5-Year Acquisition Plan Begins

A new program to strengthen the Smithsonian's major collections acquisitions, scholarly research and educational outreach has produced results in its first month of operation. The 5-year program, approved by Secretary Ripley and the Board of Regents, has enabled two museums to purchase important new items for their collections. In addition, it has permitted organizations throughout the Institution to undertake new or expanded research or educational activities.

The Museum of Natural History acquired 185 Mexican Indian masks of the Donald Ceredy collection, considered one of the most extensive and best documented of its kind. The Museum of History and Technology purchased a quartet of stringed instruments—two violas, a violin and a cello—handcrafted by Italian masters of the 18th century.

At least one other Smithsonian museum is actively considering a major acquisition under the program, which was launched last January when the Regents approved a fiscal 1978 allocation of $2 million—$1 million for acquisitions and $500,000 each for scholarly and outreach programs—from unrestricted trust funds. A similar sum was later approved for fiscal 1979 and, while it was agreed that a new assessment of spending plans would necessarily have to be made each year, there was the firm stated intention to continue with such trust fund expenditures in the future, providing funds were available.

As a result of the program, the Institution was able to support to outreach programs ranging from audiovisual equipment for Mall museums to research assistantships.

In general, the Educational Outreach Program is designed to reach primarily people who are not members of the National or Resident Associates or of the Friends of the National Zoo. Although continued attention will be given to these membership groups, the new outreach program will aim to attract and serve people who do not normally have opportunities to visit the museums or join SI programs.

Thus far, outreach projects recommended by appropriate screening committees and approved by the Secretary include:

- Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory: A science intern program for high school students and a reprinting of the booklet "Space for Women: Perspectives on Careers in Science.''
- Metropolitan Museum of Art: Van visits to classrooms and to groups of elderly, handicapped and institutionalized persons; the extension of the Friday film and lecture programs to weekends and holidays.
- Tropical Research Institute: Research assistantships for students planning careers in science; environmental training seminars for teachers.
- Office of Museum Programs: Funds for a museum training program for employees of Native American and Eskimo organizations.
- Traveling Exhibition Service: Support for development of educational materials designed to accompany exhibits for children.
- Office of Public Service: Assistance to develop brief radio features by the Telecommunications Office; to develop services for the hearing impaired through the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Resident Associates; to fund a colloquium by the Office of Seminars and Symposia in observance of Einstein's birth in 1879 to fund the 1979 Fourth of July celebration to be produced by the Division of Performing Arts and MHT.
- Scholarly projects at the Institution have been supported by trust funds ever since the original Smithsonian bequest. Over the years, federal funds, contract monies and grants have supplemented the original bequest. (See Trust Funds, Page 2.)

How Will Federal Freeze Affect SI?

A memorandum outlining procedures for implementing the federal hiring limitation ordered by President Carter as of Oct. 25 has been circulated to all bureaus and offices by Under Secretary McCollum following an Executive Committee decision-making meeting on the question.

The presidential limitation provides that one-half of those vacancies occurring prior to Oct. 25 cannot be filled. A vacancy existing before Oct. 25 cannot be filled except through use of one of the permitted appointments resulting from new vacancies.

The White House action does not provide for automatic exemptions in any job category. However, under Office of Management and Budget guidelines, occupations relating to the safety of life and property may be exempt from the hiring restrictions.

At the close of business Oct. 24, the Institution had approximately 180 vacancies. Excluding guards, the attrition rate for the Institution is about 10 percent yearly.

The Executive Committee decided that as a first step bureaus are to assign priorities to all vacancies and provide a list to the permanent Executive Committee members with a copy to the personnel office. The list is to indicate those vacancies existing before Oct. 25 and those which occurred thereafter. Based on this data, the Executive Committee members will determine which positions can be filled promptly.

In addition, inasmuch as it is Institution-wide hiring which will be monitored by OMB, the Ex Com decided to empower Collins to respond to critical hiring needs in instances where a particular assistant secretary may not have sufficient vacancies in his area to fill a crucial position.

Kudos From GAO

The Smithsonian was singled out for effective procedures in a newly published General Accounting Office report on how federal agencies deal with auditors' findings.

The report by GAO, the investigative arm of Congress, noted that "the government relies on audit as the basic tool for preventing unauthorized expenditures" but concluded, on the basis of a survey of 34 agencies, that $4.5 billion in audit findings had not been resolved.

The report contended that most of the 34 agencies "are not in full or even substantial compliance" with the Office of Management and Budget requirements for audit resolution systems. "In our judgment," the report said, "only the Department of the Interior and the Smithsonian Institution appeared to be in substantial compliance with the (OMB) circular.'

Museums Set For Holiday Festivities

By Linda St. Thomas

There's always been a lot of action at the Smithsonian during the holidays, but this year the museums seem to have outdone themselves. You could easily spend much of the last two weeks of December visiting special holiday exhibitions, picking up gifts in the shops, attending parties or just enjoying the decorations.

Among the highlights are the annual staff Christmas party Wednesday, Dec. 20, from 3 to 5:15 p.m. in the Museum of Natural History Rotunda.

It's up to you to find the best office party, but here's a rundown of the official Smithsonian happenings this month.

Trees of Christmas

Last year's "Trees of Christmas" exhibition was so popular—and crowded—that it now extends to two floors of the Museum of History and Technology. Among the decorated trees will be the "U.S. Community," a basic modern American yuletide tree complete with tinsel and shiny ball ornaments. Other trees include Russian, Pioneer, Tidewater Plantation, Dried Flowers, Ecclesiastical Ornaments, Gold Thread Embroidery on Silk, Williamsburg Folk Art, Denmark, Poland, American Victorian and Colonial.

"Trees of Christmas," organized by the Office of Horticulture, will be open from Dec. 11 through Jan. 6.

The Zoo will have its own special Christmas tree laden with items which double as food for the birds who live in and visit the National Zoo. The Friends of the Smithsonian's "extremely significant impact" on American life.

Regent Ryan Dead

Rep. Leo J. Ryan (D-Calif.), 53, a member of the Smithsonian Board of Regents since last August, died Nov. 18 when a fact-finding mission he was leading was attacked in Port Kaltuma, Guyana. "I am shocked and saddened," Secretary Ripley said in a statement. "by the death of Leo Ryan and the other members of his party." Al- though Ryan had been a Regent only a few months, Ripley noted, he had taken an active interest in Institution affairs.

Rep. Ryan, elected to the House in 1972 after serving in the State Assemby for 13 months in San Francisco, was a member of the Government Operations and Government Relations committees. In a statement in his appointment as a Regent he spoke of his "workshop" and "wonderful major Regent (D-Calif.), 53, a member of the Smithsonian Board of Regents since last August, died Nov. 18 when a fact-finding mission he was leading was attacked in Port Kaltuma, Guyana. "I am shocked and saddened," Secretary Ripley said in a statement. "by the death of Leo Ryan and the other members of his party." Al- though Ryan had been a Regent only a few months, Ripley noted, he had taken an active interest in Institution affairs.

Rep. Ryan, elected to the House in 1972 after serving in the State Assemby for 13 months in San Francisco, was a member of the Government Operations and Government Relations committees. In a statement in his appointment as a Regent he spoke of his "workshop" and "wonderful major Regent
Howard Toy

The Act of establishing an independent Federal Labor Relations Authority.

The new program provides for the establishment of a rating system of acceptable and unacceptable based upon performance standards and critical elements of each position.

Fund Supports Research, Outreach

The new program enables the Smithsonian to provide support for the following activities:

- MNH: Automated equipment for the interpretation, performance appraisal, and visual communications methods in animals.
- SAD: Projects to obtain information on the distribution and neutral particle density of a region of the Orion nebula; a study of multiple stars and their properties; an analysis of the consequences of low temperature mass operation; travel for six months on an international station.
- ZOC: Support of the organizing of current studies of vocal, olfactory and visual communications methods in animals.

The Act abolishes the current employee performance appraisal categories of outstanding, satisfactory, unsatisfactory and not established.

The law provides for the establishment of a rating system of acceptable and unacceptable based upon performance standards and critical elements of each position.

The Smithsonian could not accurately evaluate the new law's total impact because the Civil Service Commission had not yet fully interpreted it.

By Susan Bliss

Elihu Vedder was an artist whose work cannot be categorized under labels of artistic styles. His landscapes, sculptures, and interior designs combine the dreamlike atmosphere of his work, but his subject matter and technique range from the sensual and worldly to the ephemeral and spiritual.

Vedder was described as one of the most complex and interesting of 19th-century American artists. His versatility has never been examined fully. On one hand, Vedder was quite advanced for his time in his direct painting of nature, but he was always aware of fantasy and creativity of the mind.

The two aspects of Vedder's work are closest to synthesis in the 54 drawings that he made in 1884 to accompany Edward Fitzgerald's translation of "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam."
Smithsonian Gets Into Seasonal Swing...

The year now ending marks the 57th anniversary of the teddy bear, so this holiday season warrants a show in Teddy’s honor. The Political History Division has assembled a case of memorabilia, including the original bear made in 1903 by the Ideal Toy Company and presented to President Theodore Roosevelt.

MHT has also scheduled demonstrations of restoration and handcrafted manufactured items. "A Century of Mechanical Christmas Music," which was so popular last year in MHT, will again give visitors a chance to listen to old music boxes, phonographs and tapes of Christmas music in the Hall of Musical Instruments.

Even areas normally not associated with festivities will get into the holiday spirit. Model trains will chug along the Railroad Hall. In the Astronomy Hall, visitors will learn how to make a galaxy of paper stars, candles, lamps and traditional Danish paper stars used as tree ornaments. A gingerbread house maker and cookie decorators will demonstrate their work in the Museum's cafeteria.

Holiday Decorations

The showcase shop this year will be the Arts and Industries Museum shop where the gazebos will be decorated as a Christmas carousel with elaborate stuffed animals specially designed for the Smithsonian by Michelle Lipson.

The A&I shop will be the only one to carry all items shown in the 1978 Christmas catalog. But for the first time, dolls, Shop decorator, Eileen Ritter, has selected a single theme—the Christmas carousel—and adorned all in the shop.

The shop display case in MNH will be transformed into a Christmas fantasy with toy animals wandering in a frosty forest.

The SI Women's Program

The Smithsonian Women's program, closed for renovation since winter of 1977, will reopen just in time for the holiday school vacation.

The new theater, known as Discovery Theater, will open its season Wednesday, Dec. 28, with "Discover the Voice," a presentation with Boston virtuoso violinist Susan Lip and her band. Pepitone music and demonstrations all serve to help visitors become more involved with the region's ethnic music.

Mime Troupe will return for its third appearance at the Museum.

The W. B. Worthen Gallery has worked to get her to present games of Mathematics and Domestic Life for the weekend offering children an opportunity to choose a specific theme.

"A Gift"... "Gifts for Men"... "Gifts for Everyone"... "Gifts for Those Who Don't Give a Gift"... These sales exhibition at the Renwick will go on sale even during Hanukkah. "Beginning December 26, the Museum of African Art, soon to join the SI family, will celebrate the 7-day Afro-American holiday, Kwanza, with musical performances and drama ensembles, including presentations by the Museum's West African drummers group.

The boutique, which moved last month to its new quarters next door to the gallery, is selling handcrafted items not usually available in this country, including jewelry—which complements the new Botswana exhibition. For information on the boutique and Kwanza activities, call 547-7424.

Special Events

"A Special Annual dinner dance sponsored by the Women's Committee of the National Associates will be held Friday evening, Dec. 9, in the Hirshhorn Rotunda amidst medieval Christmas decorations, including carvers and mistletoe displays.

More than 500 volunteers have been invited to the annual Christmas party at the Castle Great Hall Tuesday, Dec. 12, from 4 to 8 p.m. The party is sponsored by the Visitor Information and Associates' Reception Center.

A special program of dramatic performances and activities of Santa Claus has been scheduled by the National Portrait Gallery Museum, which works between Christmas and New Years. In her 1-hour afternoon performances, Rawls will play 19th-century Santa Claus. The 25-foot Santa appeared at the Kennedy Center in "The Enchanted" and performed with Tahlak Bankhead in "Santa Little Foxes." For the performance schedule at the Gallery, call ext. 5380.

Indian Encyclopedia Adds 2nd Volume

With the first volume of the Smithsonian's new encyclopedia of North American Indians selling briskly, a second volume has now been published.

"California," the first of a 20-volume set designed to summarize all that is known about the history and cultures of North American Indians and Eskimos from their earliest history to the present, was published in a first printing of 5,000 last year.

The response was so positive that a second printing of 10,000 copies is now in the works.

The new volume, "Northeast," covers more than 75 tribes in the northeastern United States and southeastern Canada, from the Mississippi to the Atlantic, from North Carolina to Quebec. Among the tribes described are the Anasjubook, who lived on the banks of the Potomac in what is now the Nation's Capital.

"Northeast," a 940-page work edited by Linda St. Thomas, professor of anthropology at McGill University, contains 73 chapters by 54 outstanding authorities on the Indian cultures of the region. The overall encyclopedia, called the "Handbook of North American Indians," is under the general editorship of William C. Sturtevant at the Smithsonian.

Renwick Offers Crafty Gifts

One of the cases in the Renwick exhibit will feature toys and gift items that are popular this season. The old what-to-buy-for-the-man-who-"has everything" dilemma may be solved this holiday season by a trip to the Renwick Gallery shop. There you can select a sheepskin cap, a pewter flask, a goblet, a handcrafted wooden pipe made in New Jersey or a handcrafted deck chair and side chair on sale for $5,700.

"Gifts for Men" is the most elaborate sales exhibition at the Renwick so far, shop display manager Eileen Ritter said. "We have decorated the shop and nearby vestibule in a classic understated holiday style, using browns, burgundies and colorful ribbons.

As always in Smithsonian museum shops, the gifts are related to the collections. In "Gifts for Men," the craft items have been chosen primarily from the works of contemporary American craftsmen. Although the crafts are handmade and many are one-of-a-kind items.

More than 75 items, from pottery bowls to animal weathervanes, have been on display since early November. Not all items are available at the shop immediately. After the gifts are purchased, some of them will stay on exhibition until December, when visitors return to pick them up in time for the holidays.

Among the gifts are pottery mugs for $10, wool caftans made on a handloom for $80, leather attaché cases for $125, Country Leather Works in Rochester, silk scarves for $32, a carved walking stick for $46, and flaxmuga boxes with inlay and carving from $35 to $58.

Planning for the holiday sale exhibit began back in May when shop buyer Walnor Vandyver met with Renwick Director Lloyd Herman, Curator Michael Monroe and merchandise manager Josephine Rowen to choose a specific theme.

"The Renwick," Herman explained, "first became interested in sales exhibitions as a way to show a wider range of current craft works than we normally do. The exhibits also provide a dignified setting for the craftspeople.

"Before these sales exhibitions, our shop carried only books and a few items related to the current show. The vestibule was just a vestibule. Now, the shop area is a lively place for visitors to see and to purchase beautiful objects they may not be able to find otherwise."

Thus, the spring sales exhibit, "The Art of the Turned Bowl," showed the work of four craftspeople whose wooden bowls would probably never have been the subject of an entire Smithsonian display. But, in Herman's view, it was just right for the Renwick's sales exhibition.

The museum initiated its sales exhibits in January with a South Carolina Mount Pleasant Baskets show. Other exhibits were a wooden bowl show, "Catawba Pottery," and "Southern Highland Handicrafts" made by members of a nine-state Southern crafts guild—Linda St. Thomas, director of the Renwick.
Comings and Goings

David Revere McFadden has been appointed curator of decorative arts at Cooper-Hewitt. McFadden comes to New York from the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, where, as the holder of the title of curator of decorative arts. A graduate of the University of Minnesota in 1969, McFadden has held positions at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, as the holder of the title of curator of decorative arts. A graduate of the University of Minnesota in 1969, McFadden has held positions at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

Gilbert H. Kinney, a noted art collector and ex-foreign service officer, was elected president of the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art at a recent meeting of the Archives' board of trustees in New York. The Archives, Kinney said, "plays a unique and vital role in preserving American history and fostering scholarship in the field."

Kooy, a Yale graduate and Washington resident, is a trustee of the Corcoran Gallery of Art and the American Federation of Arts. He and his family are raising $1 million for a UNESCO campaign to restore Buda, Pet's 9th-century Buddha sanctuary.

Dennis O'Toole, curator of the Office of Education, is retiring. O'Toole's successor, Dr. Edward S. Acheson, has been appointed curator of decorative arts.

THE PERFECT GIFT . . . This necklace of 42 cushion-shaped, soft blue sapphire weighing almost 209 carats, and embellished by more than 100 carats, was given to the Smithsonian in just in time for Christmas. Linda and E.A. Brill, of E.A. Brill Jewelry and Gem Co. in New York City, presented the necklace to the Smithsonian.

Sports

By Susan Foster

Football

The SI football team's winning record (5-0-1) before the fact that afterward, they are having problems. In spite of the team's sluggish offensive attack, Coach Joe Bradley of computer services credited the defensive team for its relentless efforts. The defense recovered a fumble, grabbed two interceptions and sacked the opposing quarterback for a safety in the most recent games.

The National Geographic Society team was the latest to feel the defensive power of SI. The Geographic team lost on two separate occasions, 6-0 and 10-0. SI's first win was a defensive bout in which the only scoring occurred with only 20 seconds of play remaining. Tommy Brown of protection services caught a 30 yard pass to break the stalemate. Bradley's two sacks and a fumble recovery in the second game against Geographic provided the added points for a 10-0 victory.

The game of musical instruments in scored the SI's 14-0 victory over Sherraton Park, catching a pass amidst defensive op­ponents for the final touchdown. Bob Sea­

bolts of protection services netted two inter­ceptions against H.S. Smithley in yet another defensive battle which SI won, 14-2. Pete Neeret of the MNH Li­brary was the key defensive player in that win.

The SI team did show offensive skill in the 20-20 tie with the DOD Cavaliers, scoring two touchdowns in the game's final minutes. Brown scored on both second-half touchdowns.

Bowling

The SI bowling team is still adjusting to its new Silver Hill location. The move is taking a toll on the bowling averages. Ray Scroggins of MNH, however, has taken the high set for men, bowling a 590. Stenglin is a champion of the Thunder Storks, who hold the league with 294 and 3 losses. The Zodiac team is in second place with 298 and 4 losses.

Gerald West, bowling 173, remains the leader in men's high average. His nearest competition is second-placed Jeff Davis, who averages 170.

Faye Sarnat continues to lead the women with her 153 high average. Sylvia Pinkney, MNH, who bowled a 505 high set, leads the women in that category.

Army, models, photographs and other memorabilia.

The First Annual Wright Brothers' Sym­posium, free and open to the public, will be held Dec. 14 at 8 p.m. in the Museum's theater. The five papers to be presented in­clude: "The Wright Brothers—Their In­fluence," by Charles H. Gibbs-Smith, the first occupant of the Museum's Lindbergh Chair of Aerospace History, and "Recol­lections and Reflections," by Paul Garber, NASM's historian emeritus.

If you can't visit NASM, you still can learn about the Wrights by reading "The Wright Brothers: Heirs of Prometheus." This new book, published by the Smithsonian Press, combines the essays to be pre­sented at the symposium with a comprehen­sive photographic essay, technical informa­tion on the Wright aircraft and engine, a chronology and a bibliographic source guide. The introduction seeks to place the Wrights in their historical context. The book, $5.95 in paperback and $15 hard­cover, may be ordered through the Smithso­nian Institution Press—Louise Hall.

Patriotizing Plant Groups

The establishment of a Smithsonian Office of Biological Conservation and the ap­pointment of Dr. Edward S. Ayensu as its director were recently announced by Secretary Ripley.

Ayensu, formerly chairman of the Museum of Natural History's Botany Depart­ment, has directed the Smithsonian's Endangered Fauna Program since 1975.

As director of the new office, Ayensu will coordinate the various environmental conservation activities already in progress in the Institution and encourage a variety of science-related conservation efforts, especially within the areas of staff interest. The new office will form part of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Science. "Among the concerns of the office," Ripley said, "will be the status of current national and international efforts devoted to conserving plant and animal species and their environmental and legislative programs, as well as the extensive staff and various government and non-government organizations in the United States and abroad."

In order to improve public understanding of the conditions in our changing nat­ural environment, the knowledge developed by scientists at the Smithsonian regarding the status of vulnerable species will be carefully conserved and shared. This is a constant in nature, but man-made changes threaten to become irreversible. The office should serve as a monitoring and warning system.

Ayensu, born in Ghana, received his Ph.D. in 1966 from the University of Lon­don. He joined the MNH curatorial staff in 1969, spending a year, since completing the phy­siological and systematic studies of the an­nually growing and wintering of the an­nually growthi...
Contrary to popular opinion, not all Victorian ladies spent their time sitting primly in the parlor. As education became more widespread, growing numbers of American women in the last century traded lacy frocks for white coats and took to lab and field to conduct important research in astronomy, biology, botany, zoology, an
tropology and the other sciences. Their contributions are currently being honored in the Museum of History and Technology exhibit, "Women in Science in 19th-Century America," on view until February.

Eight display cases summarize the story of the woman’s struggle to join the all-male exploration party pushing back the frontiers of science. Samples of women’s discoveries include a specimen of the Chesapeake Bay crab, named Cal
lines gigas (Latin for "many beautiful swimmers"), by Mary Jane Rathbun, the first woman scientist at the Smithsonian.

Rathbun, with no more than a high school diploma, was hired as a clerk and trained herself to become one of the leading crab experts in the world.

There is also a copy of "The Chemistry of Cooking and Cleaning," co-authored by Ellen Swallow Richards. Richards was the first woman admitted to the graduate pro
gram at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, but as a special student rather than as a doctoral candidate. According to one story, MIT’s president didn’t want one of the school’s first doctors to be awarded to a woman.

The story of these women is a story of "firsts." One case displays a geological map, a 1903 field notebook and rock sam
cles collected by Florence Bascom, the first woman to be granted an honorary degree by the University of Illinois. In another are the Harvard College Observatory and a book written by Williamina Fleming, the first woman to receive an official appointment from the Harvard Corporation.

Featured among the trailblazers and star
gazers is Maria Mitchell, America’s first woman astronomer, whose discovery of a comet in 1847 resulted in international rec
ognition, including a medal from the King of Denmark. In 1865, when Vassar College opened, the first woman’s college with an endowed anywhere near that of a man’s school, Mitchell became director of the Vassar observatory. Her telescope domi
nates the entrance to the exhibit.

"The exhibit dramatizes that women did participate in science in the 19th century," said MHT’s curator of the history of scien
tonomy, Deborah Warner, who put to
gether the exhibit.

A fulfillment center may sound like the place to go for an intense KSF experience, but at the Smithsonian’s center, located in a Virginia industrial park, staff members work day and night filling Christmas catalog orders in time for the holidays.

Last year, catalog sales were so suc
cessful that the fulfillment operation virtually doubled the size of its quarters in the Arts and Industries and 1111 North Capitol Street buildings—personnel, boxes and equipment had to be moved into the half-way through this September, Donald Press, the 1111 North Capitol Street building—personnel, boxes and equipment had to be moved into the half-way through this September, Donald Press, the

The end of December doesn’t mean the end of the division’s work. In early January, after the Christmas rush, the staff begins the inventory, and on Jan. 29 the spring catalog goes out—the cycle be

Dr. Mead Dies at 76

Margaret Mead, 76, the noted anthro
pologist, died in New York on Nov. 15, aged 76. Mrs. Mead was a frequent participant in Institution education and research activities and served for 10 years as consultant to the Office of Symposia and Seminars.

In 1965, when Vassar College opened, the first woman’s college with an endowed anywhere near that of a man’s school, Mitchell became director of the Vassar observatory. Her telescope domi
nates the entrance to the exhibit.

"The exhibit dramatizes that women did participate in science in the 19th century," said MHT’s curator of the history of scien
tonomy, Deborah Warner, who put to
gether the exhibit.

Filling 2,000 Yule Orders Daily

A fulfillment center may sound like the place to go for an intense KSF experience, but at the Smithsonian’s center, located in a Virginia industrial park, staff members work day and night filling Christmas catalog orders in time for the holidays.

Last year, catalog sales were so suc
cessful that the fulfillment operation virtually doubled the size of its quarters in the Arts and Industries and 1111 North Capitol Street buildings—personnel, boxes and equipment had to be moved into the half-way through this September, Donald Press, the 1111 North Capitol Street building—personnel, boxes and equipment had to be moved into the half-way through this September, Donald Press, the

The end of December doesn’t mean the end of the division’s work. In early January, after the Christmas rush, the staff begins the inventory, and on Jan. 29 the spring catalog goes out—the cycle be

Dr. Mead Dies at 76

Margaret Mead, 76, the noted anthro
pologist, died in New York on Nov. 15, aged 76. Mrs. Mead was a frequent participant in Institution education and research activities and served for 10 years as consultant to the Office of Symposia and Seminars.
The Smithsonian, an upbeat story in the Washington Post, was section reported on Dec. 13, at 8 p.m. Cliff Roberts is host for the film, which features vintage photographs, early news film of the pioneers of flight, NASM exhibits and closeups of the Museum's efforts to save the Tammany Hallo primitive computer. The film was introduced in this country barely a year ago. And the model at NASM is believed to be the only one in America that a blind person can use on demand.

Gashel, chief of the Washington Office of the National Federation of the Blind, may have been the first visitor to use NASM's new paperless braille reading machine. The device can be used by anyone with a standard cassette and displays that information in braille on demand. The electronically encoded messages on the cassette are sent to a series of 12 braille cells on the outside of the machine. The braille dots are raised or lowered, enabling a blind person to read the material stored on the tape.

The micro processor chips and memory storage chips used in the device directly linked to computers to give the blind direct access to data. The Paperless braille requires only the space it takes to house a cassette, whereas traditional braille is large and bulky. Thus, libraries will be encouraged to stock the material.

The exhibition was made possible by the crowd's, the cold, the strain of the visit, which featured a variety of Smithsonian's graphics. Exhibition posters from NASM, MHT, A&I and DMNH have been incorporated into the show.

Money magazine's November article on the cassette from the magazine's space sections of things to buy at the Smithsonian. The article claimed that the amount of merchandise sold in Smithsonian shops has been growing 15 percent faster than that of other museums.

A photo of the many stuffed animals that make their home in NASM's attic (see MHT) was illustrated by a Christian Science Monitor article on the construction of a museum in which the article was said, will transfer a substantial portion of its vast collections to the new facility, thereby freeing up about 40,000 square feet.

Zoo News
Dr. Douglas Mackay, a physician at Children's Hospital, was described in a Washington Post article as an "unofficial consultant" to the National Zoo, where he assisted veterinarian Dr. Mitchell Bush, in orthopedic operations on various Zoo inhabitants. Other helpful specialists from Children's have included a neuroroger who operated on the brain of a thesis monkey, which is direct-scribe surgery for the monkey.

Historian Emeritus Paul Garber re-mined that the Wright brothers' 1903 flight test work in 1909 and about how Garber asked Charles Lindbergh to donate the model of the Spirit of St. Louis. Michael Collins, now under secretary for the Department of Transportation and creating the Museum where he was its director, also featured scenes from "A Place in Dreams," his hour-long special on the history of the flight, which was a "window at the early history of the Earth." The Smithsonian personnel from the Office of Telecommunications, headed by Neal Chats, was also featured on the show's producer Peter Vogt and others at WETA.

Showing Our Wares
The September-October issue of Smithsonian Art magazine carried an article on the "Art of Asia" which featured a variety of Smithsonian's graphics. Exhibition posters from NASM, MHT, A&I and DMNH have been incorporated into the show.

Money magazine's November article on the cassette from the magazine's space sections of things to buy at the Smithsonian. The article claimed that the amount of merchandise sold in Smithsonian shops has been growing 15 percent faster than that of other museums.

Facing the Light
Sky, the Delta Airlines magazine, in a generally positive review, called the daguerreotype show "a testament to the spirit of inventiveness of his time."

The revived Life magazine devoted a page to the show. The article was illustrated with a daguerreotype of Frederick Douglass and other abolitionists at an out-door meeting, one of two of the first new photos.

The daguerreotype show and other exhibitions in honor of the museum's 100th anniversary continue to receive considerable attention. A round-up article in the Baltimore Sun called "Facing the Light" a unique collection of photography.

The Sun also discussed NPG's show of Civil War satires by Adalbert Volk, a Baltimore painter of humorous monkeys, who was voted to the portrait sculptures of Jo Davidson.

Smithsonian People
The September-October issue of Post magazine at the National Transportation Services rendered in MHT's country store Post Office by Mary E. Wood and Franklin Corbin talks and calls for P.R. ideas for the Postal Service because they are so friendly and helpful.

A Washington Star feature by Betty James on Charles Harvard Gibbs-Smith, the first person to receive the Charles A. Lindbergh Chair of Aerospace History at NASM, focused on his research with the Wright Brothers. Smith, who had pointed out, has spent much of his time re-creating the claims of some Europeans that Europe first developed power flight.

A recent issue of Museum News carried an interview with Paul Pernott, assistant secretary for museum programs, who reviewed the services of the National Museum Act programs and other museum-related subjects.

Exhibitions and Evocations
Washington Star art critic Benjamin Forelsey wrote NCPA's Elhu Vedder show to "the New York Times," and the show, dealing with a once-famous American artist whose work has been forgotten or misunderstood, will be featured as the type of exhibition at which NCPA excels.

An enthusiastic review of the Vedder show by Elizabeth Stevens in the Baltimore Sun described the exhibition as "one of an excellent and outstanding series of exhibitions that shows devoted to comprehensive, in-depth explorations of the various artists and forgotten American artists of the 19th and early 20th centuries."

"Opening at HMSG..."
Philadelphia Inquirer art critic Virginia Donohoe said Saul Steinberg the most in the "artistic contempt." Donohoe's review noted that HMSG's show is "important because some of the finest creations tend to be neglected if the exhibits are not shown in the hallowed precincts."

"Opening at HMSG..."
An enthusiastic review of the Vedder show by Elizabeth Stevens in the Baltimore Sun described the exhibition as "one of an excellent and outstanding series of exhibitions that shows devoted to comprehensive, in-depth explorations of the various artists and forgotten American artists of the 19th and early 20th centuries."

A Block Buster and Eastern Paradise
A Los Angeles Times art examiner gave details of the maneuvering required in order to install the Beatles' "Rolls-Royce at the Cooper-Hewitt," which will be displayed in this century with a half inch on each side to spare. The Museum's "Omniverse," which was displayed, was described by the Herald as a "blockbuster." Washington Post art critic Paul Richard was enthusiastic about the story of craftsmanship in Ireland. The show, which was decribed by the writer, went on in some sweetly scented garden. "There should be silk cushions there, and shoe-eyes and blossoms. The viewer should recline there, surrounded by music of the sounds of the sculpture and the streams, studying these drawings in a reverie of ease."

Frenchman..."
The workshops for directors of Native American museums sponsored by the Office of American Indian Art and Graphic Art magazine were on sale in the gift shop.

Baltimore Museum of Art
A Washington Post article, called "Paper Bag," was written by a half inch on each side to spare. The Museum's "Omniverse," which was displayed, was described by the Herald as a "blockbuster." Washington Post art critic Paul Richard was enthusiastic about the story of craftsmanship in Ireland. The show, which was decribed by the writer, went on in some sweetly scented garden. "There should be silk cushions there, and shoe-eyes and blossoms. The viewer should recline there, surrounded by music of the sounds of the sculpture and the streams, studying these drawings in a reverie of ease."

New York Times..."
Finishing touches were also made by the crowd's, the cold, the strain of the visit, which featured a variety of Smithsonian's graphics. Exhibition posters from NASM, MHT, A&I and DMNH have been incorporated into the show.

The exhibition was made possible by the grants from the New York State Council for the Arts and the Interstate Bag Discuss in Graphic Art.

The show is expected to hit the road after it closes at Cooper-Hewitt. The bulk of the graphic artists Patricia Schneider, designer of Estee Lauder's "Armani" bag, and Michael Volk, responsible for some of Bloomingdale's popular bags, are represented.

Peter Krasnow, who helped organize the show, theorized that the popularity of the paper shopping bag waxed in this century and waned and twisted with the variety of style for wealthy shoppers wanted. The pre-shopping bag era is represented by several examples of a basket of cloth and a paper hatbox-like container used as all-purpose bags in the early 19th century.

The exhibition was made possible through grants from the New York State Council for the Arts and the Interstate Bag Discuss in Graphic Art.

The show is expected to hit the road after it closes at Cooper-Hewitt. The bulk of the graphic artists Patricia Schneider, designer of Estee Lauder's "Armani" bag, and Michael Volk, responsible for some of Bloomingdale's popular bags, are represented.

Peter Krasnow, who helped organize the show, theorized that the popularity of the paper shopping bag waxed in this century and waned and twisted with the variety of style for wealthy shoppers wanted. The pre-shopping bag era is represented by several examples of a basket of cloth and a paper hatbox-like container used as all-purpose bags in the early 19th century.

The exhibition was made possible through grants from the New York State Council for the Arts and the Interstate Bag Discuss in Graphic Art.

The show is expected to hit the road after it closes at Cooper-Hewitt. The bulk of the graphic artists Patricia Schneider, designer of Estee Lauder's "Armani" bag, and Michael Volk, responsible for some of Bloomingdale's popular bags, are represented.

Peter Krasnow, who helped organize the show, theorized that the popularity of the paper shopping bag waxed in this century and waned and twisted with the variety of style for wealthy shoppers wanted. The pre-shopping bag era is represented by several examples of a basket of cloth and a paper hatbox-like container used as all-purpose bags in the early 19th century.
A new mineral has been named Desautelleite in honor of Paul E. Desautels, curator of MNI’s Department of Mineral Sciences. The new species was discovered at several localities in late 1977 and has been characterized as a totally new chemical compound, a magnesium manganese carbonate hydroxyl hydrate. The bright orange crystal excitations are found on altered serpentine rocks from San Benito County in California and from the Cedar Hill Quarry in Lancaster County, Pa. Desautelsite was discovered and characterized by scientists at the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Michigan.

Brooke Hindle, senior historian at MHT, has been elected vice-president of the Registrars Committee of the American Association of Museums.

Bonnie Gordon, assistant editor of Smithsonian magazine, read her poetry in November at the Folger Library’s “Midday Musings” series of noon-time readings and concerts.

Martina Norelli, associate curator in NSF’s Office of Space and Facilities Planning, was a judge for the Vienna Woman’s Club Art and Crafts Festival in Vienna, Va.

The paper, “Yankee Practice and Engineering-Theory: Charles Dickens and Dynamics of the High-Speed Steam Engine,” by Otto Mayr, acting director of MHT, has been awarded the Abbot Payne Prize by the Society for the History of Technology.

Claudia Oakes and Bob Mikesh, of NASM’s Aeronautics Department, attended the Northeast Air Heritage Association’s meeting held at Rhode Island, N.Y., in October.

Breton Morse, an exhibits specialist at NCPA, had a one-man retrospective at Fraser’s Stable Gallery last month. The exhibition included Morse’s abstract paintings done over the past 18 years.

The Egyptian-Israeli peace talks at Blair House brought two luminaries to the situation. Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, a dedicated amateur archaeologist, visited MNH’s Hall of Western Civilization and the Museum’s coral reef, with MNH director Peter Kler and Assistant Director Janet Solinger as guides. Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin, a World War II RAF pilot who owns his own Spitfire, was escorted through NASM by Acting Director Payson. The mural-sized 18th-century American Asociation of Zoological Holding the 1978 Education Awards. The book, published in November at the Folger Library’s "The Art of Mary Cassatt," was a finalist for the C. Wrights of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums in Denver, where they shared NASM’s experience in developing a new program. The Zoo graphics and exhibits.

Paul E. Desautels was named director of the Society for the History of Technology. He will also serve as chairperson of the history and philosophy of science of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Hindle will assume both positions in January.

The National Academy of Sciences has appointed George Field, director of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, to head a 2-year survey of astronomy and astrophysics for the 1980s.

Among other tasks, the committee will review the effect of the Greenstein report on the development of astronomy and astrophysics in the 1970s and examine the implications of post-1972 scientific, technological, and management advances on the development of astronomy and astrophysics in 1980.

Adelyn Bresnack, NSF consultant for 20th-century painting and sculpture, delivered a lecture on "The Art of Mary Cassatt" at the Neuberger Museum in Purchase, N.Y., in conjunction with an exhibition of Cassatt’s color prints of 1891.


Arthur P. Mololla, associate editor of the Joseph Henry Papers, gave a lecture on "The Aspects of the Philosophy of Science" at the South Carolina Medical University in Charleston. The lecture was a part of the Medical Sciences Department seminar, "Was Joseph Henry a Pragmatist?"

Cooper-Hewitt Museum Director Lisa Taylor attended the trustees conference of the American Association of Museums in Atlanta, where she lectured and conducted a workshop on "The General Public as Our Target Audience."

Masao H. Fahlman, associate curator at NPG, has been named to the editorial board of Pennsylvania Folklife magazine at Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pa.

Lloyd E. Herman, director of the Renwick Gallery: Ellen Myette, associate curator at the Renwick, and Martha Kappelletti and Nancy Davis, exhibition coordinators for SITES, attended the Northeast Air Heritage Association’s meeting held in Baltimore. Herman is on the Board of Governors and Myette is national chairman of the National Commission of Fine Arts.

"The World’s Who’s Who of Women" has selected Lynda Hartigan for inclusion in the current volume. Hartigan is assistant curator of the Joseph Cornell Study Center in the Department of 20th-Century Painting and Sculpture at NCPA.

Jean W. Bahlman spoke on experiential learning in museums at the National Conference on the Development of Interdisciplinary Experiential Learning in Dallas.

Louise Hutchinson, in the Research Department of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum, delivered a paper on the Oldest Sites of Providence at St. Benedict the Moor Church in Washington. The presentation is the first black religious order of sisters was also given at the November meeting of the Anacostia Historical Society.

SITES staff members Eileen Harakal, Antonio Dies and Mary Lou Cooker attended a national museums conferences in Indianapolis, Victoria B.C., and Newport, R.I., respectively.

"The World’s Who’s Who of Women" has selected Lynda Hartigan for inclusion in the current volume. Hartigan is assistant curator of the Joseph Cornell Study Center in the Department of 20th-Century Painting and Sculpture at NCPS.

Jean W. Bahlman spoke on experiential learning in museums at the National Conference on the Development of Interdisciplinary Experiential Learning in Dallas.

Louise Hutchinson, in the Research Department of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum, delivered a paper on the Oldest Sites of Providence at St. Benedict the Moor Church in Washington. The presentation is the first black religious order of sisters was also given at the November meeting of the Anacostia Historical Society.
Q & A

Thanks to Steven Tatti, object conservator for the Hirshhorn Museum, the sculptures in the museum’s outdoor garden are better able to stand up to years of weather and wear. He and an assistant take care of some 1,000 objects—about 900 indoors and 100 outdoors. Tatti, who has been at MHT for more than 3 years, studied conservation in Italy for 2 years, works freelance from Ithaca College in New York and has worked with a private conservator in Baltimore and at the National Collection of Fine Arts and the Museum of History and Technology. He was interviewed by Torch staff writer Kathryn Lindeman.

Q. What makes it difficult to maintain sculpture outdoors?
A. I fight a constant battle against the elements. Most modern bronzes have arti-

cially induced patinas applied by the artist or his foundry. What I try to do is maintain and preserve these surfaces. It’s the atmosphere and the fallout which contain the majority of harmful elements, converted by moisture into corrosive agents. The sticky, pitted green surface which covers most bronze sculptures left unprotected in parks is what I’m trying to prevent.

Urban wear and oxidation could also occur on unprotected bronzes due mainly to the modeling of the piece itself. Winter presents other problems. For example, moisture trapped inside a stone piece might freeze and cause the stone to crack open. Handling by visitors is still another source of wear on the surfaces. It is all these things which we are trying to control to maintain the sculpture out of doors.

Q. What steps do you take to prevent deterioration?
A. Each piece outdoors has at least one or more coats of protective substances—olive waxes, paint—to seal against moisture and retard corrosion. Recoatings are done—often—at least twice a year, in fall and spring. One simple thing we do is to hose down and wipe off the outdoor sculptures frequently in the summer because they collect dirt and fallout very quickly.

Sometimes, though, when we do the hosing in the morning, sculptures can be covered with dust again by afternoon. Our main priority is to protect the material; the secondary priority is to keep the surface aesthetically as the artist intended. The coatings which conserve best may not be best in texture or the physical intricacies of the piece itself. Winter sports enthusiasts have been eating snow and wiping it on the surfaces we are trying to protect. We do try to set a norm for climate control of all the objects. Most pieces indoors are coated, but the coating doesn’t have to be as tough. All of them are polished, buffed or dusted about once a month.

Q. What kind of equipment do you use?
A. We make our own coating mixtures—it’s easier to control what’s in them. For the outside sculptures we use wax, lacquer, silicone or combinations of these. On one piece, we may use a lacquer first for protection and then add a wax coating to make a less glossy finish. Sometimes, we spray the coatings on with a compressor. The purpose of the coating or the physical intricacies of the piece—we can’t always reach all the areas by hand.

Q. Is the mounting of the sculpture a part of your task?
A. We work with the exhibits staff on mounting. The sculptures have to be properly secured so they won’t fall or blow over, but you have to be careful what metal you use for the mounting. Different metals may react chemically with each other, particularly iron next to bronze, and could cause rust streaks on the sculpture. Mountings do weaken and have to be checked periodically along with the bases.

Books

If you have written, edited or illustrated a recently released book, please notify Smithsonian Press Assistant Director Felix Lowe, so that your publication can be listed in Torch. Smithsonian books for this month are:


The Great Warrior of Montauban—Steve Tatti and "The Great Warrior of Montauban"

Active Invertebrate Printing—Ralph Good, Rutgers University; Dennis Ubelaker, MNH; Aldine Publishing Co., 1978.


Leading scientists discuss the role of endocrine hormones and other endocrine factors in the development of the aquatic organism. It is the first international volume on this topic. Both theoretical and practical presentations are included.

The Great Warrior of Montauban—Steve Tatti and "The Great Warrior of Montauban"

Q. Is the mounting of the sculpture a part of your task?
A. We work with the exhibits staff on mounting. The sculptures have to be properly secured so they won’t fall or blow over, but you have to be careful what metal you use for the mounting. Different metals may react chemically with each other, particularly iron next to bronze, and could cause rust streaks on the sculpture. Mountings do weaken and have to be checked periodically along with the bases.

Steve Tatti and "The Great Warrior of Montauban"

Since early colonial days, boxwood and other green hedges have been a favorite decor-

cating item for the celebration of the Christmas season. In Tidewater Virginia and Maryland, the magnificent boxwood hedges provided natural sources of a lush green foliage for use in making "kissing balls.

The balls, usually containing a sprig of mistletoe on the bottom, were hung from pantry windows, under doorways, in center hallways, on lamp posts and any other area where two friends might meet for a moment of amorous reflection.

Making your own kissing ball is rather simple. Start with a grapefruit, a 4-inch styrofoam ball, a piece of wire, and a curtain ring. Put the ring through a curtain hook, and put spig moss. Place a sturdy wire through the center of the ball. It will make your task easier if you hang the ball at eye level for assembly.

Collect boxwood from your own property or purchase several pounds from your local florist, who usually stocks it from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Break or cut the boxwood in 5- to 6-inch lengths and in­

sert it uniformly around the ball. The pieces should all be the same length to as­

sure symmetry. A minor amount of pruning might be necessary to groom the kissing ball when completed, but avoid shearing it because the foliage looks best in its natural look.

Boxwood dries quickly, so it is a good idea to spray the ball with a foliar anti­

desiccant such as Wilt Prof to retard the drying process. We tried to use a copper sulfate in the water for a few minutes each day to freshen it.

Hang the festive decoration in your home with a bright colored ribbon. A small piece of mistletoe wire or stick into the bottom of the ball will assure that no mis­

akes are made as to its purpose. Remember this hint from a recent issue of Reader’s Digest:

Oh! Innocent victims of Cupid, Remember this terse little verse: To let a Fool kiss you is stupid. To let a Kiss fool you is worse.

The staff of the Office of Horticulture wishes you a happy and merry Christmas. Beware, though—we will be installing several kissing balls in the Castle and A&I Building in early December.

The staff of the Office of Horticulture wishes you a happy and merry Christmas. Beware, though—we will be installing several kissing balls in the Castle and A&I Building in early December.

Since early colonial days, boxwood and other green hedges have been a favorite decorat-

}