



August 1957

THE SMITHSONIAN

# TORCH



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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.

AN 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;



Grant me the patience to live realistically with my circumstances, striving always for the better, but recognizing the perils of too rapid or too drastic change;

Grant me all these things, dear Lord, that I may live a more useful life, through serving my fellow men, and, through them, serve Thee.

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

#### RETURNS 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 leishmania.

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.

#### 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: Harvey Drack in the M&O shops, Natural History Building; Bill Boyle (Ext. 453) or Maria Hoemann (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 in a while, perhaps you could get on the "sub" list.

Impatience dries the blood sooner than age or sorrow.

#### 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 day Anonymous was sprinkled with "Glandex." There was no immediate response 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 big 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 hasn'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.

#### 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 Karyatides, 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 Karyatides 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 elected to the honor society.

"Karyatides" is the name given to the statuette pillars of the portico of the Seven Maidens of the Erectheum in Athens. The allusion 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.

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#### 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. 385 for more information.

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#### 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. Sugiura 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 Patsy 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 Freer Gallery where she has been a secretary for a little over a year.

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#### 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 doctorate in Cambridge University, England, and during the past year he taught at the University of Houston. He has published research in Mesozoic echinoids, and Paleozoic crinoids. At the National Museum he will have charge of the echinoderm collections. At present, Dr. Kier is doing research on Paleozoic echinoids and starfishes, and he will welcome meeting and corresponding with others interested in these fossils.

Dr. Richard S. Boardman, formerly of the U. S. Geological Survey and stationed in the U. S. National Museum, transferred to the Smithsonian Institution on July 1. Dr. Boardman, who received his degree from the University of Illinois, is primarily interested in the morphology and general paleontology of the Bryozoa. He will carry on the work started by Dr. R. S. Bassler at the Museum more than 50 years ago. Dr. Boardman is now finishing work on the morphology of some Devonian trepostome bryozoans, but is anticipating an extensive study of Ordovician Bryozoa of the Appalachians and parts of the Midwest.

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 Permian 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.

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"Hello, Blue Cross?"

#### PARROTS AND MYNAH BIRDS

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 Karl Plath, who is curator of birds at the Chicago Zoological Park. This book is now in its third edition. It is illustrated and contains 80 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 Mrs. Anne Keith, bird importer and fancier; 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 Harry 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.

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#### RIDE WANTED

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

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## NEW APPOINTMENTS:

## Museum Curator:

John B. Blake (S&amp;T)

## Museum Geologist:

Richard S. Boardman (Geology)

## Associate Curator:

Peter P. Vaughn (Geology)

## Professional Associate:

Dr. John B. Hyde (BSIE)

## Research Assistant:

Richard E. Grant (Geology)

## Electronic Research Technician:

James C. DeFelice (APO)

## Exhibits Workers:

Bernice Karras (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 (S&amp;T)

Horace W. Harris (S&amp;T)

Joseph Rosewater (Zoology)

Leonard R. Lefkowitz (E&amp;I)

Robert L. Packard (Zoology)

Clarence G. Cook (Zoology)

## Herbarium Aid:

Robert R. Ireland, Jr. (Botany)

## Physical Science Aid:

Allen M. Goldman (APO)

## Telephone Operator:

Loouida Gillum (M&amp;O)

## Clerk-Stenographers:

Melda A. Perry (NZP)

Joyace L. Hurley (Freer)

## Clerk-Typist:

Sharon M. Stokes (Off. of Sec.)

## Operating Engineers:

Paul D. Conrad

Raymond B. Tillery

## Electricians:

Arthur Jackson, Jr.

Teman Wilhite

## Messenger:

Oliver Grant (Off. of Asst. Sec.)

## Elevator Operators:

Willard J. Blackwell

Robert M. Thomas

## Guard:

Francis Conti

## Laborers:

Henry T. Sloan

Blanton Thompson

William Boderick

William H. Costly

Thomas R. Council

Elize A. Kibler

Helen L. Miller

## SEPARATIONS:

Edward J. Daley

James A. McDowell

Ralph A. Silbaugh

Axel J. Anderson

James D. Collins

Grace E. Glance

Evelyn V. Stirling

Carols M. Varsavsky

Laun B. Baird

Lorraine M. Compart

Gabriel Diggs

Wesley R. Little

Louis Long

Peter H. Stone

John H. Waddell, III

Robert S. Woodbury

William H. Bradley

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## FIELD DAY

MOONWATCH headquarters at the Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Mass., resembled election night in party headquarters during the second nation-wide test alert on July 19.

While staff members manned telephones and stood ready at charts and tables to record stations' reports, visitors joined in and contributed to the excitement.

"There's the phone! It's New York City reporting!"

It was 10 p.m., EST. The briefing session ended, and the satellite optical tracking building began to throb with controlled busy-ness. Four telephones rang constantly until the last report--from Sunnyvale, Calif.--came in at 2:16 a.m. on Saturday.

Test Alert No. 2

Nearly 1500 persons observed at

75 stations, and suspense and anticipation were the order of the observing sessions as more than 30 of the stations, mostly unawares, were crossed by fly-bys--planes, each towing a small light that simulated the satellite in speed, brightness, and direction. Practically all transited stations successfully 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 of 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 radioed a station leader that his plane had developed 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, put on the simulated satellite, and transited the station about a half hour after the test alert ended. Some observers had remained at their MOONWATCHscopes to record its passage.

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

Even while staff members caught 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 support to the satellite tracking staff on duty at MOONWATCH headquarters

were Dr. Fred Whipple of the Observatory, and Mrs. Daisy Fields and Mrs. Madeline Fincannon of the Smithsonian's personnel division in Washington.

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## IKE LINTON

Mrs. Ethel Linton has expressed thanks for the flowers and contribution 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 Hellyer.

Among those attending the farewell party were Harry Kaiser, former painter at the Smithsonian, who retired in 1945, and Russ Sirlouis, former assistant curator in the division of military history who retired June 30 of this year.

Mr. Anderson first came to the Smithsonian as a painter in 1928; he was made foreman of the paint shop in 1944. Mr. Silbaugh joined the staff as a guard in 1936 and was promoted to foreman of laborers, Natural History Building, in 1941.



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 by the fiscal division office or by just calling Ext. 309 for an authorization blank to be sent to you. Bonds now pay  $3\frac{1}{4}\%$  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 3% compounded semi-

annually you would have, instead, \$1.34.69--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 computing 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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#### RETIRES 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.

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#### 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 fine 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--indeed, 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 Nebenzohl; ushers, Carolyn Parker and Cornelia Cowhig; lantern slides, Richard Teske; operator and speaker for 15" telescope, Robert Davis and Samuel Whidden; rotunda exhibits, Dr. Alan Meltzer and Robert O'Neil; operator for 9" telescope, Paul Hodge; operator for  $7\frac{1}{2}$ " 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 Birds of Isla Coiba, Panama," by Alexander Wetmore. Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, 105 pages.

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The way to be nothing is to do nothing.

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