

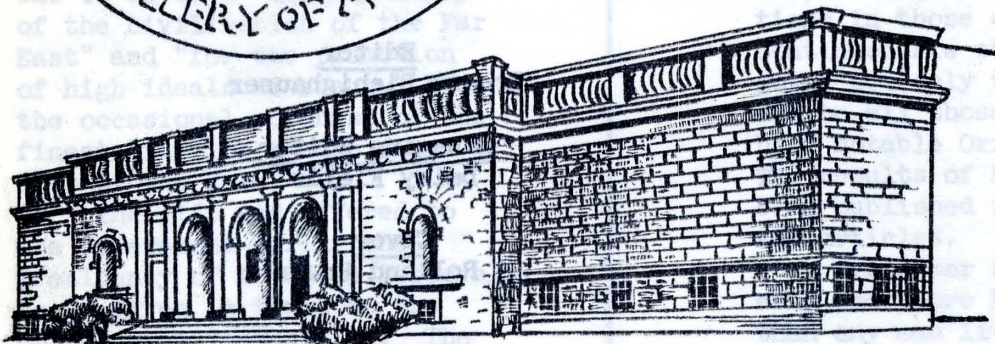


THE SMITHSONIAN

TORCH

FREER MEDAL ESTABLISHED

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Editorial Board

Paul Oehser

Tom Clark

Jack Newman

Editor

Ernest Biebighauser

Managing Editor

Daisy Fields

Cover

Rolland Hower

Contributions are encouraged from all employees of the Smithsonian Institution. If you have an item for THE TORCH please type it double spaced, sign it, and give it to the secretary of your department or send it direct to Mrs. Fields in the personnel office. CONTRIBUTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE 25TH OF THE MONTH.

FREER MEDAL ESTABLISHED

On February 25, the Freer Gallery of Art will hold a celebration honoring the 100th birthday of its founder, Charles Lang Freer, who for many years was a devoted and discerning collector and student of Oriental art.

Mr. Freer believed that more is learned concerning a civilization or epoch from the art it has produced than from any other source. With this idea in mind, he presented his collections, a building to house them, and an endowment. The income from the endowment was to be used "for the study of the civilization of the Far East" and "for the promotion of high ideals of beauty" by the occasional purchase of the finest examples of the fine arts of the East.

The gift was offered to the Government during the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt, to be given in trust to the Smithsonian Institution. The deed of gift was executed on May 5, 1906; ground was broken on September 23, 1916; and the building completed in 1921, about 18 months after the death of Mr. Freer on September 25, 1919.

In connection with the celebration of this 100th anniversary, the Charles Lang Freer Medal has been established. The medal is to be presented from time to time "for distinguished contribution to the knowledge and understanding of Oriental civilizations as reflected in their arts."

The first recipient of this medal will be Prof. Osvald Sirén, of Stockholm, Sweden, who has had a long and distinguished career both in the National Museum in Stockholm and as a professor of history of fine arts in Stockholm University.

Professor Sirén was first a noted authority on Italian painting, but his interest turned to Far Eastern art during his trips to this country in 1916 and 1917, when he lectured at both Yale and Harvard Universities. Later he traveled extensively in Japan and China, studying, collecting, and, above all, seeing the finest collections in those countries. He continued his studies and travels, going not only to the Far East but to all those countries which have notable Oriental collections. The results of his studies have been published in numerous books and articles.

Professor Sirén has probably seen more Far Eastern art than any man living, and without such monumental studies as his three 4-volume works on the history of early Chinese art, the history of Chinese sculpture, and the history of Chinese painting, our knowledge of the subject would have been greatly retarded.

The presentation of the Freer Medal to Professor Sirén will be made on Saturday afternoon, February 25th, in the Freer Gallery auditorium. A reception in one of the galleries will follow.

REELECTED

Paul Oehser, chief of the editorial and publications division, was reelected secretary of the Cosmos Club at its annual meeting last month. Mr. Oehser was first elected to this post in 1950.

CONSULTANTS NAMED FOR NEW HALL

Dr. Remington Kellogg, director of the National Museum, recently announced the appointment of a committee of consultants to serve as advisers in the planning of a Hall of Health.

The committee consists of the following:

Dr. Bruno Gebhard, director of the Cleveland (Ohio) Health Museum; Col. Hugh R. Gilmore, Jr., curator of the Medical Museum of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology; Dr. Thomas G. Hull, director of the committee on scientific exhibits of the American Medical Association; Dr. Leslie W. Knott, chief of the branch of health professions education, U. S. Public Health Service; Dr. James Laster of the Falls Church (Va.) Medical Center; Dr. Richard H. Shryock, director of The Johns Hopkins University Institute of the History of Medicine; and Mr. Theodore Wiprud, executive director and secretary of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia.

The theme of the Hall of Health will be "man's knowledge of his body then and now" -- a comparison of old and present ideas and knowledge of the human body. The subjects covered will

include embryology, growth, bones and muscles, dental health, the heart and circulation, digestion, the endocrine system, the nervous system, and health in old age.

Unique in the line of health exhibits will be the historical units depicting man's knowledge of his body through the ages. Reproductions of illustrations showing embryology, the heart, skeleton and muscles, the brain and nervous system, and the digestive tract as they appeared in ancient and medieval manuscripts will highlight the history panels.

The Hall of Health will be part of the division of medicine and public health, which is under the direction of George Griffenhagen, acting curator. The hall will be located in the Arts and Industries Building, and it is expected to open late in 1957 or early in 1958.

IT'S OFFICIAL NOW

The Civil Service Commission recently made a study of the characteristics of good supervisors and came up with the following conclusions:

A good supervisor trains new Federal employees efficiently, gives them clear and unambiguous instructions, and schedules his work well in advance. He sets a good example for his assistants, is accurate in his judgment of their abilities and they, in turn, can safely rely upon his word. Finally, he encourages his men to do a good job, defends them when they are in the right, and is popular with them.

IT PAYS TO HAVE IDEAS

"The only thing that is stronger than the tramp of marching feet is an Idea whose hour has come." -- Victor Hugo.

The Incentive Awards Program is the medium whereby Federal employees may receive recognition and reward for good ideas and for superior performance.

The Government Employees Incentive Awards Act, which went into effect November 30, 1954, is a firm expression of the intent of the Congress and the President that incentive awards be used to encourage all civilian employees of the Federal Government to participate in the task of improving the efficiency and economy of Government operations.

When the program was approved President Eisenhower urged agency heads to support it. He said, "I am firmly convinced that employees of the Federal Government can, through their diligence and competence, make further significant contributions to the important task of improving Government operations. Wide participation by Federal employees in this task is essential if we are to derive full benefit from the ingenuity and inventiveness that exist in the Federal service. This participation can be obtained only if all levels of management and supervision understand its importance, encourage it, and insure that it is promptly and properly recognized. I am relying upon you to provide personal leadership for the incentive awards program in your agency."

While the new program provides adequately for cash awards for tangible savings to the Government, it stresses recognition for sustained superior performance.

The Smithsonian provides still another avenue for granting awards. Recognition is made by the Institution when "a Smithsonian Institution employee who has been honored by a national scientific or professional society or a nationally known scientific or professional institution with either a medal or a cash award, or both, for highly meritorious contribution in his particular discipline."

Make your ideas pay dividends.

FORMER EMPLOYEE PASSES AWAY

On Sunday, December 18, there passed away one of the oldest and best-loved former employees of the National Museum. William B. Marshall, who would have been 91 years old last January 21, died in Providence Hospital after a short illness.

Mr. Marshall first came to the National Museum in 1895, being given a temporary appointment, as aid. He was here for less than a year, leaving in February 1896 to take a position with the Philadelphia Commercial Museum, where he was situated for about five years. In April 1903 he returned to the Smithsonian as aid in the division of mollusks, where he remained for 31 years

retiring on April 30, 1934, as assistant curator. At that time he received an honorary appointment as associate in zoology.

In the summer of that year Mr. Marshall lost his wife, and in the fall he began making his home with his daughter in Anacostia, where he lived until his last illness.

Mr. Marshall was a native of Philadelphia, and after graduating from Lafayette College in 1885 he received his first training in malacology at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia as an aid to George W. Tryon from 1885 to 1887. From 1887 to 1894 he was assistant zoologist at the New York State Museum in Albany.

Here at the National Museum Mr. Marshall devoted most of his time beyond his curatorial duties to the study of the freshwater mussels, especially those of South America. About 50 of his papers on mollusks were published between 1887 and 1934.

The older employees in the Natural History Building probably remember Mr. Marshall coming through the halls with his snow-white beard, a twinkle in his eyes, and a friendly word or a little joke for all he met. He was rather hard of hearing but disdained the use of any mechanical hearing aid, preferring a cardboard mailing tube of the proper length, which he kept handy in his office and quite often carried with him as he went about his work. Mr. Marshall, especially in his earlier years, did most of the cataloging in the division of mollusks, and his

beautiful handwriting is still seen in the catalogs and on the labels in the division.

Always willing to help anyone who came to him for help, Mr. Marshall was for years especially interested in working with young boys, and was one of the leaders in the Boy Scout work in the District.

AREA SCHOOLS TO STUDY S.I.

The Smithsonian is cooperating with the Washington Area School Study Council in a project to prepare instructional material for teachers who plan to bring their students to the museums.

Gerald S. Brinton, head of the social study department of the New Cumberland (Pa.) Joint School System and graduate student at the University of Maryland, has been appointed representative of the Council.

Starting this month, Mr. Brinton is initiating the first phase of the project -- a survey of the Smithsonian's educational resources. Later, he will supervise the work of a group of graduate students, from the University of Maryland and George Washington University, who will write the instructional material and teachers' guides to the museum.

Schools in Arlington, Fairfax, Prince Georges, Anne Arundel, and Montgomery Counties and Alexandria, Falls Church, and the District of Columbia will be served by this project.

LUCKY 13TH

Thomas McCabe, plasterer in the maintenance and operations division, is the proud grandfather of a 7½-pound boy born to his daughter on Friday, January 13th.

The baby's mother was also born on a Friday the 13th. "A lucky day," says Mr. McCabe.

NO SKIN GAME

There is an animal that can get out of its own skin.

It is a little brown lizard, a gecko, which lives in native houses on the Palau Islands. This creature, about 6 inches long, is closely related to house geckos, which are found as far north as Florida in the American tropics and throughout the tropical Pacific Islands.

The Palau species, reports Frederick Bayer, who recently returned from a field trip to the islands, is almost impossible to catch by hand. Grabbed by the tail, it immediately sheds its tail. This is a rather common practice with certain lizards and apparently brings little inconvenience. A new tail can be grown.

But as soon as a hand is laid on this particular species, Bayer reports, it immediately and literally "runs out of its skin." This is done with lightninglike rapidity. The would-be captor is left holding the creature's empty skin. All the rest of the lizard is running away, presumably seeking a hiding place.

This "running out of the skin" is a far different phenomenon than that of shedding the skin by various reptiles, which takes place always after a new skin has been formed underneath. The gecko just abandons its skin altogether. It flays itself alive.

Perhaps it can grow a new skin if only a small piece is lost. Perhaps escape in this way is suicide. Mr. Bayer was unable to obtain reliable native reports as to whether the self-flayed lizards ever were seen again.

This particular lizard, says Dr. Doris Cochran, Smithsonian associate curator of reptiles, is Peropus mutilatus, several specimens of which are in the National Museum collections. It is remarkable for its extremely soft, delicate skin. Dr. Cochran doubts that it ever would grow back a complete skin. Loss of large patches of skin, however, are well authenticated and several of the specimens here show considerable flayed areas.

REMARK OF THE WEEK

Quoted from The Sunday Star, January 22: "America's finest present," said National Art Gallery Director David Finley, "is parking space."

When you are on leave, wouldn't it be a pleasure to give someone the use of your parking space? Please notify the Superintendent's office, extension 387, before you go on leave so that others may also benefit from your vacation.

AWARD FOR ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. Clifford Evans and Dr. Betty J. Meggers, the husband-wife team in the division of archeology, have been honored by the Washington Academy of Sciences.

The couple received one of the Academy's awards for scientific achievement in the biological sciences in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the prehistory and human ecology of Lowland South America.

Presentation of the award was made at the annual dinner-meeting of the Academy at the Kennedy-Warren Hotel on January 19. This was the first time that a joint award had been granted by the Academy, and also the first time that a woman has been so honored.

Dr. Remington Kellogg, director of the National Museum, made the introduction, and the president of the Washington Academy of Sciences made the presentation.

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DON'T WAIT TILL IT'S TOO LATE

Since the Smithsonian Institution is a participant in the Red Cross Blood Donor Program, employees are eligible to receive, in the event of need, the benefits of the program. In order that we may retain these privileges, it is necessary for us to contribute a designated quota of blood each year. Regrettably, in the last calendar year we met only one-third of our quota.

The Red Cross says it will continue to carry us as a participant in return for our promise to fulfill this year's quota. This promise can be kept, with ease, if each employee, who is physically fit, would contribute one pint of blood during the year.

Unfortunately, not enough of us seem to realize the great importance of the blood program, for in the past, the majority of contributions came from a steadfast few. To those individuals we owe a vote of thanks, but that isn't enough. To show proper appreciation we must join these "regulars" and contribute with them.

Those in doubt of their fitness to contribute needn't worry, as the Red Cross examines each donor before blood is taken. Those employees who wish to contribute, and those who desire further information are urged to call Mr. Gilbard in the personnel division, ext. 385, without delay.

The following employees have started this year's ball rolling by having already contributed: Peggy Crawl, Clifford Evans, Vera Gabbert, Paul Garber, Craddock Goins, Wilbur Harman, Lucile McCain, George Metcalf, Louis Reed, George Switzer, and Waldo Wedel. Three cheers for these folks.

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HUNTED METEORITES

Ed Henderson, associate curator of the division of mineralogy and petrology, was in Arizona the last week in January. He was hunting meteorites.

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YOU'RE INVITED

On Wednesday evening, February 29, at 8:15, all members of the Smithsonian Institution are cordially invited to attend a lecture on "The Dead Sea Scrolls."

These very important documents did not actually come out of the Dead Sea, but from caves along the shore of the Dead Sea where the Wady Qumran empties into the thick, salty brine. Each year the Smithsonian Institution joins with the Archaeological Institute of America for their annual lecture. The speaker this year is Prof. Millar Burrows, Chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Literatures and Winkley Professor of Biblical Theology at Yale University.

Because of his early association with these important manuscripts, Prof. Burrows is in a position to tell us the entire story of their discovery and bartering by the Bedouins, their translation, interpretation, contents, and especially of their historical and religious significance.

The lecture will be given in the Auditorium of the Natural History Building, at 10th St. and Constitution Ave. At that hour (8:15 p.m.) there's plenty of parking space.

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LAST CALL FOR EUROPE

Last month THE TORCH carried an article about the Flying Tiger Line employee-group trips to Europe this

summer. As of the deadline date of January 23 for initial reservations only 3 people indicated their desire for this service. In order that we may obtain the service, 40 people must sign up for the trip. Therefore, we have extended the deadline to February 20. This will be the last chance for 1956. If interested please call Mrs. Fields on ext. 277 for a brochure and tentative reservation.

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ABOUT A FORMER CURATOR

While members of the division of marine invertebrates were cleaning out some old files the other day--files that once belonged to the division of echinoderms, now extinct--they came across a document of special interest.

It was a carbon copy of a memo written by the late Austin Clark, who was curator of the old division of echinoderms and who possessed a sparkling sense of humor as well as tremendous knowledge in many fields. The memo reads as follows: "To Mr. Knowleth:

"The 'ETH' on my typewriter theemth to be thome-what thadly out of order. May I trethpathth thufficiently on your good nature ath to thuggetht that you thend thomeone to thraighten it out?

"The typewriter ith an L. C. Thmith. Rethpectfully, Authtin H. Clark."

An article about Mr. Clark written by Thomas Henry recently appeared in the Cosmos Club Bulletin. Following are some extracts from that article which should be of interest to the many friends of the late Mr. Clark, and also to those of us who have heard so much about him but did not know him personally:

"Three or four traditions were combined in this eminent biologist. He was a poet-naturalist after the fashion of Thoreau, from whose countryside he came. He was an aristocrat-scientist in the line of James Smithson, with whose great legacy to mankind he was associated for most of his life. He was a thoroughly disciplined, widely learned, and indefatigable systematic zoologist.

"From the background of these traditions he moved forward on lines of his own. Perhaps the best known of these was the popularization of science, both in literature and in current newspaper and magazine journalism. Nearly 30 years ago he established the press service of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was a founder and charter member of the National Association of Science Writers. He pioneered in popular science via radio. He was himself the author of some of the most fascinating ventures in the field of popular natural history of our time.

"His mind's eye was quick to see the color, poetry, and philosophical implications in the drabest of taxonomic papers. To few men was beauty more its

own excuse for being. For few men was the pursuit of knowledge less concerned with the ephemerality of utility.

"His interests -- and his information, as was well known to all his associates -- were broad and far-reaching. According to the oft-repeated and probably apocryphal anecdote, a member of the Cosmos Club's library committee once suggested the need of a more up-to-date edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. 'Why bother?' said another member. 'Isn't Austin Clark a member of the Club?' Not only was his range of information almost universal; remarkably often it was accurate.

"Clark was born at Wellesley, Mass., on December 17, 1880, and was educated at Newton High School and at Harvard University. He entered immediately upon his scientific career, which spanned more than half a century. In 1901 he organized the first of several zoological expeditions, that to Margarita Island, Venezuela. Five years later he became acting chief of the scientific staff of the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries steamer Albatross. In 1908 he joined the staff of the United States National Museum, Smithsonian Institution, where he became curator of echinoderms in 1920. One of the highlights of his younger days was his appointment to serve as scientific aide-de-camp to the Prince of Monaco when the Prince, himself a distinguished marine zoologist, visited Washington in 1921. Austin was also very proud of the decoration as a Knight of the Order of Dannebrog he received from the King of Denmark.

"As a zoologist he achieved worldwide recognition as one of the greatest authorities on echinoderms, and his great work, A Monograph of the Existing Crinoids, occupied many years of his life. Several quarto volumes of this were published by the National Museum, but it was left uncompleted at his death. To entomologists he was perhaps equally well known as a lepidopterist, though he considered his butterfly studies a hobby. For his book The Butterflies of Virginia, which the Smithsonian published in 1951, he and Mrs. Clark (the co-author) collected butterflies in every one of the hundred counties of the Old Dominion, usually traveling in 'Henrietta.' ('Henrietta' was a 1930 model-A Ford that for 15 years carried Austin, his wife, butterfly-collecting equipment, and oftentimes guests all over the Virginia countryside.)

"When Clark retired from active service in December 1950 his friends gave him a splendid 70th anniversary dinner party. The Washington Academy of Sciences published an Austin Hobart Clark Issue in his honor, to which unwittingly he contributed an article on brittle-stars. Retirement, however, seemed to make little difference in his working habits, and he continued to come to his office at the National Museum nearly every day. Until his final illness, he kept on working, publishing papers, corresponding with his innumerable friends and colleagues, and engaging in that special variety of good conversation which was one of his greatest

pleasures. He died on October 28, 1954. How much of the world's wisdom passed with this man! How noble a friend and spirit!"

COLOR WOODCUTS EXHIBITS

The division of graphic arts has a special exhibition of "Color Woodcuts" by Angele E. Myrer and Ferol Sibley Warthen. The exhibition is located in the Smithsonian Building and will run through March 4.

FILM ON AFRICAN BUSHMEN

An extraordinary movie portraying the primitive Kung Bushmen on their daily search for food in the Kalahari Desert was shown in the auditorium of the Natural History Building on February 9.

The film, with sound and in color, was titled "The Hunters -- African Bushmen" and was produced by John K. Marshall of Harvard University's Peabody Museum. It was presented under the joint auspices of the Smithsonian Institution and the Anthropological Society of Washington.

The film was the result of four expeditions to Southwest Africa sponsored by the Peabody Museum. More than 300,000 feet, or 57 miles, of colored motion-picture film were exposed and 20,000 miles of travel required for this production.

CREDIT UNION NEWS

A dividend of 4% was declared at the annual meeting of the Smithsonian Institution Employees Federal Credit Union held on January 17. The dividend amounted to \$4,800.35. Members are requested to send in their passbooks so that the dividend may be credited. Checks have been distributed to those members whose shares amount to \$1,000.

The supervisory committee is making its annual audit of the passbooks, so be sure and send in your book.

Burton B. Gilbard was elected to the credit committee for one year to fill the unexpired term of Eleanor Tieger, who has transferred to another agency.

Board of Directors: Tom Clark, Jerry Collins, Margaret Klapthor, Lucile McCain, Eileen McCarthy, Marguerite Poole, Waldo Schmitt, Bill Stiles, and Lillian Warfield.

Credit Committee: George Cornell, Jimmy Darrow, Burt Gilbard, Cornelius Johnson, Lucile McCain, Ed Roy, and Lillian Warfield.

Supervisory Committee: Bill Boyle, Betty Morgan, and Buddy Talbert.

The Credit Committee will meet on February 23 and March 8.

The Smithsonian Institution Employees Federal Credit Union invites you to become a member. Any permanent employee of the Smithsonian Institution may join.

The credit union is a cooperative organization chartered in 1935 by the Federal Government; it is regularly audited by Federal examiners.

The Credit Union is a convenient place for you to save or borrow money. The membership fee is 25 cents. Shares are \$5 each and may be purchased in installments. The Credit Union limits the monthly amount that may be deposited to \$25 in each account. The total limit is \$1,000 for each account.

To obtain a loan it is necessary that you get an application blank at the fiscal division, fill it out, and return it to the Treasurer or the collector for your unit. The credit committee, which passes on all applications for loans, meets on Thursdays following each payday.

The interest rate is 3/4 of 1% a month on the unpaid balance, except on loans to purchase new automobiles, the rate is 1/2 of 1% a month. Interest is not deducted from your loan. You get the full amount you borrow. Loans may be repaid in full at any time.

Security, such as a comaker or a lien on an automobile, is required on all loans in excess of \$400. Below that amount, security may be required at the discretion of the credit committee.

You may withdraw all or any part of your savings at any time, provided the approval of the credit committee is obtained if you are obligated to the Credit Union as borrower or comaker on a loan.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Clerk-Stenographer:

Sidonie O. Heflin
Olive D. Powell

Librarian:

Ruth E. Blanchard

Laboratory Aid:

Sophie Schmerler

Laborer:

Robert L. Burt
Freddie Postell
Esther O. Sparrow
Edgar C. Burton

Policeman:

Donald E. Trautman

Junior Clerk:

Nancy L. Kensinger
Elsie A. Leverich

Museum Aid:

Elisabeth H. West

Systematic Zoologist:

Charles E. Cutress

Exhibits Worker:

Theodore B. Ruhoff

SEPARATIONS

Edgar W. F. Brown
Edward Barker
Robert Main

SOME FISH WALK HOME

There are 40,000 kinds of species and subspecies of fishes. This is the most recent estimate of Dr. Leonard P. Schultz, curator of fishes. The fishes can be divided roughly into inhabitants of eight zones, and by far the richest zone is the tropical Indo-Pacific area. This is the region extending from the head of the Red Sea to Easter Island. Within this region

are found approximately 9,000 species.

This estimate is contained in a Handbook of Tropical Aquarium Fishes suitable for the home aquarium written by Dr. Schultz in cooperation with Herbert R. Axelrod. However, among all these fishes, fewer than 500 kinds are common in aquaria.

All over the world, Dr. Schultz points out, fishes have evolved into a remarkably diverse group to fit various habitats and to follow various ways of life. Some fly, but not like birds; others leap, walk, and burrow as well as swim. Some swim as fast as a locomotive -- 60 miles an hour for the swordfish, 50 for the bonito, 44 for the tuna. Some, like the bass, hardly can swim faster than about 12 miles an hour.

Some of their varied ways of life are shown by the bettas and the paradisefish, both of which blow bubble nests at the water surface where they cradle their eggs and babies. Others, like the male of the black-chinned mouthbreeder, incubate the eggs and young in the mouth.

More remarkable is the seahorse, the male of which has a pouch, much like that of a kangaroo, where the eggs are placed by the female and where they are incubated for a few weeks before birth occurs.

Dr. Schultz has carried on special studies of fish flight on South Pacific marine flyingfishes. "Although some of the oceanic flyingfishes can sail for over 30 seconds at about 35 miles an hour," Dr. Schultz says, "the freshwater flyingfishes of South

America can sail only a few yards."

Walking, Dr. Schultz points out, is well developed among some fishes. The fish that can "walk" best on land is a common aquarium fish, the walking or climbing perch, but it does not have the separate fin rays. This walking perch has been known to travel at least 300 feet over dry land in a space of 30 minutes while going from one pool to another.

The sense of smell is very acute in some fishes, such as the dreaded piranha of South American rivers, which also is used as an aquarium fish. Fresh blood, distinguished by its odor, quickly attracts large schools of these ferocious fishes, and an injured victim is torn to pieces in a few minutes.

One of the most remarkable aquarium fishes described is the archerfish, or *Toxotes*, which secures some of its food by accurately shooting down insects by means of ejecting drops of water from its mouth at a distance as great as 5 feet. As the insect falls into the water it is immediately gobbled up.

S. I. PRINTMAKERS

Several Smithsonian artists were represented in the 20th Annual Exhibition of the Society of Washington Printmakers that was held in January.

This year, for the first time, the Society's annual exhibit was a national affair and many of the most

important names in print-making were included.

The Smithsonian was represented by prints by Jacob Kainen, curator of the division of graphic arts, Fuller Griffith, aid in the same division, and Rowland Lyon of the National Collection of Fine Arts. Also, there was an entry by Grace Oehser, wife of the chief of the editorial and publications division.

The exhibit was held in the foyer of the Natural History Building and closed February 2.

SAN FRANCISCO ARCHITECTURE

The Smithsonian traveling exhibition entitled "San Francisco Bay Region Architecture" will be shown at the Octagon, headquarters of the American Institute of Architects, from February 19 to March 11.

This photographic panel exhibition was selected by a special committee of the Northern California Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in cooperation with the California Redwood Association. Designed by Robert W. Washbush, the free-standing exhibition shows enlarged photographs of eighteen different architectural projects by as many architects.

Residences, schools, churches, and institutional and commercial buildings by leading northern California architects were chosen for originality of design, suitability to climate, and skillful

and economical use of native materials, notably redwood.

BIRTHDAY PRESENT

February 22, George Washington's birthday, is a holiday. Since our regular payday falls on that date we will be paid on Tuesday, February 21, at the regular hours.

Since payday so neatly coincides with the annual "birthday" sales, we think it proper to pay our respects in "Lament to a Paycheck":

Little Bankroll, ere
we part
Let me press you to
my heart.
Two long weeks I worked
for you,
Slaved and toiled and
sweated too.
Little bankroll, in a
day,
Each of us will go our
way--
From some seductive
F-street spot
I'll return but you will
not.

WANT AN I.D. CARD?

New, permanent identification cards have been issued to new employees since last summer. Older employees have been issued the new cards upon request.

We have now arranged with the National Gallery of Art personnel office to admit S.I.

employees to the employee's cafeteria upon presentation of their cards, thus avoiding the delay caused by stopping for a pass.

The I.D. card is also useful for cashing personal checks and for emergency identification in case of accident.

A card will be sent to you if you submit the following information in a written memorandum to the personnel office: Name, date of birth, height, weight, color of hair, and color of eyes. Please do not telephone.

LECTURES IN BALTIMORE

Grace Rogers, assistant curator of the section of textiles, addressed the Maryland Historical Society at Baltimore on January 17. Her lecture was illustrated with slides of specimens from the textile collections, and note was made of the interesting needlework specimens in a special exhibit at the Maryland Historical Society. Miss Rogers was introduced to the group of more than 100 members and guests by ex-Senator George L. Radcliffe, president of the Society.

Miss Rogers recently received an enthusiastic letter of appreciation from the Society's director, James W. Foster. In the letter Mr. Foster also requested that she write an article on Maryland's contributions to American needlework for publication in the Maryland Historical Magazine.

GENERAL ORDER RESCINDED?

The following "general order" was recently removed from a wall in the Smithsonian Building: "The use of parlor matches in the Smithsonian Building is hereby prohibited. A reasonable number of safety matches will be furnished to employees upon approved requisition. By Order of the Secretary: F. W. Hodge, Assistant in Charge of Office."

Since removal of the sign indicates that the order is no longer in effect, Smithsonian smokers will regret that they can no longer requisition safety matches.

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NEW LOOK!

Have you seen the "new look" resulting from the special washing of the vestibule of the north entrance of the Natural History Building?

In spite of the very cold weather, the vestibule received its first thorough washing in approximately half a century. This work was done by a contracting firm at night to avoid inconvenience to employees and visitors.

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FREER RESEARCHER CITED

One phase of the Freer Gallery's research program recently received world-wide recognition. The Tokyo paper NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN carried a small article on a Chinese

blue-and-white porcelain vase in which the author cites John Pope's published investigations in that field as the basis for attribution.

About the same time a reviewer in the London Times Literary Supplement took to task the author of a recent book on Chinese ceramics, listing among his shortcomings the fact that he obviously had not consulted the work of certain well known authorities, including Mr. Pope.

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ROOM 43 GETS MAPS

For many years the Anthropological Society of Washington and other scientific societies using Room 43 in the Natural History Building for their monthly meetings have felt the need for large wall maps during lectures.

Through a personal contact it was possible to bring this need to the attention of Dr. John Oliver La Gorce, president of the National Geographic Society. Because of his interest and the generosity of the National Geographic Society, a lovely walnut map case containing 24 of the Society's maps of various geographic areas of the world, including one of the world itself on the door, has been presented to the Smithsonian Institution and installed in Room 43.

The maps are available to all the scientific societies using the lecture room and should prove of much value during their meetings.

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NATIONAL GEM COLLECTION GROWS

Endowments to the Smithsonian Institution are major means for enriching the collections. They are also a source of satisfaction to the donors, who know that the specimens will be well cared for and be available for study and public display.

The addition of a transparent peridot gem stone from Burma through the John Roebling Fund is a current example. This stone is step cut with beveled corners measuring 29 x 25 x 14 millimeters and weighs 108.5 carats. Commander John Sinkankas of the U. S. Navy cut the peridot for the Museum from rough material purchased from Martin Ehrmann. It is a lush olive green and reveals an excellent quality of refraction.

The piece will be placed on exhibition in the mineral and gem hall of the Natural History Building in February.

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SEES LUMINARIAS

Seeing Albuquerque on Christmas Eve is like seeing a real fairyland, according to Mildred Joseph, who spent a long holiday there with friends.

In Albuquerque, as in other New Mexico villages and towns, the early Spanish tradition of lighting "luminarias" on Christmas Eve is still carried on. Hundreds of little latterns are set in rows along the edges of flat roofs, on garden walls, and

along the walks. The makings of the lanterns are simple -- grocers' paper bags, all of the same size, are partly filled with sand, a candle is stuck in the sand, and the tops of the bags folded down far enough to stiffen the sides and hold them open. The effect of the soft glow of candlelight through the brown paper bags is magical.

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LAPIDARY ON TV

Frank E. Holden, Museum lapidary, appeared on the TV program, "Do You Wonder?" a while back. Frank talked and answered questions pertaining to the cutting of gems from Brazil.

And did you read about Frank and his work in the Rambler column of the January 20 edition of The Washington Star? The column emphasized his inlaid zodiac, which is displayed in the Mineral Hall.

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PLASTICS IN AMERICA

A new Smithsonian traveling exhibition entitled "Plastics in America" was previewed during the last week in January at the Carnegie Endowment International Center, United Nations Plaza, New York City.

The exhibition was prepared at the request of the U. S. Information Agency for its overseas program and was organized by the Smithsonian

Traveling Exhibition Service, which is sponsoring the show in cooperation with the Society of the Plastics Industry. Assistance from plastic manufacturers throughout the country made the exhibition possible.

The display points up both present developments and future potentialities of the plastics industry in this country. On display are more than 400 well-designed objects illustrating the use of plastic in every aspect of American life.

The traveling exhibition begins its overseas showing this month with a tour of South America.

PUBLISHED IN JANUARY

"Report of the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution and Financial Report of the Executive Committee of the Board of Regents, for the Year ended June 30, 1955" (173 pages).

"Annual Report of the U. S. National Museum for the Year Ended June 30, 1955" (102 pages).

"Synonymical Notes on Neotropical Flies of the Family Tabanidae (Diptera)," by G. B. Fairchild (Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, 38 pages).

"A Checklist of Fossil and Prehistoric Birds of North America and the West Indies," by Alexander Wetmore (Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, 105 pages).

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Elise Buckman	Paul Oehser
Alvin Goins	Daisy Fields
Harald Rehder	Burt Gilbard
Barbara Roerig	Frank Setzler
Annemarie Pope	Tom Clark
Mary Phillips	George McCoy
Margaret Pflieger	Rolland Hower
Ernie Biebighauser	Jack Lea
Paula Stempler	James Benn
Emmett Holton	