

MUSEUM SERVICE

JUN 30 1959

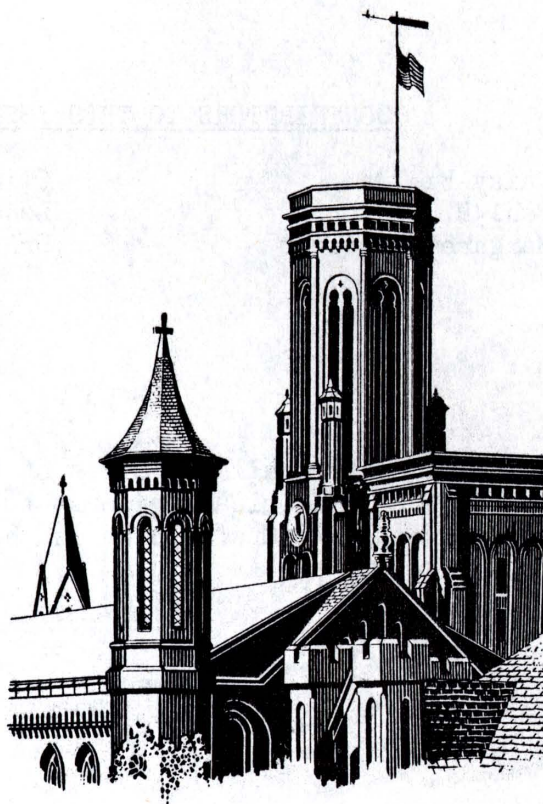
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION



June 1959

THE SMITHSONIAN

TORCH



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION • WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 1959

Number 50

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Daisy Fields
Paul H. Oehser
Margaret Pflieger

Olive Powell
Lena Hill
Ernest Biebighauser

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.

BUILDINGS MANAGER RETIRES

Buildings Manager Lawrence L. Oliver retired on May 31 after 38 years with the Smithsonian.

He first came to the Smithsonian Institution in 1921 as a messenger in the Superintendent's Office. In 1925 he transferred to the supply division, where eventually he was appointed purchasing officer. He became superintendent of buildings and labor in 1943.

A retirement party was held for Mr. Oliver on May 12 in the Great Hall of the Smithsonian Building. When presenting the "retirement card" to the honored guest, Secretary Carmichael noted the many improvements that have taken place under Mr. Oliver's management of the buildings, including the modernization of exhibits.

Mr. Oliver's many friends presented him with a cash gift, which they learned is to be used for purchasing a modern lawnmower for use at his new home in Florida. Mrs. Oliver and son Lawrence attended the party.

- - -

ATTENDS REUNION

Dr. Charles G. Abbot left Washington on June 13 for Boston, where he will attend the 65th reunion of his graduating class ('94) of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. Abbot said that between 15 and 20 members of his class are expected to attend.

- - -

TWO RECEIVE HONORARY DEGREES

Dr. Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr., Director of the Bureau of American Ethnology, and Dr. Alexander Wetmore, research associate and former Secretary of the Smithsonian, recently received honorary doctor of laws degrees.

Dr. Roberts was honored by the University of Colorado at its Commencement on June 5 at Boulder, Colo.

Dr. Wetmore received the honor from Ripon College, Ripon, Wis., on June 6.

- - -

APO DIRECTOR ELECTED TO NAS

Dr. Fred L. Whipple, Director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, was one of 30 new members recently elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences on the basis of their distinguished and continued achievements in original research.

The election took place on April 28 at the 96th Annual Meeting of the Academy at its headquarters in Washington.

Election to membership in the Academy is considered one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon an American scientist.

NAS is a private organization of over 570 distinguished scientists that is dedicated to the furtherance of science and to its use for the general welfare. The Academy was established in 1863 under a Congressional charter signed by President Lincoln. The charter requires that NAS act as an adviser to the Federal Government in scientific matters.

- - -

VANGUARD I ORBIT

The Astrophysical Observatory announced on May 13 that the orbit of the carrier rocket of the first Vanguard satellite had been derived from Moonwatch observations and confirmed by Baker-Nunn photographs.

Arthur S. Leonard, leader of the Moonwatch team at Sacramento, Calif., derived the orbital elements by using observations obtained at Albuquerque, N. Mex., and observations made by his own team. This orbital data was then used by the Smithsonian to make predictions for its Baker-Nunn satellite tracking cameras, which resulted in photographs of Vanguard One's carrier rocket.

The first observation was made at about 11:30 p.m. (E.D.T.) on May 11 by the Baker-Nunn Camera station at Organ Pass, N. Mex. The next photograph was taken at about 1:45 a.m. on May 12 by the Smithsonian's camera station at Maui, Hawaii.

On May 1, 3, and 4 the Smithsonian Optical Tracking Station at Woomera, Australia, photographed the Vanguard I at the apogee of its orbit, nearly 2,500 miles from the earth. The Baker-Nunn precision satellite tracking camera took the pictures.

No other object as small as this 6-inch sphere has been photographed from such a distance. It is comparable to aiming a camera at a golf ball 600 miles away.

- - -

PUBLISHED IN MAY

Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections.--"The Oldest Known Reptile, *Eosaurus copei* Williston," by Frank E. Peabody.

Bulletin of the Bureau of American Ethnology.--"The North American Eskimo: A Study in Ecology and Society," by Robert F. Spencer.

Proceedings of the U.S. National Museum.--Title page, Table of Contents, and Index to Volume 107.

"Flies of the Genus *Odinia* in the Western Hemisphere (Diptera: Odiniidae)," by Curtis W. Sabrosky.

Smithsonian Contributions to Astrophysics.--"Some Sunspot and Flare Statistics," by Barbara Bell and Harold Glazer.

"The Doppler Widths of Solar Absorption Lines," by Barbara Bell and Alan Meltzer.

- - -

VOCATIONAL TESTING SERVICE

The Graduate School, U.S. Department of Agriculture, has available a vocational testing service that includes tests of intelligence, vocational preference, aptitude, and personality. A written evaluation is made for each student tested.

Appointments for this service can be made by calling the Graduate School, code 111, extension 6337.

- - -

CSC WANTS RED TAPE CUT

The Civil Service Commission has opened an attack on the problems of red tape and paperwork in position classification.

CSC expects the campaign to simplify and reduce the length and number of job descriptions that must be prepared. A key objective of the program is to bring about preparation of job descriptions in simple, easy-to-understand language and to eliminate the tendency to clutter up descriptions with technical terms and personnel jargon.

- - -

CZECHS PRESENT BUST OF FAMOUS ANTHROPOLOGIST

A bust of Dr. Aleš Hrdlička (1869-1943), world-famous anthropologist who was associated with the Smithsonian Institution for 40 years, was presented on June 2 to the National Museum by Dr. Miloslav Ružek, Ambassador of the Czechoslovak Republic to the United States.

The gift was made on behalf of several educational and cultural groups of Czechoslovakia as a memento of the recent observances in that country marking the 15th anniversary of Hrdlička's death and the 90th anniversary of his birth.

The bust is the work of Czech sculptor Milan Knobloch, based in part on a death mask of the scientist made by Andreas J. Andrews, Smithsonian sculptor. The original of the bust was unveiled last September in the entrance of the school that now bears Hrdlička's name in Humpolec, Czechoslovakia, the town where he was born.

Hrdlička came to America with his father in 1882. He studied medicine in New York and anthropology in Paris, and in 1903 was called to Washington to set up a division of physical anthropology in the U.S. National Museum. Here he spent the rest of his life and built up the collections in that department to rival those anywhere else in the world.

He was founder and first editor of the American Journal of Physical Anthropology, and founder and first president of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. He encouraged anthropology in Czechoslovakia, especially at Charles University, Prague, by gifts of books and money, one result of which is the Hrdlička Museum in the Anthropological Institute of that institution.

PRESS WRITER WINS AWARD

Thomas R. Henry, Smithsonian press writer and science columnist for the Washington Star, has received the 1959 Honor Award of the Washington Chapter, American Institute of Chemists.

He was cited by the Institute for his service to science as a professional writer and author.

Mr. Henry is the author of several books and has written many scientific articles for magazines and syndicates.

- - -

CHANCE FOR GOOD DEED

Vacation time is coming up for many employees.

You will enjoy your vacation more if you let someone use your parking space while you are away. When your leave request is granted, dial the Buildings Management Office (387 or 266) and offer a temporary parking privilege to someone who has been on the waiting list for parking space.

- - -

CONTRIBUTES CHAPTER TO BOOK OF HISTORICAL ESSAYS

Dr. Wilcomb E. Washburn, acting curator of political history, has contributed a chapter to "Seventeenth-Century America: Essays on Colonial History," a book published May 30 by the University of North Carolina Press.

Dr. Washburn's chapter is titled "The Moral and Legal Justifications for Dispossessing the Indians."

- - -

MISSOURI BASIN NEWS

Dr. Robert L. Stephenson, Richard Wheeler, Charles McNutt, William Irving, and Lee Madison attended the 24th annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology in Salt Lake City held April 30, May 1 and 2. On the return trip, the group spent a day at Dinosaur National Monument, from where they drove back a station wagon that the project acquired from the National Park Service for fieldwork use.

William Irving returned from two months' leave of absence on April 24. He spent his leave time at Harvard University completing work on an Arctic project.

Carroll Burroughs of the Washington office of the National Park Service and Paul Beaubien of the Omaha office of the National Park Service visited the Lincoln laboratory on May 6th.

Dr. Stephenson was guest speaker at the April 15th luncheon meeting of the Beatrice (Nebr.) Kiwanis Club.

All of the professional staff took part in the April 17 meeting of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences. Papers were read by Dr. Stephenson, Dr. Caldwell, Mr. Wheeler, and Mr. McNutt. A paper by Robert Neuman (who is on detail outside the Missouri Basin) was read by Dr. Stephenson.

- - -

RIDES WANTED

To and from the vicinity of Georgia Ave. and Forest Glen Road in Silver Spring, Md. Please call Dr. Maurice Margulies in the Division of Radiation and Organisms (ext. 323).

To the vicinity of American University (Mass. and Nebr. Aves., NW.) Tuesday and Thursday evenings, July 28 through August 27. Please call Peggy Pabst, Editorial and Publications Division (ext. 418).

EMPLOYEE DISCOUNTS

A new buying program, strictly for government employees and members of the military, will be available in the Washington area early in August. It is reported that savings on purchases will amount to as much as 50 percent.

Membership costs \$3.00, and there is a \$1.00 fee for annual renewal.

Further details and an application form for membership may be obtained upon request to Miss Stern in the personnel office (Ext. 385).

- - -

NEW OFFICE FOR CU

The Credit Union has moved to its new office in the east end of the Smithsonian Building basement. The office will be open for business each Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

- - -

SI HONORS SCIENTIST

The Smithsonian Institution paid tribute to one of the Government's outstanding scientists on June 19 when Secretary Carmichael presented Dr. Robert Evans Snodgrass with the first copy of "Studies in Invertebrate Morphology," a book published in honor of Dr. Snodgrass.

Dr. Snodgrass, who will be 84 in July, is universally acknowledged to be among the foremost insect anatomists and morphologists of our time. His scholarly and painstaking work has won him the admiration and respect of his colleagues throughout the world. Eighteen of these colleagues have contributed chapters to the 422-page volume published by the Smithsonian.

Dr. Snodgrass, a native of St. Louis, served more than 30 years as entomologist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, retiring at the age of 70 in 1945.

In 1953 he was named honorary collaborator of the Smithsonian Institution, where he is still actively engaged in research and writing. Since his retirement he has completed 15 publications.