Contributors to this Issue

Daisy Fields  Lucille Mann
F. M. Betzler  R. S. Boardman
Olive Powell  Ruth Blanchard
George Turner  Dorothy Schiller
Susan Wallace  Harry Phillips

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.

Zeppelin Dishes

Few items in the collection of the National Air Museum are of particular interest to women, but the Museum recently received an exhibit item that should fall in the category of "dissipative interest." Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bright of Washington, D.C., have donated a complete place setting from the dinner service used on the "Graf Zeppelin" during its flights between Germany and the United States in the late 1920s. The setting contains ten pieces of Bavarian china trimmed in blue with the Zeppelin crest in gold. Also included are ten pieces of sterling silver engraved with the "LZ" design.

Mrs. Bright, then Mrs. Ida Stanley, first gave two pieces of china from the set in 1933 soon after receiving them from Dr. Hugo Eckener, commander of the "Graf Zeppelin." She was born and raised in Germany, and, since there was a family relationship with the Zeppelin family, she was fortunate enough to have been a passenger on the flights of many of the Germany dirigibles. At one time she was permitted to handle the controls, probably the only woman ever to do so. This collection will be one of the exhibits now being planned for the renovated Aircraft Building, which will reopen in the spring.

Greek Costumes

A major loan exhibition of "Greek Costumes and Embroideries," scheduled for limited circulation to American museums during the 1959-60 season, has been announced by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. More than 200 of the finest examples of traditional Greek art will be included in the exhibition, which is the first comprehensive survey of the subject ever to come to this country. The American tour will be sponsored by Queen Frederika and the Greek Embassy in Washington. The invitational preview, October 13 to November 5 in New York, is to be a benefit for Queen Frederika's Fund. Borrowed from the collections of the Benaki Museum in Athens, the exhibition consists of 22 rare and beautiful costumes complete with accessories such as jewelry, belts, scarves, hats, and shoes; embroideries from various Greek provinces and islands, elaborate bedspreads, pillow covers, towels, coats, jackets, blouses, and numerous household objects.

After its initial presentation in the galleries of French & Company, New York, the exhibition will travel to the Balti-
more Museum of Art. The Los Angeles
County Museum and the De Young Museum
in San Francisco, among others, will
also be included in the tour.

WORKS ON FOSSIL MAMMALS

Dr. Frank C. Whitmore, Jr., of the
U.S. Geological Survey, moved into the
Natural History Building on July 1 to
work on fossil mammals.

Dr. Whitmore graduated from Amherst
College and sneaked up on vertebrate
paleontology via a master's degree in
geology. He worked on Ostracoda. Seeing the
light, he then went to Harvard, where
he was named chief of that branch, a position he held
until last July. For his work in the
Far East, where he supervised a program
of geologic mapping in the islands of
the Ryukyu arc, and Japan.

After a three-year interruption for
military service in World War II, he
resumed his studies at Chicago, re-
ceiving his Ph.D. there in 1950 under
the sponsorship of Dr. B. C. Sloan.

Prior to coming to the National Mu-
seum, Dr. Whitmore spent eight years teach-
ing anatomy in the medical school at the
University of Kansas. His research ac-
tivities center in the fields of paleon-
tology of Permian reptiles and amphibi-
ans and in functional anatomy and evo-
uition of tetrapods.

Mrs. Whitmore is the former Ruth Carol
Olmstead of Chicago. There are three
Whitmore-sons, Albert, Nicky, and Carol,
aged 14, 13, and 11, respectively. Con-
sensus of the family is that Washington
is a fine place to live. They spend
weekends in touring the city and its
environs, and visits to Manassas, An-
tietam, and Gettysburg have made con-
firmed Civil War fans of the boys.

NEM PALEONTOLOGIST

Nicholas Hotton, 34, new associate
curator of fossil reptiles and amphibi-
ans, claims to have wanted to be a
vertebrate paleontologist since he was
that high.

He hails originally from Sault Ste.
Marie, Mich., which is not the most
ideal part of the world in which to
collect fossil bones, either as an ama-
teur or as a professional. The frustra-
tion occasioned by this fact may account
for his going to the University of Chi-
icago to study geology and vertebrate
paleontology.

After a three-year interruption for
military service in World War II, he
resumed his studies at Chicago, re-
ceiving his Ph.D. there in 1950 under
the sponsorship of Dr. E. C. Olson.

As a result of his work in the Far
East, where he supervised a program
of geologic mapping in the islands of
the Ryukyu arc, and Japan.

For two years after leaving Harvard
he was with the geology department at
Rhode Island State College. During
World War II he was on the staff of the
Military Geology Branch of the
Survey, and in 1946 he was named chief
of that branch, a position he held
until last July. For his work in military
geology he received the Medal of Freedom from the U.S. Army.

One of his current research projects
is a fossil mammalian assemblage from
Ichigaki, Ryukyu Islands, which may
yield interesting information on mi-
gration of land faunas in Tertiary
time between the mainland and Taiwan,
the Ryukyu arc, and Japan.

Dr. Hotton lives in Silver Spring,
Md. His wife, a Smith graduate, minor-
ed in geology. The Whitmores have twin sons
in college, and two daughters, aged 14
and 11.

LINGUIST JOINS UNIVERSITY STAFF

David Ray, cataloger in the Smith-
sonian library since November 1952,
resigned on October 16 to accept a
position on the staff of the library
of Southern Illinois University, Car-
bondale, Ill.

In his new position Mr. Ray will
have the academic rank of lecturer on
the library staff and expects to par-
ticipate in establishing two new insti-
tutes at the university, the Latin
American Institute and the Institute of
Asian Studies.

For eight years, 1938 to 1946, Mr.
Ray was a foreign service officer with
the Department of State, serving in
Mexico, Japan, Pakistan, Ceylon, and
Nicaragua.

As librarian and linguist, he has
held positions at Yale University,
National War College, and Library of
Congress. He has taught Persian at the
Middle East Institute, in Washing-
ton, and Urdu, when he was in Paki-
stan.

He holds bachelor degrees from the
University of California at Los Ange-
es and from Catholic University of
America.

Mr. Ray recently was given an
award by the Smithsonian because of the
proficiency in Russian transla-
tion gained by a group of curators
under his tutelage.

Mr. Ray's abilities in trans-
lating Spanish, French, German,
Russian, Japanese, Chinese, Arabic,
Latin, Greek, Persian, and Urdu will
be sorely missed by the Smithsonian.
Accordingly, if you have a knowledge
of any foreign language and would
assist occasionally in translating
letters, please let the library know
about it. Call Mrs. Lettie Bevis,
ext. 246.

DON'T JUST SIT THERE

The sedate (and occasionally withered)
columns of The Torch will perk up. But
to the point man!

Have you given any blood lately? Have
you any new blood for The Torch?

What have you done, seen, or heard about
lately that would be the antithesis of your
neighbor's mundane life? If you've been
"out of this world," or still are, why not
tell others about it?

Why, if you've just looked around,
or listened, you'd know that one of your
associates . . . recently purchased some
dehydrated fireflies' tails (Bill Klein,
RADO) . . . rode a horse through the Black
Hills (Conrad Morton, MHN-B) . . . got so
far away from his supply lines in the
jungles of Panama that he had to eat mon-
keys and rats, but lost no weight (Charles
Handley, MNH-Z) . . . had to take rables
shots for a bite from a dead animal (Frank
Greenwell, GE) . . . put a new leg on Wil-
liam Pitt (Gordon Dentry, GE).

Those little items are just to let you
know what you're missing, and, inversely,
of what your associates here at the Smith-
sonian are missing because you have no rap-
port. So "rapport" now.

PITTSBURGH VENTURE

Roger Kaufman, of the 24th Street ex-
hibits shop, leaves for Pittsburgh this
month to enrich the lives of college stu-
dents there. Roger and a partner will
open an "espresso" coffee shop comfortably
located between the University of Pitts-
burgh and Carnegie Tech. It will be a
place where the tired and thirsty can meet
to expound their views, reveal their artis-
tic efforts, smoke a long, thin cigarette,
more Museum of Art. The Los Angeles
County Museum and the De Young Museum
in San Francisco, among others, will
also be included in the tour.
LEOTR ON JAPANESE PRINTS

The Freer Gallery of Art’s seventh annual series of illustrated lectures on Oriental art opened on October 20 with a lecture by Mr. Robert T. Paine, Jr., associate curator in the department of Asiatic art, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. His subject was “Japanese Prints of Beauties of the Three Cities.” The lecture, illustrated with color slides, covered some important wood-block prints.

Mr. Paine, who has been with the Museum of Fine Arts for more than 25 years, has studied in China and Japan, and his publications include important articles in many fields of Far Eastern art. He has written on Japanese folk art, Chinese and Japanese ceramics of various periods, and the art of wood-block printing in China and Japan.

His most important studies, however, have been in the field of Japanese screen painting. He prepared the catalogs for two great exhibitions held in the Museum of Fine Arts: birds, flower, and animal screens in 1935, and of landscape and figure screens in 1938.


ACQUISITION

Mrs. Percy Mauney (Gloria), who works at the library’s circulation desk, is on leave for several months. Reason: Mr. and Mrs. Percy Mauney are the proud parents of a baby daughter, born in August.

MORE ACQUISITIONS

The library has announced acquisition of the following books of general interest:

“Blockade, The Civil War at Sea,” by Robert Darse. (973.026 MHT.)
“A Picture History of U.S. Transportation,” by Roderick Crabl. (621.73 43 MHT.)
“Once Round the Sun, Story of the International Geophysical Year,” by Ronald Fraser. (551.P41 SI.)
“Illustrated English Social History,” by George Trevelyan, 4 vols. (942.781 MHT.)

Numbers in parentheses are the library call numbers. Please include them in your requests.


Silence is not always a sign of wisdom, but babbling is ever a folly.

NEW INSURANCE AMENDMENT EXPLAINED

The following paragraphs explain in general terms how a recent amendment affects your insurance under the Federal Employees’ Group Life Insurance Act of 1954. These changes do not affect employees retired or deceased before September 23, 1959.

At all times during employment, you have the full amount of group life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance applicable to your annual salary. Formerly insurance was reduced after an individual reached age 65.

2. For employees who are age 65 or over, payroll withholdings are now required at the same rates applicable to employees under that age. They start with the first pay period beginning September 23, 1959. During employment there is no provision to continue insurance without cost in a reduced amount.

If you retire on immediate annuity, either for disability or after at least 12 years of creditable service of which at least five years are civilian service, your life insurance will be continued without cost to you. Each month, beginning on the first day of the second calendar month following the date of your retirement or 65th birthday, whichever is later, your life insurance will be reduced by 2% of the amount in force before the first such reduction. Your insurance cannot be reduced below 25% of the amount in force before any reduction.

If you desire further information, please call the personnel office.

INFORMATION ON HEALTH BENEFITS

The Civil Service Commission has prepared a list of answers to many questions regarding the new law providing health benefits for Federal employees.

These questions and answers pertains to eligibility, types of plans available, benefits, cost, and so forth. In the next several issues, the Torch will print the questions and answers falling within these categories. The first series, on eligibility, follows:

Q. Who is eligible for health benefits?
A. Generally speaking, all employees who are eligible for Federal Employees’ Group Life Insurance.

Q. Do I not have group life insurance because I signed a waiver of coverage? Can I get the health benefits?
A. Yes. The two are not related.

Q. Will the health benefits program be compulsory?
A. No.

Q. Will health benefits coverage be automatic?
A. No. Each employee who wishes to be covered will have to apply.

Q. Should I apply for the health benefits now?
A. No. The health benefits will not begin until the first pay period after June 30, 1960. Before that date, you will be given full information by your employing office and you will have plenty of time to apply.

Q. If I drop the health benefits coverage now, would my eligibility to receive Government-sponsored program next July be affected?
A. No. However, to continue your present health benefits plan until you come under the Government-sponsored program.

Q. Will the health benefits be only for myself or can my family be covered?
A. You will be able to enroll for your family as well as for yourself.

Q. What members of a family may be included?
A. Your wife (or husband) and any unmarried children under the age of 19, including adopted children, and step-children if they live with you. An
unmarried child may be covered regardless of age if he is incapable of self support because of a disability which began before he reached age 19. Parents or other relatives cannot be covered even though they live with you.

Q. Will I or any member of my family have to pass a physical examination to enroll for health benefits?
A. Not if you enroll at the first opportunity. If you enroll later, you may have to furnish evidence of good health.

Q. Can I (or a member of my family) be excluded from joining a plan because I have a hazardous job?
A. No.

Q. Can I be excluded from joining a plan because of my age?
A. Not if you enroll at the first opportunity. Employees and family members will be originally enrolled without regard to age.

Q. I am a Government employee and so is my husband. How do we enroll?
A. You may each enroll individually or as a family. If you have children and one of you enrolls for the family, your children would also be covered. If you each enroll individually, your children would not be covered.

NEW MEMBERS OF LIBRARY STAFF

The library has two new staff members.

Miss Janet Dixon, formerly with Pennsylvania State University, recently joined the staff as chief of the catalog section.

Miss June Benken, a recent graduate of Ohio State University, began duty at the circulation desk in September.

BINDING, ANYONE?

If you have any publications on your office shelves that need binding, or re-binding, now is the time to have it done. Just call the library. Staff members of the Museum of History and Technology should call ext. 238 to arrange for bindings; all other personnel should call the catalog section, ext. 246.

IF YOU NEED BLOOD

Recent developments in the Blood Program are of vital interest to all of us. One recent change is that Providence Hospital is no longer a participating hospital, and, as a result, Red Cross Blood will not be available to patients there.

There are 25 participating hospitals in the area, of which 11 are veteran, Federal, and military. Of the 44 civilian hospitals, 36 depend upon the Red Cross for their total blood supply.

The Washington Regional Blood Center will take care of the blood requirements of eligible patients in any of the participating hospitals in the District of Columbia and suburban Maryland and Virginia.

If you or a member of your immediate family is in need of a blood donation, the following procedure should be followed: Call the personnel division (Mrs. Fields, ext. 277) and give the name, home address, and relationship of the person needing blood; name of the hospital; and, if known, the type of blood required. All required amounts of blood will be furnished at no expense to you.

This program is made possible only as a result of our continuing donations to the Blood Bank. Have you volunteered this month? If not, call Mrs. Fields and tell her you would like to do so. Do it now, lest you forget!

HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?

Section 475 of the Smithsonian Institution Manual requires that all employees keep the personnel division informed of any changes in telephone number or home address.

RIVER BASIN NEWS

William N. Irving has terminated his employment with the Missouri Basin Project to enter the University of Wisconsin, as a graduate student. He will be a graduate assistant instructor in anthropology.

The first regular bi-weekly meeting of local anthropologists for the fall season was held in Burnett Hall at the University of Nebraska on September 25. The following members of the Missouri Basin Project staff attended: Dr. Stephenon, Robert Smith, Dr. Caldwell, Charles McBlatt, and Robert Neuman. Discussed at the meeting were plans for carbon-14 dating and plans for the 17th Plains Conference to be held in Lincoln at Thanksgiving time.

The most recent addition to the data for the Missouri Basin Chronology Program is a set of 250 punch cards for carbon-14 dates, purchased through Frederick Johnson.

In connection with preparation of a report on his recent work in the Chattoochee region of the Southeast, Harold A. Huscher went to Vermont, South Dakota, on September 21 to consult with Dr. Wesley R. Hurt of the University of South Dakota.

NEW GEOLOGIST

Dr. Richard Cifelli, who recently joined the staff of the division of invertebrate paleontology and paleobotany, is a specialist in Foraminifera. Previously, he was a research geologist for the Phillips Petroleum Co. from 1951 to 1955, engaged in biostratigraphic studies of the Tertiary of the Pacific Northwest. From 1957 until joining the National Museum, Dr. Cifelli was an assistant professor in geology at Brown University. He received his doctorate in geology from Harvard last spring.

Dr. Cifelli is now engaged in a study of the zoology and distribution of planktonic Foraminifera of the Atlantic Ocean in conjunction with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. He also plans on a taxonomic study of the Jurassic Foraminifera of western North America.

PUBLISHED IN SEPTEMBER


Smithsonian Contributions to Astrophysics.—"Meteor Trains," by Robert F. Hughes; 16 pages.

If you have moved within the last 12 months, please send a memo to the personnel division giving your name, office in which employed, new address and telephone number, and the effective date of the change.
SALUTE TO ZOO

A two-day "Salute to the National Zoo" was sponsored by The Friends of the National Zoo on September 26 and 27. Visitors, estimated at over 53,000 over the weekend, saw the cages decorated with flags indicating the country of origin of the inhabitants. Embassies and state societies donated the flags and supplied photographs and literature, which were exhibited in the auditorium of the Cleveland Park Branch of the Public Library.

The climax of the celebration came on Sunday afternoon when a new flagpole was dedicated "as an expression of warm affection for Dr. William M. Mann, the former director." The presentation was made by Dr. Max Kampelman, president of the Friends of the National Zoo, and accepted by Dr. Remington Kellogg, representing the Smithsonian Institution. Zoo Park Police Officer Trueman Ellerbe, and Moore formed a color guard as the new 50-star flag was raised to the top of the flagpole at the Connecticut Ave. entrance to the Zoo.

Recent acquisitions at the Zoological Park include a tiger cub, gift from Ralph Scott of Rockville, Md.; a pair of aloth bears, gifts from George Munro of Calcutta, India; two young cassowaries, given by James Kennedy, an official of the International Co-Operation Administration stationed in Jakarta, Indonesia; and 3 Jackals, 2 ring-tailed civets, 2 potoons, and 2 Bush bulgas purchased from a dealer in Kenya Colony.

YOU ARE THERE

Have you ever thought that when you give to your United Givers Fund, your pledge (and payment) answers many questions and solves many problems for thousands of people? Have you ever stopped to realize that your gift provides well over 500 services to hundreds of thou-

5th at the Fenwick Motel. Subsequently it attracted large crowds of people, but because of its rising odor, it did not help the business of the motel. Consequently, the manager of the motel contracted a bulldozer to bury the whale at low tide, 4 p.m., on the 7th.

"The description of the whale indicated a rare species, so the motel manager agreed to hold up the burial until 5 p.m. to give me an opportunity to reach the scene. I arrived at Fenwick Island at 4:50 p.m. There were several hundred onlookers. The bulldozer had already dug out a hole six or eight feet deep, had rolled the whale in, and was poised ready to cover it with sand.

"The whale was indeed a rare species, Ziphius cavirostris, so I hastily took measurements and removed the head. The burial was then completed. I brought the head back to the museum in my car, which as a result may never smell the same again (at least that is my wife's conclusion).

"The return trip was by way of Ocean City, Md., where I examined a large whale bone that had been recently dredged out of the ocean in a fisherman's net. It proved to be the mandible of a fin whale."

Dr. Handley is a member of the Committee on Marine Mammals of the American Society of Mammalogists. This committee is attempting to record all strandings of whales, porpoises, dolphins, seals, etc., on the coasts of North America. Anyone who sees or hears of a stranding of one of these animals is urged to get in touch with Dr. Handley as soon as possible ("noses and decomposition wait for no man").

NEW ETHNOLOGIST

Dr. Eugene I. Knez has joined the staff of the department of anthropology, division of ethnology, as an associate curator. He will be in charge of the Asian ethnological collections.

Dr. Knez came to the Smithsonian from the department of anthropology and sociology at Hunter College, New York City. He has been a cultural affairs officer and a regional public affairs officer with the American Embassies in Korea and Japan, and several years before that was in charge of the cultural program of the American Military Government in Korea. Most of his field work has been accomplished in Korea and Japan.

He studied with Professors Ralph Linton and Douglas G. Haring, and received his doctoral degree from the University of Syracuse earlier this year.

NEW PHILATELIST

Carl H. Scheele recently was appointed assistant curator of philately and postal history. Before coming to the Smithsonian, Mr. Scheele was a teacher in Cleveland, Ohio. He has collected stamps for 12 years, specialising in those of the United States, Japan, and Germany.

He is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art, the University of Illinois (BFA), and Western Reserve University (MA, history).