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THE SMITHSONIAN

TORCH



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CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Daisy B. Fields | William N. Watkins |
| Olive D. Powell | Lnor O. West |
| Stella L. Deignan | Ernest E. Biebighauser |

Contributions are encouraged from all employees of the Smithsonian Institution. If you have an item for THE TORCH 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.

ZOO LUNCHEON FOR SIX LADIES

In front of a cheerful fire in the newly remodeled Zoo Park Restaurant, six ladies were honored at a St. Patrick's Day luncheon for their efforts in behalf of the National Zoological Park. Five of these ladies were wives of Zoo officials or keepers; the sixth was the mother of a keeper, and all of them had taken baby animals into their homes to care for them, and had successfully raised them for the Zoo.

Dr. Reed introduced the guests of honor, and Secretary Carmichael presented each with a "Certificate of Appreciation," delightfully embellished with drawings of baby animals done by Frank Dobias of the editorial and publications division.

The honorees were Lucile Q. Mann, Esther S. Walker, Elizabeth C. Reed, Margaret A. Grimmer, Louise E. Gallagher, and Nettie L. Stroman.

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SPECIAL EXHIBITS

Three exhibitions under the auspices of the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service are on display here.

"Recent Work by Peter Takal" may be seen in the exhibit hall of the graphic arts division in the Smithsonian Building until April 30.

"Stone Rubbings from Angkor

Wat" and "Photographs of Angkor Wat" will be displayed during the last week of April and early May in the foyer gallery of the Natural History Building by the National Collection of Fine Arts.

All three exhibitions are being presented in connection with the 50th Anniversary celebration of the American Federation of Arts to be held in Washington April 23-26.

The Takal exhibit consists of 58 watercolors and drawings and 2 prints. Born in Bucharest, the artist was educated in Berlin and Paris, where he later studied art. After a successful exhibition of his work in Chicago in 1937, he came to this country and has since become a citizen. He has had 20 solo exhibitions in major museums and galleries in the United States and abroad, and his work is represented in leading collections all over the world.

The 23 stone rubbings and 100 photographs of Angkor Wat depict the architectural and artistic masterpieces of the Khmers, a people whose culture dominated the Indo-Chinese peninsula for some six centuries.

The rubbings were obtained from sandstone reliefs of the 12th century. The photographs, which were taken by the distinguished Chinese photographer, Mr. Loke Wan Tho of Singapore, provide an unrivaled introduction to the magnificent monuments of the Angkor group.

Wrested from oblivion in the jungles of Cambodia and restored in large part of their ancient glory by French scholars, these monuments reflect the greatness of the Khmer

Empire from the 9th to the 13th centuries. Mr. Loke's brilliant photographs were selected from the material for his recently published book on Angkor.

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THE LINCOLN GROUP

Smithsonian employees with an interest in Abraham Lincoln are invited to join the Lincoln Group of the District of Columbia, a continuing non-political organization devoted to honoring the 16th President and to promoting the ideals exemplified by his life.

Established in Washington more than 25 years ago, the Lincoln Group is composed of many of the nation's most eminent Lincoln scholars, as well as people with a general interest in Lincoln. Current president is the Honorable Fred Schwengel, Member of Congress from Iowa.

A general interest in Lincoln is the sole qualification for membership in the Group. Applications for membership are subject to final approval of the membership committee. Dues are two dollars a year. Employees who would like to become members are invited to call Dr. Wilcomb E. Washburn, acting curator of the division of political history and a member of the Lincoln Group. (Ext. 244.)

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FREDERICK LEWIS LEWTON

Frederick Lewis Lewton, research associate and devoted friend of the Smithsonian Institution, passed away quietly and unexpectedly on Saturday,

February 21, at his home in Winter Park, Florida.

Dr. Lewton was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on March 17, 1874, and moved to Winter Park in 1876. In the course of his diversified and interesting career, he attended Rollins College and Drexel Institute, was chemist assistant with the Baldwin Locomotive Works, instructor in chemistry at Drexel, economic botanist and curator in the Philadelphia Commercial Museum, and botanist in the United States Department of Agriculture.

Coming to the Smithsonian in 1912 as curator of the reestablished division of textiles, Dr. Lewton was confronted with a task that would have overwhelmed a less courageous man at the outset. Although given custody of "most other vegetable and animal products," he worked diligently, without sufficient help, to bring order out of apparent chaos. He was instrumental in the establishment of the division of crafts and industries in 1938 and continued as its head until his retirement in 1946.

Dr. Lewton was ever a lover of botany, especially of the Malvaceae, establishing at least one genus of cotton and publishing papers on the botany of economic plants. He was a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and the Washington Academy of Sciences. He made notable contributions to the history of industrial machines, namely, "Samuel Slater and the Oldest Cotton Machinery in America," "The Servant in the House: A Brief History of the Sewing Machine," and "Historical Notes on the Cotton Gin" --all published in the Smithsonian Annual Reports.

Since his retirement, Dr. Lewton has been director of archives at Rollins College in Winter Park. He cultivated good fellowship wherever

he went, and his affable manner endeared him to all who knew him.

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ZOO CITED BY RED CROSS

The National Zoological Park has again been cited for its active participation in the Blood Donor Program of the D. C. Chapter of the American Red Cross. A recent letter from Homer H. Gruenther, Government Committee, Blood Donor Recruitment, says: "We wish to commend and thank the recruiters of your department for their dedicated and untiring efforts which resulted in the achievement of your 1958 quota." Capt. William B. James, of the NZP police, has been in charge of recruiting for blood since the beginning of the program.

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FREER EDITORS LAUDED

It is a rewarding thing to hear that the publications on which have been expended so much time and effort are really appreciated, and too seldom does this happen. However, Rutherford J. Gettens, editor of I. I. C. Abstracts, and Bertha M. Usilton and Elisabeth West, co-editors, were happy to receive the following:

"... I have already been using the index to Volume I of the Abstracts and appreciate the fine job that you, Mrs. Usilton and Elisabeth are doing. As a result of your present efforts and the previous Freer abstracts, we can proceed in research with reasonable confidence that we are aware of the significant publications in the field. ... The influence cannot be

measured immediately, but will extend for many years to come." (Mellon Institute)

"I have just received my I. I. C. Abstracts along with the two indexes and would like to go on record as saying that it is a job well done. The general author and subject indexes are a much needed addition and make the Abstracts more useful as a reference. I have found important articles in my early copies of the Abstracts that I missed because they were buried. In attempting to build up a library of photographic and radiographic applications ... this new index has already shown up many loopholes in my collection." (Eastman Kodak Co.)

"The latest volume of the I. I. C. Abstracts has just arrived and I am delighted to see it. What a wonderful job you are doing for everybody in the field. I wish comparable things existed in the history of art." (Fogg Art Museum)

The beginning of this was the Technical Studies in the Field of the Fine Arts published for the Fogg Museum of Art. The period 1943-1952 was covered by Abstracts of Technical Studies in Art and Archaeology published by the Freer Gallery of Art. Since January 1, 1953, the task of covering the writing in art technology is being carried on by the new journal, I. I. C. Abstracts, published under the sponsorship of the International Institute for the Conservation of Museum Objects, London.

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CONVERSION TO CIVIL SERVICE STATUS

If you are a temporary or indefinite employee you may be eligible for conversion to career or career-conditional status under the provisions of Public Law 85-847, which extends until Nov. 26, 1959 the period for filing application for conversion.

If you had three years continuous Federal service on Jan. 23, 1955, and were on the rolls of a Federal agency on that date you may be eligible for benefits under the new law.

If you meet the 3-year service requirement please submit a memorandum to the personnel division to that effect. If you qualify, further details will be furnished by the personnel division.

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RIVER BASIN NEWS

The second week in February saw the departure of Harold A. Huscher, G. Hubert Smith, and Robert W. Neuman where they will conduct investigations during the next few months for the Chattahoochee River region of Georgia.

William N. Irving, archeologist, is at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University, where he is completing work on a project under a grant from the Arctic Institute of North America. The material is a collection excavated by Mr. Irving some years ago under a grant from the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Charles H. McNutt, archeologist, is on a short leave of absence from the Lincoln laboratory to complete his dissertation for a doctoral Degree.

The entire staff extends sympathy to Dr. Stephenson, whose mother passed

away at Lakeview, Oregon, on February 2, and to William P. Dunson, museum aid, whose mother passed away in Lincoln on February 26.

During the latter part of the winter, in connection with our Chronology Program, Dr. Paul B. Sears of the Yale Conservation Program accompanied Mr. Irving and Lee G. Madison, museum aid, on a pollen-gathering expedition into western Nebraska. Pollen analysis is one of the facets of the Chronology Program.

William P. Dunson has been busy on the road for the last several weeks. The first week in February he made an inspection of the materials and supplies that the Missouri Basin project has stored at Pierre, South Dakota. The following week he accompanied G. Hubert Smith to Georgia. On March 18 he returned from a trip East, where he delivered a truckload of specimens from our laboratory and brought back a truckload of items from the U. S. National Museum.

On February 18 Dr. Stephenson and Dr. Warren W. Caldwell, archeologist, spent the day in the Region Two office of National Park Service, Omaha, discussing administrative affairs with Howard Baker, Raymond Gregg, and Paul L. Beaubien of the Omaha staff.

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PERSONNEL CHIEF TRANSFERS

Mr. Benjamin D. Edwards, Chief, Personnel Division since January 5, 1959 left the Smithsonian Institution on April 21 to join the Manpower Evaluation and Development Program of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

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THE INTRUDER

That is the title of color film in which Dr. Thomas E. Snyder, Smithsonian Research Associate and former entomologist with the Department of Agriculture, takes a leading role.

The 28-minute, 16-mm. movie depicts the life and habits of subterranean termites and successful methods that have been developed for their control. Many of the scenes are laid in the Smithsonian Institution.

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KENTUCKY METEORITES

An assembly of meteorites that came to earth in southwestern Kentucky on September 20, 1950, has just been acquired for study by the Smithsonian Institution. The acquisition consists of about 16 pounds of fragments recovered in 1955 by Hugh Howard, a diligent collector. Mr. Howard spent several months in Callaway County, Ky., canvassing 60 square miles to determine the area showered by this meteorite fall and to recover if possible all pieces of any meteorites that might be there.

This particular meteorite bears the scientific name of carbonaceous chondrite. It differs from most meteorites by its unusually high content of carbon. Meteorites are thought originally to have been part of a planet that exploded many millions of years ago. The pieces became luminous only after they entered the earth's upper atmosphere. Because of the velocity with which they move, these pieces collide with the air with such great force that

surfaces get hot enough to melt the outer layer.

This stone, called Murray, attracted much attention when it illuminated the sky and countryside from St. Louis to Louisville and from Memphis to Knoxville. The blinding meteor was observed for about 4½ seconds before it exploded into fragments. Its explosion shook homes and buildings from Paducah, Ky., southward to Memphis.

The meteorite pieces showered Kentucky farmland over a 25-mile area. In all, about 95 pieces were recovered by 29 farmers. The largest weighs about 8 pounds and is displayed at Vanderbilt University, Nashville. A total weight of about 50 pounds was originally recovered. Five buildings were struck by this fall and the roof of one house was penetrated.

Smithsonian mineralogists state that this meteorite represents a rare type, and that the generous supply of material in the acquisition will make possible a detailed study that may shed some light on the origin of this and other chemically similar meteorites.

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RETIREMENT PARTY

The friends of Mr. Charles C. Sinclair, assistant buildings manager, gathered in the Great Hall of the Smithsonian building on February 24, the day of his retirement and his 70th birthday. Secretary Carmichael presented him with the Smithsonian retirement card, which in this instance was finished in silver for his more than 24 years of service. In making the presentation Secretary Carmichael complimented Mr. Sinclair on the many improvements he had been instrumental in making because of his knowledge in the maintenance, pro-

tection, and preservation of the Museum's vast collections.

Also, the Secretary was happy to announce that Mr. Sinclair was being reemployed for one year in order to continue work he had begun on a special project. Mr. Sinclair's wife and his daughter, Mrs. A. C. Higgs, were present for the occasion.

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RELATING TO A PORTRAIT

Dr. Jacques May, an eminent French physician and the author of both scientific and popular books, visited the Bio-Sciences Information Exchange recently. As he entered the reception room he looked up and to the delight of all said, "Why, that is a picture of my aunt!"

The Bio-Sciences Information Exchange has (on loan) a charming selection of the paintings of Alice Pike Barney, and the picture Dr. May recognized was a portrait of the former Miss Laura Barney. He then made a tour of the paintings and identified the persons in several other portraits.

The collection is widely admired, but Dr. May is the first "relative of a portrait" we have known.

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NEWS FROM APO CAMBRIDGE

Two senior chief observers in charge of overseas stations, Mr. Samuel Whidden and Mr. James Knight, have returned from India and Spain, respectively. Theirs was indeed a great experience which they wouldn't trade for anything in the world, but unanimous was their statement "there is no place like

America and it's certainly good to be back home." It is quite understandable when you hear some of the experiences that those pioneers of the Space Age relate. From India, we have been given a preview of the situations and rigors endured contingent with the installation at Naini Tal. Letters from Marty Whidden contained some details of the hardships but, also, remarks about the compensating events that made life bearable. This bears out the fact that those people, like missionaries and other pioneers, must be endowed with rare qualities and a sense of humor to survive such ordeals and maintain their equilibrium. For instance, Marty and Sam had to take baths in a tub after having boiled the water on a small charcoal stove---a process that took hours. We are told of other methods to obtain fuel for heating and cooking in most native households that, though ingenious, are still rather primitive.

In Spain there were hardships though not so poignant. Nonetheless, great adjustments had to be made: Provenance of food, methods of cooking, the ever constant danger of contamination, even of plain ordinary water, which we take so much for granted here.

Those people very wisely took many photographs and slides during their stay in those countries. In a letter, Marty had told of the 3-mile climb that her husband had to make in order to reach his station day and night--twice a day. When the monsoon came the one road was washed out completely and Sam had to accomplish this daily feat wearing knee-high rubber boots. Eventually, after many months, Sam acquired a horse which he could use on good days. The tale would be hard to believe if it weren't supported by actual photographs. Both Sam and Jim agreed that everyone was always most pleasant and

eager to promise that a certain thing would be done and eventually it was done. And, in spite of many problems resulting from differences in language and customs, both stations are in operation and the objectives of the mission have been met.

A morale booster to APO staff is the news that plans are now in process for a new building on the Harvard Observatory grounds which will house the ever increasing complement of the Astrophysical Observatory. As we walk through in the morning, surveyors are busily engaged in doing their calculations and we are all anticipating the ground breaking ere long. This is encouraging news indeed because we are now operating in three buildings including an abandoned Radcliffe dorm which has been converted into offices. The prospect of a new building has given heart to the many scientists and personnel on the staff who have to work under rather inadequate and crowded conditions.

One of the saddest events that has occurred since the first of the year has been our loss of Dr. Schilling to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. This news came as a shock to most of us who had the privilege to work or be associated with him. Those of us who had had the good fortune to know Dr. Schilling since he first came to APO felt the void even more acutely because we had had the chance to feel that we could rely completely on his guidance and help. This remarkable man is endowed with an almost unbelievable objectivity of purpose, clarity of thinking, and his great reserve and dignity were to us the mark of his modesty. It is comforting to know that a man such as he has been chosen to become a member of the national organization

entrusted with the destiny of our nation in the Space Age.

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CERAMIC TILES

E. Stanley Wires, of Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts, has presented a collection of over 1,600 ceramic tiles to the Smithsonian Institution. A representative portion of the collection has been installed in a special room of the foyer of the Natural History Building.

The exhibition includes Near Eastern, North African, and Hispanic tiles, and extensive displays of Dutch, Liverpool, and Bristol tiles. There are several panels of recent North African and European tiles and significant section on American tiles of the late 19th and early 20th century. The last includes outstanding examples of the work of Arthur Osborne, ceramic sculptor of the Low Art Tile Works of Chelsea, Massachusetts, during the 1880's, and of the imaginative and colorful products of Dr. Henry Mercer's Moravian Tile Company in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

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NAUTILIS MODEL PRESENTED

On April 10 Frank Pace, Jr., President of General Dynamics Corporation, presented a scale model of the first atomic-powered submarine Nautilus to Secretary Carmichael.

The model of the Nautilus thus became a permanent part of our extensive naval history collections.

The ceremony took place in the North Hall of the Arts and Industries Building, which houses the historical and technical collections. The Nautilus model will be on display in the Hall of Naval History.

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ARGENTINE EXHIBITS

Two exhibits from Argentina opened in the foyer gallery of the Natural History Building on March 29. Under the sponsorship of Argentine Ambassador Dr. Cesar Barros Hurtado, the exhibits consisted of a display of textiles and glass by Lucrecia Moyano de Muniz and photographs of life in Argentina by Gustavo Thorlichen.

Senora de Muniz began her art career as a painter, and experience in the manipulation of color has been a leading factor in her development as ceramist and weaver. Her work is well known because of many well-illustrated articles that have appeared in Argentine magazines and press. The art critic Cordova Iturburu, having seen her glass and weavings, found fantasy and sensibility to characterize her workmanship. He states that elegance and charm are achieved in her ability to express tactile qualities in unity with the esthetic rhythmic elements.

Gustavo Thorlichen has been recognized in Argentina for his ability to document the life of that exciting

country with his camera. He came to the United States as part of the diplomatic mission accompanying President Arturo Frondisi, and his pictorial observations during that visit will be added to the photographic archives of his government. In his work he has depicted the industry of humanity and captured the beauty of nature in the prints now being displayed. The gaucho and the city dweller are of equal importance in the lens of his camera.

The exhibition will continue until April 26.

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ARMED FORCES DAY

The President has proclaimed Saturday, May 16, as Armed Forces Day. The observance will feature "open house" programs and community activities during the period May 9-17. The slogan for this year's Armed Forces Day is "Power for Peace," and the principal emphasis will be placed on the relationship between our national strength and our peaceful aspirations.

Activities of the Day will feature educational exhibits, demonstrations, air shows, drills, parades, award ceremonies, vessels in port, meetings, sports events, social affairs, special films and similar programs designed to give Americans and the people of friendly countries a better understanding of the personnel, equipment, and teamwork of the various components of the Armed Forces.

This is an opportunity for all of us to inspect our defense system and participate in Armed Forces Day activities in our communities and at nearby Armed Forces installations during the "open house" week.

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FROM THE "LIFELINE"

"LOOKING BACK - with Gratitude.....

During 1958, from January 1 - December 31, the number of participating groups which achieved or passed their quota of blood donations totaled 136 - an encouraging increase over the previous year. What this has meant to untold thousands of people in the alleviation of illness, in the saving and prolonging of life, is immeasurable - priceless. On behalf of all of these, your Red Cross is grateful for your many gifts of Life.

"LOOKING AHEAD - with Confidence....

Your Red Cross knows that all of you in our participating groups are our great allies in this task. We count on everyone: the support of the head of the organization, the cooperation and tireless work of the recruiters - the generous gift of the donors of blood - all combine to help us answer the call. Those who will need your blood in the months to come are looking to YOU.....it is a matter of Life. You have always responded in the past: we look to you in the future - for the future of those who are depending on you."

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UKIYOE LECTURE

The Freer Gallery of Art possesses one of the most extensive collections of "ukiyo-e" to be seen in the world. This was the subject of the March 10 illustrated lecture titled "Popular Paintings of Tokugawa Japan" by Harold P. Stern given in the Freer Gallery auditorium. A more familiar term given to this type of painting is ukiyo-e often

literally translated as "floating world." Although these works were popular at the time of production, they were shunned and considered plebeian by the Japanese connoisseur. Only in the last 50 years has the importance of this school of painting been realized, largely by the praise bestowed by early Western collectors and by the definite influence of ukiyo-e on European postimpressionist painters.

The Western World is most familiar with ukiyo-e via the media of woodblock prints, and such artists as Hokusai and Hiroshige. They provide us with a glimpse of life in Tokugawa Japan, and, in many ways, serve as a confidential view of old-time Tokyo.

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NAM CURATOR

Secretary Carmichael last month announced the appointment of Kenneth E. Newland as curator in the National Air Museum.

Mr. Newland has been granted a leave of absence until June in order to complete the academic year at Stephens College, Columbia, Mo., where since 1941 he has been director of the department of aviation and where he has directed administrative and research work.

Since receiving bachelors degrees from Bluffton College in Ohio in 1934 and his masters degree from Ohio State University in 1938, Mr. Newland has had extensive aviation experience, and in 1957 he was the recipient of the Wheatley Award for "outstanding contributions to aviation through education. He holds a private pilot's license, is a member of the National Educational Advisory Board, and is active in many national aviation education organizations. He is president-

elect of the University Aviation Association and a member of the International Aviation Writers Association, the National Aviation Council, the National Aeronautics Association, and the American Aviation Historical Society.

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VANGUARD MODEL

At ceremonies held on March 17 at the Smithsonian Institution, the Department of the Navy and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration presented to the National Air Museum a working model of Vanguard I satellite, which has now been in orbit for a year and which has been continuously sending signals. It has contributed greatly not only to the science of space but also to many features involving the earth itself.

The model was formally presented to Secretary Carmichael by Capt. A. B. Metsger, Deputy and Chief, Office of Naval Research.

The exhibit, consisting of a rotating model accompanied by an artificial sun, is on display in the rotunda of the Arts and Industries Building near the Vanguard satellite-launching rocket presented nearly a year ago.

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections.-- "Long-Range Weather Forecasting," by C. G. Abbot; 19 pages.

Bulletin of the Bureau of American Ethnology. "Excavations at La Venta, Tabasco, 1955," by Philip Drucker, Robert F. Heizer, and Robert J. Squier, with appendices by Jonas E. Gullberg, Garniss H. Curtis, and A. Starker Leopold; 312 pages.

Bulletin of the U. S. National Museum. -- "Ichneumon Flies of America North of Mexico," by Henry and Marjorie Townes; 318 pages.

Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum.-- "Synopsis of the Species of Agromyzid Leaf Miners Described from North America," by Kenneth E. Frick; 119 pages.

"Scarab Beetles of the Genus *Bothynus* in the United States (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae)," by O. L. Cartwright; 27 pages.

"A further Study of Micronesian Polyclad Flatworm," by Libbie H. Hyman; 55 pages.

Special Publication-- "First Book of Grasses," by Agnes Chase (a reprint, with revisions and addition of color plate, and foreword by Dr. Leonard Carmichael); 146 pages.

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