

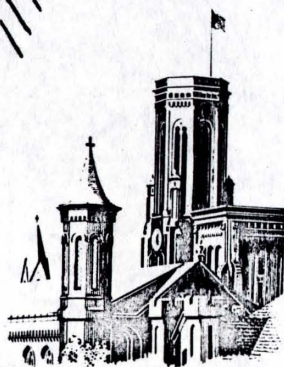
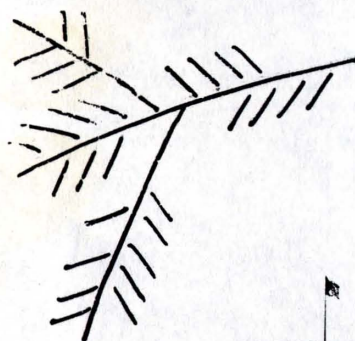
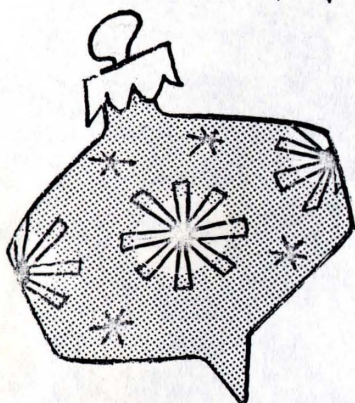
December 1958

# THE SMITHSONIAN TORCH

The Smithsonian Institution always greets the Christmas season with especial joy. Few other organizations in Washington have such a Christmas-card-like building as the old Smithsonian. It is worth remembering that this building is probably a favorite of Santa Claus because, unlike most modern Washington structures, it still has many working fireplaces.

It is good news, therefore, that on December 23, 1958, at three o'clock we are all going to have our fine, festive annual Christmas Party. Come prepared to sing carols whether you have an opera-trained voice or not. Let us all be there so that we can have a chance to give each other our heartfelt Christmas greetings.

The Carmichael family sends its warmest Christmas and New Year's wishes to everyone who is connected in any way with the great and peculiarly human work of the Smithsonian Institution. . . . *Leonard Carmichael.*



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION • WASHINGTON, D. C.



Adviser  
Paul H. Oehser

Managing Editor  
Daisy B. Fields

Copy Editing By  
Ernest E. Biebighauser

Cover Drawings  
Frank Dobias

Assembly and Distribution  
Alphonso L. Jones  
Joseph E. Freeman

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE  
Emily M. Ross                      Thomas F. Clark  
Daisy B. Fields                   Ernest Biebighauser  
Theodore H. Reed                Clifford Evans  
Edna M. Freyesleben

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.

December 1958

Number 46

#### SECRETARY HEADS SCIENCE MEETING

Washington will be the world center for news about science during the last week of the year. The 125th meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be held here from December 26 to 31, with several members of the Smithsonian staff taking prominent parts in the activities.

Secretary Carmichael will be general chairman of the meeting.

Early information indicated that Smithsonian staff members taking part in the meeting include Dr. J. F. Gates Clarke, curator of insects; Mr. Eugene S. Ferguson, curator of mechanical and civil engineering; Dr. Herbert Friedmann, acting head curator of zoology; Assistant Secretary Remington Kellogg, Director of the U. S. National Museum; Dr. Joseph P. E. Morrison, associate curator of mollusks; Dr. Robert Multhauf, head curator of the department of science and technology; Mr. Paul H. Oehser, chief of the editorial and publications division; Dr. Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr., Director of the Bureau of American Ethnology; and Dr. George S. Switzer, curator of mineralogy and petrology.

Dr. Clarke and Dr. Morrison will speak at meetings sponsored by the American Society of Zoologists on the morning of December 28 at the Shoreham. Dr. Clarke will explain the "Correlation between Structure and Host Specificity in Certain Moths Attached to Plants of the Family Umbelliferae"; Dr. Morrison will tell about "The Primitive Life-History of Some North American Salt-Marsh Snails (Melampidae)."

On the morning of December 30, Mr. Ferguson will read a paper on "John Ericsson and the Age of Caloric" before a joint session of the History of Science Society and the AAAS section on History and Philosophy of Science.

Dr. Friedmann will preside at the meeting of the Society for Systematic Zoology on the morning of December 28 at the Shoreham. Also, he will present a paper the next morning at the same hotel. Sponsored by the American Society of Zoologists, his presentation will deal with "Ceropahgy in the Honey-Guides and its Microbiological Implications."

Dr. Kellogg will preside as chairman of a symposium.

Dr. Multhauf and Dr. Switzer will take part in a panel discussion on "Communicating Science in Three Dimensions" at the Conference on Scientific Communication on the morning of December 30 at the Willard Hotel.

Mr. Oehser, who is serving on the AAAS local committee on public information, will also present a paper on "The Role of the Smithsonian Institution in Early American Geology." This address will be given on the morning of December 27 at the Sheraton Park Hotel before a joint session of the Geological Society of America and the AAAS sections on "Geology and Geography" and "History and Philosophy of Science."

Dr. Roberts will be a member of a panel concerned with anthropology in government. He will discuss "Anthropology in the Smithsonian Institution."

Headquarters will be at the Sheraton-Park Hotel, but meetings will be held in various locations. Eighteen sections of the AAAS, covering all branches of science from astronomy to



zoology, and approximately 91 participating scientific societies and organizations will take part in the meeting. There will be some 1,200 papers on the program, with about 1,500 authors reporting recent scientific development.

The AAAS is the largest and considered the most influential group of related scientific organizations in the world; consequently, its meetings always attract world-wide attention. There are 57,000 individual members of the association, and affiliated with it are 279 scientific societies and academies. The aggregate membership exceeds two million.

Special attractions in connection with the Washington meeting will be the AAAS Science Theatre, which will show a selected list of foreign and domestic scientific films, and the AAAS Annual Exposition of Science and Industry, which will present exhibits by industries, research laboratories, publishers, supply houses, and government agencies.

- - -

#### TRANSFERS TO HEW

Jack B. Newman, chief of the personnel division, transferred to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare on November 24.

Mr. Newman came to the Smithsonian Institution from the Veterans Administration in January 1950. He succeeded the late Mrs. Bertha Carwithen as personnel officer.

In his new position Mr. Newman will serve as adviser to the director of personnel management and as chief of the classification methods, policies and standards branch.

- - -

#### SPECIAL NCFA EXHIBITION

In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of its artist benefactor Henry Ward Ranger, the National Collection of Fine Arts will exhibit 30 of its paintings in the Rotunda of the Natural History Building from December 2 through January 4.

Twenty-seven of these paintings were purchased by the Council of the National Academy of Design and have come to the Smithsonian Institution's art collection according to terms of the Ranger Bequest. Two landscapes by Ranger and a portrait of him by Alphonso Jongers, A.N.A., given by William T. Evans, are also to be shown.

Having made a considerable fortune as an artist, Henry Ward Ranger willed the bulk of his estate to the National Academy of Design to create a purchase prize fund. The interest from invested principal is used to buy paintings in oil and watercolor as a means of encouraging worthy artists and of providing public enjoyment of their works by placing them in museums and art galleries throughout North America.

The bequest provides that a painting so purchased may be brought to Washington 10 years after the death of its creator for addition to the National Collection of Fine Arts. Pictures are selected at an annual December meeting by the Smithsonian Art Commission. A painting not recommended for accession to the National Collection of Fine Arts becomes the permanent property of the institution to which it was originally assigned.

The opening of the Ranger Exhibition has been made to coincide with this year's meeting of the Smithsonian Art Commission, of which the eminent sculptor Paul Manship, N.A., is chairman. Other academicians on the commission are Gilmore D. Clarke, land-

scape-architect and city-planner; Walker Hancock, sculptor; Douglas Orr, architect; Ogden Pleissner and Andrew Wyeth, painters; and Stow Wengenroth, printmaker. The Ranger Centennial Exhibition provides opportunity for a review by the Commission of its selections during the 40 years of the Fund's operation.

An exhibition of paintings sponsored by the American Art League will be held simultaneously with the Ranger exhibition in the Rotunda. Prizes from private sources will be awarded in the League's exhibit.

- - -

#### PORCELAIN SCULPTURES

At ceremonies on November 17, Mrs. Mary Roebling presented to Secretary Carmichael five sculptures in porcelain by the sculptor-ceramist Edward Marshall Boehm, of Trenton, N. J. Four of these naturalistic sculptures represent a horse and three birds. The fifth statuette, "Polo Player," which is a replica of the gift of President and Mrs. Eisenhower to Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, is currently on an exhibition tour and will be added to the Smithsonian collections at a later date.

The porcelain creations of this Maryland-born artist are already well known, and Boehm porcelains are now in the permanent collections of many prominent museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Houston Museum of Fine Arts, Memphis Museum of Fine Arts, Louisiana State Museum, Los Angeles County Museum, and the Royal Ontario Museum.

Since the discovery of porcelain by the Chinese centuries ago, its production has been a challenge to the ceramist. European kings of the 18th century spent huge sums to subsidize the royal porcelain facto-

ries, and titled ladies vied with princely patrons in obtaining possession of these fragile products.

In his Trenton studio, artist Boehm has continued to follow the time-tested formula of combining artistic talent with technical perfection in achieving mastery of this most elusive ceramic medium. Infinite care in fabricating the original design in the raw clay is followed by a first firing at approximately 2500°F. This "biscuit" ware is then hand decorated and fired again at about 1400°F. Sometimes a third firing is necessary to attain the sought-for color tones demanded by Boehm's perfectionist standards. Not content with statuettes and miniature representations of human and animal forms, this artist is now working on porcelain sculptures in life and heroic sizes.

In presenting these porcelain sculptures to the Smithsonian Institution, Mrs. Roebling is carrying on her late husband's and his family's tradition of generosity to the Nation, already evidenced by munificent gifts to the Smithsonian's department of geology.

Mrs. Roebling combines very diversified artistic and cultural interests with heavy business responsibilities. Recently she became the first woman member of the Board of Governors of the New York Stock Exchange. She is also the first and only woman member of the council of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce. For the past 21 years she has served first as president and then as chairman of the board of the Trenton Trust Co. in her home city of Trenton, N. J.

- - -



## C. U. ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Smithsonian Institution Employees Federal Credit Union will be held at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, in Room 43 of the Natural History Building. It is asked that members please try to attend. Members of the Board of Directors, Credit Committee, and Supervisory Committee will be elected at this meeting, and the important matter of the amount of dividend also will be decided.

- - -

## ATHENIAN TWILIGHT

Dr. Homer A. Thompson, professor of classical archaeology at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, N. J., delivered the annual Archaeological Institute of America-Smithsonian Institution Lecture on December 2 in the auditorium of the Natural History Building.

Dr. Thompson's illustrated lecture, "Athenian Twilight," dealt with the decline of Athenian culture in the early centuries of the Christian Era. As field director for the excavation of the Athenian Agora, Dr. Thompson has supervised archaeological digging in the heart of Athens for several years.

The results of this work have greatly enriched our knowledge of the city's history and have been particularly illuminating for the final chapter of the story. The excavations have shown that after a devastating sack by northern barbarians in A. D. 267 extensive areas of the city lay desolate for more than a century. A brief revival in the fifth and sixth centuries was ended by other large scale and persistent barbarian attacks which ushered in the Dark Ages.

Dr. Thompson's recent finds reveal much about the state of art, industry, and private life in these troubled centuries, about the relative popularity of various ancient cults, and of the way in which the pagan gods reluctantly yielded to Christianity. For the historian, Athens has now become a well-documented "case history" in the study of the decline and fall of the ancient world.

- - -

## PRE-WHITE HOUSE

The Smithsonian Institution has housed, since 1878, almost all the contents of two of the major rooms from the earliest Presidential mansions - - George Washington's two mansions in New York City and his final one in Philadelphia.

One of the foremost authorities on these early Presidential homes is Charles G. Dorman, assistant curator of the division of political history. He has given illustrated talks locally to the Cosmos Club, the Arts Club, the Alexandria Association, the Society for Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, and a Congressional luncheon club. Other civic and historical organizations in this area and Pennsylvania will hear Mr. Dorman in the near future.

Mr. Dorman has assembled material from such sources as George Washington's manuscript inventory of the Philadelphia mansion, Mount Vernon accession records, and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The Lewis Collection of the U. S. National Museum, which contains fine furniture and accessories used by the Washingtons at the Presidential mansions in New York, Philadelphia, and Mount Vernon, provides excellent close-at-hand references.

## REMINDER FOR SUPERVISORS

Employees will be due their annual performance rating on March 31. (See Section 440, Smithsonian Institution Manual.) It is important to remember that unsatisfactory employees must receive appropriate written notice 90 days in advance of the rating deadline. All such notices should be delivered to the employees no later than January 1, 1959.

- - -

## BRITISH ART-CRAFT EXHIBITION

A special loan exhibition entitled "British Artist-Craftsmen" will open in the Foyer Gallery, Natural History Building, on January 10. Organized by a distinguished committee headed by Lady Jamieson and Mrs. Norman Laski, the exhibition will be formally opened by Sir Harold Caccia, the British ambassador.

Queen Elizabeth II has granted patronage to the exhibition. Included among the sponsors are Mr. John Hay Whitney, American ambassador to Great Britain; Sir Kenneth Clark, noted art critic; Sir John Rothenstein, director of the Tate Gallery; Trenchard Cox, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum; and Sir Gordon Russell, director of the Council of Industrial Design.

The exhibition will consist of approximately 200 objects, many of them especially created for the American tour. Outstanding tapestries, embroideries, ceramics, mosaics, stained glass, sculpture, silver, woodcarving, and bookbind-

ing will be shown. Well-known artists such as Henry Moore, Reg Butler, Sir Jacob Epstein, John Piper, Graham Sutherland, and Ben Nicholson will be represented along with talented newcomers such as Louis Le Brocqy, Geoffrey Clark, Keith New, James Tower, Gordon Crook, and Vergette.

Emphasized will be excellent works of contemporary design for churches, public buildings, and homes. All have been assembled to spotlight the postwar achievements of Great Britain's thriving core of highly skilled and imaginative artist-craftsmen.

Following the Washington showing (January 10 through 31) the exhibition will be seen under the auspices of the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service in Manchester, N. H., Rochester, Louisville, St. Louis, Seattle, San Francisco, Minneapolis, and other cities. Canadian museums will also present the exhibition.

An illustrated catalogue with an introduction by Sir John Rothenstein and Sir Gordon Russell will be published in connection with the exhibition.

- - -

## ZOO POLICEMAN WINS AWARD

The District of Columbia Chapter of the National Red Cross recently awarded a certificate of appreciation to Capt. William R. James, recruiter for the National Zoological Park, "in recognition of outstanding achievement in the Washington regional blood program for the year 1957."

For many years, Captain James, head of the NZP police, has been recruiting volunteers to give blood, and it is good to have his work known and publicly acknowledged.

- - -



# PUBLICATIONS TO ANTARCTICA

Recently, Dr. George A. Llano, former Smithsonian botanist and now secretary of the Panel on Biological and Medical Sciences of the Committee on Polar Research, National Academy of Sciences, requested copies of the Smithsonian Secretary's Annual Reports.

Dr. Llano's request read, in part, as follows:

"The United States Antarctic Research Program is conducting a wide range of studies in the Antarctic from several bases which were established during the International Geophysical Year of 1957-1958. We wish to provide these bases with books and periodicals, in particular, for the use of the over-wintering personnel. The Smithsonian Reports are most desirable for our purpose, not only for variety of the subject material but because of the authoritative and knowledgeable presentation of papers."

Accordingly, copies of the Smithsonian's Annual Reports for the years 1948 through 1957 and several bulletins of the U. S. National Museum were furnished the Committee on Polar Research. A recent letter of appreciation from Dr. Llano stated that one set already has been sent to the library of the Antarctic Research Laboratory at the Naval Air Facility, Ross Island, and that the balance of the sets would arrive at other stations in Antarctica by the end of January.

- - -

The human brain is a wonderful thing. It starts working the moment you are born, and never stops until you stand up to speak in public.

- - -

# THANKS TO BOTANIST

This is just a short note of thanks to Mrs. Agnes Chase for her work at Jardim Botânico.

In 1808 when Napoleon invaded Portugal, Dona Maria I and her court escaped to Brazil. As she was mentally ill, her son Don Joao VI, then Prince Regent, took over the government. And Brazil, till then completely forgotten, began to receive the Royal Family's attentions, among which was the founding of the Jardim Botânico at Rio de Janeiro.

If you go there, you still can see the palm trees that Don Joao planted in that far-away year of 1808. Since the very beginning of the Jardim Botânico, many famous scientists have gone there to study the tremendous botanical collection. Among the most noted of these visitors is Mrs. Chase.

I'm glad the Brazilian Government recognized her accomplishments and has awarded her the Merito Don Joao VI diploma and medal, honoring the 150th anniversary of the founding of Jardim Botânico.

To you, Mrs. Chase, most sincere thanks from a Brazilian girl at the Smithsonian Institution and from all 63 million Brazilians, especially for the studies of all those "Joaninha-do-campo" (little Joan-of-the-fields) and grasses you love ... Edna Freyesleben, BSIE.

- - -

The wisdom of the wise is an uncommon degree of common sense.

- - -

# ANNUAL MEETING OF AAA

For the first time in more than 25 years the American Anthropological Association held its annual meeting in Washington, D. C. Sessions were at the Shorham Hotel from November 20 through 23 with a record attendance of 1,022 registered delegates. During the 3½ days, scientific papers were scheduled with as many as seven sessions being held concurrently.

Local anthropologists are recuperating from the arrangements, but are happy to hear that everyone felt the meeting was a grand success, and that the special exhibit on "Anthropology and the Nation's Capital" in the foyer of the Natural History Building was so well received. Many of them expressed a hope that the Smithsonian Institution would publish a booklet on the subject, and said they were impressed with the pleasing combination of science and art that had been accomplished in taking relatively flat materials and presenting them in a strikingly graphic manner.

All the modernized exhibits were acclaimed by the anthropologists. Many of them commented that years ago our staff used to go to other museums to learn exhibit techniques, but now these museums will be sending their technicians and artists here to study our exhibit program. They were particularly impressed with modern techniques--the use of plastics, open displays, new lighting, and harmonious color. This is indeed a compliment to the entire exhibits staff, for some of the professional anthropologists giving the highest praise are famous for their terse, outspoken criticism.

- - -

# FLU VACCINATION

The Public Health Service recommends the following groups of employees be vaccinated against influenza: Those responsible for the care of the sick; those providing essential government services (such as security, transportation, communications, etc.); and those in whom the disease may be an added health risk (such as pregnant women, individuals who have cardiovascular or pulmonary conditions, and persons over age 55 who have chronic illness of any type).

Since no formal flu vaccination program will be sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution or the Public Health Service, employees in the above categories should consult their private physicians for administration of the vaccination.

While there is no indication that widespread attacks of influenza will occur this year, all other employees who wish to protect themselves and their families against local outbreaks are also encouraged to consult their physicians.

- - -

# C. U. OFFICE TO MOVE

Tom Clark, who has been Treasurer of our Credit Union since it was formed in 1935, has stated that he will not be a candidate for reelection this year.

Effective as soon as alterations can be made, the office of the Credit Union will be moved to space formerly used as the Smithsonian mail room near the freight elevator in the basement at the east end of the Smithsonian Building. Office hours will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of the weeks in which Federal employees are paid, and from 1 to 5 p.m. on alternate Wednesdays and Fridays. The Credit Committee will continue to meet at 3 p.m. on the Thursdays following Federal



pay days.

Please note the new hours, as no one will be in the Credit Union office at other times.

- - -

#### AWARD TO COLOMBIAN SCHOLAR

For completion of 10 months of successful training in the division of archeology in new methods of archeological classification and interpretation, Lic. Carlos Angulo V., Director of the Museo Arqueológico and Instituto de Investigaciones Etnológicas, Universidad del Atlántico, Barranquilla, Colombia, was awarded a certificate of achievement by Secretary Carmichael at a special ceremony last month in the Regents Room.

Among those present at the ceremony were Colombian Ambassador Jose Gutiérrez Gómez; Capt. Alfonso Ochoa, Colombian naval attaché; and members of the department of anthropology.

Secretary Carmichael commented on the importance of the Guggenheim Fellowship program, which makes it possible for Latin American scholars to come to the United States and work closely with our scientific staff and in our laboratories. Ambassador Gutiérrez gave a few words of appreciation, and then Mr. Angulo delivered an acceptance speech in which he expressed his gratitude to the Smithsonian Institution, to the personnel of the division of archeology, Dr. Clifford Evans and Dr. Betty J. Meggers, who were his immediate professors, and to all the other members of the Smithsonian Institution staff who had been so friendly and helpful during his study.

Upon his return to Colombia in December, Mr. Angulo will carry out important archeological work along the coast near Barranquilla and along the Magdalena River.

- - -

#### AWAY FOR CHRISTMAS

Dorothy Baird (of the personnel division) and her husband Bill (Lt. Baird of the Guard Force) flew to California on December 12 for a month's visit with their daughter Pauline and their three grandchildren. The two youngest children will be meeting their grandparents for the first time.

- - -

#### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections.--"Evolution of Anthropod Mechanisms," by R. E. Snodgrass; 77 pages.

Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum.--"Rhizocephala of the Family Peltogastridae Parasitic on West Indian Species of Galatheidæ," by Edward G. Reinhard; 13 pages.

"Three New Serranid Fishes, Genus Pikea, from the Western Atlantic," by Leonard P. Schultz; 9 pages.

Smithsonian Contributions to Astrophysics.--"Optical Properties of Saturn's Rings: I. Transmission," by Allan F. Cook II and Fred A. Franklin; 7 pages.

Publication of Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service.--"Dutch Drawings, Masterpieces from Five Centuries," with acknowledgments by Annemarie H. Pope and with introduction by Dr. J. Q. van Regteren Altena; 108 pages.

- - -

#### RALPH B. STEWART

Dr. Ralph B. Stewart died suddenly on November 29 at the age of 57 years. He had spent much of his professional life with the U. S. Geological Survey as geologist and paleontologist, with laboratories in the Natural History Building.

Dr. Stewart attended the University of Washington (B.S., 1923), the University of California, and the Johns Hopkins University (Ph. D., 1928).

He was especially interested in early Tertiary mollusks. While still a graduate student he wrote two monumental memoirs on California Cretaceous and Tertiary mollusks. His penetrating observations and analysis of the fault pattern in the North Dome of the Kettleman Hills (one of California's major oil fields) was published in 1941.

Dr. Stewart had suffered progressively declining health in late years. He is survived by his wife, Irene Stewart, 1596 Chapel Street, New Haven, Conn.

- - -

#### D. C. TEACHERS HONORED

Five District of Columbia teachers were guests of honor at a dinner held on December 15 at the Cosmos Club. Host was the Link Foundation, represented by Dr. Frank E. Sorenson of the University of Nebraska, executive secretary of the Foundation, and Miss Marilyn Link.

The honored teachers were Mrs. Phyllis Knott, a supervisor of elementary education of D. C. Schools; Miss Otero B. Tymous of the Harrison School; Miss Thelma Johnson of Woodrow Wilson High School; and Mrs. Frances Wolowitz and Mrs. Rosalie Walters, demonstration teachers at D. C. Schools. These teachers were enrolled last summer in the First Annual Aviation Education Institute for Science Teachers, a 6-week course of study offered by American University in cooperation with the National Air Museum. The Institute was supported by a grant of funds from the Link Foundation.

Others invited to the dinner were Secretary Carmichael and Mrs. Carmichael; Dr. J. L. Keddy, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; Dean Richard Bray, director of the division of general and special studies of American University; Dr. Carl F. Hansen, superintendent of schools, District of Columbia, and Mrs. Hansen; Mr. Raymond Aiken of American University, director of the Institute; Mr. Philip S. Hopkins, Director of the National Air Museum; Mr. John Fletcher, principal of the Hart Junior High School and instructor at the Institute; Mrs. Juanita Wynn, a supervisor of elementary education, D. C. schools; Mr. Paul H. Oehser, chief of the editorial and publications division; and Mr. Paul E. Garber, head curator and historian of the National Air Museum.

Following the dinner the honor guests reported on their classroom experiences in utilizing the "air age" education acquired during the summer session.

- - -