



November 1958

THE SMITHSONIAN TORCH



Man may destroy civilization so that cultural evolution will have to begin again . . . our tools and utensils will become obsolete and their function will be a puzzle to future generations.

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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.

DISTRICT ANTHROPOLOGY

The important role of Washington, D. C., in the development of the science of anthropology over the past 150 years is the subject of a special two-month exhibition that opened on Sunday, November 9, in the Natural History Building.

Sponsored jointly by the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress, and the Anthropological Society of Washington, the exhibition coincides with the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association in November, the American Indian Ethnohistory Conference in November, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science in December. It will portray the contributions of many federal agencies and of private Washington institutions to the fields of archeology, ethnology, linguistics, and physical anthropology.

A highlight of the exhibition is a provocative display forecasting what anthropology may be like in the year 2887, a thousand years after the founding date of the Anthropological Society of Washington.

The exhibition traces early local interest in the anthropological sciences from the personal studies of such government officials as President Thomas Jefferson to the early scientific missions of the Army and Navy in the exploration of the West, South America, and the Pacific islands.

A series of exhibits tells of the founding of the Smithsonian

Institution and its significant role in encouraging anthropological research and scientific publication at a time when there were very few organizations in this country devoted to the advancement of science.

Each pioneer contribution to the various fields of anthropology is graphically presented to show the great interest in this science which developed in Washington throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The founding of the Bureau of American Ethnology as an agency devoted exclusively to anthropology and the roles played by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Indian Arts and Crafts Boards, the National Park Service, and the various educational and scientific institutions of the area are all illustrated, as are the considerable uses of applied anthropology by various government agencies during and since World War II. The cover drawing is from a group by Robert Hogue appearing in the exhibit.

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HIGH SCORE

The National Zoological Park is proud to announce that the following employees of the Animal Department have achieved the admirable record of 1,000 hours accumulated sick leave:

M. Davis, C. Gray, C. Hall, R. Morrison, R. Norris, A. C. Smith, W. Suber, and C. Thomas.

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SECRETARY PRESENTS AWARDS

Secretary Carmichael recently presented awards for meritorious service to four members of the Smithsonian staff.

Neil M. Judd, honorary research associate in the department of anthropology, received a cash award and a certificate of award in official recognition of two monographs titled "The Material Culture of Pueblo Bonito" and "Pueblo del Arroyo, Chaco Canyon." Secretary Carmichael told Mr. Judd that his untiring efforts have contributed materially to American archeology and to our knowledge of the way of life of the prehistoric Indians of the Southwest.

Similar awards were received by Lester S. Gates of the buildings management service, Francis J. McCall of the division of philately, and Walter Male of the National Air Museum.

Secretary Carmichael commended Mr. Gates on two suggestions--one for the use of lacquer spray instead of hand-applied paper for lining drawers for the insect collection and the other for a simplified method of applying fumigants to the cases in the Bird Hall, which reduced the hazard of glass breakage.

The following remarks were made by Secretary Carmichael when he presented the award to Mr. McCall:

"In the absence of a curator from November 1957 until July 1958 you assumed all the responsibilities of that office while continuing to fulfill the requirements of your own position. Despite the lack of staff to assist you, the work of the division continued to flow smoothly. In addition you succeeded in preparing an article for publication during this same period."

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ROYAL VISIT

The division of vertebrate paleontology recently was honored to receive as a visitor His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince Constantine of Greece.

The Prince was conducted on a tour of the dinosaur hall and the laboratory by Dr. Peter Vaughn and Mr. Kurt Hauschildt on Sunday, October 26. He was very much interested in techniques of preparation of fossil materials and seemed to be particularly impressed by work in progress on a forthcoming exhibit of the "fish within a fish" - a giant specimen of Xiphactinus, containing a swallowed fish, from the Cretaceous of Texas. He asked Mr. Hauschildt to demonstrate for him the method by which the few missing vertebrae and ribs are being restored in wax.

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ATTENDS SAFETY CONFERENCE

A. F. Michaels, associate buildings manager, attended the 13th Annual Federal Safety Conference in Chicago on October 20 and 21. These meetings were attended by members of various Government Departments from all parts of the United States. Their aim is to stimulate greater effort on the part of all conferees to make Federal jobs less hazardous and to eliminate accidents.

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FEDERAL-SERVICE ENTRANCE EXAM

Civil service renewed its bid for a share of the Nation's talented college-caliber people with the recent opening of the new Federal-Service Entrance Examination. A new examination will be opened each fall. Persons who pass the FSEE but are not selected before a new register is established will have to recompute in the new examination if they want to continue their eligibility.

Announcement of the new examination--now geared to the school year--signaled the start of the 1958-59 recruitment effort which will send Government recruiters to about 900 college campuses before next June. The first written test was given on November 15. The test will be repeated each month from January through May 1959. The management-intern tests will be given only on the first four testing dates.

Most positions will be filled at the grade GS-5 level, now starting at \$4,040 a year. However, outstanding graduates or persons with sufficient graduate study or qualifying work experience may be offered advance-trainee positions at grade 7, paying \$4,980. A limited number of management-intern positions will be filled through the exam, generally at grade 7, but a few at 9, starting at \$5,985 a year.

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WEAVING ART

An exhibition titled "Weavers of Rabun" opened on November 1 in the Rotunda of the Arts and Industries Building.

Beautiful hand-spun yarns dyed

in the brilliant colors of hillside flowers and fall foliage are being shown together with the spinning wheels and the treadle loom on which they are made by the mountain weavers of Rabun County, Georgia.

The work of these weavers is under the sponsorship of the Jay Hambidge Art Foundation. Although the workshops are located in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains of northern Georgia, the work is based on fundamental designs of nature rather than on traditional patterns. Mrs. Hambidge continued the experimental craft work begun by her husband during his investigations of fundamental design forms which were later published as "The Elements of Dynamic Symmetry." She stresses the use of natural fibers and dyes, emphasizing the inherent beauty of each in her weaving.

Carding, spinning, and weaving demonstrations will be given daily through November 7. The exhibit will continue through November 27.

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LEAVE RECORD CARDS

The fiscal division has a supply of leave record cards for 1959, and you may have one upon request. In addition to the leave record, the card contains an annual salary chart for all the G. S. grades of the Classification Act.

Your 1959 leave year consists of 26 biweekly pay periods beginning Sunday, Jan. 11, 1959, and ending Saturday, Jan. 9, 1960. The amount of annual leave you earn each pay period depends upon your length of service: Less than 3 years, 4 hours; 3 to 15 years, 6 hours (10 hours in last pay period); 15 years and over, 8 hours.

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SUGGESTIONS ANYONE?

The following article by Harris Ellsworth, Chairman, U. S. Civil Service Commission, is titled "Suggestions by Federal Workers pass One-Million Mark:

"Over one million employee ideas for improving Government operations! That's the impressive total of suggestions made by Federal employees in the 43 months since the Government Employees' Incentive Awards Program began in November 1954.

"All Federal workers can feel justly proud of this tremendous testimonial to their deep interest in achieving greater efficiency and economy in Government operations.

"The passing of the 1-million mark in employee suggestions during fiscal year 1958 highlighted another year in which new annual records were set in both phases of the incentive awards program -- suggestions and superior performance.

"Ingenuous employees during the year ending June 30, 1958, submitted 332,663 suggestions for improvement -- the highest number for any year. A record total of 86,325 of these suggestions were adopted and used to improve operations.

"Superior performance and outstanding achievements beyond job requirements in 1958 resulted in a new high of 52,600 superior performance awards granted to employees.

"This splendid record demonstrates dramatically how Federal workers are meeting the important challenge posed by President Eisenhower earlier this year. The President, in a message to the heads of departments and agencies, said in part: 'Never has there been a more vital need for new ideas and superior performance in all fields of endeavor.'

"This past fiscal year everyone benefited from the constructive ideas and superior job achievements of employees. The American people benefited to the tune of over \$120 million in measurable improvements in Government operations. Our Government benefited through better use of

its most important resource -- people -- and through greater efficiency, higher productivity and reduced costs. And employees benefited, too. They received more than \$10 million in cash awards, plus personal recognition. All told, Federal workers have earned over \$27 million in cash awards for their good ideas and superior job performance since the program's inception in 1954.

"The top individual cash award for 1958 -- \$7,540 -- was earned by William E. Schaem, a structural engineer with the Department of the Army. He proposed a practical and economical method of reinforcing rigid concrete roof girders of structures by adding high-strength steel bands similar to those used for reinforcing packing crates. After thorough tests were conducted on this novel method, it was approved by the American Concrete Institute. Mr. Schaem's outstanding accomplishment has saved the Army \$6 million in construction costs.

"Of course, not many of the cash awards earned by employees are in this category. More typical is the case of Gerald Welch, a wood-container maker at Norton Air Force Base, San Bernardino, Calif. He suggested that a portable conveyor belt be used in the process of unloading boxes and crates from railroad cars. His idea now permits a 3-man unloading crew to do the job in half the time with half the effort, and more safely, too. Savings to the Air Force from this better way were not tremendous -- \$800 the first year -- but the suggestion clearly contributed to stretching the defense dollar. And it resulted in a cash award of \$60 for Mr. Welch.

"I am sure that there are many thousands of untold ideas for "doing things better," like those of Mr. Schaem and Mr. Welch, in the minds of

Federal workers everywhere. The incentive awards program provides all Federal employees with the encouragement and the opportunity to voice their ideas and contribute their best efforts, to help Government meet the serious problems of these changing times."

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CAR POOL WANTED

To and from Herndon, Va. to 7th and Independence Ave. Call David Holton, Code 181, ext. 8931.

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CHRISTMAS SEALS

Latest reports indicate that 1,200 residents of the District of Columbia have active tuberculosis. Many more have TB and are unknown to the health department.

There were 758 new cases of TB reported in the District of Columbia last year, and the disease took 104 lives.

When you buy Christmas Seals you contribute to the support of the D.C. Tuberculosis Association. Six cents of your Christmas Seal dollar goes to the National Association for service to affiliates and for the nationwide medical research program; the remainder is spent primarily to prevent the spread of TB in D. C.

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RETIREES FROM GUARD FORCE

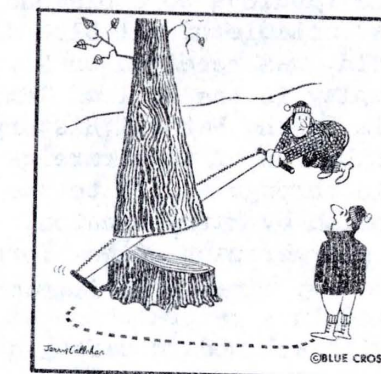
E. B. Vaughan retired from the Smithsonian guard force on September 30. He was presented with a U. S. Savings Bond by Buildings Manager Lawrence Oliver, as an expression of good wishes from his friends in the Smithsonian. Mr. Vaughan was with the Smithsonian four years, but he had a total of more than 23 years in Government, including 18 months in the armed forces during World War I.

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TONGUE TWISTER

A group of words that get your tang all tongued up.

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"I've just had a thought, Jacques, let's run down and join Blue Cross."

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Left to right: Mrs. Harry Winston, Secretary Carmichael, George Switzer.

THE HOPE DIAMOND

The fabulous Hope Diamond, largest and most notable of all blue diamonds in the world, was received on November 10 for display in the Hall of Gems and Minerals in the Natural History Building. The exhibition of this rare gem was made possible through a gift to the Smithsonian by Harry Winston, world-famous gem merchant of New York.

The $44\frac{1}{2}$ carat blue diamond is being displayed in a central case especially built with all modern safety devices for maximum protection.

The Smithsonian Institution's Hall of Gem and Minerals contains the finest exhibition of gems to be seen anywhere in the United States. Now, it becomes one of the outstanding displays in the world, since the Hope ranks in importance with stones such as the Kohinoor, Orloff, Cullinan, and Regent found only in the

Crown Jewels of Europe. Because of its long and dramatic history, and its rare deep blue color, the Hope is possibly the best known diamond in the world. It will be a focal point of interest for the many thousands who visit the Smithsonian each day.

Though its early history is not known with certainty, the legends attached to the Hope date back many hundreds of years. Speculation ties the Hope to the famous "Frence Blue," once the eye of an idol in India, later part of the Royal Jewels of Louis XIV of France. Mr. Winston acquired the Hope from the estate of the late Mrs. Evalyn Walsh McLean of Washington in 1949. It was presented to Mrs. McLean by her late husband, Edward B. McLean, in 1911. Its known history, prior to the McLean purchase, dates from 1830 when David Eliason, a noted gem dealer, sold the stone to

Henry Thomas Hope, an Irish squire and banker, whereupon it became known as the "Hope Diamond." The stone was shown at the London Exposition in 1851. In 1867 it was sold at Christie's in London along with other gems from the Hope collection. It was acquired in 1908 by the Sultan Habib Bey, but after the Young Turks Revolt it again was placed on the market, and purchased by Mr. McLean in 1911.

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CREDIT UNION AUDITED

The records of the Smithsonian Institution Employees Federal Credit Union were recently examined by Federal auditors. All Federal credit unions are under the supervision of the Bureau of Federal Credit Unions of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and in accordance with the Federal Credit Union Act the accounts of each credit union must be examined by a Federal examiner once a year.

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PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER

Special Publication: "List of Smithsonian Publications Available for Distribution June 30, 1958," 60 pages.

Annual Report: "Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, 1957," 509 pages.

Bulletin of the U. S. National Museum: "Publications of the United States National Museum, January 1947--June 1958," 16 pages. (Supplement 1 to Bulletin 193.

Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum: "A revision of the Eels of the Genus Conger with Descriptions of Four New Species," by Robert Kanazawa; 48 pages.

"Three North American Cretaceous Fishes," by David H. Dunkle; 9 pages.

"Taxonomy and Nomenclature of Three Species of Lonchura (Aves: Estrildinae)," by Kenneth C. Parkes; 15 pages.

"Advances in Our Knowledge of the Honey-Guides," by Herbert Friedmann; 12 pages.

Bulletin of the Bureau of American Ethnology: "The Native Brotherhoods: Modern Intertribal Organizations of the Northwest Coast," by Philip Drucker; 198 pages.

Smithsonian Contributions to Astrophysics: "The Regression of the Node of the Quadrantids," by Gerald S. Hawkins and Richard B. Southworth; 7 pages.

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