FolkLife Festival Brings People into SI Exhibits

By Linda St. Thomas

For the first time since its arrival at the Museum of History and Technology, class­room 201 of Cleveland’s Dunham Elemen­tary School will again be filled with students and teachers for the Smithsonian’s Festival of American FolkLife in October.

Dulcimer and other classical stringed instru­ments will be played in the Hall of Musical Instruments, craftsmen will demonstrate the traditional techniques of staining and painting furniture at the Renwick’s “Paint on Wood” exhibit, and visitors will relate experiences concerning “Nation of Nations” artifacts such as the World War II barracks, sports and enter­tainment memorabilia, and the 1920’s Italian-American home.

At the festival, which will be held October 5 through 10 outdoors near MHT and in­doors at the Renwick, Museum of Natural History, and MHT. Daytime craft demonstra­tions, workshops, and demonstrations are set for 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., evening concerts and other performances from 8 to 10 p.m.

One of the most dramatic, and certainly the largest, outdoor demonstrations will be the threshing machine which will separate a barrel of wheat into straw and wheat grain. The hay, of course, will be dumped into wagons for hayrides and the wheat will be ground, cooked, and sampled by visitors.

Developed by Bill Foshaj (son of the late William Foshaj, MNH curator), the threshing exhibit will demonstrate how threshing machines have been used in the United States and how these machines and the method of threshing have changed over time. The festival is a part of a series of folkloric activities which is attended by more than 10,000 people each year.

Another representative of the company will be craft demonstra­tions such as pit-clamping, baseball bat turning, and saddlemaking. The exhibit’s pit-clamping machine will literally come to life with a worker from a pencil factory talking about his occupation. His daily demonstrations will include a selection of descriptions of the process and lecture sub­jects. He will also share his views about fac­tile life to the significance of pit-clamping in American culture.

Festival of American Folklife in October

For the first time since it arrived at the Carnegie Corporation, the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum has had the opportunity to develop a museum as a large measure been through the efforts of a dedicated staff and the unrivaled support of Mr. Ripley. The museum’s future will de­pend upon the degree to which cooperative affiliations and special projects are developed with the Smithso­nian family of museums.

Anacostia Research Center was estab­lished in 1970 with a grant from the Carnegie Corporation to organize a detailed history project to supplement the ANM ex­hibit, “The Evolution of a Community. From the beginning, the facility has been used by college and graduate students who have served internships with the research department. Although most have come from the metropolitan area, some have come from foreign countries and many States.

Center Funds Historical Group

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According to Mr. Kinard, “The Anacostia Neighborhood Museum’s oppor­tunity to develop as a museum has in a large measure been through the efforts of a dedicated staff and the unrivaled support of Mr. Ripley. The museum’s future will de­pend upon the degree to which cooperative affiliations and special projects are developed with the Smithso­nian family of museums.

The society also has helped to strengthen and broaden ANM education programs as members have related their own stories about Anacostia’s past in lectures and demonstrations scheduled at the museum.

The research department maintains the Museum’s only permanent collection: census and tax returns, the Emanu­el Commission records, correspondence and records of the Freedmen’s Bureau, and volumes of “Cruik,” the official publication of the NAAACP. The center also has an oral history archive of taped interviews and transcriptions of conversations with senior Anacostia residents. When ANM begins its active collection and curatorial program, the research department will house it.

For further information, calls include the ex­pansion and maintenance of the reference library including acquisition of books, documents, memorabilia, and artifacts of special significance to black history in the District of Columbia.
Anacostia's Museum

Then...

A Gift for All Reasons

A special $6 rate for National Associate membership, including a subscription to Smithsonian magazine, is available to Smithsonian employees either for personal use or as gifts throughout the year. Foreign postage is $5.95 extra. Call ext. 6264 for applications.

Comet Whipple Returns

A tiny cosmic wanderer, first discovered in 1974, is returning to the vicinity of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, will return to the Earth early next year. This is the sixth known comet to be identified by the few remaining double eyeshats they wear.

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Family of Editors Featured in New York Times

Two Editors: Related Subjects was the headline for a feature story in a recent Sunday edition of the New York Times profiling Edward Thompson, editor and publisher of Smithsonian magazine, and his son, Edward Thompson, editor-in-chief of Reader's Digest.

The article reported that both Thompsons had recently received awards from the American Academy of Achievement for their work in journalism. In the 16 years of presentations, this was the third time a father and son had been so honored.

Air and Space

The June issue of Air Force magazine featured an illustrated article on the Silver Hill Museum. In addition to listing a portion of the exhibits, the article gave details of the skilled craftsmen and the various restoration processes.

Kudos for NASM continue to appear in the press. The latest comes from the Beckley (W.Va.) Raleigh Register, where an article described NASM as the "finest and most awe-inspiring facility of its kind in the world."

The article continued, "Words fail me in trying to describe it to you in a fashion that would convey an idea of the scope and depth of the myriad space and earth flight exhibits it contains."

The article concluded, "America's preeminent facility is a city only now awakening to the importance of excellence in the design of its public buildings."

Benjamin Forgey of the Washington Star felt that the project is "the most awe-inspiring facility of its kind in the world."

The Eakins show received favorable reviews from the Baltimore Sun and the Philadelphia Inquirer. The Sun's Lincoln Johnson found the works "interesting not for their provenance, but for the intimate glimpses they provide into Eakins' life and working methods."

Benjamin Forgey of the Washington Star felt that the chief source of pleasure to be found in O'Keeffe's sculptures is the unstrained, almost off-hand feeling of lightness, inexplicably given such palpable and pressing matter.

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The Inquirer article noted that it is interesting to see the artist's palette, photographic equipment, and boyhood sketches which offer insights in quite the same way Eakins revealed his subjects through portraits.

National Zoo

A Washington Star reporter Thomas Crosby continued his coverage of the Zoo with an article on Mohini, the white Bengal tiger and another on using closed circuit TV to observe the animals. Crosby stated that the famous tiger, once the most popular animal at the Zoo, is now losing ground to the giant pandas.

NCFA and Renwick

Washington Post art critic Paul Richard found "something moving" about the gently lit mist, the soft light, and the hush of the Arthur Wesley Dow show at NCF.

Recent Sunday editions of the Washington Post have carried lengthy illustrated articles by Sarah Booth Conroy on exhibitions at the Renwick. Mrs. Conroy praised both the recently opened show on grass objects and Polish textiles which she said gave the Renwick an opportunity to "use effectively its splendid 25-foot ceiling heights." She praised Val Lewton for the interesting installation.

Phoebe Stanton of the Washington Post continued to write that "the Smithsonian continues to be 'one of the pleasantest of all the museums in the city,'" and that the institution is "physically or mentally overwhelming not so small and specialized that one is inclined to say a visit is a visit of a rainy day."

Travelling Exhibitions

SITES' "Ride On!" was described by the Baton Rouge Advocate as "funny, serious, educational.

The Locksmith Institute News found that "Leaves from Iran" is a "highly informative display and well worth the viewer's time.

Around the Smithsonian

"The result was a joyous melange of manuscripts, objects, and new information," noted Hollie West of the Washington Post in his review of Los Papines, a Cuban music group which appeared in August. A reception for the group was sponsored by the African American section of DPA.

The next day..." by Peter Brauerstrump, editor, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, was recently reviewed in the Washington Post. In his review he described the center as a "landmark of high quality and fascination.

The New York Times reported that CFA astronomers believe they have found the giant mass that would explain the galaxy's major puzzles—which holds clusters and superclusters of galaxies together.
Mt. Hopkins Scope Nears Completion

The MMT facility high at Mt. Hopkins, Arizona, is soon to pass a milestone marking the completion of its final section, with the last portion of the installation scheduled for completion in June. During May, the concrete floors of the building were poured. The new facility was designed to house the 25-meter Optical Observatory, which will be used to conduct optical studies of the universe. The observatory will be constructed using materials from the NCA Observatory, which was recently completed.

Back In Print

The booklet "Space for Women: Perspectives on Careers in Science," published by the CFA Women's Program Committee, is back in print after an initial distribution of some 5,000 copies. On May 1, 2,000 additional copies were published and, by April 30, another 1,000 already had been distributed. If you'd like extra copies of this best seller for friends, associates, or relatives, call the CFA Publications Department in Cambridge (617) 832-5462.

Two MNH Bamboo Experts Aid Brazilian Government Study

By Thomas Harsey

Two MNH bamboo experts, Cleofe Calderon and Thomas Soderstrom, are helping the Brazilian government analyze the economic potential of enormous new-found stands of Amazon bamboo.

Using radar-photo image equipment carried by jet planes, the Brazilians are systematic mapping the cloud-covered Amazon wilderness—a region two-thirds the size of the continental United States. The terrain's hidden streams and forests, the character of its vegetation, and possible mineral deposits are being delineated in many areas for the first time.

Aerial imagery located vast bamboo stands in Acre, Brazil's westernmost state. Today, no roads reach the area, though the Trans-Amazon highway will soon make it possible to tap the region's resources. On the invitation of the Brazilian Government, Drs. Calderon and Soderstrom flew to a remote Air Force base near the Peruvian border.

"Daily helicopter hops carried us to interesting forest sites," the MNH scientists reported. "In many cases, teams of workers equipped with electric saws descended the hill on a rope ladder. The work was being done at clearing so our copter could land. Some areas had never been visited by humans before.

"When we disembarked, we found thickets of skinny bamboo shoots that interlaced with forest trees, the bamboo sometimes as high as 13 feet, 6 inches over the tree tops," Dr. Soderstrom said.

Working quickly, while the helicopter stood by, the two NCA scientists made collections of canes, foliage, and rhizomes for laboratory analysis. The canes and rhizomes were photographed in color and black and white. Notes were taken of maximum and minimum forest temperatures, soil and vegetation quality, and other ecological factors. Some canes were shipped to the National Institute of Amazonian Research (INPA), a large Brazilian laboratory complex at Manaus on the Amazon River. The scientists plan to return to the area later this year to study the potential of these resources for papermaking.

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Cleofe Calderon and Thomas Soderstrom

A Flower for All Seasons

Who says a flower only blooms once? Not everyone, apparently. To visit our Mr. Hopkins Scope, you'll find a flower that blooms twice. On the back porch, in the late afternoon. You can find it in full bloom and again in the late afternoon. The flower blooms twice a day. It was discovered by the NCA team at the Hopkins Scope. The flower is a beautiful, delicate, yellow flower. It's called the "Flower for All Seasons."
Beck Retires
After 20 Years

September at the Sm

2 NATURAL HISTORY FILMS: Darwins—the naturalist's travels and study that led to his concept of evolution. The Galapagos—the geological history of the islands. 12 noon. Baird Auditorium, Natural History Building. FREE.

4 FRISBEE FESTIVAL: Exhibitions—free-throwing dogs, master craftspeople—beginners or experts of all ages. Throwing Competition: Jamming—tossing and catching. Picnics are encouraged. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. National Zoo Buildings—9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. FREE.

SUN.

CONCERT: The Lydian Chamber Players present Polish music; all compositions written within the past 30 years. Scheduled in conjunction with the exhibition 22 Polish Textile Artists. 4 p.m. The Renwick Gallery. FREE.

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

The Commodores, United States Navy Band Jazz ensemble, performing jazz, popular and rock music. September 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30, 12 noon. Carmichael Auditorium, History and Technology Building. FREE.

EXHIBITION: Chinese Album Leaves and Fan Paintings. A selection of works representing two most intimate forms of Chinese painting, so designated because of their small size. The Freer Gallery of Art, through winter. FREE.

HIRSHHORN FILM: Josef Albers: Homage to the Square. Scheduled in conjunction with an installation of Albers' paintings from the Hirshhorn's collections. 12 noon. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. FREE.

HIRSHHORN SLIDE LECTURE: American Art of the 1950's. Speaker: John Bernard Myers, art critic, 8 p.m. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. FREE.

ILLUSTRATED LECTURE: Migratory Birds in Tropical Habitats. Speaker: Eugene S. Morton, National Zoological Park, 8 p.m. Baird Auditorium, Natural History Building. FREE.

EL DIA HISPANO: Afternoon festival of performances by artists, music in the courtyard and films on hispanic art, celebrating the traditions and accomplishments of the Chicano, Puerto Rican, Latin American and Hispanics. 2 to 4 p.m. National Collection of Fine Arts. See also September 17. FREE.

radio smithsonian

Radio Smithsonian, the Institution's nationally broadcast program, can be heard in Washington and every Sunday on WGMS-AM (570) and WM (103.5) from 9 to 9:30 p.m. The program schedule for September:


11th—Photographing the Frontier. The American West 100 years ago, seen and recorded by the pioneer photographers, and described by Eugene Ostrow, curator of Photograph History, Reflections of Degas.

15th—The Anacostia Neighborhood Museum marks its anniversary with an open house, 6 to 8 p.m. 2405 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, FREE.

ARTS AND INDUSTRIES BUILDING, 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. FREE.

FREE Gallery of Art, National Collection of Fine Arts, National Portrait Gallery, Renwick Gallery. 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. FREE.

Anacostia Neighborhood Museum—10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. weekends. FREE.

National Zoo Buildings—9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

*Sponsored by the Resident Associate Program of the Smithsonian. Discounts are available for members. For attendance or other information call 381-5157. Unless otherwise indicated, tickets should be purchased in advance, and will be sold at the door only if available.

Beck, telephone operator, by Barbara Shutt, Irene Blaho, Mark Hsu, Tse, and Linda Hol- lendsworth.

Estelle Beck, telephone office supervisor for 12 years, has retired after a total of 20 years' service at the Smithsonian. Mrs. Beck first came to SI in 1940 when there were only 900 telephone lines and four museums—SI, A&I, MNH, and Freer. Taking time off to raise her family, Mrs. Beck returned in 1960 when the telephone office was in the Natural History Building. She has watched Smithsonian telephone service grow from 600 lines in 1963, when the office first moved to the Museum of History and Technology, to more than 2,000 lines. Mrs. Beck recalls attempts in the early years of the Folk-life Festival to contact performers in the hill areas of various southern states for festival staff. "I would often call the police department, post office, or a local garage and ask if they could locate the person we needed since the hill people didn't usually have telephones. They always knew who we wanted and would pass along the message to call me collect. Being from the South myself, I knew that the townspeople usually congregate around the local garage," she explained.

During Mrs. Beck's tenure, the Telex cable system was introduced at SI, allowing messages to be sent and received from all over the world. In 1972 the main switchboard, under her direction, took over phone service for the National Zoo. This resulted in a lot of jokc calls to deal with—even long-distance—for Elga Phont, Mr. Fox, and so on. "The Smithsonian is a marvelous place to work," Mrs. Beck commented. "Because it handles such a variety of things from art to zoology, it is unlike any other agency. It is the only place I have ever worked and to see it grow, has been an interesting experience for me."

Registration for fall quarter courses at the Graduate School, U.S. Department of Agriculture, will be held September 17-24 in the Counties Building, located on Independence Avenue between 12th and 14th Streets, SW.

To get a listing of more than 600 job-related and leisure courses being offered this fall, call the Graduate School at 447-4419.

The Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, the 1977 summer science interns pose with Tondryk,
to the Graduate School at 447-4419.
SEMINAR: Colorization of Space. 10 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Baird Auditorium, Natural History Building. SAT. $25.*

SKY LECTURE: The Immortals of the Sky—A Cast of Colorful Characters. Monthly lecture by National Air and Space Museum staff followed by a discussion of celestial events due to occur the coming month. 9 a.m. Einstein Spacearium, NASM. Tickets required. Call 381-4103 weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. FREE.  

EL DIA HISPANO: 1 to 4 p.m. See September 16 for festival details. National Collection of Fine Arts. FREE.

18 ARCHIEASUS PRODUCTIONS: Starless. Science fiction performed especially for young people. 2 p.m.萨姆·卡明奇，Historian and History Building. $2.50.*

20 Hirshhorn Slide Lecture: The Life and work of Arthur B. Carles. Speaker: Barbara Wolanin. Smithsonian Predoctoral Fellow. 12:30 p.m. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. FREE.

21 ILLUSTRATED LECTURE: British Art at Yale. Speaker: Dr. Malcolm Carmack, Curator of Paintings, Yale Center for British Art and British Studies. 12 p.m. Carminieh Auditorium, History and Technology Building—$4.*

EXHIBITION: The Art of Pochoir. Approximately 40 examples of the silkscreen techniques developed in the late 19th century and used for applying color to black and white printed images. The items represent work done in France, England and the United States between 1885 and 1920, the period when pochoir was at its peak. Hall of Graphic Arts. Museum of History and Technology.

EXHIBITION: Living Things: Excerpts from a Sketchbook Diary. Ink and watercolor scenes by Ole Maria Peters. Thirty-nine works depict natural history subjects from her travels to Africa, Europe, and throughout the United States. Museum of Natural History, through Nov. 10.


Hirshhorn Film: From Renior to Picasso. A study-comparison by Paul Hansen of the characteristics of the works by Renior, Seurat and Picasso. 12 noon. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. FREE.

Hirshhorn Evening Films: Face It!—A survey of work by independent filmmakers exploring the face as an image motif. Ritual, by Michael Brown; Satire, by Albert Rose; Necrology, by Stan Lawler. 8 p.m. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. FREE.

DIAL-A-MUSEUM—737-8811 for daily announcements on new exhibits and special events.

23 FRIDAY

NATURAL HISTORY FILM: Wolves and Wolf Men. The myths and misconceptions about wolves and their instinctive behavioral organizations. 12 noon. Baird Auditorium, Natural History Building. FREE.

26 AUDBUDION LECTURE: Galapagos—the Enchanted Islands. Speaker: Stephen W. Kreas, Laboratory of Mammalogy, Cornell University. The behavior and natural selection process of tortoises, iguanas, albatrosses, flightless cormorants, frigate birds, boobies, and swallow-tailed gulls. Monthly illustrated lecture series co-sponsored by the Audubon Naturalist Society, Friends of the National Zoo and Resident Associate Program. 5:45 or 8:15 p.m. Baird Auditorium, Natural History Building. $5.*

27 ILLUSTRATED LECTURE: A Spectacular Structure Goes Up on the Mall—the new East Building of the National Gallery of Art. Speaker: Dr. David W. Scott, Consultant, National Gallery of Art. 8 p.m. Baird Auditorium, Natural History Building. FREE.

HOMAGE TO RAPHAEL SOYER. A dialogue between Soyer and Joshua Taylor, Director of the National Collection of Fine Arts. 8 p.m. Carminieh Auditorium, History and Technology Building. Scheduled in conjunction with the special exhibition Raphael Soyer: Watercolors and Drawings, opening September 30. 50.*

CREATIVE SCREEN: Behind the Fence—Albert Palcy. Metamorphosis. Repeat. See September 13 program for details. 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. The Renwick Gallery. FREE.

28 THURSDAY

CONCERT: 19th Century Brass in the Rotunda. Marches and waltzes by the Lilly Belle Brass Band. 8 p.m. Rotunda. Arts and Industries Building. $5.*

HOPEWELL MUSEUM Two East 91st Street, New York City PALACES FOR THE PEOPLE. 100 years of resort and motel architecture in America. Through September 28.

DRAWING TOWARD A MORE MODERN ARCHITECTURE. Drawings by architects and designers conveying their concept of what is to be built. September 20 through November 6.

THE HOPEWELL COLLECTIONS. Major exhibition of objects from the Museum’s holdings. September 27 through December 1977.

29 FRIDAY


30 FRIDAY

NATURAL HISTORY FILM: The Early Americans—the prehistory of Americas. 12 noon. Baird Auditorium, Natural History Building. FREE.

EXHIBITION: Raphael Soyer: Drawings and Watercolors. Figure studies, portraits of fellow artists and self-portraits comprise the works of this artist. The 63 works also include five related oils. National Collection of Fine Arts, through November 27. A dialogue between Raphael Soyer and NCF director, Joshua Taylor is scheduled in conjunction with this exhibition. See September 27.

ADDITIONAL ASSOCIATES ACTIVITIES

The Smithsonian Resident Associate Program sponsors a variety of activities including classes, workshops, tours and lecture series that are open to the general public, for both adults and children. For schedules, fees or other information, call 381-5157.

Books By SI People

Smithsonian staff members who have authored, edited, or illustrated books may notify SI Press Deputy Director Felix Lowe so that their work can be publicized in Torch. This month’s books include:


The National Wildlife Federation has selected "Zoobook," published by the Smithsonian Institution Press, for inclusion in its 1977 Christmas catalog sent to some two million members and donors.

Published last November in paperback ($3.95) and hardcover ($9.95), the book received an excellent review from the Washington Post, which called it "a colorful and well-illustrated book giving an up-to-date account of the most popular and best known species of domestic and wild animals of the world, and with plenty of attention to the glamorous (if indolent) pandas, and the svelte white tigers." The book has also been widely praised by professional and lay persons as indicated in numerous letters to NTP Director Theodore Reed.

POPULAR GROUP CONTINUES... The Commodores, the U.S. Navy Band’s jazz ensemble, will continue their performance schedule through the fall of the season. Lunchtime concerts, noon to 1 p.m., will be held on Mondays and Fridays during September, October, and December in Carmichael auditorium.

Camps and Going To

On August 1, Jack Korty was joined by the Smithsonia Institution Press as a technical editor in the Series Publications Division. Mr. Korty was to the Smithsonian in 1974 as a management analyst and worked in the Forms Management and Directives Management sections of the Management Analysis Office.

Nancy Crampton recently joined the HMSG conservation lab as a museum technician. Ms. Crampton has been with the Smithsonian since 1976 and previously worked with the Archives of American Art.
One hundred and eighty train buffs from all over the United States gathered between June 21st and July 1st for the first-ever Smithsonian Institution rail excursion through the Soviet Union. The trip, from June 23rd to July 8th, allowed passengers to see Soviet Russia from the perspective of an automobile, from the tracks of the Standard Pacific to the Trans-Siberian Express.

The rail tour was organized by the Smithsonian's Department of History, Technology, and Art, with the assistance of the National Association of Railroaders, the American Society of Railway Engineers, the American Railway History Association, and the Railway Historical Foundation. The trip was led by Dr. Robert Muir, the Institution's director of technology and history.

The excursion started in Moscow, where passengers were greeted by the Institution's director of technology and history, Dr. Robert Muir. The group then traveled north to Leningrad, where they visited the Hermitage Museum and the Russian Museum of Art. They continued on to the Ural Mountains, where they viewed the famous Ural Mountains and the Bering Strait.

The group then traveled south to the Crimean Peninsula, where they visited the Crimean Mountains and the Black Sea. They continued on to the Caucasus Mountains, where they visited the Caucasian Mountains and the Circassian Republic. They then traveled to the Caspian Sea, where they visited the Caspian Sea and the Caspian Sea coastline.

The trip concluded in Moscow, where passengers were once again greeted by Dr. Robert Muir. The tour was a great success, and the passengers were able to see many of the highlights of Soviet Russia from the perspective of an automobile.
Frem Open Fall Season with Two New Exhibits

Religious associations of the seasons are apparent in the keman, or pandan leaf, and the traditional floral tracery executed in gilded copper. The keman form was derived from festival or wedding offerings used in Buddhist ceremonies.

The Freer exhibition will coincide with a similar Japanese art exhibit at the Asia House Gallery in New York City, part of a major exhibition which the Freer will assemble of public and private American collections by the Freer’s last director, Harold Stern. The most intimate forms of Chinese painting will be featured in “Chinese Album Leaves and Fan Paintings,” now opening on September 15 at the Freer.

The Freer Gallery will open the autumn season on September 15 with two exhibitions featuring highlights from the Chinese and Japanese collections.

Thomas Vennum of the folklorists at the end of the 1970s.

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Young Interns Spent Learning Summer at Smithsonian Museums

By Kathryn Lindeman

A small group of interested spectators, young and old, watched as Nora Besansky fed a cricket to a tarantula and explained that tarantulas look frightening, but their bite doesn’t hurt much—it’s similar to a bee sting.

Nora, a senior at Silver Spring’s Montgomery Blair High School, was one of 26 participants in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education’s summer intern program.

She has been fascinated by insects as long as she can remember and hopes to study entomology after graduation from high school. The Insect Zoo in the Museum of Natural History was a gold mine for her to gain practical experience with insects—learning to feed them, observing habits, and watching them work over extended periods of time.

“Besides learning about the insects, I have also gotten a lot of valuable practice in talking to people,” she said, shortly after discussing ant farms with a visiting family who is trying to build one.

As an intern at the Insect Zoo, Nora has performed such duties as cleaning cages, handling insects like the hissing cockroaches and tobacco hornworms, feeding mantor to dung beetles, or tending to and drawing 12 flies a day for the tiger beetles.

Marko Kawaguchi, an intern from the Duke University Design Program in Washington, D.C., worked in the Museum of History and Technology’s Exhibits Production Department and had a lot of excitement in preparing exhibits and silk-screening performers, labels, and July 4 celebration banners.

“This is a once in a lifetime experience,” Marko said. “I think I’ve gotten the kind of on-the-job training I could never have found in schools. Working with ‘old masters’ who’ve been here 20 to 30 years has helped me a lot.”

Phil Helms from A.L. Brown High School in Kannapolis, N.C, an intern in MHN’s freeze dry lab, first took a correspondence course in taxidermy at age 11. But at the Smithsonian he has broadened his knowledge by helping prepare some of the 800 specimens for an upcoming exhibit on the lives of freshwater turtles, a fox, a raccoon, and even an armadillo.

Phil has learned how to mount, freeze, and remove the water from animals in the freeze dry process. He hopes to build his own freeze dry machine.

Peter Masters, a senior at Woodson High School in Fairfax, Va., has been screening films for scratches, dirt, and other damage as an intern with the Office of Telecommunications. He has learned about film splicing and editing and got a chance to see the WETA-TV station in operation. He also helped film the President of Venezuela when he dedicated a new sculpture at NASM this summer.

Evelyn Reese, OESE program assistant, said the interns are recruited mostly from schools within a 500-mile radius of Washington with letters going to some schools outside the metropolitan area. The program is open only to high school seniors and lasts eight weeks—this year from June 20 through August 12.

Each Monday during the program, the interns meet for enrichment activities such as tours of NASM and the Anacostia Museum, a behind-the-scenes tour of the Archives, and a visit to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

Families from the local community house the out-of-town interns with a $20 per week reimbursement paid at the end of the internship. Of the 11 boys and 15 girls in this year’s program, six were out-of-towners.

A Deloitte, Wallace/Reader’s Digest Scholarship of $325 is awarded to each intern. Participants are chosen, Mrs. Reese said, on the basis of the narrative they submit and the skills they have in their area of interest. Usually about 200 to 250 students apply. “It’s a difficult task to narrow it down to 25-26 students,” she said.

Curators’ requests for interns vary. This year, for example, the Chesapeake Bay Center for Environmental Education requested as many interns as possible to assist student scientists in presenting outdoor, community-centered environmental education programs for children ages eight through 16. MHT requested a total of 12 interns in various departments throughout the Museum: the National Zoological Park requested two, and various other offices requested one.

SI Gardens: Five Years Later

By Linda St. Thomas

Five years ago, horticulture at the Smithsonian meant mowing lawns and pruning a few trees. Today, it consists of 5,000 permanent trees and shrubs, planting 50,000 tulips and 100,000 summer annuals, growing seasonal flowers in seven greenhouses, and searching for authentic garden furnishings and plants for the Victorian Gardens.

The Office of Horticulture, under the direction of James Buckler, celebrated its fifth birthday on July 31. When the office was established, its goals were to improve the overall appearance of the museum areas and to develop a long-term plan for the Smithsonian grounds as a horticultural showcase.

Starting with a staff of five grounds maintenance workers and half of a borrowed greenhouse, the horticulture staffers began to revamp the landscaping scheme and get the gardens under control.

With all this activity, it didn’t take long to outgrow the greenhouse space on the Mall, and in 1973 the Office of Horticulture constructed two greenhouses at the Smith­sonian’s program offering on-the-job train­ing for the physically and mentally handicapped.

Temporary Staff Aids Gardeners

For Wendy Welhaf and Ray Dudley, temporary positions with the horticulture office have led to full-time careers as Smithsonian gardeners. Ms. Welhaf started as a volunteer, then received a temporary appointment, and is now the in-charge of museum interior plants. After working at the Department of Agriculture, Beltsville Research Center, Mr. Dudley joined the Smithsonian as a temporary staff­er in 1973 and is now a gardener assigned to the Victorian Garden.

The Office of Horticulture educational program for temporary employees and in­terns began in 1972 when Horticulturist James Buckler hired nine people to assist the full-time gardeners and greenhouse staff. The program has grown to allow 30 persons selected each year to work in the greenhouse, outdoor gardens, and the museum buildings under the supervision of staff horticulturists.

Barbara Mosesley, a student at Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Va., was one of 10 temporary positions assigned to the grounds as a internship. In fact, she has been working on the Arts and Industries plants.

Jack Monday, program assistant, interviews and hires the temporary staff, who are students in biology or horticulture at local universities or are experienced gardeners who have heard about the Smithsonian’s program offering on-the-job training.

Two temporary gardeners with one­year appointments to the Smithsonian garden and greenhouse were referred to the horticulture department by the Melwood Horticulture Training Center for the physically and men­tally handicapped.

Nora Besansky, Peter Masters, and Marko Kawaguchi

Barbara Diehl and Barbara Mosesley (center) with gardener Ray Dudley.