Congress Approves FY '78 Appropriation

By Linda St. Thomas

Congress completed action July 14 on the Smithsonian appropriation for fiscal year 1978, which begins October 1, and sent it to the President for his approval.

Highlights of the measure include $325,000 to initiate architectural and engineering plans for the museum support center; $25 million for restoration and repair of buildings at the National Zoo and its Front Royal facility; deferral of the $7.1 million request for the study center and library addition to the Museum of History and Technology; and a reduction of $200,000 in the total budget of the Science Information Exchange.

The Smithsonian appropriation is divided into six accounts: salaries and expenses, museum programs and related research, Science Information Exchange, construction and improvements at the National Zoological Park, building restora­tion and renovation, and construction.

The salaries and expenses appropriation is $88,238,000, an increase of about $3 mil­lion over fiscal year 1977. It affects most Smithsonian staffers because it includes ap­propriations for salaries, museum exhibi­tions and acquisitions, research, travel, and publications.

The $4 million appropriation for museum programs and related research is administered by the Office of International Programs' Foreign Currency Program. Of this total, up to $500,000 will be available to Smithsonian employees for research. Of a request for $450,000, the House and Senate conferees allowed the research awards program only $110,000 to conclude ongoing research by Smithsonian employees. They directed that the Smithsonian Research Foundation be terminated, however, and "that the Smithsonian establish procedures for direct administration of Federal grant funds."

The Senate committee report added its expectation "that efforts will begin im­mediately to effect the smooth transition of the Science Information Exchange to Federal status, either in the Smithsonian or another appropriate Federal agency."

The $200,000 reduction in the appropriation for the SIIE "based on the belief that user fees should bear a greater share of the operating costs of the Exchange."

In the area of Zoo construction, funds have been appropriated for the renovation and repair of buildings and the installation of a fence around the Front Royal Conservation and Research Center. Funds have also been approved for a Zoo construction, including such projects as improve­ment and enlargement of the waterfowl ponds and building of a new facility for the lesser cats.

A proposed museum support center is expected to provide space for collections, research and study, and conservation. Cur­rent plans include a building of approx­imately 338,000 square feet to be con­structed adjacent to the existing Silver Hill facility in Suitland, Md.

Approval of the request for funds for the study center and library addition to MHT was deferred, at least until fiscal year 1979, pending the results of the House App­propriations Commercial Information staff report. The Senate report said that its com­mittee "did not necessarily guard with the need for the facility but with the high cost involved in adding it to an existing struc­ture."

Plans for the proposed sixth floor addi­tion include space for about 215,000 books, manuscripts, and documents. Among the collections to be housed there would be the Alexander Graham Bell Library, and the Dehon Library of the History of Science and Technology donated to the Smithso­nin in 1975.

THE SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM

No. 77-8

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

August 1977

July 4 Visitors Danced at MHT; Welcome Metro to Mall Station

An estimated 200,000 visitors attended the outdoor Fourth of July Celebration, July 2-4, on the grounds and terraces of the other guards acted as tourists.

Everyone was delighted with the social dancing which focused each evening on a different era of dance music. Live bands hosted professional dance instructors who demonstrated the jitterbug, Charleston, Greek dances, and tango, mazurkas, and schottisches.

The visitors were entertained by beaches and parks. The Visitors Reception Center and DPA provided a building for gathering, saying he was pleased to see the combination of dancers, tall and short, young and old, costumes and costumes, who all became enthusiasts for the evening. Later, the Visitors Reception Center and DPA both received many requests to continue the dance programs.

Along with those from DPA, the celebra­tion was staffed by hundreds of SI people, employees and volunteers alike, who may otherwise have spent their weekend at near­by beaches and parks.

We always have a weekend captain on staff (See July 4, Page 8)

Ten Millionth Visits NASM

1 Year, 8 Days After Opening

He was only seven years old, but Kenric Callwood of St. Thomas, V.I., made history on July 8 when he became the 10 millionth person to visit the National Air and Space Museum. The event wasaxyed at first by the excitement which greeted his entrance, Kenric soon got into the spirit as he helped NASM Director Michael Col­lium blow out the candles on the waiting cake. Kenric received a framed color picture from the movie, "To Fly," catalogs of Museum exhibits, a gift certificate to the shop, and passes to the theater and spacearium. He and his party were treated to lunch in the Museum cafeteria.

July 4-5, On the grounds and terraces of the Museum of History and Technology. Produced by the Division of Performing Arts in association with MHT, the three­day event became a focal point for Washington's celebration of America's birthday. Shushan Charah, coordi­nator for the programs, reported that everything went smoothly and crowds of families, young people, and senior citizens gathered to watch high-wheeler bikers, pup­pets, and clowns, and to sit at the amphitheater stage to enjoy gospel, bluegrass, and old-fashioned band music.

"I haven't seen such an orderly crowd in a long time," said Captain George Terrell of MHT's Guard Company. In addition to crowd control, Captain Terrell and the other guards acted as "walking encyclopedias of information for the tourists."

Using data from the UHURU satellite, a team of astronomers led by Ricardo Giac­coni at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics has discovered what appear to be "superclusters" of galaxies, bound together by a very hot and tenuous gas with a mass many times that of the galaxies themselves. If this gas exists in the quan­tities suggested by the observations, it could represent a significant percentage of the so­called "missing mass" needed to close the universe.

While compiling the "Fourth UHURU Catalog of X-Ray Sources" from observa­tions made in the early 1970's, the group detected a number of sources of X-ray emis­sion associated with "superclusters" of galaxies grouped together in "superclusters" more than 150 million light years in diameter. An analysis of the data by Stephen Murray, William Forman, Christine Jones, and Dr. Giacconi suggests that the X-ray emission is most likely produced by a hot gas perving the supercluster.

Confirmation of this discovery could be made within the next several months by the High Energy Astronomy Observatory (HEAO-A) satellite scheduled for launch by the National Aeronautics and Space Ad­ministration in early August.

The scientists described the gas, primarily hydrogen and helium, as "essentially primordial material," representing the re­mainds of the initial explosion that created the universe. The very high temperature of the gas, more than 10,000 times hotter than the surface of the sun, accounts for the dif­ficulty of observing it at any but X-ray wavelengths.

The important feature of this gas is that the mass required to produce the X-ray emission is five to 10 times greater than all the material seen at other wavelengths and is itself sufficient to gravitationally bind the clusters in the supercluster. This high den­sity has implications for the evolution of the universe.

For the past two decades, a major scientific debate has concerned the nature of the universe and its eventual fate. Proponents of the "open universe" claimed the universe was too empty to support the expansion of a normal universe, and that the matter would fall back onto itself, perhaps to repeat the cycle.

The amount of material observed by traditional optical and radio techniques has been insufficient to provide the gravitational attraction needed to close the universe. The new observations, based on data from the X-ray astronomy satellite UHURU, suggest the "missing mass" may exist as vast amounts of extremely hot gas between the galaxies.

The UHURU satellite, officially designated OAO-2, orbits the earth in a nearly circular orbit over the earth's equator on December 12, 1970, from the San Marco launch platform off the coast of Kenya by NASA and the Center for Research and Explorations in Science and Technology in Italy. The date of the launch coincided with the seventh anniver­sary of Kenyan independence and the satel­lite was named UHURU, the Swahili word for "freedom," in recognition of that na­tion's cooperation.
Festivities Mark Opening of Zoo Trail System

Clear enough for even small children to follow, the system is based on animal footprints. On a map visitors can select a trail—crowed crane trail, zebra trail, elephant trail, turtle trail, duck trail, or bear trail—and then look for the corresponding footprints to direct them. The color-coded walks include tall totems of precast concrete at each beginning and end, and holograms in the upper portions showing the various animals to be seen along the trail, and, on the lower sections, the length of the trail, walking time, services found on the trail, and a map showing the complete system, along with the appropriate animal footprint to look for. Brochures are available to acquaint visitors with the new system.

According to Billie Hamlet, public information officer at the Zoo, nearly 1,000 tracks were used on each trail, and people have been known to use them, they are trying to buy the stick-on prints.

Unifying the graphics is the new National Zoo mascot, a mother eagle father eagle. As the national bird and an endangered species, the bald eagle has the Zoo's symbol since 1964.


Comings and Goings

James Wallace Appointed Director, OISS

Lawrence Taylor

Lawrence Taylor has been selected by Secretary Ripley to fill a newly created position as the Institution's coordinator of public and Congressional information.

Mr. Taylor's responsibilities include supervision of the Congressional liaison as the Institution's coordinator of Washington bureau of the public and Congressional information.

Despite the sweltering heat, hundreds of children and adults were on hand to try out the National Zoological Park's new trail graphics system when it opened on June 30. Children delighted in the animal tracks paced on the trails and played hopscotch by jumping on the tracks to the tune of a carousel. A brass band and hundreds of green and blue balloons added to the festive atmosphere.

Guests led along the trail by the note of a clarinet were rewarded with but

Bermingham, NCF A curator of education. The color-coded walks include tall totems of precast concrete at each beginning and end, and holograms in the upper portions showing the various animals to be seen along the trail, and, on the lower sections, the length of the trail, walking time, services found on the trail, and a map showing the complete system, along with the appropriate animal footprint to look for. Brochures are available to acquaint visitors with the new system.

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Comings and Goings

James Wallace became director of the Office of Printing and Photographic Services in the Smithsonian's Office of Arts, Arthur Gaugh with retiring. Prior to assuming his new position, Mr. Wallace served as special assistant to the director of the OIPS. Before joining Smithsonian staff in 1975, Mr. Wallace was publisher for the General Development Corporation of Miami.

Martha Buzas, specialist in Foraminifera, ecology, and paleontology, has succeeded Richard Grant as chairman of the MNH Department of Paleobiology. Dr. Buzas, who came to the Smithsonian in 1963 after receiving her Ph.D. from Yale University. A former member of the Senate of Senegal, he has served on several museum committees, including committees in art history from the University of Maryland, was also a consultant to SITES. HMSG administrator, Joseph Sefekar, has served for five years as assistant director of the NMNH. Judith O'Sullivan, who joined the Resident Associate Program as coordinator of adult classes. Formerly editor of the American Film Institute Catalog at the Library of Congress, Ms. O'Sullivan, who holds a degree in art history from the University of Texas, also was a consultant to SITES. The guest curator, who used to hold the position, is now the Associate's program coordinator of lectures, symposia, and seminars.

Charles Mickens, exhibits program manager, took over the post of director of the OISS June after more than 34 years of Federal Service. Prior to his two and a half years at the OISS, he was the executive director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

H. Eugene Kelson, has been named as the Institution's coordinator of exhibits. Since 1974, Mr. Kelson has served as the Museum's assistant director of exhibits. At the Institute, Mr. Kelson is responsible for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. During the early stages of his work at the Smithsonian, Mr. Kelson was the director of the OISS, which was established in 1989, and oversaw the planning, development, and opening of the Hirshhorn. Currently, SITES exhibitions coordinator and education specialist, is leaving the Institution to move to the University, which is developing educational curriculum at Harvard University.

Douglas Assumes Duties as OEO Director

Will Douglas, Jr. was appointed director of the Smithsonian's Office of Equal Opportunity and began work here on June 13, succeeding Archie Grimmett.

Mr. Douglas, a graduate of the University of Nebraska, has been active in the field of equal employment opportunity for a number of years. After 27 years of military service, including duties as inspector general, Mr. Douglas was appointed EEO Officer for the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Most recently, he was the director of affirmative action programs for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

During the early stages of his work at the Smithsonian, Mr. Douglas was the institution's overall equal employment policies. He will study the program's objectives and action necessary to implement the recommendations. He will also monitor the program's progress, and trends, to compare them with programs in other agencies. Mr. Douglas believes that a statistical base is important in order to analyze salary levels and other EEO factors without the work force.

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Edwin Wins Blue Pencil Prize: Winter Studies Rocket Ritual

By Johanie Doubtis

Smithsonian Institution Press editors Louise Hekset and Hope Pantell were win­ners in the 15th Annual Blue Pencil com­petition sponsored by the American Association of Government Communicators. Ms. Hekset was awarded first prize in the popular publications category for “Zoo Book,” written by the NPF Office of Education. Ms. Pantell color photo essay, “The category of books—one-time publications with “America: Art” by NCFRA Director Joshua Taylor.

While visiting northeastern Thailand and Laos, Frank Winter, registered historian with NASM’s astrophysics department, studied the ancient town Bough Bori Near rocket field. He hopes to publish his findings on this

Banners Add Color To HMSG Fountain

By Sidney Lawrence

There’s not a look to the Hirshhorn Museum’s fountain plaza, where eight specia­licular banners in black, white, and six colors are now hanging. The 22-foot nylon banners, suspended from poles alongside gallery windows, were designed by HMSG’s exhibits and design department, headed by Joseph Shannan. The idea and conception for the banners came from the director’s office,” said Mr. Shannan, who added that “last year’s ex­hibition of bicentennial banners brought an impressive sense of color and festivity to the inner court. We immediately started working on a permanent, in-house display.” The earlier hangings, rectangular in shape, had been installed in such a way that the 20 designs by such well-known contem­porary artists as Marisol, Romare Bearden, and Milton Glaser could easily be seen and studied as individual images. The new project, however, called for a longer, more unified, graphic presentation. Mr. Shannan asked Dennis Davis, HMSG design­preparer, to explore the possibil­ities for a banner scheme that would both suit the inner plaza’s circular space. Drawing from the original concept, Davis used the Roman numeral, which was inspired by the Museum’s unique grond plan, and the Smithsonian sunburst was inspired by the Museum’s unique symbol as graphic elements appearing alter­nately on each of the eight banners. The blue, green, yellow, and orange makes a

Rousseau, OWE women’s program of the Massachusetts Historical Society, “The Curator, Archive and Edith: A Presentation by the Minority Women’s Task Force,” at the eighth national training program for Federally Employed Women, Inc. Jean Quinlan was a substitute coordinator in the Office of Telecommu­nications, attended the Film and Televi­sion Documentation Workshop in Beverly Hills, Calif. Sponsored by the American Film Institute, the workshop was held July 10–16.

Wendy Nick, NPR curator of prints, spent three years at the Board of Education continuing her research on 18th-century American portrait prints. Most of her time was spent at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, but she consulted six other institutions in the Boston area. Wick began her project last summer with a grant from AAS and continued this year under a Smithsonian grant.

Criminals Portos received a special cita­tion from Senator James T. Rand for “excellence and an unflagging dedication to typographic tradition.” A certificate, designed by graphic designer John R. Benson of Newport, R.I., was presented in tribute to the former curator’s 12 years of service at the Smithsonian.

Natalie Bigelow, designer with the Smithsonian Institution Press, has been elected second vice president of the Art Directors Club of Metropolitan Washington. The group represents and sets standards for the graphic arts community here and produces the Club’s annual primary day and art show to chair the club’s annual show. An active member for nine years, she recently com­pleted a four-year term as board member and membership chair­man.

David Harris, MHT assistant curator, Division of Photographic History, is serving as a special consultant on the Ex­tended Learning Institute of Northern Virginia Community College. As such he is working with educational producers of videos on the history and esthetics of photography which will be used as aids for courses at NVCC and other colleges and universities.

Edith Mayo, assistant curator, MHT Division of Political History, has been selected by the editorial board of Notable Women in America to write a biographical article for their upcoming publication, a collection of sculpture Addison Johnson.

Resident Program Director Janet Solinger conducted a seminar on “Creating, Promoting, and Managing Adult Education Programs” for the U.S. Department of Business and Technology of New York City. July 17-19 in Los Angeles.

Catherine Scott, NASM’s librarian, was elected project coordinator of the aerospace division of the National Library of Aeron­autics. One of the divisions’ projects is the “International Handbook of Aviation Awards and Trophies” which will be published by the Smithsonian Institution Press in late 1977.

MHT Historian Sam Harmanere was elected president of the International History of Pharmacy during the annual meeting held in New York in May. The paper she presented at the meeting, “An 1884 American Pharmacy Reconstruction,” was published in the journal “Trends in the History of Pharmacy,” Volume 19 (1977). Dr. Harmanere was also elected a member of the advisory board of the book, “Trends in the History of Pharmacy,” which serves as an editor for the Journal for the Division of Science.

Walter Boyne, NASM curator of aeronautics, recently delivered a talk on NASA’s Space Shuttle Program at the “Pilots and Aviation” in Kansas City, Mo. He said of his talk at MHT, was one of the 200 (See ‘Newsmakers,’ Page 6)

SMITHSONIAN TORCH August 1977

Published for Smithsonian Institution personnel by the Office of Public Affairs

Cari W. Laner, Director; Susan Bliss, Editor; Kathryn Lindeman, Assistant

With the completion of a 138-foot scaffolding tower on Barro Colorado Island in the Gatun Zone, scientists at the Smithso­nian Tropical Research Institute can now study the effects of the forest environment above, below, and within the forest canopy.

Japanese tropic bands of Figure 3

Tropical scientists have often found rain forest ecosystems difficult to study because they have many very important processes take place in the canopy of the forest; often hundreds of feet above the ground.

The Barro Colorado tower was con­structed under the direction of STRI Staff Biologist Nicholas Smythe and his assistant, Gary Stump, as an important element in the long-term environmental monitoring program on the island. The tower is located in Lutzius, an area in which climate, hydrology, forest productivity and phenomena, and animal population dynamics are being studied at the tower, since it is part of the Smithsonian Environmental Sciences Program.

The tower, extending 24 feet above the adjacent trees, forms an ideal location for studying the microclimate at various levels in the forest. Instruments have been instal­led for the measurement of solar radiation and air temperature at several levels throughout the canopy.

The solar radiation studies, under the direction of William Klein of the Smith­sonian Radiation Biology Laboratories, are designed to compare the total incident solar radiation at Barro Colorado with RBL sites elsewhere in the world.

In addition to the environmental monitoring program, several other research projects are under way. The Science Policy, Biology, and Education teams are focusing on such projects as the Barro Colorado Conservation, to be much more irregular and discontinuous than his ground observations had indicated, a situation very similar to that in the Malagasy forests that he recently observed.

The Smithsonian postdoc­toral fellow, is studying patterns of habitat use among tropical mammals and has already discovered a number of species of arboreal mammals. Thus far, the team has described 10 species from the tower, including 11 largely noctur­nal species.

Dr. Rubínoff is director of STRI

Personnel Office Moves

The personnel office in the Arts and Industries Building is being moved to the new building and the current office will be temporarily closed due to the presence of antique furniture in the theatre and room 1402. Staff can be reached on extensions 6957, 5376, or 5936.
August at the Smithsonian

Grass decoration from the Renwick show

It covers one-quarter of the earth's surface and serves as food for grazing animals. But for centuries people have cut, carved, twisted, bound, coiled, and weaved this versatile material to produce both decorative and utilitarian objects.

"Grass," opening at the Renwick Gallery August 5, brings to view about 550 works made of natural grasses including a 12th-century Persian basket, Swiss lace, an Indonesian wine container, Indonesian mask, Zulu beer strainer, Amazon mating dance dress and a 12th century Peruvian basket, the oldest object in the show. Organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Renwick Gallery. Through February 20.

OUTDOOR CONCERTS

radio smithsonian

Radio Smithsonian, a program of music and conversation growing out of the Institution's many activities, is broadcast every Sunday at 7 a.m. on WNOG-M, 890 AM and FM (100.6) from 7-9 a.m. P.m. The program schedule for August:

7th—Aurora Bore, Hero or Villain? One of the most controversial and colorful figures in our history, now the subject of an exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery. Patrons and the Arts. Patronos from Lorenzo de'Medici to Gertrude Stein and their influence on culture.

14th—Nanette: An Exaggeration. Edwards Park of Smithsonian magazine reflects lovingly on its World War II plane—the finest friend a fighter pilot ever had. Three Women of the Arts.

radio smithsonian

21st—Pioneers in California. The work of California painters and sculptors from 1900 to 1976, featured in a current exhibition and discussed by Henry Hopkins, director of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

28th—A Piece of the Auction. The function, purpose and pitfalls of auctions, discussed by Robert Wooley, Senior Vice-President of Sotheby Parke Bernet. Portraits in Photography. A look at the National Portrait Gallery's new Department of Photographs including rare images from Thoreau to Stein.

*Sponsored by the Resident Associate Program of the Smithsonian. Discounts are available for members. For further information, or to order, call 381-5157.

Additional Associates Activities

The Smithsonian Resident Associates sponsor a variety of activities including classes, workshops and tours for both adults and children. For schedule, fees or other information, call 381-5157.

WORKSHOPS


CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS


CLASSES


Invitation to the Dance. Performances, demonstrations and lectures with George Gelada, Malia Withers and Guest companies. Eight sessions beginning Sept. 23.
METRO—SMITHSONIAN

The Smithsonian Station, part of the Metro Phase II, is open on the south side of the Mall at 12th Street. Visitors will now have access to the Smithsonian museums on the Mall via the Metro subway's "southern elevators" from as far away as National Airport or RFK Stadium. This new line also connects with the original four miles at Metro Center, 11th and G Streets, N.W. The subway operates Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

CREATIVE SCREEN: Three films shown in conjunction with the current exhibition 22 Polish Textile Artists. Magdalena Abakanowicz—one of Poland's outstanding textile artists and her three-dimensional sculpture; 2-24 million—the people of Poland seen at work and at play in Warsaw; Abakanowicz in Australia—the artist arriving in Sydney to exhibit her woven works. Complete showings 11 a.m., 12:15 and 1:30 p.m. The Renwick Gallery. FREE.

NMTH TUESDAY FILM: Working Places. The rehabilitation and redevelopment of structures. 1 p.m. Carmichael Auditorium, History and Technology Building. FREE.

EXHIBITION: Fourteen Works by Arthur B. Carles (1901-1938). With his work, Carles was among the earliest artists to operate at some of the preparation and photographic techniques used in filming natural sequences. A NOVA, film. 12 noon. Baird Auditorium, Natural History Building. FREE.

SKY LECTURE: Our Island Universe—the Milky Way. Monthly lecture by National Air and Space Museum staff, followed by a discussion of celestial events due to occur in the coming month. 9 a.m. Einstein Spacearium, NASM. Ticket required. Call 381-4939 weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. FREE.

CARIBBEAN GALA: Performance by Victor Brady on the Caribbean nations. 8 p.m. Baird Auditorium, Natural History Building. FREE.

FLIGHT: The Making of a Natural History Film. A behind-the-scenes look at some of the preparation and photographic techniques used in filming natural sequences. A NOVA, film. 12 noon. Baird Auditorium, Natural History Building. FREE.

Lecture: Einstein, a Disavowing View. Speaker: Alfred Frankenstein, Art Critic, San Francisco Chronicle. Scheduled in conjunction with the exhibition currently at the Museum. 8 p.m. Auditorium, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. FREE.

NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

To Fly—a film trip through the history of flight from balloons to rockets. 10:30 a.m. 50 cents adults, 25 cents children, students and senior citizens.

Albert Einstein Spacearium—Cosmic Awakening. The concept of measuring the inflation of universes prior to the Big Bang. 10:30 a.m. 50 cents adults, 25 cents children, students and senior citizens. 30-minute programs begin daily 12:45 p.m.

NATIONAL COLLECTION OF FINE ARTS

Explore Gallery, Textures, colors, shapes and sounds introduce children to art. Self-guided treasure hunt tours available. Adults need not accompany children.

NATIONAL HISTORY BUILDING

Discovery Room. Visitors of all ages can touch, handle and smell a wide variety of natural history specimens. Monday through Thursday, 12:30-2:30 p.m.; Friday through Sunday, 10:30 a.m.—5 p.m.

Naturalist Center. Natural History specimens, reference books and equipment for use by serious amateur naturalists. Designed for individual self-development, therefore not open to organized groups. Wednesday through Saturday, 10:30 a.m.—4 p.m. Sundays, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Museum of Natural History. For information call 381-6204.

NATIONAL ZOO

ZooTalks Doodle Show. Question and answer program performed by five-foot-high marionettes and hand puppets that teach zoo etiquette—how animals in zoos should be treated. Sponsored by Friends of the National Zoo. Performances every hour from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Glockenspiel Recitals. By Carilloneurs from this country and abroad. 11 a.m. Saturdays.

Book Clubs Select SI Press Offering

By Johnnie Deethis

"The Smithsonian Collection of Newspaper Comics," is the first Smithsonian Press book to be selected as an alternate choice by the Book of the Month Club and the Playboy Book Club. Both will feature the book among their 1977 Christmas offerings.

Edited by Bill Blackbeard, director of the San Francisco Academy of Comic Art, and Martin Williams, since 1971 director of the Jazz and Popular Culture Program of the Smithsonian's Division of Performing Arts, the book covers 80 years of comics from the 1896 "Yellow Kid" to the present "Doonesbury." The 336-page volume, which was designed by Betty Sur, working closely with the copublisher, Editorial Assistant Judy Wilder checked copyright clearances and assisted the editors in organization of the manuscript.

According to Acting Director Edward Rivas, comic strip reflects a uniquely American cultural development, making them a subject particularly appropriate for publication by the Smithsonian. "In the "Smithsonian Collection" are some comics which have left permanent marks on American speech and cultural traditions. "The Yellow Kid" of 1896 was the first authentic comic strip. It was carried in the New York World and later in Hearst's New York Journal, which printed the first yellow paper. The comic strip is credited with the first use of the term "yellow journalism.""

The book contains 763 illustrations with more than 100 pages in color. A run of 40,000 will be printed simultaneously in paperback and hard cover, at a cost of $12.50 and $27.50.

Books by SI People

Smithsonian staff members who have authored, edited, or illustrated books may notify SI Press Deputy Editor Felix Lowe, so that their work can be publicized in Torch.

This month's books include:


"Costume Display Techniques" by Kayn Jean Harris, MHT; American Association for State and Local History, 1977.

"October" by Robert Tilton, MHT; International Committee on Museum Science, 1976; Smithsonian Institution, 1976.


SI LOVES METRO... Six hundred eighty-five Smithsonian employees will enjoy the new Metro station on June 17 for a guided tour and explanation of the system for Metro officials. The initiation must have helped because an unofficial count shows that delighted station users were surprised to see Metro employees who had never ridden the Metro until the blue line opened on July 1. In the photograph, a group of employees try out an automatic farecard machine.
Archives-Supporters

By Emily Nathan

On a grey, rainy evening in June, several hundred hardy supporters of the Archives of American Art and the Citizens Committee for the Constitution of the United States gathered at the Constitution Hall of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., for a Fundraising Dinner. The event was part of the nationwide Constitution Bicentennial Celebration, and the evening featured a special presentation by the late President Ronald Reagan, who spoke about the importance of preserving our nation's historic documents.

Central's private police force took things into their own hands and subdued the gang with violent measures. That Red Hook, a similar area in Brooklyn, was the place where Al Capone bought the island about 1765 and sold it to Williams.

Russell Lynes, past president and long-time trustee of the Archives, and John Kowen, a member of the Citizens Committee, brought history to life with a commentary on the development of the shoreline and harbor.

Mr. Lynes is the author of several books about the arts, including "Dressed in Old Modern," an intimate portrait of the Museum of Modern Art. Mr. Kowen, hoven, for many years professor of art history and English at Bardwell College, is also an author whose works include "Made in America," the arts in modern civilization.

Gourmet picnic suppers with rare wines and champagne were consumed as fanciful listeners learned from the two speakers.

That they had embarked at the north end of what was New York Harbor, a area with a lurid reputation built up after the Civil War when a gang from across the bay, installed the railroad docks and freight cars of the New York Central and terrorized the region until New York.

While a secretary in the Museum of History and Technology's exhibits office, she began volunteering at Silver Hill on the evenings and on Saturdays. "Even then, it was tough to convince people that prior job experience as a secretary did not preclude my ability to become a museum technician and work full time in the shop," she said. "There was a lot of resistance towards me at first." Ms. Williams has done lots of different things since she began at Silver Hill three and a half years ago. She has moved airplanes around with heavy equipment, built crates for artifacts to be moved to NASM, cleaned and restored a number of aircraft, and worked in collections maintenance as well as the shop. Among her restorations two jobs stand out. "I loved restoring the fuselage and engine of the Langley Aerodrome model. Those old metals are fascinating to work with and the older craft are so different from the contemporary ones," she said. The 1936 Aerodrome model hangs in NASM's Milestones of Flight Area. Her other favorite was the Pilgrim gondola that is now in the Balloons and Airships gallery.

"I always said I'd never fly planes until I understood how they work," Ms. Williams said. "When I took flying lessons, I realized I'd rather work on one pilot. It's heaven to get paid for work you love. And the hoses involved with not following a traditional female path are worth it if what you are doing is important to you."

Come In, NN3S1

The FCC has extended for four years the operation of radio station NN3S1 in MHT, "Nation of Nations." exhibit. More than six million visitors have toured the exhibition since the operation of the ham radio station since it was installed last June.

Brock Holmes, DPA recordings production coordinator, is the director of "Tillie," a jazz-rock group which recently appeared on WJAL-TV's "A.M. Washington." The group, which writing its own material, performs each Sunday in the "Artists in Action" program, sponsored by Summer in the Parks.

The Bart J. Bok Prize has been awarded to CPA's Eric Chaisson in recognition of his "original contribution to astronomy." The fund for this cash prize was contributed by an anonymous donor on the occasion of Bok's death and is awarded annually. As is traditional, Dr. Chaisson presented a Bok Prize Lecture in the Physics Auditorium, May 31. His subject was "Radio Reconnaissance-Line Spectroscopy."

RECORDED PRICES . . . Admission prices for the film and planetarium showing in the Air and Space Museum have been reduced to 30 cents for adults and 25 cents for children. "To Fly" is shown daily beginning at 10:30 a.m. with the last showing at 6:00 p.m. "Cosmic Awakenings," in the Robert Einstein Spacearium, is also shown continuously beginning at 12:45 p.m., weekdays and 10:30 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Lunch Among the Beasts and Bowers

Hidden in the woods between the bird house and the elephant at the zoo is a small shop, "Wine and Cheese Kiosk." For $3.50 you can buy a basket with bread sticks, rolls, cheeses, pate, a piece of fruit, and a small bottle of wine. The kiosk is open Wednesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MHT Starts Fashion Hunt

If you have an Adrian gown, suit, or dress stashed in your closet or basement, it's time to take it out of mothballs and let it hit the runways in Washington. All in the process of adding to its Adrian collection and documenting its history, NASM will be holding the largest collection of the 1930's and 1940's, Adrian, who sold in Washington exclusively for the "Wine and Cheese Kiosk." For $3.50 you can buy a basket with bread sticks, rolls, cheeses, pate, a piece of fruit, and a small bottle of wine. The kiosk is open Wednesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Women Restores Aircraft at NASM Facility

By Lynne Murphy

"When I was little, I'd look people straight in the eyes and tell them I wanted to be a lawyer, just like my mother," said Pat Williams, the only woman who restored aircraft at the National Air and Space Museum. Mr. Kouwenhoven, for many years professor of art history and English at Bard College, is also the author whose works include "Made in America," the arts in modern civilization.

"All my life I've enjoyed tinkering with things," she said. "I'd hang around my mother's workshop and we had lots of projects." Pat Williams is no stranger to hard work at age six when she built a functioning paddlewheel for the creek in back of her house. Soon she advanced to sketching when flyng devices and balsa wood models of her inventions. "I try to remember all of them," she said. But growing up during World War II she persevered anyway, her interest in airplanes perpetuated by her family who were all flyers.

"They were a house during the war which became my B-17. If I couldn't get a crew of kids on the block, it became a Corsair, and I flew it myself."

Until 20 years later did Ms. Williams think seriously about art restoration. She had worked occasionally with sophisticated plastic models, began her own extensive aviation library, continued going to air shows, and began to spend time with people who were building their own airplanes. Her present career evolved from this interest.

'Newsmakers' (Continued from Page 1)

Americans interviewed for Roy Hoopes' "Women Restores Aircraft at NASM Facility"

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CONSIDER THE HEAVENS...If you're in Boston some time this summer, go to the rooftop of CFA's observatory complex at 60 Garden Street for stargazing sessions at dusk every Friday evening through August 26.

NPG Shows Civil War Sketches
By Rick Beard

Nowadays even the most casual observer is deluged with photographs of news events but scarcely more than a century ago the exact opposite was the case. During the Civil War, the public was forced to rely on illustrated newspapers and the artists who went into the field for visual accounts of military action.

The National Portrait Gallery's current small exhibition, Civil War Artists, features works by two of the war recorders, Conrad Wise Chapman and Winslow Homer. Their drawings and watercolors are on loan from the Valentine Museum in Richmond, Va., and the Cooper-Hewitt Museum and will be on view at NPG through September 5.

Conrad Wise Chapman, born in Virginia but raised in Rome, did all of his work while serving as a Confederate soldier. Although he fought at Shiloh, he spent most of his military career on garrison duty and thus most of his sketches are a personal record of his experiences. Only during 1863 and early 1864 did Chapman work's assume a more serious nature, when General P. G. T. Beauregard ordered him to depict the forts and batteries of Charleston harbor.

These sketches and watercolors, some of which are included in the NPG exhibit, demonstrate Chapman's acute powers of observation and painstaking regard for detail.

Unfortunately, few of his fellow southerners ever saw Chapman's work, the South lacked a successful illustrated newspaper in which he could publish his artistic record of the war.

Winslow Homer, the second artist featured in Civil War Artists, enjoyed a much wider audience through the pages of Harper's Weekly. Surprisingly, however, his output during the war was small. He did, however, begin oil painting until 1861 and so spent much of his time over the next several years experimenting. Nevertheless, when he did choose to accompany the Union army and sketch its activities, he succeeded in subordinating his artistic creativity to the demands of place or event.

Unlike most of his colleagues, Homer chose to concentrate on the soldiers rather than the events of the war. As the drawings on display at the NPG illustrate, he became such an expert at capturing the personality of the ordinary soldier. His anonymous characters possess a universal quality transcending the particular and recording the age-old predicaments of soldiers at war.

Rick Beard is a research historian at NPG, that give the places a special atmosphere: menus, matchbooks, stationery, and towels. The photographs and artifacts all were gathered since May 1 in a "blitz" of letterwriting, telephoning, and archival research, said Richard Oliver, curator of architecture and design, who organized the show with the help of volunteer Nancy Ferguson, an art history and preservation student at Columbia University.

"Jeffrey Limmerick, who is writing an article on the subject for Smithsonian magazine, was very helpful on initial leads, said Richard Oliver. "But I think it will be provocative for what is missing as well as what is included. Perhaps people will feel strongly enough to let me know their favorite vacation spots, which they want to see represented."

We did the exhibition on a shoestring," he continued, "but hope that we may be able to rework it so later that it can travel to other museums.

Si in the Media

Local Press Covers Kin & Communities
By Johnnie Douthis

"Kin and Communities" Michael Kernan seemed to enjoy covering the exhibition for the Washington Post. "The Smithsonian knows a lot about studying the past by now, and I think this show gives a great look at the nature of the historical process, presented with the Institution's customary professional competence. But also he got across something that is almost impossible for a conference to express: the camaraderie among families, for itself, the friendly connecting, the caring."

An article by Betty James of the Washington Star said that Dr. Dillon believes that "good friends can play the supportive role traditionally taken by kin."

As the author of NPG's annual Kin and Communities, "Reunions," written by Louise Lague in the Washington Star observed that although the show is small, "it collects poignant symbols of these passing rituals where being together is more important than having fun."

Fourth of July Celebration

Alan Kriegman, dance critic for the Washington Post, previewed the celebration described the exhibition as "a wonderful event for the Fourth of July," and operated by Alex and Phyllis Madonna, the motel is one of the popular spots for day-trippers.

"This show is a complete set of postcards that will be sold according to Pineapple Postcards, published by the Smithsonian Institution."

"The faces are marvelous," wrote Michael Kernan in a review of NPG's new film "The Faces of Freedom."
Boats, Bike Shows, Music Enthrall Crowds

By Thomas Harney

The letter that came to the Museum of Natural History from Shelly, Sir: Enclosed please find a picture of a meteorite we found on our mining claim in California.

Letters very much like this one are common at the Department of Mineral Sciences, and curators, without expecting any great “finds,” routinely invite the correspondent to send a sample to the Institution for a free examination.

“Usually these objects turn out to be slag or some other material,” said Meteorite Curator Roy Clarke. “It’s only once every couple of years that something comes up with the quality we are seeing in this case.”

Last August was one of those occasions. Examining a sample, MNH scientists pronounced it the second largest meteorite ever found in this country.

Mr. Clarke joined the miners in California, and together they drove north on the California Turnpike to the site of their claim, which is about five miles north of San Diego. There, in a gully more than a mile up a mountain, they found the reddish-brown boulder, characteristic of a meteorite that had lain on the ground for a long time.

“It was four feet long, three feet wide, and I’d say at least a ton. The boulder was about three feet thick,” Mr. Clarke recalled. “We can only speculate about how long it had been on the ground, but it could have been hundreds, maybe thousands of years.”

“At that point, the big question was who owned it. The finders thought they did, but I wanted to make certain. When the Bureau of Land Management investigated, they found that the boulder was on Government land and should be turned over to the Smithsonian.” Mr. Clarke explained.

Moving the meteorite was a major operation. On June 17, he and BLM officials watched as a seven-man U.S. Marine rigging crew used hydraulic jacks to roll the boulder into a nylon rope sling. Photographers and journalists at the scene included Joe Goodwin, who was covering the story for Smithsonian magazine.

Every one got into the spirit as live music prompted fish dancing at MHT on July 4.

Frisbee Festival Planned for Mall

National Air and Space Museum staffs have decided that Frisbees, those popular plastic flying objects, must come under NASM’s aegis as much as do airplanes, rockets, and space ships.

To celebrate the Labor Day weekend, NASM will sponsor a Frisbee festival on the Mall to be held Sunday, September 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or, in case of rain, on Labor Day, September 5.

The idea for the festival came from NASM Frisbee enthusiasts Bill Good of the art department and Jerry Barbely of the Spectrum. Fans have multiplied many times in the 20 years since the Wham-O company started full production of the plastic discs. There are now books on Frisbees and even a hitherto unknown, Flying Disc World.

The origin of the modern Frisbee, according to Stanton Johnson in his book, “Frisbee A Practitioner’s Manual and Definitive Treatise,” goes back to the early twenties when William Frisbie’s bakery introduced circular tin containers for their sugar cookies. The lids were ideal for tossing, and college students soon found out.

By the early 1950’s a modification of the tin lids, plastic flying saucers, became popular in (where else?) southern California. Also the manufacturer of Hula Hoops, Wham-O began producing Frisbees in 1957, and it wasn’t long before Frisbee teams and tournaments sprang up across the country.

Frisbee Festival Planned for Mall

Explore CBCEs

Smithsonian employees who have not yet visited our Chesapeake Bay Center for Environmental Studies can sign up for guided tours on two Saturdays this month. CBCEs docents will conduct tours from 10 a.m. to noon August 6 and 20. Call 798-4424 for more information.

Second Largest U.S. Meteorite Studied by MNH

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