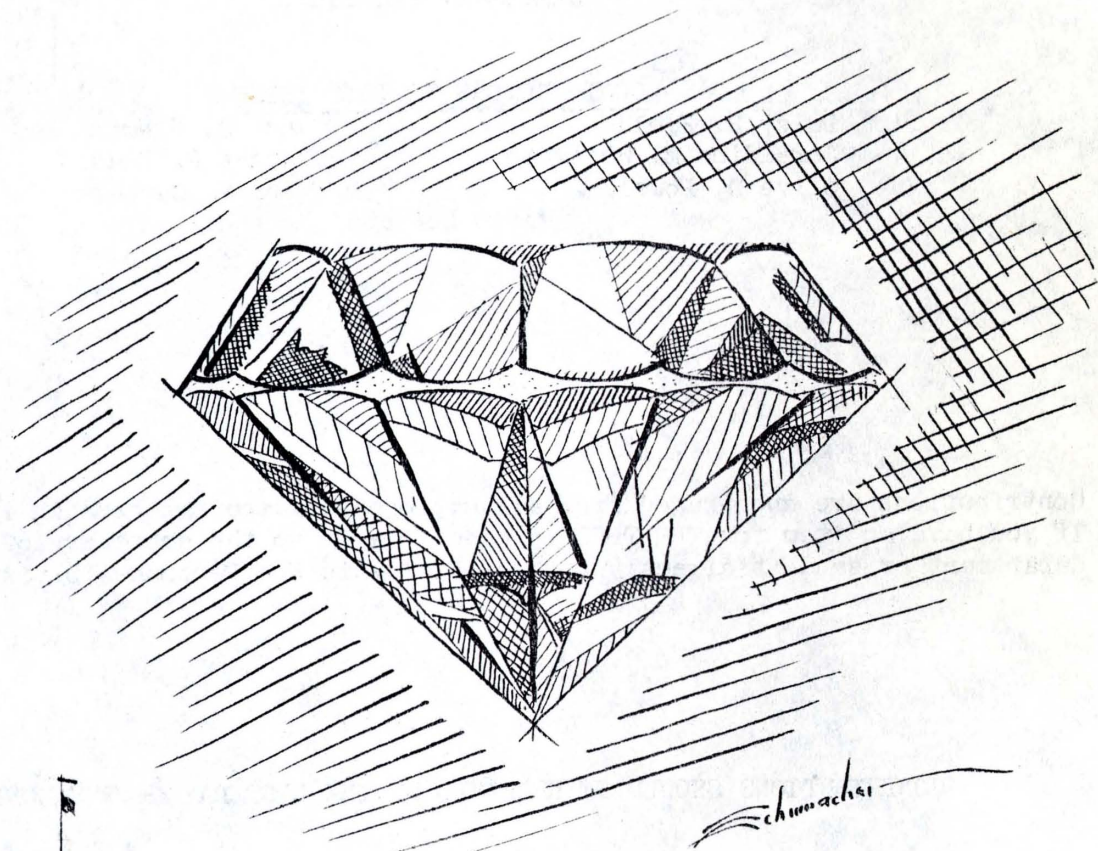


Lindsey



August 1958

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 of your department or send it directly to Mrs. Fields in the Personnel Division.

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

NEW GEMS AND MINERALS HALL

"Gems and Minerals," the most recent exhibit hall to be modernized, was opened to the public on August 1 in the Natural History Building.

Exhibits include the most extensive collection of gems on display in this country, and a large and representative sampling of specimens from the Nation's mineral collection, which is the world's finest.

Nearly every variety of gem is represented. Many are of enormous size. Among them are a 316-carat star sapphire, a 66-carat alexandrite, and a 310-carat peridot. The last two are the largest gems ever cut from these stones. Also displayed is the Shepard diamond, a very rare flawless canary-yellow gem weighing 18.3 carats.

Among the gems is a set of pearls consisting of a necklace, choker, and earrings given by the Imam of Muscat to the U. S. Government. Also shown are the original gold nugget which set off the California gold rush, discovered at Sutter's Mill in 1848 by James Marshall, and the world's largest flawless crystal ball, a perfect sphere almost 13 inches in diameter and weighing 106-3/4 pounds.

The mineral section of the new hall contains examples of all the principal species of minerals, selected and lighted to make a vivid display of their natural beauty and color. Their forms, particularly those of the crystal clusters, are suggestive of modern sculpture. Featured among them is a large greenish specimen of smithsonite, a

carbonate of zinc named for its discover, James Smithson, the Englishman who founded the Smithsonian.

Other features of this section include a spectacular display of fluorescent minerals, which show intense colors when exposed to ultraviolet light, a cave containing a group of yard-long gypsum crystals, and a cluster of amethyst crystals weighing several hundred pounds.

Preparation of the new hall was under the scientific supervision of Curators George Switzer and Paul E. Desautels. Design and construction were by the exhibits staff of the Smithsonian Institution under the supervision of Exhibits Specialist Rolland O. Hower.

Working drawings and architectural specifications for the hall were produced by the Office of Design and Construction, Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration.

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COLLEGE RECRUITS MAY START AT GS-7

The Federal Government is placing a premium on quality -- and providing a bonus for it -- to attract more of the Nation's most promising young people to careers in civil service, U. S. Civil Service Commission Chairman Harris Ellsworth said recently in announcing recruitment plans under a new law granting authority to recruit college graduates at higher grades.

The new plan provides for recruitment at grade GS-7 (\$4,980 a year) of graduates without work experience whose college records indicate the highest job potential,

while others would continue to be hired at grade GS-5 (\$4,040).

The total college record will be considered in identifying "top quality" candidates who would be eligible for appointment at GS-7. In addition, when a written test is part of a competitive civil-service examination, higher standards will be used to determine eligibility for appointment at GS-7.

To qualify for entry at the GS-7 level, the applicant must have a college record that clearly demonstrates that he has superior ability, as measured by such Criteria as high academic standing, demonstrated leadership potential, and receipt of significant honors or recognition for professional activities or contributions. Entry positions will be of an "advanced trainee" type, with more complicated assignments than those of GS-5 positions. The plan is expected to be fully in effect when recruitment activities on college campuses are renewed next fall.

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HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER WORK

Hospitals throughout the Washington metropolitan area are in need of volunteer workers as ward secretaries who receive visitors, keep books and charts, and answer telephones in hospitals near their homes.

You can get information about the program by calling DEcatur 2-7330 and asking for Volunteer Services.

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NEW BOOK ON THE BLACKFEET

The new book by John C. Ewers, administrative officer of the U. S. National Museum, entitled "The Blackfeet:

Raiders of the Northwestern Plains" was reviewed by Ruth Underhill in the New York Times Book Review of July 27.

Miss Underhill stated that Mr. Ewers' book, published by the University of Oklahoma Press, is one of the publisher's best achievements for sympathetic and readable portrayal of a minority group.

The reviewer reported as follows: "An old-time Blackfoot of the northern plains could rank as a typical picture-book Indian, complete with horse, feather bonnet and herds of buffalo in the background. Few realize that this picturesque way of life was recent as history goes and that it lasted little more than a century....John C. Ewers, anthropologist and museum expert, traces their history from this primitive period through the boom days of the horse and the buffalo, to the present, when more than three-quarters of the tribe are mixed-bloods and at least 125 have college degrees...

"The Blackfeet were fortunate in finally becoming established as cattle owners. Some are rich today. Some prefer city jobs to ranch life. It is time now for Americans to regard these fellow-citizens as individuals rather than as a story-book group. Studies like this provide an excellent basis for the new attitude."

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LOST

The following book has been lost in the department of history: "Blue Book, Philadelphia Furniture, William Penn to George Washington," by William MacPherson Hornor. If you know the whereabouts of this book please call the Library (ext. 382) or Dr. Washburn (ext. 244).

SUCCESSFUL HEALTH AGENCY DRIVE

A record total of \$517,417 in cash contributions was received from Washington Area government personnel during the recent concurrent campaigns for eight national health agencies and two international agencies.

Local area affiliates of the following national health agencies were the recipients of the \$380,312 raised in the Federal Service Health Campaign: American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, Arthritis and Rheumatism Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy Associations of America, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, National Society for Crippled Children and Adults, National Tuberculosis Association, and the United Cerebral Palsy Associations. In 1957, these agencies in the D. C. area received \$319,699 from the Federal campaign.

The participating organizations in the concurrent Federal Service Joint Crusade are CARE and Crusade for Freedom. These two agencies received a total of \$137,105 in the 1958 drive as compared with \$87,995 in 1957-an increase of 56 per cent.

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NEW BOWLERS INVITED

The Bowling League will be starting its 12th season in September and is looking for everyone who would like to join as regulars or as substitutes on Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m. This applies to "old timers" who would like to return as well as newcomers.

Some of us are good and some not so good, but we have fun. If you are interested get in touch with Simmie Forinas on the Guard Force; Mrs. Clara Swallen, department of botany, S. I. Building, extension 247; Mrs. Vera Gabbert, department of anthropology, Natural History Building, extension 231; or anyone you know who already bowls.

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HOLIDAY OR HORROR DAY

As the Labor Day weekend approaches let us be reminded that almost 1,000 fellow Americans were killed during the Memorial Day and Fourth of July holidays this year. Much of this tragic waste of human life could have been prevented had someone remembered that most accidents result from the acts of humans who foolishly risk their lives for dubious rewards.

The following safety tips are life savers, so try to remember them.

DRIVING:

Be sure your automobile is in good mechanical condition.

Observe all traffic regulations. Be as courteous to the other fellows as you are when you are not driving.

Do not drink and drive. Many of the highway killers "had only two drinks." Taking coffee as the "last one for the road" does not work. Only time removes alcohol from the system, and it takes 3 hours after drinking to restore safe driving ability.

SWIMMING:

Don't swim alone.

If you can't swim stay in shallow water; don't dive.

Don't attempt feats beyond your endurance and skill.

Don't go in the water until 1½ hours after eating.

BOATING:

Do not overload a boat.

When weather threatens, head for the nearest shore.

If boat overturns don't get panicky and don't leave the boat. Most boats will not sink even when filled with water. Hold on until help arrives.

WEATHER:

During thunderstorms the following places are dangerous: under a tree or in a small shelter in the middle of the field; isolated fences and hill-tops; in a wooden boat on a large

expanse of water. Safe places are in a house or automobile with metal roof.

ANTHROPOLOGISTS ATTEND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

Through the cooperation of the United Fruit Co., Dr. Clifford Evans, associate curator, and Dr. Betty J. Meggers, research associate, both of the division of archeology and Dr. T. Dale Stewart, curator of division of physical anthropology sailed from New York on July 8 for Panama City. Dr. Stewart was accompanied by his wife.

After examining anthropological collections in Panama they flew to San Jose, Costa Rica, where they were delegates to the 33d International Congress of Americanists, July 20-27, and where they delivered various papers on their recent researches.

Following the meeting, Dr. and Mrs. Stewart returned via Guatemala and Mexico to visit various museums and consult with professional anthropologists. Dr. Evans and Dr. Meggers continued to Guayaquil, Ecuador where they will conduct archeological field work on the coast for six weeks under an American Philosophical Society grant and in cooperation with Sr. Emilio Estrada, Director of the Museo Arqueologico "Victor Emilio Estrada."

HONORED BY NEW YORK TOWN

Mrs. Mabel Abrams Byrd, of National Museum Director's office, recently attended the sesquicentennial of the town of Castile, N. Y., as an official guest.

During the celebration, from July 18 to July 20, the town honored the memory of Mary Jemison, the "White Woman of the

Genesee," who was the great-great-great-great-grandmother of Mrs. Byrd.

Many books have been written about the life of Mary Jemison, who as a child was adopted by a tribe of Seneca Indians who captured her from a tribe that had killed her family in Pennsylvania. Her first and second husbands were both Indian chiefs, and after her second marriage she migrated to Gardeau Flats, near Castile, N. Y.

Upon her arrival in Castile on July 18, Mrs. Byrd received formal greetings from the town officials and then rode in the Castile Historical Society car in the Old Timer's Parade, the first big event of the celebration.

A pageant depicting the growth of the town from the time of the first settlers, to the present day was the highlight of the celebration. Mrs. Byrd was interviewed by the local and out-of-town newspapers, and visited with many of the townspeople whose forefathers had related many tales about their visits with Mary Jemison.

On July 19, Mr. Gordon Harvey, chief engineer and general manager of the Genesee County State Parks, escorted Mrs. Byrd and her party through Letchworth State Park. This park was formerly the farm of Dr. William Pryor Letchworth, who donated the original 1,000 acres of the park, which included his home, now an inn, and several houses now used as homes by park caretakers. There are three waterfalls at this point of the Genesee River, creating many beautiful scenic places. In one of the most historic spots are a log cabin in which Mary Jemison lived and a statue erected in her memory.

A house in Castile once owned by Thomas Clutte, a trusted friend and adviser of Mary Jemison, is now occupied by Mrs. Elmer Cox, who is a cousin of Caroline Semple of the department of anthropology.

NEW SEMESTER

Catalogs from the various local colleges and universities will be arriving soon and will be available in the Personnel Division. You are welcome to come in to review the selections. Curriculum guidance will be furnished where requested.

TOURING EUROPE

Following are excerpts from a letter from Dr. Matthew Stirling, former Director of the Bureau of American Ethnology, to Mrs. Jessie Shaw, of the Bureau:

"We are back in Paris for five days after doing the round tour--France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, etc., and will probably end up with a couple of weeks in Scandinavia after visiting England....

"I have not had a chance to do much anthropology, as the tour schedule takes up about all our time, and the trip is designed primarily for the kids who seem to be getting quite a lot out of it. Here in Paris I expect to do some museum looking.

"Europe to us looks very prosperous--lots of building going on in the cities, prices high everywhere, bumper crops, etc.

"The hotels have improved greatly since I was last in Europe. On account of the war bombings many of the cities are almost rebuilt with new and modern buildings, particularly in Germany and Austria. Many places, however, seem unchanged except for extensive growth in the suburbs--i.e., Rome, Paris, Venice, Florence, etc. In Spain, Barcelona is booming and is now larger

than Madrid (over 2 million).

"We will probably see the last two days of the Empire games in Cardiff, Wales--including the mile, which should be the big feature. We may also take in the European championships later in Stockholm.

"Paris is very expensive. For example, our hotel (not a luxury one) costs us \$14 a day each, without meals. Meals cost around \$2.50 to \$3.00. There are no doubt cheaper places if you know your stuff, but on a short stay it's hard to find them."

BOOK BY FORMER SECRETARY

A book by Dr. C. G. Abbot, former Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution will be published early in September. Entitled "Adventures in a World of Science," it tells how the author happened to come to the Smithsonian in 1895, and gives pin-point pictures of the distinguished men of science and affairs he met in his 60 years with the Institution. Included are some amusing stories of S. P. Langley, George E. Hale, and others. The last chapter gives a running account of Dr. Abbot's work on solar power and long-range weather forecasting.

The book is published by Public Affairs Press, 419 New Jersey Avenue, S. E., Washington, D. C. It retails at \$3.50 a copy.



"That reminds me, Hathaway, have you joined Blue Cross yet?"

RIVER BASIN NEWS

Prof. Taryo Obayashi of the University of Tokyo recently spent several days in the Lincoln office and then accompanied the field party of Charles H. McNutt to the Sully Camp in the Oahe Reservoir area of South Dakota, where he spent two weeks as an observer of field methods and activities. Professor Obayashi is working for his doctor's degree in anthropology at the University of Vienna, and during the past year was a graduate student at Harvard University. He plans to spend the remainder of the summer with the University of Tokyo archeological party in Peru and Brazil, returning to Vienna in November.

Mr. William M. Bass III, physical anthropologist, recently spent a few days in the laboratory working on our skeletal materials. On June 28 he left for the Sully Camp. He will conduct an excavation field party working on the burials at the Sully Site and at other sites in the Oahe Reservoir area.

Mr. Harold A. Huscher is at the Bennett Camp near Pierre, So. Dakota. He will again conduct a mapping and surveying party in the Oahe and Big Bend Reservoir areas.

The Missouri Basin Project now has ten parties in the field, all of which are in the Oahe and Big Bend Reservoir areas.

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A REMINDER

The last Friday of each month is the Smithsonian Institution day at the Red Cross Blood Donor Center. Call extension 385 or 533 to make an appointment for a donation.

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MOBILIZATION PROCEDURES

The office of Defense Mobilization has asked that Federal agencies once again remind employees of the procedure to follow in the event of enemy attack to facilitate locating and mobilizing the skilled services of trained Federal employees.

All Smithsonian Institution employees with or without emergency assignments should follow this procedure: If you are prevented from going to your regular place of work because of an enemy attack, or if you are prevented from reporting to emergency location, keep this instruction in mind: go to the nearest Post Office, ask the Postmaster for a Federal employee registration card, fill it out and return it to him. He will see that it is forwarded to the office of the Civil Service Commission, which will maintain the registration file for your area. When the Civil Service Commission receives your card, the Smithsonian will be notified and you will be advised where and when you should report back for work. There is another important reason why you should mail in a registration card as soon as you can do so. This card will also enable us to keep you on the roster of active employees, and enable the Smithsonian to forward your pay.

You should obtain and complete the registration card as soon after enemy attack as possible but not until you are reasonably sure where you will be staying for a few days. If you change your address after you have sent in a card, get a new one and send it in.

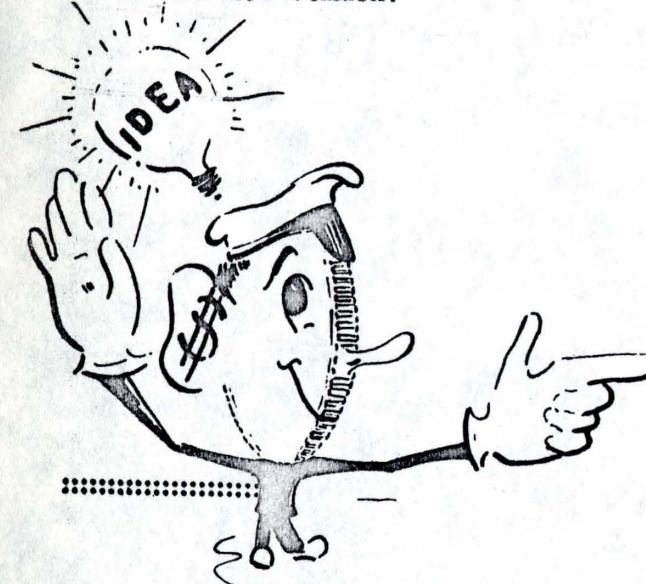
Even though you complete your registration card promptly, it may be a while before you are put back to work. In the meantime, you would be expected to volunteer your services to the civil defense authorities and do all that you can to help out in the emergency.

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NEW ARRIVALS AT ZOO

On March 7 the Surinam toad laid eggs. These were picked up and inserted by the male into holes on the female's back, which is porous like a sponge. After this took place, the female was placed in an aquarium with a mud bottom. She was watched daily, and on June 15 hatching began. The young stayed in her back until large enough to leave. A final count made on July 20 showed a total of 54 hatched. This hatching in captivity is quite rare.

On July 3 two White's skinks were born. These lizards are 6 inches long with a speckled body and large dark eyes bordered with a light circle. Their parents have been with us for a number of years, coming from Australia. Births of this kind are not common.



An idea unstated is an idea unused, and one that is not in writing may cause you to miss out on an award. Your constructive ideas are needed; so get started soon on a suggestion.

Other recent additions to the Reptile House are 6 African giant scorpions, 1 hinged-back tortoise, 4 Bahama boas, a fine leopard tortoise, a 150-pound Galapagos tortoise, and a Kabaragoya, which is a giant lizard found in Ceylon and Malay Peninsula. We have not had specimens of these species. A fine collection of snakes from Dr. Kuntz, who is in Pentpah, Formosa, included 11 tree-vipers and 11 green treesnakes.

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