Merit in 1976. He was one of the early American aviation leaders, including the founding of the American Aeronautical Society, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

A graduate of Columbia University, he was the first person to receive an M.A. in aeronautical science.

Mr. Loening's efforts in aviation added significant contributions such as the first American steel frame airplane, a small airplane to be launched from a wooden platform using rigid-braced trellis. He produced the Flying Yacht, a five-seat monoplane which established world records and opened the market for private aircraft following World War I. He also developed a glider for American Ambiance with the first practical retractable undercarriage.

Mr. Loening's design for the American American Rooftop Heliport was implemented in New York City. Mr. Loening was one of the first developers of Pan American Airways and wrote several books and many articles on aviation.


The exhibition originated at the Field Museum in Chicago, featuring works by the earliest known ceramics in the Western Hemisphere. The objects, depicting aspects of American life and history, are from the fields of archaeology and ethnology.

"Suiting Everyone," clothing in America over a microcosmic recreation of the Philadelphia Bicentennial. This is a unique organization for the purpose of promoting and preserving the history of the United States.

"Technology: More than Science, More than a natural law," an exhibition at the National Museum of Natural History, features works by the early American architect and engineer, Benjamin Rush.

Mr. Loening is survived by his wife, Dr. Benjamin Rush, and his two sons, John and Robert. He was predeceased by his daughter, Dr. Mary Ann Loening, and his brother, Dr. John Loening.

Mr. Loening's contributions to aviation are numerous and varied. He was a leader in the development of the Wright brothers' airplane and collaborated with John Montgomery to achieve the first powered flight.

Mr. Loening was also active in the founding of the American Aeronautical Society and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering.

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Eleven Smithsonian scientists and historians—a record number—presented papers and participated in symposia at the 42nd national meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, February 18-24, in Washington. Dr. George Field, Director of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, chaired a session on "Magnetically Varied Sun in the Atmosphere.

Dr. Field presented a paper on the "Cosmological View of High Energy Astronomy" in session on high energy radiation in the universe that was arranged by Smithsonian astrophysicist Dr. Paul Gorenstein.

A day-long meeting oninos and wildlife conservation featured Dr. Deva G. Kleinman, research zoologist for the National Zoo. She predicted that the golden lion tamarin, an endangered brown monkey found only near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, faces certain extinction in the wild and probably cannot survive in captivity over the long run.

Dr. Chris Summer, curator in charge of the National Zoo's conservation and research center, described the propagation of the species at the facility.

Dr. John Eisenberg, chief resident scientist in the Zoo's research office, offered copious comparisons of differential biological rhythms.

"Shaping Structures for World Civilization" was the subject of a paper by Dr. Wilton S. Dillon, director of Smithsonian Symposia and Seminars, in conjunction with "Science and the American Revolution."

Dr. Nathan Reingold, editor of the Joseph Henry Press, in cooperation with the History of Science Society, arranged a three-part retrospective on the sciences in America.

"Historian Robert Post of MHT discussed "Public Support for Popular American Science, 1820-1860."

"History of astronomy exhibits" was given by Victor H. Bryant, curator of astrophysics, Smithsonian Institution, a paper titled "Astronomy in Antebellum America."

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education: This Office offers assistance to education officials and teachers in the Federal service bureaus. One of the most successful programs of education assistance has been the workshops and seminars held at various museums. Last year a total of 2,200 teachers attended these workshops in the history and science.

Office of Seminars: This office supports museum programs to engender a greater public awareness and understanding of the scientific sections within the Smithsonian. More than 650 workshops and seminars are held during the year.

Office of Smithsonian Symposia and Seminars: This Office develops educational programs and exhibits for governmental and private organizations, universities and scholars. For the Centennial celebration, there has been a planning posium of the history of religious toleration and freedom in America. Other initiatives include a symposium on Trouvo Synagogue, Trinity Church and other historic structures will be the settings for these programs.

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars: This Center offers the American Institute for Public Administration a unique opportunity for Washington area residents to participate in Smithsonian functions. This Smithsonian Resident Scholar Program will provide for the academic year membership of 75,000. The program sponsors classes in art, science, humanities and crafts and also holds seminars and performing arts events.

Smithsonian Magazine: Smithsonian began publication in 1970 and at the time was the principal benefit of the Smithsonian National Associates' membership. Today the magazine has not only stimulated national and international interest in the Institution but is one of the fastest growing monthlies in the country with a readership of more than 900,000. Edward K. Thompson, former managing editor of Life, is the editor.

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars: This Center has attracted a local and national audience to the events of the past year. The Center is now the rapidly growing international center for advanced scholarship in the Smithsonian Castle Institution Building. This is a center in which humanistic, Wilsonian connections are lead to the world of ideas, the world of ideas and the world of affairs. The number of scholars is kept at a minimum (35 this past year) so that they represent a variety of cultures and backgrounds. The Center list includes a former U.S. Attorney General, a former head of Chile's Christian Democrat Party, intellectuals from universities at New Delhi, Tokyo and Oxford; jurists from Australia, France, Israel and Poland; journalists writing major books on subjects identified with the Center's goals.

Other Smithsonian Bureaus and Administrations:

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (James H. Billington, Director): Congress established a "living memorial" to President Woodrow Wilson in 1968, which is now the rapidly growing international center for advanced scholarship in the Smithsonian Castle Institution Building. This is a center in which humanistic, Wilsonian connections are lead to the world of ideas, the world of ideas and the world of affairs. The number of scholars is kept at a minimum (35 this past year) so that they represent a variety of cultures and backgrounds. The Center list includes a former U.S. Attorney General, a former head of Chile's Christian Democrat Party, intellectuals from universities at New Delhi, Tokyo and Oxford; jurists from Australia, France, Israel and Poland; journalists writing major books on subjects identified with the Center's goals.

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (Roger L. Stevens, Chairman): Congress established a "living memorial" to President Woodrow Wilson in 1968, which is now the rapidly growing international center for advanced scholarship in the Smithsonian Castle Institution Building. This is a center in which humanistic, Wilsonian connections are lead to the world of ideas, the world of ideas and the world of affairs. The number of scholars is kept at a minimum (35 this past year) so that they represent a variety of cultures and backgrounds. The Center list includes a former U.S. Attorney General, a former head of Chile's Christian Democrat Party, intellectuals from universities at New Delhi, Tokyo and Oxford; jurists from Australia, France, Israel and Poland; journalists writing major books on subjects identified with the Center's goals.

National Gallery of Art: (J. Carter Brown, Director): The National Gallery is an autonomous and separately administered organization, although established as a bureau of the Smithsonian. During FY 75, more than 5,000,000 persons visited the Gallery. A number of important works were also acquired, the most significant being Georges de La Tour's Putto. The Gallery has extended its work through the new Extension Program Development Department, which circulates materials, film strips, slide lectures and films to an audience of nearly 3 million in the United States and abroad.

W. ROY NES, the Center's Associate Director. Dr. Nes, who also is Professor of Astronomy and Meteorology, gave a paper on "Magnetic Variability in the Sun's Atmosphere."

The exhibit uses artifacts from the museum's collections to point out, that from cradle to grave, people's lives are encrusted by the products of wood or by wood products.

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