August 1957

THE SMITHSONIAN
TORCH

FOR THE INCREASE AND DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE AMONG MEN.

PER ORBEM

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
WASHINGTON 1846

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION • WASHINGTON, D. C.
CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Vera M. Gabbert
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Thomas F. Clark
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Daisy B. Fields
Lnor G. West
G. A. Cooper
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Contributions are encouraged from all employees of the Smithsonian Institution. If you have an item for THE TORCH please give it to the secretary your department or send it directly to Mrs. Fields in the Personnel Division.

CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH.

THE ADMINISTRATOR’S PRAYER

Grant me the self-awareness to know honestly what I am, what I can do, and what I cannot;

Grant me the judgment to channel my energies into those avenues which best utilize my abilities and do not require talents which I do not possess;

Grant me the wisdom to cheerfully admit error and learn from my experiences, that I may grow and develop and avoid repetition of mistakes;

Grant me the humility to learn from others, even though they be younger, less experienced, or of humbler station than I;

Grant me the courage to make decisions whenever they are necessary and to avoid rashness when they are not;

Grant me the sensitivity to judge the reactions of others that I may modify my actions to meet the needs of those affected;

Grant me the consideration to recognize the worth of each individual, and to respect all those with whom I have contact, neither stifling their development nor exalting myself at their expense;

Grant me the perspicacity to acknowledge that I can be no more effective than my subordinates enable me to be, and to deal with them so that they can help me by helping themselves;

Grant me the tolerance to recognize mistakes as a cost of true learning and to stand behind my subordinates, accepting my responsibility for their actions;

Grant me the insight to develop a personal philosophy, that my life may have more meaning and satisfaction and that I may avoid capricious action under the pressures of expediency;
RE'rLUNRS FROM PANAMA

Dr. Charles Handley of the division of mammals recently returned from six weeks of collecting in the jungles of eastern Panama, where he assisted the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory in their studies of tropical diseases, notably yellow fever and leishmaniasis.

In the quest for mammalian reservoir hosts of these diseases, Dr. Handley made preliminary mammal surveys at two jungle camps where the diseases were prevalent. He brought back about 600 specimens of mammals of 72 species, several of them new for Panama and for the collection in the National Museum. Of unusual interest were a giant anteater, seven feet long, from nose to tip of tail; a margay; numerous olingos; and several rare and bizarre types of bats.

Dr. Handley found the commonest topics of conversation in Panama to be the unusual dry season, the most prolonged in history; the major league pennant races; and prospects of a pay raise for U. S. government employees in the Canal Zone.

---Robert L. Emis (from Harvard Business Review)

ELEVENTH YEAR

The S. I. Bowling League will start its 11th year early in September, and some of the teams are going to need new regular bowlers to fill vacancies. Team members are hoping that some people who have been part of the Smithsonian for a while may now have time for bowling, or that some of the newer employees will be interested in joining up.

It's easy to do--just talk to one of the following: Survey Branch in the M & A O shops, Natural History Building; Bill Boyle (Ext. 453) or Maria Rosmann (Ext. 221) in the S. I. Building; or Vera Gabbert (Ext. 231) in the Natural History Building.

The teams will begin organizing around the middle of August, so interested parties should get their names on the list as soon as possible. If you only want to bowl once a week, perhaps you could get on the "sub" list.

Impatience dries the blood sooner than age or sorrow.

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MAYBE HE CROAKED

When the March winds began to blow uncertain promises of spring our way, a young tadpole was offered to the division of engineering.

There was some hesitation in accepting such a gift. The final decision was to give the young tad a home and observe the many changes that would occur until he became a frog. Teddy and Wiggles were only two of the many names given him. Since he never acquired a permanent name we'll call him Anonymous.

Anonymous was given to us in a water-filled glass jar with bits of algae floating on the surface. We weren't sure what his living habits were so the division of reptiles and amphibians was consulted. His new home was a big yellow mixing bowl lined on the bottom with small stones from the Smithsonian Institution parking lot.

He ate small bits of egg yolk for several weeks. At the end of this time Anonymous seemed very listless and floated around on his side. We decided his diet of egg was inadequate. Many kinds of fish food were considered and finally "Glandex" was decided upon. Twice a week Anonymous was sprinkled with "Glandex."

There were no immediate responses to this change, but within a week signs of pep and energy were displayed through better swimming form and a larger appetite. Anonymous' growth wasn't noticeable for two months. The first change was his eyes. They changed from dull little gray eyes to bright ones. About this same time his head began to flatten out. Observed from beneath he had a mustache-like structure just under his mouth. He seemed to be gulping water (as a fish) every second. In the latter part of the third month, leg buds began to appear on each side of his body near the tail. Two weeks later Anonymous had two very small back legs. These legs grew quite rapidly and the toes became webbed. About this same time buds were forming on his sides near his head. Over a week-end in the second week in June the front legs popped through. The only thing that prevented Anonymous from becoming a full-fledged frog was his quickly diminishing tail. Each day a noticeable portion had vanished.

Since Anonymous had become quite a hopper, a piece of cheese cloth and a wire screen topped with an ash tray became the roof of his home. On the morning of June 26, Anonymous' water was to receive its routine change. Where was he? Anonymous wasn't in sight and he hadn't been back since. The members of the division of engineering were all quite disturbed and very disappointed. He had only 1/16 of an inch of tail to lose! Anonymous had a brown-green back sprinkled with black dots and a snow-white neck and tummy. The mystery of his disappearance is still unsolved.

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MAID OF ATHENS

Mona M. Graham, administrative clerk in the office of the Assistant Secretary, recently received a high honor from her Alma Mater, Wayne State University in Detroit.

Mrs. Graham, who joined the Smithsonian staff last February after receiving a B. S. degree, recently was notified that she had been elected to the honor society of Karytides, the highest honor for women graduates at the university. She was one of the two students selected from 3,000 women graduates to receive this honor because of notable contributions to the university "in service, activities, leadership, and scholarship."

There was a banquet in honor of the nominees of Karytides at the university in June, but Mrs. Graham was unable to attend. However, on a visit to Detroit
in July, she received personally a pin that was bestowed in connection with being selected to the honor society.

"Karyatides" is the name given to the statue pillars of the portico of the Seven Maidens of the Erechtheum in Athens. The etymology of the name is that the outstanding women of the university uphold the school's standards as the Maids of Athens support the roof of the portico.

SCHOOL DAYS

Time is coming to lay aside the rake and hoe, the fishing rod and tennis racket and get down to the sober activities of Fall and Winter such as going back to school. Catalogs are beginning to arrive in the personnel division from various local institutions of higher learning which provide Federal employees with the opportunity to spend their leisure hours in the pursuit of knowledge which opens the door to career advancement.

Come in or call Mrs. Kidwell, Ext. 305 for more information.

NOTES FROM FREER

Miss Ellen McCance of Mt. Kisco, N. Y., recently completed her work at the Freer Gallery under the Wellesley-Vassar-Washington Summer Intern Program. Miss McCance served in the library, the research laboratory, the photographic laboratory, and at the sales desk. She also observed the restoration and repair work done by Mr. T. Sugiuza on works of Oriental Art.

Frank A. Haentschke has been selected to fill the position of illustrator at the Freer Gallery occasioned by the resignation of Mrs. Eleanor M. Vickrey.

Miss Patay A. Stanley and Mr. Lloyd J. Hudson were married on July 3 in the Trinity Lutheran Church, Mt. Ranier, Md. Mrs. Hudson has returned to the Jhu library. She has been a secretary for a little over a year.

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN GEOLOGY

Four new appointments have been made in the department of geology, three in the division of invertebrate paleontology and paleobotany and one in vertebrate paleontology.

Dr. Porter M. Kier was appointed on June 17. He took his degree in vertebrate paleontology. Dr. Harry M. Coop was appointed on June 17. He took his degree at Harvard University and has taught anatomy at the University of North Carolina and Kansas. At Kansas, during the past academic year he was assistant professor of zoology and assistant curator in charge of lower fossil vertebrates. Here in the National Museum he will have charge of the collections of fossil reptiles and amphibians, in his research will devote himself chiefly to the late Paleozoic and early Mesozoic tetrapods.

Richard E. Grant was given a 4-year appointment in the Smithsonian Institution on a National Science Foundation grant to Dr. G. A. Cooper, beginning July 17. Mr. Grant will collaborate with Dr. Cooper on a study of the extensive collection of Permain brachiopods from the Glass Mountains, which were brought together by Dr. Cooper during the last 17 years.

Dr. Peter P. Vaughn was appointed to the division of vertebrate paleontology on July 15. He took his degree at Harvard University and has taught anatomy at the Universities of North Carolina and Kansas. At Kansas, during the past academic year he was assistant professor of zoology and assistant curator in charge of lower fossil vertebrates. Here in the National Museum he will have charge of the collections of fossil reptiles and amphibians, and in his research will devote himself chiefly to the late Paleozoic and early Mesozoic tetrapods.

Malcolm Davis of the National Zoological Park is one of the authors of two books that recently were published in new editions.

"Parrots Exclusively," a book that describes the popular species of parrots and their care in captivity, was written by Mr. Davis and Earl Flath, who is curator of birds at the Chicago Zoological Park. This book is now in its third edition. It is illustrated and contains 50 pages.

The other book, "Pet Mynah," concerns the various of Mynah birds and their care in captivity. In addition to Mr. Davis, the authors of this work are Nancy Keath, bird importer and feeder; Jean Delacour, director of the Los Angeles County Museum; Prof. Carl Naether of the University of Southern California; James B. Dick, San Gabriel, Calif., importer and collector; and Barry J. Spindler of Cincinnati, who is a former wild animal collector and for 40 years a keeper of Mynah birds. "Pet Mynah" recently attained its second edition. It has 48 pages and is illustrated.

Both "Parrots Exclusively" and "Pet Mynah" are published by All-Pets Books, Inc., Fond du Lac, Wis.

ROD WANTED

Robert W. Vogel of the division of engineering would like to ride to and from the vicinity of Baltimore. If you know of anyone who might accommodate him, please call him on Ext. 294.
NEW APPOINTMENTS:

Museum Curator:
John B. Blake (SMII)

Museum Geologist:
Richard S. Boardman (Geology)

Associate Curator:
Richard E. Grant (Geology)

Professional Associate:
Dr. John B. Ryde (BSIE)

Research Assistant:
James C. DeFelice (APO)

Exhibits Workers:
Bernice Kevens (Off. of Exh.)
Charles R. Sampson (Off. of Exh.)
Robert M. Vogel (Off. of Exh.)
Michael L. Yoffe (Off. of Exh.)

Museum Aids:
William A. Hamilton (SMII)
Horace W. Harris (SMII)
Joseph Rosewater (Zoology)
Leonard B. Leifkowitz (SMII)
Robert L. Packard (Zoology)
Clarence G. Cook (Zoology)
Herbarium Aids:
Robert S. Ireland, Jr. (Botany)

Physical Science Aids:
Allen M. Goldman (APO)

Telephone Operator:
Louisa Gilman (NII)

Clerk-Stenographers:
Melda A. Perry (NII)
Joyce L. Hurley (Freer)

Clerk-Register:
Sharon M. Stokes (Off. of Sec.)

Operating Engineers:
Paul D. Conrad
Raymond B. Tillyery

Electricians:
Arthur Jackson, Jr.
Toman Wilhite

Messenger:
Oliver Grant (Off. of Asst. Sec.)

Elevator Operators:
Willard J. Blackwell
Robert M. Thomas

Guard:
Francis Costi

Laborers:
Henry T. Sloan
Blanton Thompson


to order the observation stations.

The headquarters of the

75 stations, and suspense and an-
ticipation were the order of the
observing stations as more than 30
of the stations, mostly unav"rere,
were crossed by fly-by-res"les,
each to a small light that simu-
lated the satellite in speed,
height, and direction. Prac-
tically all transited stations suc-
cessfully located and reported
the simulated satellite, and hardly
a team scheduled to participate in
the alert failed to report.

On the lighter side, one team
leader reported: "We had 2-way
communication with the pilot in
the air, who asked, What shall I do?
The batteries have dropped out
during the simulated satellite. We told
him to go back to the airport and
get another set. He subsequently
returned with a working satellite."

A second pilot radiated a sta-
tion leader that his plane had de-
volved engine trouble and that he
would have to get another. A plane
was located, but the owner would
not permit a simulated satellite
to be towed by it. Finally, a
third plane owner--who was contacted
in the air, again by 2-way radio--
agreed, landed his plane,
and the simulated satellite, and tran-
sited the station about a half hour
after the test alert ended. Some
observers had remained at their
MOONWATCH telescopes to record its
passage.

Another station leader was the
most unpopular man there. He
had forgotten to bring the insect re-
pellent bomb. He landed his plane,
and the observers had been
almost bitten to death during the
90-minute session.

Even while staff members sought
their breaths and tried to relax
with refreshments of coffee,
doughnuts, and sandwiches, the momentum
of the alert just ended set off plans for Test Alert No. 3.

Among those lending moral sup-
port to the satellite tracking staff
on duty at MOONWATCH headquarters
were Dr. Fred Wipple of the Observatory,
and Mrs. Daisy Fields and Mrs. Madeline
Finnecanen of the Smithsonian's personnel
division in Washington.

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IEE LINTON

Mrs. Ethel Linton has expressed
thanks for the flowers and contri-
bution that were sent on the occasion of the
death of her husband, Ike E. Linton,
former Smithsonian guard who retired
in 1948.

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TWO FOREMEN RETIRE

The superintendent's office was
the scene for the extending of best
wishes to two retiring employees of the
maintenance and operations division on
July 31.

Many Smithsonian friends gathered
to give a send-off to Axel Anderson,
foreman of the paint shop, and Ralph
Silbaugh, foreman of laborers, Natural
History Building. Superintendent Lawrence
Oliver presented the retirees with a
monetary gift from their Smithsonian
friends and with retirement cards created
by Carl Heiliger.

Among those attending the farewell
party were Harry Kaiser, former painter
at the Smithsonian, who retired in 1945,
and Russ Sirilouis, former assistant curator
in the division of military history who
retired early this year.

Mr. Anderson first came to the
Smithsonian as a painter in 1928; he
retired June 30 of this year.

Mr. Silbaugh joined the staff as a guard in
1936 and was promoted to foreman of
laborers, Natural History Building, in
1941.

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Lester Gates has been appointed the new foreman of the paint shop, and Henry P. Thacker, Jr., former guard, is now foreman of laborers in the Natural History Building.

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CONVERTED TO CAREER APPOINTMENTS

The following employees have completed the required 3 years in career-conditional status and are now full-fledged career employees:

Dennis C. Flynn
William H. Klein
Margaret B. Wadsworth

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U. S. SAVINGS BONDS

The 1957 Savings Bond campaign was very successful. Seventy-four additional employees joined the pay-roll savings plan and four increased their pay roll allotments.

Because so many employees are away on vacation the award to the winning team captain will not be made until September.

Employees may join the pay-roll savings plan at any time by stopping at the fiscal division office or by just calling Ext. 309 for an authorization blank to be sent to you. Bonds now pay 3½% compounded semiannually if held to maturity, which has been reduced to 8 years and 11 months. The pay roll savings plan is the safest and surest way to save for the future.

What do we mean when we say "compound interest"? If you have $100 invested at 3% simple interest, it will earn $3 each year, and you would have $130 at the end of 10 years. At 3½% compounded semi-annually you would have, instead, $134.69—a difference of $4.69.

Suppose it had been compounded weekly. Instead of being compounded only 20 times in 10 years, it would be compounded 520 times. The result, however, is disappointing. The final amount would be $134.89. Only 20 cents for all that extra work! Compounded every minute, there would be 5,256,000 computing periods but it would bring the total to only $134.99! In fact, no matter how often the interest is compounded the final amount would never be over $134.99.

Using smaller and smaller time periods for compounding would always increase the amount, but the increase is too far into the decimal places to ever amount to an additional penny.

This disagrees with most persons' ideas about compound interest, but it is, however, true. The difference between simple and compound interest is well worth while.

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RETIRE ON DISABILITY

Mrs. Ida Coleman, who had been on the cleaning force under Mr. Cotton in the Arts and Industries Building, recently retired on disability. Her many friends in the Smithsonian hope that her retirement will permit her health to improve.

GUARDS GET BOUQUET

Mrs. Arthur M. Greenwood, principal donor of material shown in the recently opened Hall 26, "Everyday Life In Early America," recently wrote from her home in Marlborough, Mass., as follows:

"Reports of the popularity of Hall 26 keep coming to me from visitors to the Smithsonian who are friends of mine, and even from a few strangers.

"One thing that greatly interests me is that everyone speaks of the guards--how nice they are, how helpful, and how edifying and amusing their comments are.

"It seems to me that this is a very good thing. I have been in many museums in my lifetime, and while guards generally are a carefully chosen and well instructed group of men they do not have that little extra something that guards at the Smithsonian do have: a rich vein of humor, a friendliness, an interest in people that is warmly human, and an attitude that seems to imply 'If you have been interested enough to come here from far away you can count on us to help you enjoy the place.'

"I hope they know that their effort is appreciated, and that their reputation is national—in deed, international."

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OPEN NIGHT

The temperature in the high 90's and a light shower did not dampen the interest of an audience of 160 enthusiastic students and amateur astronomers who gathered at the Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge to hear the assistant director, Dr. John S. Rinehart, lecture on "Meteorites."

The "Open Night" on Monday evening, July 22, was one of an annual series of three such affairs conducted at the Observatory. Students and the general public are invited to hear an astronomical lecture, make tour of the buildings, inspect various exhibits, and are given opportunity to make telescopic observations. Members of the staff manned the following posts: Tickets, Rosemarie Sweeney and June Nebenzahl; ushers, Carolyn Parker and Cornelia Cowhig; lantern slides, Richard Teske; operator and speaker for 17" telescope, Robert Davis and Samuel Whidden; rotunda exhibits, Dr. Alan Melitzer and Robert O'Neill; operator for 9" telescope, Paul Hodges; operator for 7½" telescope, Richard Teske; constellations, Dr. Don Lautman; plate exhibit, Larry Mertz; guides, Fred Franklin and Andrew Ledwith; coordinator, Doris O'Hara.

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GABRIEL DIGGS

Gabriel Diggs, laborer assigned to the Smithsonian Building, died on July 11 after a long illness. He had been employed at the Smithsonian since 1948. His widow expresses appreciation for the flowers and contribution received from his friends at the Smithsonian.

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PUBLISHED IN JULY


The way to be nothing is to do nothing.