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.
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.
SPACI; 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 National 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 Request. Two landscapes by Ranger and a portrait of him by Alphonso Jongers, A.H.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, H.A., is chairman. Other academicians on the commission are Gilmore D. Clarke, landscape-architect and city-planner; Walker Hancock, sculptor; Douglas Orr, architect; Ogden Pleissner and Andrew Wyeth, painters; and C. W. Wengrenoth, 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 statue, "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-
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 National 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 another large scale and persistent barbarian attacks which ushered in the Dark Ages.

The Smithsonian Institution has housed, since 1876, 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.

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

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BRITISH ART-CRAFT EXHIBITION

A special loan exhibition entitled "British Artist-Craftsmen" will open in the Foyer of the National History Building, on January 10. Organized by a distinguished committee headed by Lady Jamieson and Mrs. Norman Laske, the exhibition will be formally opened by Sir Harold Ocklca, 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-
THANKS TO BOTANIST

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

I am 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 Botanico.

For 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 'tomina-do-campo' (little Joan-of-the-fields) and grasses you love... Edna Freyesloben, SBSE.

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

THE UNITED STATES ANTARCTIC 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.

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 Shoranum Hotel from November 20 through 23 with a record attendance of 1,022 registered delegates. During the 35 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 Thursday following Federal
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


Publication of 'Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service.—"Dutch Drawings, Masterpieces from Five Centuries," with acknowledgments by Annemarie R. 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 molluscs. While still a graduate student he wrote two monumental memoirs on California Cretaceous and Tertiary molluscs. His penetrating observations and analysis of the fault pattern in the North Dome of the Kettles Hill (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, 1936 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 Utero B. Tymus 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 Allen 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 schools; Mr. Paul H. Oehser, chief of the editorial and publications division; and Mr. Paul E. Darber, head curator and historian of the National Air Museum.

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