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TORCH



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SECRETARY AWARDS FIVE

At ceremonies in the Regents Room of the Smithsonian Building on August 12, Secretary Carmichael presented certificates and cash awards to Dr. Philip W. Bishop of the department of arts and manufactures; James A. Dulaney, assistant buildings manager; David T. Ray, librarian; Edgar L. Roy, treasurer; and Joseph G. Weiner of the editorial and publications division.

The Secretary made the following remarks:

To Dr. Bishop: "At the request of the Secretariat you undertook the extra-curricular task of investigating two corporations' claims for additional compensation in connection with production and delivery of 12 satellite tracking cameras in 1957 and 1958. The thoroughness of your efforts, which involved extensive research, consultation, and negotiation, resulted in a final settlement which saved the Institution several thousand dollars.

To Mr. Dulaney: "Your initiative in effecting improvements in the design and fabrication of the special insect storage drawers has materially enhanced the usefulness and effectiveness of these drawers. Furthermore, the new design has reduced considerably the cost of fabrication.

To Mr. Ray: "Because of your comprehensive knowledge of the Russian language, you undertook to conduct class instruction for staff members in scientific Russian. For the past year you have met regularly once a week with interested staff members who have benefited so materially from your meticulous presentations that they now profess ability to translate technical publications with reasonable facility. It is evident that

extensive preparation was necessary for this course of study and it is well known that you contributed generously of your own free time to its accomplishment.

To Mr. Roy: "Because of the prolonged absence of the treasurer and the lack of an assistant in the fiscal division, you ably performed the duties of the treasurer while continuing to carry out your own responsibilities in a highly successful manner. To accomplish the work and meet all prescribed deadlines you willingly devoted many hours of uncompensated overtime to the tasks at hand."

To Mr. Weiner: "This award is granted as a result of the adoption of your safety suggestion for the construction of a guard rail around the Jupiter rocket on exhibit outside the Arts and Industries Building."

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FORMER CURATOR VISITS

Dr. David Nicol, formerly associate curator of the division of invertebrate paleontology, recently visited the National Museum to work several days in the laboratories of the department of geology.

Dr. Nicol, who is professor of geology at Southern Illinois State University, Carbondale, Ill., was with the Smithsonian for 10 years before taking his present position in 1958.

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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 sent it directly to Mrs. Fields in the Personnel Division.

LINCOLN BUST

A historic bronze bust of Abraham Lincoln was placed on temporary display at the Smithsonian Institution on September 3. Mr. John B. Fisher, a member of the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission, made the formal presentation.

The bust, exhibited through the courtesy of the French Embassy, was modeled after an original done from life in 1860 by the sculptor Leonard Wells Volk and was presented to the people of France by the Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission at the Statue of Liberty "Freedom Day" ceremonies held in New York on July 1, 1959, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the gift of the statue by France.

The bust will be on display at the entrance to the Lincoln Exhibit in the west wing of the Arts and Industries Building during the month of September prior to shipment to France.

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TELESCOPE MAKER TOOLS

The shop tools of Henry Fitz, this country's first commercial telescope maker, are on exhibit in the Arts and Industries Building.

The exhibit represents the shop of a 19th-century instrument maker. In it may be seen the crude foot-powered lens grinder and polisher, the simple testing apparatus, and a number of telescopes under construction. An animated figure in the background, working patiently at polishing a lens, helps to illustrate the methods by which Yankee ingenuity has contributed to science as well as to the invention of gadgets.

Given by Louise Fitz Howell, of Southold, Long Island, N.Y., granddaughter of Fitz, many of the tools date from Fitz's first shop, set up in the 1840's at 237 5th Street in Manhattan, New York City.

From Fitz's shop in the 1840's and

'50's came telescopes that compared favorably in size and accuracy with the European instruments theretofore used by American astronomers. Telescopes of good quality had been made in this country from time to time since 1760, but before 1840 observatories had depended primarily on foreign instruments.

Fitz, a locksmith born in 1808 at Newburysport, Mass., produced his first telescope in 1838. An award at an exposition in 1844 brought his work to the attention of astronomers.

During the next two decades, Fitz made instruments for Lewis M. Rutherford, noted astronomer of Columbia College in New York City, and others for Vassar College, the University of Michigan, and for the Dudley and Allegheny Observatories, as well as for a number of private observatories. Some of these instruments are reportedly still in use.

The shop was used by his son for some 20 years after Fitz's death in 1863. Later it was removed by his widow to Peconic, near the eastern tip of Long Island, where it remained in possession of the family until 1957.

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PUBLISHED IN AUGUST

Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections.--"A Biological Study of Katmai National Monument," by Victor H. Cahalane.

"Further Observations on Distribution Patterns of Coagulation of the Hemolymph in Neotropical Insects," by Charles Grégoire.

"Early Tertiary *Apheliscus* and *Phenacodaptes* as Pantolestid Insectivores," by C. Lewis Gazin.

Smithsonian Contributions to Astrophysics.--"A Fluid-Dynamic Mechanism of Meteorite Pitting," by David T. Williams.

"Periodic Orbits of a Planetoid Passing Close to Two Gravitating Masses," by Robert R. Newton.

Publications of the Freer Gallery of Art.--"Ars Orientalis," vol. 3, by various authors.

"Calligraphers and Painters: "A Treatise by Qadi Ahmad, Son of Mir-Munshi (Circa A.H. 1015/A.D. 1606," by V. Minorsky, translator.

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101 TRAVELING EXHIBITIONS

During the 1958-59 season, the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service circulated a total of 101 exhibitions in the following fields of art: Painting and Drawing (16); Graphic Art (20); Architecture (8); Design (16); Books (4); Oriental Art (8); Folk Art (4); Photography (12); Anthropology (2); and Children's Exhibitions (11).

Outstanding among these shows were "Dutch Drawings," circulated to six museums during the season; "American Folk Art," organized for special presentation at the Brussels World Fair last summer; and the three painting and design exhibitions by Fulbright artists, which are still on tour.

While this activity progressed, interspersed with the publication of seven special catalogues, plans for the 1959-60 season were rapidly taking shape. Arrangements have now been completed for the major loan exhibitions of the season. Notable among these are "Gandhara Sculpture," "Norwegian Tapestries," "Paintings by Seth Eastman," "Greek Costumes and Embroideries," and "Old Master Drawings" from the Collection of Sir Bruce Ingram. Each of these exhibitions will be accompanied by an illustrated catalogue.

Also of note are three outstanding shows which have been lent from the famed Edward W. Root Collection of the Munson-Williams-Proctor Institute, Utica, N.Y., during the construction of its new museum. These three exhibitions, which have just begun their tours, are "20th Century American Paintings," "Contemporary American Watercolors and Drawings" and "Great European Printmakers."

Many new shows in all of the fields listed above have been added to the Service's "repertoire" since publication of the 1959-60 catalogue of traveling exhibitions.

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IN EBONY

Charles W. Thomas and his duties as keeper in the mammal division at the Zoo were subjects of a 4-page story in the August issue of Ebony Magazine. Mr. Thomas has been with the National Zoological Park for 12 years.

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"Ice cream, blue cheese and olives, Honey, is our Blue Cross paid up?"

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ACQUIRES IMPORTANT COLLECTIONS OF INSECTS

The National Museum recently acquired two important collections of insects.

One of these, the Mark Robinson collection of scarab beetles, consists of 16,210 specimens of an unusually large number of species from North America. The other, the John S. Caldwell collection of lanternflies and psyllids, contains

12,941 specimens, mostly from the Caribbean region and Mexico, although other Neotropical areas are represented as well as are Europe, Hawaii, and Guam.

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DOCENTS MEET FOR TRAINING PROGRAM

Thirty-six members of the Junior League of Washington who will act as docents in National Museum guided tours for school children from October 15 to May 1 met with curators on September 22 to begin their training program. Mrs. Clark Gearhart is chairman of the docent group; Mrs. Dean Cowie is co-chairman.

Mrs. Gearhart introduced Secretary Carmichael, who addressed the docents and introduced Carroll Lindsay, curator of museum service; John Ewers, assistant director of the Museum of History and Technology; Malcolm Watkins, curator of cultural history; Robert Vogel, assistant curator of mechanical and civil engineering; James King, curator of electricity; and Paul Desautels, associate curator of mineralogy and petrology.

Halls to be included in the tours are early America, Indians and Eskimos, Gems and Minerals, Textiles, and Power.

On September 29 and October 1 the docent corps will meet with Mr. Desautels and with Miss Grace Rogers, curator of textiles.

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MISSOURI BASIN NEWS

The four Missouri Basin Project archeological parties completed their field work in South Dakota during August.

Dr. Warren W. Caldwell and a crew of six completed their work in the Big Bend Dam area in Lyman County on August 6. Dr. Caldwell then returned to his

regular duties in the Lincoln office.

William M. Bass III and his assistant, Wayne O. Wallace, completed their physical anthropology survey on Plains skeletal materials on August 21, and both men will resume their advanced studies at the University of Pennsylvania next month.

Dr. Alfred W. Bowers of the University of Idaho and a crew of five completed their work at the Rygh Site near Mobridge on August 28. Dr. Bowers supervised this work for the Missouri Basin Project on a temporary loan basis, and at the end of the work he returned to his regular duties at the University of Idaho.

Charles H. McNutt, Lee G. Madison, and a crew of 12 completed sample excavations of 22 prehistoric sites in the Little Bend area of the Oahe Reservoir in Sully County on August 28. Mr. McNutt and Mr. Madison have returned to their regular duties in the Lincoln office.

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NORWEGIAN TAPESTRIES

President Eisenhower and King Olav V of Norway will be co-sponsors of the traveling exhibition "Norwegian Tapestries," scheduled for a tour of 6 major United States museums during 1959 and 1960. The exhibition, organized in cooperation with the Norwegian Government, will be circulated by the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service.

"Norwegian Tapestries" comprises the most important collection of Norse folk art ever presented in this country. The first section of the exhibition consists of 60 outstanding examples of Norwegian tapestry weaving from the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries handsomely mounted on fabric covered screens. Another section, devoted to folk art, wood-carving, and painting, brings the total number of exhibits to more than 100.

Norwegian Ambassador Paul Koht will formally open the exhibition at The Brooklyn Museum on September 21.