

To: Participants at the Smithsonian Inter-Science Conference, Feb. 6-8 1975

From: Erle G. Kauffman, Chairman of the Agenda Committee *E. G. Kauffman*

Subject: Preparation for the meeting

Attached please find an outline of an agenda for the Front Royal SI Inter-Science Conference, Feb. 6-8 1975. This was compiled initially by the agenda committee consisting of Erle Kauffman, Walter Shropshire, and Farouk El Baz in conjunction with the Assistant Secretary for Science and his staff. Emendations have been made on the basis of conversations with numerous individuals in different bureaus after consideration of the initial outline. The agenda is meant as an outline rather than a format for discussion, and we hope to keep the meeting as informal and free-lance as possible.

In preparation for the meeting you might meet with your respective staffs, and co-representatives to the Conference, to formulate some initial ideas for discussion, a consensus view on the principal discussion topics, and to prepare some informal statement on the history and scope of activities that are undertaken by your Bureau (for the first meeting).

It is desirable that each researcher present a 15 minute informal discussion of some aspect of his work that will be of interest to the group and help them to have a better understanding of your research and the scope of SI science. A 35mm slide projector will be provided at all times if you wish to illustrate your talk, and 5 minutes or so will be reserved afterwards for discussion.

The meeting room at Front Royal is large and somewhat barren; to create a warmer environment for the meetings we suggest that you arrange to bring or have sent some attractive pictures or exhibits for the walls. For example, Farouk El Baz is arranging for some NASA moon geology exhibits, and possible Mars photographs. The MNH crew is bringing color natural history photographs by Kjell Sandved, SEM photos, and possibly spectacular specimens. There will also be a 16 mm movie camera if you have films you would like to show in the evening. Please contact Dr. Challinor's office to arrange for the handling of exhibits.

It should be an interesting and enjoyable meeting. We look forward to seeing you there. As the surrounding countryside is beautiful and open and a winter walk might be in order, you may want to bring warm clothes and boots. At any rate plan on informal dress throughout the meeting.



# Smithsonian Inter-science Conference Agenda

6 - 8 February 1975

## Wednesday, February 5

- 2:00 Bus leaves Museum of Natural History
- 4:00 Bus arrives Front Royal facility
- 5:00 Cocktails in one of the guest houses
- 6:00 Dinner in the dining hall
- 7:30 Opening remarks: Dr. Challinor and staff; dining hall
- 8:30 Possible showing of two short SI-produced science movies (optional) and informal discussion in guest house lounges.

## Thursday, February 6

- 8:00 Breakfast in dining hall
- 9:00 Informal discussion:

What is Smithsonian science? (Possibly including the following topics, in no special order). Conference room; coffee and tea available at all times during each discussion session.

- (a.) What is the present scope of our research effort? A summary statement from each science bureau would be appropriate here.
- (b.) What are the strong and weak points of our present effort?
- (c.) What are our unique characteristics of our research "system" and how do they allow us to better contribute to science?
- (d.) How do we measure the success of our system, our science, and our scientists? Is it an adequate measure?
- (e.) How are we regarded by the outside science world, science-funding groups, and the public; how might this "image" be improved?



- (f.) What are the advantages and disadvantages of our system based on independent researchers, as opposed to cooperative, team or project-oriented research?
- (g.) How interdisciplinary is our science effort, and how might this be enhanced, within and between SI science bureaus, and with outside organizations?
- (h.) To what extent is the institutional staff involved in cooperative research; is it successful and well supported?
- (i.) How can we strongly promote the role and value of the independent researcher in a time when team research, scientific fadism, and applied research are so popular?
- (j.) In comparing independent research with "team" research, which system leads to the most scientific advances and "breakthroughs" and why?

11:00-11:30 Break

11:30-12:30 Three 20-minute research resumés (including 5-minute discussion) by participating scientists, with aperitif, to be held in lounge of a guest house.

12:30-2:00 Lunch in guest house lounges.

2:00-4:00 Informal discussion:

How well does the Smithsonian science program meet new and important directions in research? (Conference room; possibly including the following topics, in no special order):

- (a.) What are the current new, important, or otherwise "exciting" fields in science?
- (b.) To what extent is, or should, the Institution be involved in these areas (Re: a)?
- (c.) What is our evaluation of new or otherwise significant areas of science still to be investigated, within and outside of SI expertise, and should we move in these directions? How do we best identify important research areas?



- (d.) What can we do to improve the Institution's ability to research scientific areas which we deem significant, but which we are not now involved in; what are our limitations in meeting these challenges?
- (e.) Are we willing to sacrifice certain scientific coverage or operations in order to meet new scientific challenges; or should we enter these research areas by simple accretion? How could we be restructured to better meet modern research challenges?
- (f.) In becoming involved with important new fields, which of two mechanisms previously used yields the best results: building a basic research staff in the field, or assembling a group of synthesizers to draw together data from diverse sources within and outside of the SI?
- (g.) How important is the basic documentary and systematic research of the Institution and the role our diverse staff of independent researchers plays in supporting "modern" science?
- (h.) Should we be more or less involved in social sciences, and where do we interface with social science?

4:00-5:00 Break

5:00-6:00 Three 20-minute research resumés (ending with 5-minute discussion) from participating scientists, with cocktails, in one of the guest houses.

6:30-7:30 Dinner in the dining hall

7:30-8:30 Three 20-minute research resumés from participating scientists; in the dining hall.

8:30- Free discussion period. Possible optional movie program of SI science films.

#### Friday, February 7

8:00-9:00 Breakfast in the dining hall

9:00-9:15 Summary remarks; first day's discussion: Kauffman, Shropshire and El-Baz.



9:15-11:00 Informal discussion:

What is the role of Smithsonian science in the human community?  
(possibly including the following topics, in no special order):

- (a.) What is the current role of Smithsonian scientists in education at various levels; is it effective?
- (b.) What can be done to expand our educational impact at all levels? Do we provide adequate opportunities to educate and train students at the Institution? Is support sufficient?
- (c.) Should we seek to become a graduate school in science in a more formal way? What are our capacities to educate college-level students, and our limitations.
- (d.) Do our exhibits and public education programs succeed in adequately representing Smithsonian science? How can they be improved?
- (e.) Does the Smithsonian science program relate to human needs, in research, in education, in all activities of our science staff? i. e., Do we have a social conscience? In what ways do we serve needs of the American public, in research and education?
- (f.) What is, and should be, the role of Smithsonian science in our interactions with the community immediately surrounding each science facility? Should it be different than our national role, and obligation?
- (g.) In what areas, and through what programs, might we better serve the needs of the human community?
- (h.) To what degree are we, and should we be, involved in protection of the environment. In what areas are we most effective?

11:00-11:30 Break

11:30-12:30 Three 20-minute research resumés by participating scientists, with aperitif, in the lounge of one guest house.

12:30-2:00 Lunch



2:00-4:00 Informal discussion:

Problems in support of Smithsonian science? (possibly including the following items; no special order):

- (a.) Are communications between scientists, between bureaus, and between scientist and science administrator adequate to operate our research effort efficiently? How and where can communications be improved?
- (b.) Are major science support facilities adequate, e.g. major equipment and service areas? Identify inadequacies and suggest remedies.
- (c.) What new technology should we be prepared to acquire and utilize as science progresses in the near future?
- (d.) Does the scientist have a strong enough voice in science administration, and is he or she adequately aware of the problems confronting the administration in supporting a major science effort? Should SI scientists more directly participate in formulating institutional science policy, and in presenting SI science to Federal legislators and funding organizations?
- (e.) What is the scientist's view of the SI administrative structure, efficiency of communications and operations within it, and ways that it might be improved.
- (f.) Does the overall Smithsonian program, and specifically various science and museum functions, threaten the efficient production of research by putting too many demands on the researcher; or does the researcher take too small a role in the overall museum program?
- (g.) To what degree should we provide science services to other individuals or institutions? e.g., sorting center, "off campus" labs and research stations? Are these adequate for SI scientists use?
- (h.) Do we have an adequate program of scholarly exchange with other scientists? Should there be an expanded post-doctoral program?
- (i.) What are major publication problems?



(j.) What arguments can be used to support increase and maintenance at a high level of financial support for SI science in seeking this support from Congress or other sources?

(k.) Is our information and access to grants and research opportunities adequate?

4:00-5:00 Break; informal discussion

5:00-6:00 Three 20-minute research resumés by participating scientists, with cocktails, in one of the guest house lounges.

6:30-7:30 Dinner; dining hall

7:30-8:30 Three 20-minute research resumés by participating scientists (dining hall).

8:30- Open discussion

#### Saturday, February 8

8:00-9:00 Breakfast

9:00-9:45 Two 20-minute research resumés by participating scientists; with discussion.

9:45-11:30 Informal discussion:

New topics stimulated by the meeting; formulation of some general conclusions; discussion on value of this format, possibly as an annual event.

11:30-12:00 Concluding remarks: Dr. Challinor and staff

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00- Return home



List of Participants for the Smithsonian Inter-Science Conference  
Front Royal, Virginia Feb. 6-8 1975

National Museum of Natural History  
10 St. and Constitution Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20560

Dr. Erle Kauffman  
Curator, Department of Paleobiology  
NHB E307 (202) 381-5324

Dr. Beryl Simpson  
Associate Curator, Department of Botany  
NHB W508 (202) 381-5841

Dr. Richard Thorington  
Associate Curator, Department of Vertebrate Zoology  
NHB 399 (202) 381-5393

Dr. Terry Erwin  
Associate Curator, Department of Entomology  
NHB W601 (202) 381-5410

Dr. Daniel Appleman  
Crystallographer, Department of Mineral Sciences  
NHB E407 (202) 381-5386

Dr. William Fitzhugh  
Chairman, Department of Anthropology  
NHB 542 (202) 381-5626

Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute  
P.O. Box 2072  
Balboa, Canal Zone

Dr. Jeffery Graham  
Biologist BA 52-5669

Dr. A.S. Rand  
Assistant Director BA 52-5574

Dr. Neal Smith  
Biologist BA 52-5569

Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory  
60 Garden Street  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dr. Nathaniel P. Carelton  
Associate Director, Optical and Infrared Astronomy (617) 495-7406

Dr. Michael Lecar  
Theoretical Astrophysicist (617) 494-7251



Dr. Harvey Tananbaum  
High-Energy Astrophysics Division (617) 495-7248

Dr. Ursula B. Marvin  
Planetary Sciences Division (617) 495-7270

Radiation Biology Laboratory  
12441 Parklawn Drive  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dr. Walter Shropshire  
Assistant Director (301) 443-2333

Dr. Elisabeth Gannt  
Biologist, Regulatory Biology (301) 443-2317

National Zoological Park  
3000 Block of Connecticut Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dr. Devra Kleiman  
Reproductive Biologist (202) 381-7249

Dr. Eugene Morton  
Research Ornithologist (202) 381-7249

Dr. Chris Wemmer  
Curator, Front Royal Facility (703) 635-5018

National Air and Space Museum  
Arts and Industries Building  
900 Jefferson Drive, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20560

Dr. Farouk El Baz  
Research Director  
Center for Earth and Planetary Studies (202) 381-6563  
A&I 3167

Fort Pierce Bureau  
Route 1, Box 194-C  
Ft. Pierce, Florida 33450

Dr. Mary Rice  
Associate Curator, Invertebrate Zoology, MNH  
(currently based at Ft. Pierce) (305) 465-2400  
NHB W215 (when in Washington) (202) 381-5743

Chesapeake Bay Center for Environmental Studies  
RR4, Box 622  
Edgewater, Maryland 21037



Dr. Kevin Sullivan  
Assistant Director

(301) 261-4190