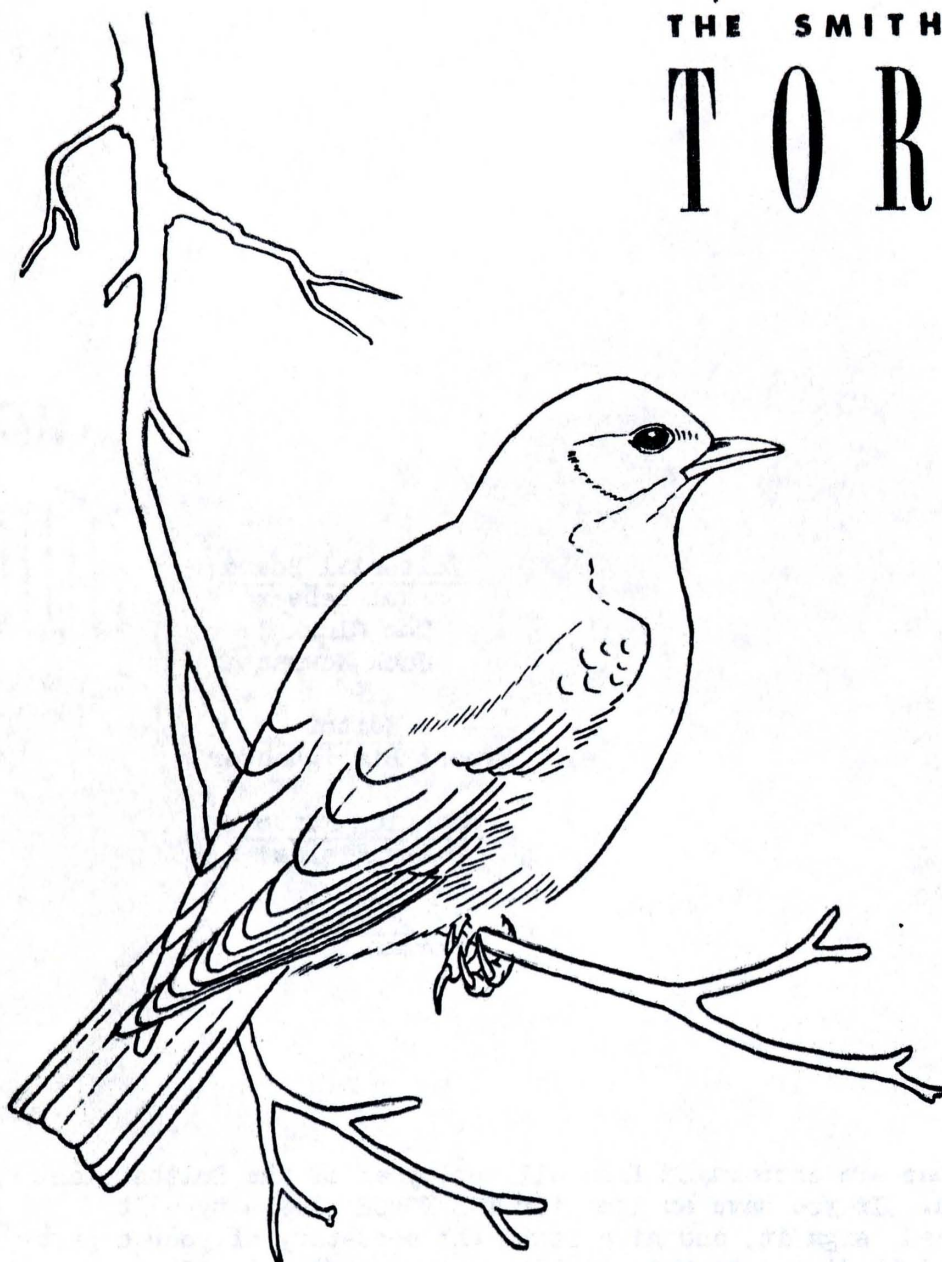




MARCH 1956

THE SMITHSONIAN

# TORCH



SPRING SHOWING



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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.

THE SMITHSONIAN TORCH

(Published monthly for the employees of the Smithsonian Institution)

March 1956

Number 13

FOR THE BIRDS

What are the aerodynamic principles of bird flight? Which tropical American bird lays pink, blue, green, or buff "china" eggs? What North American birds have become extinct since Europeans came to this continent? What is the wing spread of the albatross?

Visitors to the Smithsonian's National Museum will find the answers to these and many other questions in the new exhibit hall, "Birds of the World," being formally opened Thursday evening, March 22.

All Smithsonian staff members are invited to attend the ceremony, which is jointly sponsored by the District of Columbia Audubon Society and the Smithsonian Institution.

The affair will start at 7:30 o'clock with a brief meeting of the District Audubon Society in the Auditorium of the Natural History Building. There, Assistant Secretary John Graf will introduce Curator Herbert Friedmann, who will tell the interesting story of the planning and construction of the hall. Afterward, Dr. Friedmann will escort members of the Audubon Society and the Smithsonian staff through the hall.

Dr. Friedmann started planning the hall more than 15 years ago, with the assistance of the animal painter Walter Weber, now a well-known member of the National Geographic staff. These plans were

enlarged and revised when work first started on the hall, more than 18 months ago.

The modernized hall is a far cry from its predecessor. The old hall featured mainly the display of thousands of specimens mounted on conventional wooden perches, with a few "habitat groups" set against backdrops of transparent glass.

Thanks to the expert work of Exhibits Preparator W. L. Brown and his staff, these old exhibits have been rehabilitated and new ones created. Working with Mr. Brown were C. R. Asche-meier, J. D. Biggs, N. N. Deaton, C. S. East, E. G. Laybourne, and W. M. Perrygo.

Special artists under contract painted the backgrounds for the habitat groups. These included Robert E. Hogue, John Kucera, Shirley Briggs, and Peder Kittl. A group of 24 birds in flight were painted on the ceiling by Francis Jaques.

Each exhibit has its particular interest, but it's safe to say that the penguin group, with its extraordinary illusion of antarctic climate, will be among the Museum's most popular exhibits during next summer's heat waves.

Of equal interest with the habitat groups are the panels and alcoves devoted to various aspects of birds and their behavior, to birds characteristic of various parts of the world, and to a central display containing nearly 400 specimens representing the main groups of



bird families of the world. These were the special concern of Exhibits Specialist John Anglim and his exhibits workers: Tom Baker, Gorman Bond, Peter Deanna, Caroline Gawarecki, Rolland Hower, Walter Marinetti, Morris Pearson, James Piper, and Sylvan Sean.

Preparing the new hall brought forth one unsolved mystery. When workmen dismantled the old glass-and-mahogany case that had contained the rhinoceros hornbill, an unsuspected storage space was disclosed below. In it had been sealed, perhaps 40 years ago, more than a dozen properly labeled and registered bird skins. They were mainly hornbills of several species, both Asiatic and African, including one believed to be unrepresented in the study collection.

Now Herbert Friedmann is wondering what might be found under other old cases still standing in the Museum halls.

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#### HOUSE PASSES MHT APPROPRIATION

The House of Representatives passed the Interior Department appropriation bill on February 21, including \$33,700,000 for construction of the Smithsonian Institution's new Museum of History and Technology. This brings the much needed building a big step closer to realization. The action of the House is a gratifying example of the thoughtful consideration which the needs

of the Institution are receiving from the Congress and the many executive agencies concerned.

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#### MHT PLANNING OFFICE

John C. Ewers, ethnologist in the National Museum, and John H. Morrissey, architect of the Public Buildings Service, have joined the office of the assistant director of the National Museum to aid in planning the new Museum of History and Technology.

Mr. Ewers, who was promoted to the position of "Planning Officer," has had long experience in museum and exhibits planning. Formerly with the U. S. Park Service and the U. S. Indian Service, he planned historical and anthropological museum programs for both agencies. He was curator of the Museum of the Plains Indian, which was set up under his direction.

Since coming to the Smithsonian in 1946, Mr. Ewers has continued in a consulting capacity to both of these Services. He also was engaged by the Historical Society of Montana to make the exhibits plan for the Society's new million-dollar Montana State Historical Museum at Helena.

Mr. Ewers was a member of the Smithsonian Institution's Exhibits Subcommittee which, in 1952, formulated the renovation program now in progress. His plan for the Indian Hall was one of the first adopted for construction under the renovation program. This hall is receiving much favorable attention from museum directors and curators engaged in planning new Indian exhibits in other institutions.

Mr. Ewers will assist Mr. Taylor in coordinating the work and the

recommendations of the several committees now studying and preparing detailed plans for the contents of the new building. His biggest job will be to analyze the huge exhibits design and procurement program which is required to open the building by 1960. He will forecast the organization and the schedules required to accomplish the program. Mr. Ewers will also coordinate the planning for the acquisition, renovation, and preservation of collections, and for the design and procurement of modern exhibition and storage equipment. He will also coordinate the planning for any new facilities required for Museum and Institution programs which are proposed for quarters in the new building.

Mr. Morrissey, who has had wide experience as an architect in specifying building requirements and in designing, will assist in assembling the vast amount of detailed information on space and equipment which the architects will need. He will assist in communicating the information to the architects and later will review the architects' plans with the staff of the Institution.

Mr. Ewers and Mr. Morrissey are located in Rooms 287 (ext. 455) and 291 (ext. 456), respectively, in Escanaba Hall, 10th St. and Independence Ave., S. W., 2nd floor, west end.

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#### RESTROOM MATRON DIES

Mrs. Mary L. Fonda, restroom matron in the Smithsonian since 1941 died suddenly on Feb. 16. Mrs. Fonda was a very friendly person and was liked by all who knew her. Her loss is genuinely regretted.

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#### IN MEMORIAM

Stuart M. Mosher, 52, associate curator in the division of numismatics, died suddenly on Feb. 20. He had been with the Smithsonian since 1948.

Mr. Mosher was acknowledged to be among the leading numismatists in the country, and had contributed greatly to published knowledge in that field. He served as editor of *The Numismatist*, official monthly publication of the American Numismatic Association, from 1944 to 1954, retiring because of poor health.

He was actively associated with Wayte Raymond, New York professional, for several years starting in 1936, and rendered great assistance in the compilation of "Coins of the World" and "United States Coins." He was associate editor of the *Coin Collectors Journal* for years, and prepared monographs on "An Introduction to Coin Collecting," "United States Commemorative Coins," and "Coin Mottos and Their Translations." Also, he was the author of "The Story of Money," published by the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences in 1936.

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#### SPACE MAN

Much to-do in the westernmost end of the west hall in the A&I Building has brought a number of queries as to the why's and wherefore's.

Some speculation, of course, centered about Frank Bruns and the question as to whether his little bits of paper were getting him down and thus calling for a nice big padded cell.



The tiny bits of paper were the cause, but there is no foundation for the "padded cell" explanation. So many of these tiny bits of paper, in tremendous albums, had been coming in that something had to give.

Since Frank couldn't go any higher, it was natural that two strong walls, a solid floor, and an under-balcony ceiling should become the object of many thoughtful gazes. The need became the fact, and now Philately has a nice big vault of its own.

However, the mumbles emanating from the tiny air-vent way up there beneath the balcony couldn't mean that a cell WAS needed, after all. Not even a staid Smithsonian curator can keep counting from one to seventy-eight thousand four hundred and twenty-six, and then from one to one hundred thirty-one thousand, four hundred and seven, ad infinitum, without some danger signs approaching.

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#### GUIDED TOUR FOR CHILDREN

The Junior League of Washington has inaugurated a Smithsonian guided tour program for elementary school children of the Washington metropolitan area. The tours, of approximately one hour duration, will be given Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

For the present, the tours will include the Indian Hall (11) of the Natural History Building, and they are limited to students in the

3d and 4th grades. Later, the program will be expanded to include the First Ladies Hall in the Arts and Industries Building and will be for students in the 5th and 6th grades.

The tours must be arranged for in advance by contacting Mrs. Robert Nelson, chairman of the Junior League docent service. The scripts used by these volunteers were prepared by various members of our staff. Further information on this service may be obtained from F. M. Setzler, department of anthropology, Ext. 273.

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#### YOU CAN'T LOSE

We often read in the newspapers of the offers made by large industrial companies to have their employees invest in the stock of the company for which they work. Our employer, the United States Government, offers us the safest of all investments, United States Savings Bonds, and provides us with the easiest way to purchase them --through the pay roll deduction plan. Many of the employees of the Smithsonian Institution are taking advantage of this opportunity to lay aside something for the future, but the percentage as compared to other agencies of the Government has been steadily dropping in spite of the recent pay increases.

Bonds are as good as gold. You can burn them up, throw them away, bury them, or send them through the family wash. But they are absolutely indestructible, because the U. S. Treasury replaces them without charge. If

you lose \$25 in cash it is gone forever, but if you lose a \$25 Savings Bond it will be promptly replaced.

Bonds now pay 3% interest if held to maturity.

Join the Pay Roll Savings Plan!

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#### SPEAKS BEFORE TEACHERS GROUP

John C. Ewers, planning officer of the new Museum of History and Technology, will speak at a luncheon meeting of the Business-Industry Section of the National Science Teachers Association on March 15.

Mr. Ewers will tell the group about "Science and Art in New Exhibits at the National Museum" and he will show slides of some of the new exhibits.

The luncheon meeting will be held in connection with the Association's annual meeting, which is being held at the Shoreham.

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#### DRAWING CARD

Henry Burroughs, president of Gray Line Tours, which hauls more than half a million visitors around the city each year, says that the Smithsonian outdraws all other attractions.

It seems that while "we" are not more popular than the White House and the Capitol, more folks visit us because (1) our doors are open

many more hours a week than those of the White House, and (2) Congress is in session only a few hours a day and there are long periods between its regular sessions.

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#### BUSY AT LINCOLN OFFICE

Things are picking up at the River Basin Surveys office at Lincoln, Nebr.

Robert L. Stephenson, chief of the Missouri Basin Project, has resumed active duty after a year's leave of absence to complete work on his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan.

Mrs. Olive D. Powell has been added to the staff as a clerk-stenographer, and Herman Harpster recently joined the organization as a photographer. Mr. Harpster formerly worked in the photographic laboratory of the University of Nebraska.

The spring cleaning bug bit early at Lincoln. After obtaining the necessary paint and brushes through Mr. Wilding's division, the staff has started redecorating the offices and laboratory space.

Because of an increase in funds for the current fiscal year it will be possible to send out six or seven parties for field investigations this coming spring and summer. The situation is much better than it was during the last two years.

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It is one thing to speak much and another to speak to the point . . . Proverb.



# FORMER CURATOR DIES

Mr. Gerrit S. Miller, 86, former curator of mammals, died of pneumonia at his home here on Feb. 24.

Mr. Miller, with the Smithsonian for 42 years at the time of his retirement in 1940, was one of the world's leading authorities on the study of mammals. He probably is most noted for his early belief that the Piltdown "man" was a fake, a theory that was proved correct 27 years later in 1953. Mr. Miller had maintained that the Piltdown creature, having the skull of a man and the jaw of an ape, was "impossible."

Also, Mr. Miller did not agree with Darwin. He contended that man and monkeys had a common parent.

The late scientist was also an authority on modern art and modern music, and his home in the Rock Creek area was the center of many cultural interests.

Mr. Miller died one month after the death of his wife, Anne Gates Miller, who formerly was a commissioner of the Girl Scouts of the District of Columbia.

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# PUBLISHES LIST OF FOSSIL BIRDS

There now are more than 400 fossil birds known from North America and the West Indies -- less than half of which are represented by extant species.

They range from the grotesque, toothed, flying creatures of the days of the giant dinosaurs to the more recent fossils which cannot be distinguished from some of the common song birds of today.

A checklist of all birds of this area of which fossil traces have been found has been compiled by Dr. Alexander Wetmore, research associate and former Secretary. The work has just been published by the Smithsonian.

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# NEW JOB

Lois C. Northcott, who was with the Smithsonian's Institute of Social Anthropology for several years, recently was appointed director of the international relations program of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.

In her new position Miss Northcott will develop program material on various international areas for dissemination to the 3,200 member clubs in the United States, Alaska, and Hawaii. Also, she will do promotion work for United Nations' activities and legislative matters that concern women.

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# APPOINTED TO COSMOS CLUB BOARD

A. G. Wenley, director of the Freer Gallery, recently was appointed a member of the Board of Management of the Cosmos Club. He is also 1956 chairman of the Club's House Committee.

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# SPITS OUT BABIES

Abundant and often fantastic are the animals of the shallow Arctic sea bottom. All are invertebrate -- worms, sea anemones, and a host of others. Many of them spend their lives buried in the bottom mud.

These animals are described in a report by Prof. G. E. MacGinitie on his collections while principal investigator at the Navy's Arctic Research Laboratory at Point Barrow, Alaska. The report has just been published by the Smithsonian.

One of the creatures described is a delicately peach-colored sea anemone which displayed what Prof. MacGinitie calls an "amazing phenomenon."

When in trouble the animal spits out babies. This gruesome sounding activity is presumably an emergency measure for preservation of the species. Partly grown specimens of these offspring dredged from the bottom at first were mistaken for a new species.

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# NEW ASSISTANT CURATOR

G. Carroll Lindsay has been appointed assistant curator of cultural history in the division of ethnology. He comes to us from the Henry Francis duPont Winterthur Museum at Wilmington, Del., where he has been assistant to the director.

Mr. Lindsay was one of the first annual recipients of the highly selective

Winterthur Fellowships in Early American Arts and Cultural History, which provide for intensive 2-year graduate studies at the Winterthur Museum and the University of Delaware.

The new assistant curator obtained his bachelor's degree from Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa., and studied law for two years at the Dickinson School of Law in Carlisle, Pa., before entering the cultural history field. He is an authority on Thomas U. Walter, the architect of the United States Capitol.

While at Winterthur Museum, Mr. Lindsay made a special study of some of the Federal-period furniture there, working on the uncompleted sections of the second volume of an elaborate publication on American furniture begun by the late curator, Joseph Downs.

Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay are making their home in Falls Church, Va.

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# RECOVERING

A speedy recovery is wished for Watson ("Perry") Perrygo of the taxidermist shop in the Natural History Building. Mr. Perrygo has been ill for some time, but recent reports indicate he is improving.

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# RIDE WANTED

From A&I Building to Leesburg Pike, one-half mile this side of Tysons Corners. Please call Mrs. Moore, National Air Museum, Ext. 370.

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## NEW APPOINTMENTS

## Exhibits Worker:

Paul C. Batto

Peter P. DeAnna

## Cabinetmaker:

Graziano J. Gagliardi .

## Museum Curator:

G. Carroll Lindsay

## General Maintenance Mechanic:

James A. Ward

## Laborer:

Charles Semple

## Animal Keeper:

Samuel W. Beeler

## Clerk-Stenographer:

Mary L. Hines

## Electrician's Helper:

Kenneth W. Mulloy

## Guard:

Walter R. Scott

## SEPARATIONS

Robert J. Main, Jr.

Caldwell Graham

Charles G. Powers

Joseph Bowers

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## FIRST AID FOR THE AILING MEETING

Most of us are members of committees of one kind or another, and more often than not we'd rather stay on the job or stay home than attend a meeting.

A good part of the time we attend, anyway, because we feel we have to -- it's part of the job or part of being a member of a group. But we tend to go with the resigned feeling that there's nothing we can do about it.

Well, that isn't so. Several things can be done about it. Let's realize at the outset that groups, like individuals, have "personality" problems. And just as individual behavior makes sense only if we understand the person, so group behavior can be explained only if we understand the "personality" of the group.

If you train yourself to observe your group or committee, if you study the way it acts or fails to act, you not only acquire a great interest in the group's behavior but also become one of its most useful members.

Here is what to look for:

How many members are really involved in the discussion? Watch also for the unspoken expressions of interest or lack of it.

How well is the group using its personal assets or resources? Did a member have a chance to speak up on a point about which he is better informed than the rest? If not, why not?

How much time does the group spend making simple decisions? When simple issues take up lots of time, something basic is wrong. What is it? Personality conflicts?

Do the same subjects keep coming up even though they have supposedly been settled? Does this mean that the decision reached doesn't really represent the wishes of the group?

Find the answers to these questions and you may find yourself the group's most valuable member. You'll also find that meetings are a lot more interesting to attend.

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We would rather have one man or woman with us than three merely working for us...J. D. Day

## GETS GOLF TROPHY

Cornelius G. Johnson of the superintendent's office recently returned from the sunny south where he participated in the Amateur North and South Miami Springs Golf Tournament at the Miami Springs Golf and Country Club. He finished in a tie for third in the third flight, which was good enough for a trophy.

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## ANIMAL BUSHES

Brilliant orange "animal bushes" 7 feet tall are among the specimens of marine life in the Palau Islands by Frederick M. Bayer of the division of marine invertebrates.

These animal bushes of the shallow sea floor are among several thousand specimens of marine invertebrates obtained by Bayer on a joint expedition of the George Vanderbilt Foundation of Stanford University, the Smithsonian, and the Office of Naval Research through the Pacific Science Board.

The collections include a great variety of sea creatures -- corals, mollusks, tunicates, and echinoderms. The sea bushes are colonies of coral animals whose living tissues are a brilliant covering over a black, horny skeleton. They are the so-called Antipatharia, or black corals. The former name is derived from the Greek words for "against" and "suffering," because of the widespread folk belief that they are an antidote for any poison. This idea

is especially strong in the Middle East. The name black coral comes from the color of the skeleton.

The island of Koror, where most of his work was done during the past few months, Bayer points out, was the site of an excellent biological station established in 1934 under the auspices of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Scientific Research. It continued in operation under the direction of Dr. S. Hatai of Tohoku Imperial University until it was abandoned in 1944. There were excellent laboratory buildings with modern facilities.

The Japanese scientists carried out and published the results of much excellent biological work. One of Bayer's objectives was to follow through on some of this work. In this connection he visited Japan and conferred with scientists formerly stationed at Koror.

Here, Bayer says, is the most favorable spot in Micronesia for biological studies.

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## COMING UP IN THE WORLD

The Arts and Industries Building, like the more modern buildings, has been assigned a night cleaning force to take care of the offices, halls, and galleries.

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## FOREIGN VISITORS

The following memorandum, which was issued by the Secretary last August, appears here as a reminder:



It has recently come to our attention that it would at times be desirable to arrange special publicity for foreign scientists who are visiting the Smithsonian Institution on official missions from other countries. The benefits achieved might be two-fold. The scientist would receive favorable recognition. Good public relations with foreign countries would be promoted. To secure such publicity the following procedure is approved:

When a scientist from a foreign country visits the Institution, particularly if he is on an official mission involving the study of our collections and conferences with our staff, the staff member responsible for such visitor will notify Mr. Paul Oehser who will get in contact with the U. S. Information Agency. In many cases the U. S. Information Agency will send a reporter to interview the visitor. The purpose of the interview will be to ascertain what the foreign scientist is interested in, evaluate the purpose of his mission in this country, and explore his field of research at the Smithsonian Institution. Through the offices of the U. S. Information Agency, the story may be made available to the foreign scientist's local newspapers and other publicity channels.

It is urged that members of the Smithsonian staff take every appropriate opportunity to follow the above procedure and establish good public relations between visiting scientists and the Smithsonian Institution. Reasonable discretion should be used in deciding whether a visitor or his work is of sufficient importance to warrant the publicity that may result.

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#### WRITES TO YOU FROM HOSPITAL

From his bed at Emergency Hospital, Neil Judd, associate in anthropology, has written to endorse THE TORCH'S recent pleas for Red Cross blood contributions:

"Thanks to the Smithsonian group of contributors and other friends, through the Red Cross blood bank I have received 19 transfusions since early October, with at least one more in prospect. I want all to know of my continuing obligation, and want to plead for those who need help more than I do."

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#### RECEIVES AWARD

Russell Mielke, maintenance foreman at the Freer Gallery, recently was presented with a cash award in the amount of \$135 and a certificate of award by the Secretary.

In making the presentation, Dr. Carmichael said the award was an official recognition and appreciation of Mr. Mielke's special and meritorious services as a cabinetmaker.

"Because," the Secretary continued, "the position of general maintenance foreman was vacant for a period of nine months as a result of Mr. Rawley's prolonged illness and subsequent retirement, you readily assumed and carried out the tasks and responsibilities of this higher grade position without monetary compensation and demonstrated in an outstanding manner your ability to discharge these added responsibilities, sometimes under rather trying circumstances."

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#### NO MISSIONARIES WANTED

The recent slaying of five missionaries by Auca Indians of eastern Ecuador has aroused widespread concern about the name and nature of these remote South American aborigines. Dr. Matthew W. Stirling, director of the Bureau of American Ethnology, several years ago made a first-hand study of the neighboring head-hunting Jivaros of Ecuador. He says that although comparatively little is known concerning these Indians there are several revealing accounts of them in the literature.

The term Auca, says Dr. Stirling, does not refer to any particular tribe but is a Quechua term used in the Andean highlands to refer to any pagan Indian groups as contrasted with those who have been christianized. The group who did the recent killing, he says, belongs to the Zaparo tribe and lives in the area between the Curare and Napo Rivers.

The Franciscans, the Jesuits, and the Dominicans established a number of missions among these Indians in the 16th to 19th centuries.

"White interference," Dr. Stirling believes, "has been generally disastrous to these Indians for several reasons, principally because of factors that upset the normal equilibrium of their lives. Among these were the introduction of the white man's diseases, to which the natives had little resistance, and the unhealthy effect of compelling them to wear clothes in a tropical rain-forest environment.

"Although the Indians were normally quite nomadic, they were often compelled to work in the fields and perform other tasks unfamiliar to them. Then, too, they resented interference with their own religion and the attempt to substitute for it ideologies completely foreign to their own background and completely incomprehensible to them.

"They also found objectionable the suppression of many of their own deeply rooted social habits. The white man's ban on polygamy they found especially intolerable. Because of the hazards of warfare and hunting there were typically more women than men; thus many women found themselves without a normal home and family life, and the men without the prestige of a large family.

"Inevitably, the Indians revolted against this restriction on their liberties. In the more remote regions where there was virtually no other white population, as among the Zaparos and Jivaros, these revolts were successful and the mortality among missionaries was high.

"In their general manner of living the Zaparos behave like the other primitive tribes of the eastern Andes. They have no political or tribal organization but live in extended patrilineal groups, not in villages but in a single large community house. As a rule they do not stay more than a few years in one locality. Lacking chiefs or leaders, the most influential individuals are the medicine men who are supposed to control supernatural forces. They are believed to control weather and the movements of game and to cure or produce disease. They are both feared and respected.

"For hunting, the Zaparos use the blowgun with poison darts. They do not know how to make the poison



themselves but obtain it through trade. For fighting they use lances made of Chonta palm. They frequently make raids against other Indian groups, both of their own kind and neighboring tribes. Unlike their neighbors, the Jivaros, they do not shrink heads and only occasionally collect heads as trophies.

"The Zaporos are normally friendly to strangers traveling among them if the traveler has been properly introduced so that they are not suspicious of his motives. As they are in more or less constant contact with local traders, such introductions are not too difficult to obtain.

"They are happy in disposition and laugh and talk a great deal although somewhat shy in the presence of whites until they have become well acquainted. They are very fearful of sorcery, and should one of them fall sick while a white visitor is among them, it would be virtually certain that the visitor would be blamed and his life would be in danger. They believe in transmigration, thinking that when a man dies he is reborn as a jaguar or some other animal and that a woman becomes a beautiful bird.

"These Indians are a very practical people and frequently do not have much food reserve. Thus, when a mother with a young child dies the child is usually buried alive with her. If a man becomes extremely ill or too old to carry his own load, he is choked to death by his friends so that he will not be a burden on society.

"Their ordinary dress consists of a loincloth and some crude body and face painting, with blue and red vegetable

colors. Women have considerable liberty and are mistresses of their own persons. When a man wishes to take a woman as wife, he kills a deer or paca and, returning, throws it at the feet of the woman of his choice. If she takes it up and cooks it for him, he is accepted. If she ignores it, he has been refused. Women are sometimes taken by force, a method which carries more prestige, the woman making only a sham resistance. If her resistance is real, the marriage is not carried out.

"They sometimes drink fermented manioc as a group and get completely drunk, or take datura, a drug. When in this condition they are also likely to be dangerous, not only to visitors but to one another. They raise manioc and bananas but depend mostly upon hunting and fishing for their subsistence. The men do not eat the flesh of tapir, because they believe it will make them sluggish like that animal. They also raise tobacco, which, taken in liquid form is an almost universal remedy. It is also supposed to sharpen the senses.

"They are expert woodsmen and hunters with a most intimate knowledge of the habits of all jungle animals and birds. The occasional killing of a few people is an oft-repeated pattern that has been going on for the past four centuries, and will probably continue as long as efforts are made to change their way of life. Realization by the Indians that the men were missionaries would have been cause enough for the slayings.

"It is reported that a group of Zaporos who were brought to Iquitos in 1875 were entirely unimpressed by steamboats and heavy machinery, but were startled almost out of their loincloths by the sight of horses and cows."

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## NEWCOMEN SOCIETY TO HONOR S.I.

The Newcomen Society in North America will honor the Smithsonian Institution and the memory of its first secretary, Joseph Henry, at the Society's 1956 Washington Dinner at The Mayflower on March 23.

Dr. Carmichael will be guest of honor at the affair.

In its announcement of the dinner, the Newcomen Society had this to say about our first Secretary:

"Joseph Henry (1797-1878), brilliant physicist, educator, public citizen, was the first Secretary and Director of the Smithsonian Institution, at Washington, beginning in 1846 -- one hundred and ten years ago! His previous work at Princeton brought international acclaim in the pioneer field of electro-magnetic induction, paving a way for modern electrical engineering."

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## TREASURE HOUSE

The feature article in the January issue of Lands East Magazine was about the Freer Gallery. The article, entitled "Treasure House of Middle East Art," contained several beautiful photographs of the building and art objects.

Following are a few interesting excerpts from the article that probably tell most of us some things we didn't know before:

"In the Gallery's display cases and vaults lie more than 10,000 items, among

them some 2,700 pieces of rare Near Eastern Art: sculpture, glass, metal work, paintings, pottery and virtually priceless manuscripts. For the most part they are from Persia, Iraq, Egypt, Syria, Turkey, and India, and their designs and inscriptions more often than not tell an important chapter in the history of those lands.

"The Freer is exceptionally rich in pottery (there are some 600 Persian pieces alone. And its 600-odd Persian and Indian miniatures are the envy of curators in the States and abroad. Under a magnifying glass their exquisite painted detail is even more remarkable than when glimpsed by the casual gallery passerby . . . .

"Today, the Freer Gallery visitor making his rounds sees only about 8 per cent of the museum's holdings. The other 92 per cent are kept in storage. (Two men from the staff are available to show items in the latter category upon request.)...

"There are 1,000 pieces of Egyptian glass on hand and some 200 illuminated manuscripts from Persia and India, but the Freer appraises its possessions not on the strength of numbers alone. The criteria for purchasing new items are: good state of preservation and the determination if a piece is the best available example of its type . . . .

"Although there is no regular source upon which the gallery relies for its new Near Eastern acquisitions, there is an acknowledged edge which Russia apparently has had in turning up ancient Persian silver and gold vessels made by the area's craftsmen. The high incidence of Near Eastern metal masterpieces . . . is a historical throwback to the days when they were purchased and taken back



North in exchange for Russian furs that could warm a man against the rigors of winter below the Caucasus.

"What is the gallery's most valuable Near East piece? With true academic disdain for the commercial price tag, its department heads probably would decline to answer that one. Certainly, the brilliant partially gilded Fourth Century Persian silver dish with its high relief of King Shapur II hunting boar is one of the collection's rarest. And its Greek, Aramaic and Armenian Biblical manuscripts -- some of which were put on papyrus in the Third Century, A. D. -- are among the antiquities most exciting to students of the past, and, in particular, students of the history of religion."

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#### GW HONORARY DEGREE FOR SECRETARY

Dr. Carmichael has received his 13th honorary degree.

The degree of doctor of science was conferred on the Secretary by George Washington University at a convocation in Lisner Auditorium on Feb. 22 when 350 students were graduated.

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If you keep your ear to the ground, you're bound to get stoop-shouldered .... Oehser

#### PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY

"Paleocene Mammalian Faunas of the Bison Basin in South-Central Wyoming," by C. Lewis Gazin (Miscellaneous Collections, 57 pages).

"Type Species of the Genera and Subgenera of Parasitic Wasps Comprising the Superfamily Proctotrupoidea (Order Hymenoptera)," by C. F. W. Muesebeck and Luella M. Walkley (Museum Proceedings, 100 pages).

Table of Contents and Index for Volume 102 of the Proceedings of the National Museum (26 pages).

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