

Grafton Tyler Brown, San Francisco artist and lithographer, from "Blacks in the Westward Movement," an exhibition at the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum.

Anacostia Exhibit Features Blacks in Frontier History

By Johnnie Douthis

The Smithsonian's Anacostia Neighborhood Museum opened its first Bicentennial exhibition, "Blacks in the Western Movement," on February 9.

The opening celebrated the beginning of Black History Week. The show will continue through June 1.

Using photographs, silk screens, text and artifacts, the exhibition tells the story of the blacks who explored, conquered and settled the western portion of America. Contrary to the views of many historians, blacks played an active and vital role in the settlement of the West. In the 16th century blacks were with the Spanish explorers of the Southwest and were among the first settlers in California. They founded many towns in other western states, such as Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Washington. Eight thousand of the 35,000 men who rode the cattle trails were black. Four army units, the 9th and 10th Cavalries, and the 24th and 25th Infantries, protected the settlers and land of America's frontier. These black men were government agents and marshals, as well as criminals. Many black adventurers and homesteaders flocked to the frontier and although discrimination and injustice followed them, many were able to settle and build successful lives.

John R. Kinard, Director of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum, stated, "This exhibition represents a hallmark of research, skill, design, and creativity. It clearly establishes the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum as a forerunner in the production of exhibitions that tell a more complete story about many of the important epochs of American history."

"Blacks have struggled during difficult times to, in the word of the Founding Fathers, 'establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty for all people,' for all times, wherever we found ourselves. Our contributions have been, and continue to be, parallel at least to the best efforts of others who also seek justice and peace."

"In addition, we have moved across great stretches of water and land to establish cities and towns on this continent with clear and precise vision, struggling to create a place where people can live together in peace."

"This exhibition has been created to spotlight the struggle, the achievements, and the compelling desire that we continue to explore and establish."

The Museum has produced six copies of the exhibition to travel throughout the country in celebration of the Bicentennial. The

Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service will handle the bookings and travel arrangements for the shows. One copy will be on display at the Washington Gas Light Company from February 10 to February 28. The company is joining the Museum in the opening of the show at the Museum.

TV Special

One of the most popular exhibits at the Smithsonian Institution, the Hope Diamond, will be the basis of the third Smithsonian special in the current television series.

"The Legendary Curse of the Hope Diamond" will be telecast on Thursday, March 27, from 10 to 11 p.m., on the CBS-TV network. This "docudrama" is drawn from "Father Struck It Rich," the autobiography of Evelyn Walsh McLean, who owned the Hope Diamond for more than 35 years until 1947. The hour-long presentation is produced by the David L. Wolper Organization for the DuPont Cavalcade of Television.

Ripley to Head WWF-U.S. Board

Secretary Ripley has been elected chairman of the board of World Wildlife Fund-U.S. Appeal.

He succeeds Ambassador Francis L. Kellogg, who retains his position as President of WWF-U.S. Mr. Ripley was one of the founders of the U.S. affiliate of World Wildlife Fund and currently serves on the international board as well.

The Fund is an international conservation organization which since 1961 has financed more than \$14.6 million for ecological research and conservation projects to save endangered wildlife and natural areas. It has worked closely with the Smithsonian in the field of ecological research, jointly sponsoring the current study of the ecology of the tiger in Nepal and a symposium on biotic impoverishment held last April. WWF-U.S. has also lent its financial support to and collaborated in conservation efforts with the International Council for Bird Preservation, of which Mr. Ripley is president.



THE SMITHSONIAN TORCH

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

February 1975

A & I Building Will Have Victorian-Era Look for '76

By Kathryn Lindeman

Visitors to the Arts and Industries Building as well as employees have been aware of pounding and scraping noises in the building for more than a year, and have often been curious to know what is taking place behind canvas curtains and in fenced-off areas.

"This construction is part of a large-scale effort to restore the architectural integrity of the building in the public areas and improve its livability for the staff," said Paul Perrot, Assistant Secretary for Museum Programs.

What this "livability" will mean to staff members is a new air conditioning and heating system, humidity control for the protection of the collections, and refurbished offices. There will be some reshuffling of office space, but the building will contain about the same number of employees as at present—approximately 550. The renovation of office space will not be completed until after the building is reopened to the public.

Prior to final completion of the new National Air and Space Museum, due to open July 4, 1976, NASM personnel and exhibits will be moved from the Arts and Industries Building to their new quarters. The Air and Space exhibit, "Life in the Universe," already has been removed to temporary storage. Other exhibits will be moved beginning in March while the move of NASM personnel into the new building is planned for April.

The restoration of the A & I Building coincides with other Smithsonian preparations for the Bicentennial. This is particularly appropriate since the building was constructed as a result of the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition of 1876. The Smithsonian's acquisition of large collections of items donated to the United States by foreign governments and other exhibitors at the close of the Centennial Exhibition made necessary additional exhibit and storage space.

After some debate, Congress approved plans for the construction of a one-story building of 90,000 square feet (almost three times the area of the Smithsonian Institution Building already in existence at the time). Ground was broken for the building on April 17, 1879, and the structure was completed in 1881 although a portion had already been occupied in 1880. The first official use of the building was for the inaugural ball of

President Garfield on March 4, 1881.

Final cost of the building amounted to \$315,400, though in subsequent years extensive roof repairs were necessary and galleries and mezzanines were added to form additional floor space.

Plans for restoring the A & I Building as closely as practical to its original configuration include the placing of encaustic tiles in the rotunda area. Encaustic tiles have inlaid designs fused into the tile by heat.

"The original encaustic tiles, when they became worn, were discarded," Mr. Perrot noted. "As encaustic tiles have not been manufactured since the 1930s, this alone should prove to be a challenging task."

In the center of the rotunda the installation of a fountain is also planned—probably a cast iron one from the 1870–1880 era.

Paint samples from the 1880s–1890s found in the Warshaw Collection of Business Americana at the National Museum of History and Technology are being used to find wall colors appropriate for the use of the building and the period of its construction.

The original west entrance will again be opened as a main entrance eventually leading outside into a Victorian garden on the west side of the building. The east entrance will be refurbished, the south entrance will be opened for use as an emergency exit, and a public elevator will be installed in the northeast court.

The general contractor retained for the construction work in the building is Grunley-Walsh Construction Company, Inc.

The design for the project was developed by James M. Murphy, chief; William L. Thomas, architect, and staff members of the Smithsonian's Engineering and Design Branch of the Office of Facilities Planning and Engineering Services, which formerly was the Engineering and Construction Division of the Buildings Management Department.

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A view of the east exhibit hall in the Arts and Industries Building, taken in the 1880s, shows original wall stenciling above the arches in the hall and beyond in the rotunda. Stencilings like these will once again be applied to the A&I walls during the renovation. Some items on display then were the "John Bull" engine (extreme right foreground), presently on exhibit in the National Museum of History and Technology; farm implements; carts, and many others.

About SI Women

Upward Mobility Committee Sets Objectives for 1975

By Joanna Scherer and Edith Martin

The Upward Mobility Committee of the Smithsonian Women's Council has decided on its objectives for the year. Any Smithsonian employee interested in helping the committee pursue its goals is welcome. Contact Joanna Scherer, Chairperson, ext. 5091, for time and meeting place.

The committee plans to accumulate data on the Smithsonian's UM programs now in process and lobby for increased participation in the current programs, possible expansion to include employees through higher grades and more diversified programs.

The UM program, which is part of the Smithsonian's Affirmative Action Plan, began as a result of the Civil Service's review of Smithsonian personnel activities several years ago. The programs are presently concerned with GS or WG positions 2 through 7 and do not include career-ladder mobility, which is for grade levels GS-7 and up. None of the present programs plan for any mobility past the GS-7 level. All branches of the Smithsonian have been encouraged to write up programs; however, the UM programs are still very much on a volunteer basis. At present the participating organizations or buildings are the Museum of Natural History, Museum of History and Technology, Freer Gallery of Art, Air and Space Museum, and Office of Plant Services. To date five Smithsonian employees are involved in these programs and four more may soon join their ranks. The percentage of Smithsonian employees thus involved will be approximately 0.25 per cent.

Plans are underway to increase the benefits of these programs. Included is an expanded UM office in the Office of Equal Opportunity, which hopes to be given 11 slots in the near future to be used to provide positions to museums and organizations who want to start UM programs but do not want to give up their present slots. Financing of all programs must come from each museum and/or division and represents a three-year commitment for each slot. OEO is also planning to hire an administrator for the UM program, thus broadening the amount of assistance they can offer each museum in organizing its programs.

Signs of Progress

One very happy recipient of an UM position in the Museum of History and Technology's new program is Diane E. Pryor. Ms. Pryor, a former Janitor (WG-3) had been employed at the Renwick Gallery, NCHA for about two years. Her new position obtained through the UM program is as Museum Aide GS-3. The target position is as an Exhibits Specialist GS-7 and can be reached, non-competitively from one grade to the next, up to GS-7, possibly within four years.

Ms. Pryor feels this good fortune could not have happened to her at a more opportune time as she is also an urban homesteader. Thus the skills of carpentry, painting, joinery, masonry, and exhibits maintenance included in her training for an Exhibits Specialist will help her to do most of the interior repairs and refurbishing on her homestead.

We of the Women's Council applaud the Institution's efforts to allow Ms. Pryor to reach her fullest potential through the new Upward Mobility Program. We only wish that there could be more participants like her in this program.

Cancer Film

The Women's Council is planning to show two films on breast and uterine cancer in early March. Date, place and time will be forthcoming in a special announcement the latter part of February. If you have any questions about the films please contact Francine Berkowitz. Her phone number is Extension 5388.

A & I Building

Continued From page 1

Consulting architects for style, color, and interior decor are Hugh Newell Jacobsen and his associate, Paul Pavlovich.

"The refurbishing of the building and display of items from the Centennial Exhibition of 1876 or items from that period will suggest by inference how far we have come in the last 100 years," said Mr. Perrot.

Robert M. Vogel, Chairman of the Department of Science and Technology at NMHT is in charge of coordinating the exhibition. Displays such as camphor lamps, early petroleum lamps, and steam engines will show the nation's growth. Even an early Otis steam elevator is planned for installation in one of the halls. Other exhibits will include furniture, manufactured goods, a railroad locomotive, civil engineering items, and many more.

"These exhibits could be classified into three types: actual items displayed at the Centennial Exhibition, twins of items at the fair in cases where the original is gone but an item just like it is available, and items that were made in the same period of time but were not on exhibit—things that *might* have been there," Mr. Vogel said.

"The setting up of exhibits is a group effort and a central committee has been formed and meets regularly to hash out any problems regarding space, authenticity, and condition of the items, working with the Museum's curatorial staff. We must decide practically item by item what goes into the exhibit and what does not.

Items From 1876

"One common misconception is that the Smithsonian received all of the items displayed at the fair in 1876. Actually, the Smithsonian was given more ethnological things, such as fishing gear and Indian items, rather than saleable items. Such saleable items were recovered by the exhibitors in most cases. Foreign exhibitors left many objects that would have cost more to ship back to their country than the value of the item."

One of the pieces that appeared at the Centennial Exhibition in 1876 and will be exhibited in the A & I Building is a model of a Naval Academy training vessel named "Antietam" which is 40 feet long and was used at Annapolis as a training device after the exhibition. It was built at Annapolis, exhibited at the Centennial Fair, then taken back to Annapolis for use. The Smithsonian is borrowing it from the Naval Academy and is restoring it in exchange for the loan of the model.

In some cases the deterioration of items over the past 100 years makes restoration necessary for display since the items should look as they did at the exhibition in 1876. If an owner doesn't want the item restored, it cannot be used.

Mr. Perrot commented:

"This will be a good chance to compare the Centennial year to the Bicentennial year, to see how far we have come, and to promote the national interest in maintaining our architectural heritage and preserving for posterity buildings such as the Arts and Industries Building which is on the National Register of Historic Places. It will mean some inconvenience to the staff, but the finished product should be worth the inconvenience.

"This is a splendid building; it has charm, grand interior spaces, and its exterior is colorful. It has served the Institution well for nearly 100 years. With some love and care for its qualities, it will continue to be an adornment to the Mall and a useful member of the 'Smithsonian quadrangle'."

Estes Succeeds Collins

John E. Estes, Assistant Director of the International Exchange Service, was named Acting Director, effective January 1. He succeeds Jeremiah A. Collins, who retired December 31 after 41 years at the Smithsonian.



Dr. Williamson receiving the Secretary's Gold Medal Award for Exceptional Service from Assistant Secretary Challinor.

Mrs. Harvey, Veteran SI Employee, Dies

Mrs. Myrtle S. Harvey, custodial laborer foreman at SI, died on December 3, 1974, after a federal career of 33 years and 10 months, including 26 years and 4 months at the Smithsonian.

Mrs. Harvey came to the Smithsonian on August 2, 1948, as a custodial laborer, she was promoted to the foreman's position on February 26, 1956, and remained in that capacity until her death.

During her employment with SI, Mrs. Harvey received many letters of appreciation, commendations and performance awards. For the past two years, 1973 and 1974, she received a Sustained Superior Performance Award in recognition of her outstanding performance.

Taylor Is Officer Of Dunlap Society

Joshua C. Taylor, Director of the National Collection of Fine Arts, has been named Vice President of the recently formed Dunlap Society and Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Society.

The Dunlap Society was formed out of a concern for the neglect of studies in American art and the lack of research and visual material in that field. It is named after William Dunlap, who, writing in the 1830s, was the first historian to take pride in, and pay serious attention to, American art.

The National Endowment for the Humanities and the Dunlap Society recently announced a project to enable America's artistic heritage to become more widely known and appreciated. The project, entitled "Visual Documentation of American Art: The Nation's Capital," will be funded by a \$50,000 grant from NEH and will develop a complete visual record of a select number of buildings in the nation's capital.

The project will eventually become the core of a much larger central archive of visual documentation of all aspects of American art including painting, sculpture, and folk art.

Chirlin Joins Staff As CBCES Analyst

Gary R. Chirlin has joined the staff of the Chesapeake Bay Center for Environmental Studies as Biological Systems Analyst.

Under the direction of Dr. David L. Correll, Director for the Temperate Zone of the Smithsonian's Environmental Sciences Program, Mr. Chirlin is preparing mathematical models for the Center's study of the Rhode River watershed ecosystem.

A native of Kenmore, N.Y., Mr. Chirlin holds a master's degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in civil engineering with specification in water resources. His Bachelor of Science degree is also from MIT.

Dr. Williamson Named to Post In Alaska Cabinet

The Director of the Smithsonian's Chesapeake Bay Center for Environmental Studies, Dr. Francis S. L. Williamson, has been appointed Commissioner of Health and Social Services by Alaska Governor Jay Hammond.

Dr. Williamson, 48, has been granted a leave of absence from the Center, which he has headed since 1968.

Dr. Williamson said the Alaska cabinet post involves responsibility for a \$79 million annual budget, amounting to more than 20 per cent of the state appropriation. His department includes about 15,000 employees.

Dr. Williamson earned his doctorate of science at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health where he specialized in the ecology of disease. He attended George Washington University, San Diego State College, and the University of California at Berkeley.

His association with Alaska dates to 1955 when he served as biologist with the Arctic Health Research Center at Anchorage. After leaving the state in 1964, Dr. Williamson made frequent visits to continue his research into bird populations of Amchitka Island. He has published a number of scientific papers in this field.

He is a former editor of *The Condor*, journal of the Cooper Ornithological Society, and *Bioscience*.

During Dr. Williamson's absence J. Kevin Sullivan will be Acting Director of the Center.

On January 30 Dr. Williamson received from David Challinor, Assistant Secretary for Science at the Smithsonian, the Secretary's Gold Medal Award for Exceptional Service. The award carries a \$1,000 cash gift.

Dr. Williamson served as principal investigator for a long-term study of the Rhode River supported by the National Science Foundation and conducted by the Chesapeake Research Consortium. In addition to the Smithsonian center, the consortium includes the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences, and research institutes operated by the Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland.

Before departing for Alaska, Dr. Williamson was a resident of Arnold, Md. in Anne Arundel County.

SMITHSONIAN TORCH February 1975

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SI Division Develops 'SELGEM' Computer System for Museum Use

The following account of a recent symposium on computer assisted collection management and the SELGEM system at the Smithsonian was written by Reginald Creighton and John Carns of the SI Information Systems Division.—Editor

Over the past decade, the museum community has increasingly turned to the computer as a tool for gaining better control over the informational aspect of objects and the procedural facets of information processing.

The possibilities are interesting. More than 180 university-affiliated museums have on campus a computer of sufficient capacity to support their collection management activities and hundreds of museums have good potential capabilities nearby. Already, more than 50 museums have installed a computer-assisted system for information management and a multitude of other computer applications are widely employed. There are more than 100 projects in collections management now using the computer and the number is continually growing.

The Smithsonian Institution operates a general purpose information processing system called SELGEM to help in the management of the national collections. Although still under development, SELGEM has become widely recognized as a reliable vehicle for information processing, particularly in the museum community. At the Smithsonian Institution, SELGEM is used by the National Museum of Natural History, the Bicentennial Inventory of American Paintings, the Oceanographic Sorting Center, the National Collection of Fine Arts, the Office of Environmental Sciences, and by a host of registrarial, curatorial, and research activities.

More than 50 persons use it to process about 300 collections here and more than 100 persons at 50 other museums use SELGEM. At the National Museum of Natural History more than 2 million specimens are referenced through the SELGEM data bank.

On January 6-9, the Information Systems Division held a symposium on SELGEM design and utilization, in the Presidential Suite of the National Museum of History and Technology. The symposium was primarily to acquaint and inform prospective users of the system's capabilities for data input, correction, enhancement, retrieval, indexing, and report production.

The symposium was attended by 58 persons, 32 from the Smithsonian and 26 from other museums and activities, many of whom were speakers. Reginald Creighton, who manages the development of SELGEM, was moderator. Dr. James Mello, Assistant Director of the National Museum of Natural History, delivered the introductory presentation.

Ms. Abigail Booth described her use of SELGEM in the Bicentennial Inventory of American Paintings, Dr. Gary Gautier and David Bridge told of their participation in SELGEM's development and of their management of SELGEM in the National Museum of Natural History, and Dr. Uta Merzbach and Ms. Anne Serio spoke of the use of SELGEM in the National Museum of History and Technology. Robert Organ and Ms. Nikki Horton discussed SELGEM in the context of the Conservation Analytical Laboratory, and Pat Butler, of Johns Hopkins University and the Smithsonian's Office of American Studies, described his use of the system for research in community history.

Dr. Robert Chenhall told of the history and plans of the Museum Data Bank Committee, which he chairs. David Vance, president of the Museum Computer Network, Inc., spoke on the compatibility and future trends of museum data and information systems. Larry Manire of the Arizona State Museum presented some interesting slides depicting the many uses for SELGEM in the museum and in the University of Arizona in general.

Other museums represented were the Lowie Museum of Anthropology at Berkeley, Calif.; the Museum of New Mexico; and the Maxwell Museum, New Mexico. The University of California at Berkeley, Texas Tech University, the American University, and Eastern New Mexico University were also represented. In addition, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Center for Health Statistics

were represented, as were the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum and the Office of the Registrar.

William Bradley, John Carns, James Crockett, William Lawson, Penelope Packard, Dante Piacesi, Victor Ponte, Edwin Robinson, Ralph Walker, and Richard Young, all codevelopers of the system and members of the Smithsonian's Information Systems Division, conducted workshops on various SELGEM programs and their capabilities.

On January 9, William R. Johnson escorted those attending on a tour of the National Collection of Fine Arts and described the various ways in which SELGEM supported NCFA operations. Later in the day, Dr. Gautier and Mr. Bridge, assisted by Dr. Ortner, Ms. Monahan, and others led the group on a tour of various departments in the National Museum of Natural History concerning their utilization of the system.

The final session of the symposium concerned "MESH," (which is an acronym for "Museum Exchange of Systems Help") as a vehicle for the interchange of system ideas and computer programs. MESH is by and for techniques-oriented people. The focus is on "how to" rather than "what," and on techniques rather than record content. MESH is not a clearing house for museum data.

One MESH product is a newsletter that provides SELGEM programmers and system users with information about one another. Inter-user communication provides an exchange of ideas, programs, and documentation. Distribution of the newsletter is limited to actual SELGEM users.

MESH encourages the development of information processing skills in museums in the belief that enhanced local capability generates increased thrust toward future information interchange. Since the common use of SELGEM among museums places participants on the same format, the problems of information exchange become trivial from the technical point of view. Many formidable problems concerning data standards and user semantics remain a challenge as does the further development of SELGEM.

The importance of computerization continues to be much discussed. The consensus runs as follows:

Depending on the size, condition, and volatility of a collection, objectives can often be met without the computer, but before you dismiss the idea of computer assistance, you might reflect on your informational capabilities and responsiveness. Some highly pertinent questions to ask yourself are:

- Using traditional methods to deal with the current rate of growth, will the collection continue to be at least as good a base for research in the future as it has been in the past?
- Can I continue, for long, to be timely and cost effective about preservation?
- Can I continue, for long, to make accurate statements about the collections' condition?
- Can I easily ascertain the economic feasibility of proposed research based on the collection?
- Can I easily find specimen-related literature and photographs?
- How well do I avoid redundant collection, preservation, storage, and processing?
- Can I be confident about locating a specimen from a catalog card or ledger entry?
- Can I easily retrieve full information backup for everything depicted in an exhibit?
- How well informed am I, really, when planning for future space requirements and for acquisition and curation needs?

A commitment toward doing the best possible job of collection management in terms of quality and service induces vigilance toward finding better methods and fosters a "service-delivery" world view. Good col-

lection management means that you know what you have; and that you know you are taking care of it.

If you are dissatisfied with your answers to the above questions, perhaps the computer can help.

SELGEM has the capability to parallel the information processing performed by a manual system while telescoping the time requirement from months to days. Specific products produced via SELGEM and its interfaced subsystems include:

- Distribution maps, charts, and graphs
- Sequenced inventory lists
- Summarized sequenced listings of fauna and flora
- Particular reconfigurations of data for statistical analysis and presentation
- Bibliographies
- Indexes or index cards
- Specimen and container labels
- Shelf lists
- Vocabularies and authority lists
- Permuted indexes and concordances

SELGEM's modular structure, its sequence-independent application of programs, its independence from specific configurations of data and from particular computers provides a built-in growth potential and a hedge against obsolescence of the methodology, which is much appreciated by the users.

Reports indicate that the symposium was informative and useful. Many expressed the hope that it will be repeated at least twice a year.

Dr. Stirling, SI Archeologist, Dies

Dr. Matthew W. Stirling, 78, an internationally known anthropologist and archeologist who had been chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology at the Smithsonian, died January 23 at his home in Washington.

Dr. Stirling retired in 1958, but continued at the National Museum of Natural History as a research associate and archeologist emeritus. Since 1960 he had been an active member of the National Geographic Society research committee.

A specialist in Middle American anthropology and archeology, Dr. Stirling headed 13 expeditions to Mexico, Panama and Ecuador between 1938 and 1957. Born in Salinas, Calif., Dr. Stirling served as an ensign in the Navy in World War I. He was graduated from the University of California in 1920 and joined the Smithsonian in 1921.

"He left a great impact on Mesoamerican archeology," commented Dr. Clifford Evans of the NMNH Department of Anthropology. "Matt Stirling had a fantastic ability to make pioneering discoveries, such as his finding of the Olmec culture at La Venta. Often he worked on hunches that were based on intuition and a feeling for the culture—but they proved to be correct."

"In addition to his work in Mexico he was also well known for his work with the Jivaro Indians in Ecuador and the various tribes of New Guinea. Many exhibit cases at NMNH are based on specimens he collected."

Houston Welcomes SI Gem Exhibit



The French royal jewels from NMNH were displayed in this setting at Houston.

A pilot outreach program undertaken by the Smithsonian in January drew an enthusiastic response from members of the National Associates in the Houston area who were given an opportunity to see an exhibition of French royal jewels from the gem collection of the National Museum of Natural History and to attend an illustrated lecture by Paul Desautels, curator of gems and minerals at NMNH.

The response from Associates to invitations for the event was so great that Mr. Desautels presented his lecture twice on January 18 in the hall at the University of Houston where it was scheduled originally. He repeated the program the following night in a university sports arena before a crowd of 2,200 Associates. Mr. Desautels also spoke to 100 community leaders at a pre-view dinner January 17.

After attending the opening dinner, Dr. David Challinor, Assistant Secretary for Science at the Smithsonian, said:

"I was very impressed by the response of the National Associates in the Houston area to our invitation to attend this unusual outreach program for the Smithsonian. There are 7,500 members of the National Associates in the Houston metropolitan area and about 41 per cent of them—some 3,100—attended the lecture and exhibition. That certainly is a very impressive response to a weekend event on relatively short notice. The success of this Houston exhibit suggests that we might consider similar programs in other major urban areas throughout the United States in association

with local cultural institutions there. I have recommended this to Secretary Ripley and it is being reviewed."

Dr. Challinor went on to thank the University of Houston and its president, Dr. Paul Hoffman, for its cooperation in arranging for the event. Lynford Kautz, of the Smithsonian's Office of Development, represented the Smithsonian in making arrangements for the program, thus carrying out a concept of the Development Office to present lectures by curators under joint sponsorship with a local institution.

The jewels were exhibited to the public January 18 through 25 at the university's Blaffer Gallery. The pieces included Marie Antoinette's diamond earrings and Napoleon's gifts to his empress Marie Louise. The jewels were displayed in an appropriate setting provided by a replica of the paneled "Monkey Room" from the Chateau de Chantilly, created by Jean-Baptiste Huet around 1745.

The exhibition was attended by large numbers of Houston area residents attracted by favorable local news accounts of the royal jewels and the Smithsonian.

Staff at NPG Begins Vast Peale Papers Project

More than 6,000 items have been received since September by staff members of the Charles Willson Peale Papers project at their offices in the National Portrait Gallery.

To collect these manuscripts, the staff has searched the archives of university libraries, state and local historical societies, and museums throughout the country, as far west as Austin, Tex. and San Marino, Calif., and in London and Paris.

Although the American Philosophical Society Library in Philadelphia holds the bulk of the Peale Papers, manuscripts have turned up at Harvard, Fordham, Duke, and the College of William and Mary among many other depositories. Private collectors and autograph agencies are also contributing copies of documents and letters for inclusion in the definitive publication that is planned.

According to the editor of the Papers, Dr. Lillian B. Miller, Historian of American Culture at NPG, the Peale Papers project will take from eight to 10 years to complete. The project, which was established on September 3, 1974, under a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, has received the endorsement of the National Historical Publications Commission.

The cataloging, recording, annotating, microfilming, and publishing of the letters and papers of Peale and his immediate family will make available to researchers and scholars a vast amount of material on the early American patriot, painter, and naturalist.

The Peale documents consist of autobiographies, museum accounts, diaries, books, letterbooks, farm accounts, and lectures that cover approximately the years 1765 to 1826. Letters of his sons, Titian, Rubens, Franklin, Raphaele, and Rembrandt, continue the records through 1885.

"Scholars of American science and art have long awaited the publication of the Peale papers for their wealth of new information on one of the most admirable figures in early American history," says Dr. Miller. "The sponsorship of this project by the National Portrait Gallery seems most appropriate since Charles Willson Peale in 1794 founded in Philadelphia a museum that was the first portrait gallery in the New World, as well as a museum of natural history. Peale defined his museum as an effort to 'unite Art and Science.' He also organized schools for young artists and helped found the successful Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in 1805."

The staff working with Dr. Miller includes Dr. Michael D. Schaffer, Assistant Editor; Barbara Bares, Research Historian; and Rose S. Emerick, Secretary. The project's advisory committee consists of eminent scholars in the area of American art and cultural history and from the Smithsonian Charles Blitzer, Assistant Secretary for His-

tory and Art, and Marvin Sadik, NPG Director.

"Since Charles Willson Peale was part of the intellectual environment that gave birth to the American Revolution, it is particularly fitting for the National Portrait Gallery to include the publication of his letters in its celebration of the Bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence," Dr. Miller said.

Blood Pressure Checks Available

In a memorandum November 12, Smithsonian employees in the Washington area were reminded that, in cooperation with the National Drive to Control Hypertension, they could have their blood pressure checked at any of the SI health units.

Mrs. Anita McGonigle, registered nurse in the NHB health unit, reports that the nurses in the health units have had good results with the drive. Many employees have stopped to have their blood pressure checked and in this way some unsuspecting victims of high blood pressure have been found and referred to their doctors' care. The nurses believe the program is very beneficial and urge more employees to take advantage of the free blood pressure check, Monday through Friday at the Natural History Building and History and Technology Building, 9 to 11 a.m., or the Hirshhorn Museum, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Desmond Appointed To Personnel Post

James M. Desmond has been appointed Assistant Director of Personnel for Recruitment and Placement in the Office of Personnel Administration.



Mr. Desmond

Mr. Desmond is a native of Everett, Mass. He is a graduate of Boston College and did graduate work at Boston College and Georgetown University.

Prior to coming to the Smithsonian, he served as chief of recruitment in the Office of the Secretary at the Department of Commerce. He also worked at the Civil Service Commission as a staffing specialist.



The Peale Papers staff includes (from left) Dr. Lillian B. Miller, editor; Dr. Michael D. Schaffer, assistant editor; Ms. Barbara Bares, research historian; Mrs. Rose Emerick, secretary.

Employees Receive Performance Awards

The following employees have recently received Sustained Superior Performance Awards, in recognition of their outstanding performance "above and beyond call of duty."

STRI—Felix Sanchez, Leon Homero, Vielka Vergel, Rodolfo Sellers

Office of the Treasurer—Jackie D. Zickafosse, Charlotte A. Nalley

Office of Facilities Planning and Engineering Services (OPES)—James M. Murphy

National Zoological Park—Richard E. Croson

Freer Gallery of Art—Pallie D. James

Division of Performing Arts—Martin T. Williams

Office of Plant Services (OPLANTS)—Roosevelt Walker

"The Awards Program is an expression of public policy to recognize those employees who achieve more than their jobs require, who dedicate extra thinking to making improvements, and who demonstrate an outstanding effort in improving the work of his/her office," remarked Howard Toy, Director of the Office of Personnel.

"Congratulations are extended to these employees and to the supervisors of these employees who took the time and interest to recognize and award employees for their exceptional efforts."

Employees Advised About Benefits Cards

Because of the great volume of transactions during Open Season for Health Benefits, sometimes unavoidable delays will occur or a federal employee's health benefits identification card will go astray in the mail, the Office of Personnel Administration has warned.

The following procedures should be followed in such cases:

1. An Open Season enrollee who has not received an ID card by March 31, 1975 should send a request for ID card (obtained from the Personnel Office) to the address shown below. Be sure to include your current mailing address. The Carrier Control Number can be obtained from the Health Benefits Registration Form 2809.

2. If the ID card is not received within 30 days, the employee should obtain a copy of the completed Health Benefits Registration Form 2809 and have the Personnel Office contact the Payroll Office to verify payroll office number, and obtain (1) SF 2811 report number, (2) date of SF 2811 report, and (3) date SF 2811 report was mailed to carrier (Federal Employees Program Operations Center). The copy of the 2809 and other information should then be mailed to the FEP Operations Center, 550 12th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20024.

Employees who find it necessary to use their coverage prior to receipt of their ID card and subsequently have a claim rejected because there is no record of their enrollment should follow the procedures in No. 2 above.

GWU Interns Join SI Offices In MAT Program

By Andrea Kline
NMNH Office of Education Intern

On January 6, 14 interns from the Master of Arts in Teaching Museum Education Program at George Washington University joined 10 offices of the Smithsonian.

This 12-month MAT program, the first of its kind, combines museum education studies and seminars, university courses in an area of specialization, visits to museums in Washington and other cities and both school and museum internships. It is designed to prepare a student to work in a museum education department or as a liaison person between schools and museums.

The interns have diverse backgrounds, with degrees in such areas as art, art history, American civilization, anthropology, science and English. Some of the interns have already worked in museums or taught in schools, but they entered the program to develop expertise in the specialized area of museum education.

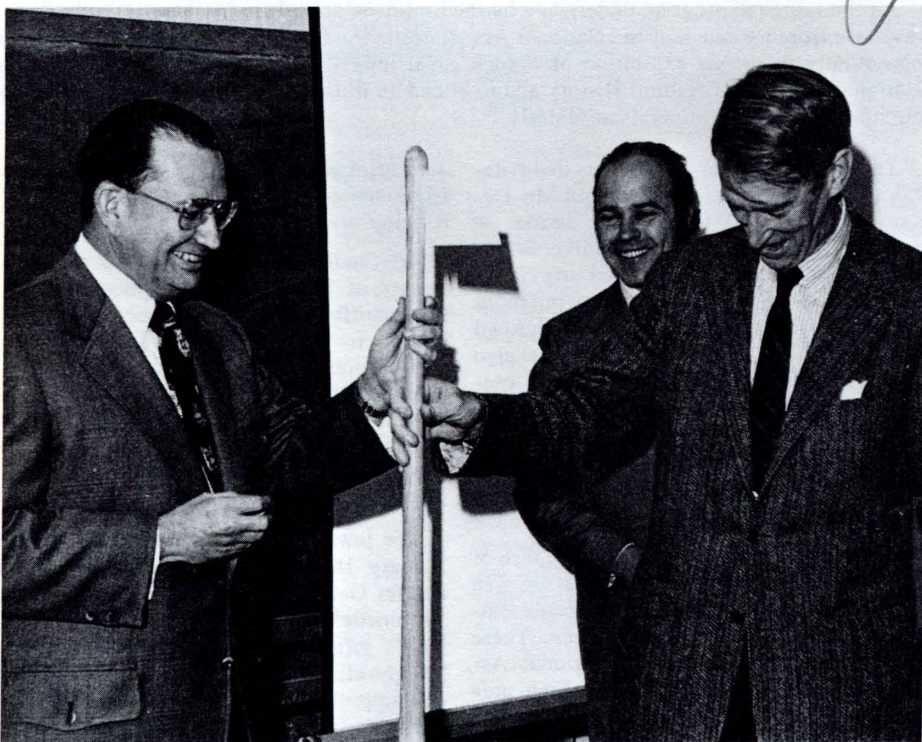
During the fall, most of the interns visited their museum placements on a limited basis to orient themselves with the layout of their placements and to learn about the functions of their assigned department and the museum as a whole. This spring the interns will be working on a full-time basis, developing projects or working on existing programs in areas such as docentry, outreach programs and in-museum education activities.

The interns are Sally Kingsbury and Kelly Coleson, Hirshhorn; Jane North, NPG; Orna Silverman and Robert Hall, NCFA; Laura Lehrman and Earl James, Renwick; Kathy Bell and Barbara Meyer, SITES; Marlene Robinson, National Zoological Park; Nancy Lepow, NASM; Gina Morea, OESE; Alice Yelen, Smithsonian Bicentennial Project; and Andrea Kline, NMNH.

Melendez Has Role In N.M. Festivities

Manuel Melendez, public information officer for the Division of Performing Arts, was recently invited to participate in the inaugural festivities for the new governor of New Mexico, Jerry Apodaca.

Mr. Melendez was in Santa Fe to sing for the New Year's Day Mass celebrated in the Santa Fe Cathedral and also for the swearing-in ceremonies in front of the State House of New Mexico. Mr. Melendez, a lyric-tenor, has performed in the Washington area with the National Symphony Orchestra, the Washington Cathedral and will soon be heard on a new recording of the Saint-Saens "Gloria."



ZOO DIRECTOR HONORED—Dr. Theodore H. Reed (left), Director of the National Zoological Park, was presented his 20-year pin for service with the Zoo by Dr. David Challinor (right), Assistant Secretary for Science. Dr. Reed was also the recipient of a new shovel at the presentation held January 9 in the Lion's Den. At the same ceremony, Edward Kohn (center), Deputy Director of NZP, was presented with his 15-year pin for accumulated service with the Smithsonian.