

THE SMITHSONIAN TORCH



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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WOULD MARTIAN SCIENTISTS HAVE DETECTED LIFE ON EARTH?

Carl Sagan, SAO, speaking to the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Berkeley, California, on Dec. 30, 1965, made an interesting observation concerning the Mariner IV: "Had the Mariner IV vehicle passed the same distance from the Earth that it did from Mars, and obtained 22 comparable photographs of the Earth, no sign of life on our planet would have been uncovered."

Dr. Sagan stressed the point that the Mariner IV photographic system was designed only for the geological exploration of Mars—a task in which it succeeded admirably. These photographs neither demonstrate nor preclude the possibility of life on Mars.

"If we are interested in pursuing biological exploration of Mars by flyby orbital photography," Dr. Sagan suggests, "it would be more feasible to photograph a small fraction of the planet's surface at the highest possible ground resolution—somewhere in the one to ten meter range—than to photograph the entire surface at low resolution." So if last summer's Mariner IV mission to Mars had been reversed, would Martian scientists have detected life on Earth? Probably not, thinks Dr. Sagan.



Mrs. Gilbert Grosvenor of Washington's Junior League, demonstrates an old spinning wheel at SI's Open House held for School Teachers. SI curators were in all the halls, the Junior League was present to guide the visitors, and coffee and cookies were served. The tour was a success with more than 1000 teachers attending.

S. DILLON RIPLEY AWARDED N. Y. ZOOLOGICAL SOC. MEDAL

Secretary Ripley was presented the gold medal of the New York Zoological Society by Fairfield Osborn, president of the Society, January 12, for his work as an ornithologist and conservationist, and "his contributions to ever better understanding of the wonders of animal life." The medal was presented at the mid-winter meeting of the society at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

FILM SCHEDULE FOR SI FOR FEBRUARY

Following is SI's film theatre schedule through February. The films are presented every Wednesday evening in MNH auditorium at 8 p.m.

February 16: 1. Magritte. 2. Jackson Pollock. 3. Visit to Picasso. Moderator—Mrs. Adelyn D. Breeskin, Consultant, NCFA.

February 23: Brazil: The Gathering Millions. Moderator—William H. Crocker, Associate Curator, Division of Cultural Anthropology.



SI has recently received the world's largest star ruby, 138.7 carats. The ruby was a gift of Rosser Reeves (above, center) Chairman of the Board, Ted Bates Advertising Agency, NYC. The "Rosser Reeves Ruby," from Ceylon, will be displayed along with the Hope Diamond and Star of Asia in the Gem Hall, MNH. In the picture above, Secretary Ripley is shown receiving the ruby. Dr. Switzer, Chairman of the Department of Mineral Sciences, MNH, is on the right.

SI's SUMMER EDUCATION PROGRAM NOW UNDERWAY

Planning for the SI's summer education programs is once again underway. The Division of Education and Training will administer these programs. However, all students will be selected on the basis of academic qualifications and experience, and all appointments will be made with the advice of panels representing participating departments and museums.

Before February 10, the administering division hopes to receive from each organization unit, its request for the assignment of students. In addition, the specific projects on which the student will work should be made known to them. The students appointed will range from sophomores to advanced graduate students. SI employees, wishing to have certain students compete in the program, should notify the Division of Education and Training, which will send application forms to the students. Applications will be accepted up to March 1st.

TECHNIQUE TO RESTORE FADED PHOTOGRAPHS DISCOVERED

Eugene Ostroff, SI's curator of photography, has developed a technique to restore faded photographs through neutron irradiation. This technique is not being used by SI for routine restoration work because it requires the use of one of the few available nuclear reactors.



Mrs. Adelyn Breeskin, Consultant, NCFA, with Mrs. Randolph Kidder at the first event for the Society of Associates—a tour of the NCFA exhibition "Roots of Abstract Art in America 1910-1930." Mrs. Breeskin spoke to more than 150 Associates.

THE SMITHSONIAN TORCH



AN EMPLOYEES' NEWSPAPER, PUBLISHED MONTHLY

EDITORIAL BOARD: S. PAUL JOHNSTON, PAUL H. OEHSER, WILLIAM WARNER

EDITOR: ELIZABETH BEVERLEY

PHOTOS: ALBERT J. ROBINSON

SMITHSONIAN REGENT



Karsh, Ottawa

William A. M. Burden, appointed as Regent of the Smithsonian by Joint Resolution of Congress on July 2, 1962, was born in New York on April 8, 1906. In 1927 he graduated cum laude from Harvard, with an honorary D.Sc. from Carlson College of Technology in 1953. Dr. Burden has devoted the majority of his energy to finance and government.

He has been an analyst of aviation securities for Brown Brothers, Harriman & Co., in charge of aviation research for Scudder, Stevens, and Clark, and director of the National Aviation Corporation. In the national government he has worked both with the Weather Bureau and Coast & Geodetic Survey. From 1943 to 1947 he was Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Air.

Dr. Burden is the author of many magazine articles on aviation subjects and in 1943 published "The Struggle For Airways in Latin America." He is married to Margaret Livingston Partridge and has four children. His office is at 630 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

VALENTINE DANCE FOR EMPLOYEE WELFARE AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION

The Employee Welfare and Recreation Association is sponsoring the Annual St. Valentine's Dance, Friday, February 11, 1966, from 10 p.m. to 2 p.m. in the Cotillion Room of the Presidential Arms (1320 G St., NW.).

Music and entertainment will be by the "Lords of Rhythm." Dress is informal

TWO BOOKS BY SI AUTHORS HEARTILY RECEIVED

Two books by Smithsonian authors, published recently are listed below:

Early Formative Period of Coastal Ecuador (Smithsonian Contributions to Anthropology, Volume I) by Betty J. Meggers and Clifford Evans, distinguished Smithsonian archeologists. This monumental book contains 196 illustrations, a number of which show detailed similarities between Ecuadorian artifacts, principally pottery, and those of a Japanese culture that flourished about 3000 B.C. An abbreviated version of the book appeared in the Scientific American and attracted national and international attention. The authors clearly document Japanese presence in the New World thousands of years before Leif Erickson or Christopher Columbus. Drs. Meggers and Evans, who are husband and wife in private life, uncovered the bulk of their evidence at Valdivia, on the Pacific coast of Ecuador, in collaboration with Ecuadorian archeologist Emilio Estrada. The 447-page publication can be obtained for \$6.75 a copy from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

John Ewers' *Artists of the Old West*, published by Doubleday Co., sells for \$12.95 and may be obtained at the SI shop in MNH. It contains 164 illustrations and is a most vivid and authentic visual record of the Old West from 1819 to 1893, the world beyond the Mississippi as seen by 15 outstanding artist explorers. Guided by an expert in the art of the West and in Indian life, the reader meets the Plains Indians in all their glory, buffaloes, and buffalo hunters, Rocky Mountain trappers, fort-based Indian traders, emigrants on the rail, California gold-seekers, and cowboys as they were before the open West was fenced off forever. One sees the mountains, the rivers, the wildlife as they were before the white man came.

The pictures have been selected for their historical importance and reliability as well as their quality as art. Some of them have rarely appeared in books for the general reader. The reproductions drawn from many sources were engraved and printed in Milan.

and the admission is \$3.00 per person. Tickets may be purchased from your Welfare and Recreation Representative or through the Personnel Office, Room 186A, A & I Bldg. For further information call ext. 5559 or 5620.

NATIONAL MUSEUM ACT OF 1965 BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL SESSION

One of the most noteworthy and less known Smithsonian bills before the present Congress concerns the United States National Museum: the National Museum Act of 1965. Frank Taylor, Director of the U.S. National Museum (MHT and MNH), in discussing the new bill, recalled the hopes that Secretary Ripley had expressed soon after his arrival at the Smithsonian, that the USNM might become truly a national organization, using its capabilities to strengthen museums everywhere. Assistance was planned to be given to museums through a program of cooperative publications and an attack on the technical problems that face most museums today.

When the White House called for ideas for the President's State of the Union Message, the Smithsonian responded with a proposal for legislation to emphasize the enlarging educational and cultural mission of museums and enhance SI's role as a national leader in the museum field. S. 1310 was introduced in the Senate in March 1965 by Senator Pell and a similar bill (H.R. 7315) was later introduced in the House by Congressman Bow. The Council of the AAM heartily endorsed the bill and on Sept. 10 the Senate passed S. 1310, adding an appropriation limitation of \$200,000. Unfortunately, Congress adjourned before the House version was brought out of committee. Its chances of becoming law early in this second session are favorable.



Frank A. Taylor

And what exactly does the National Museum Act mean? SI proposes four operations by USNM. It is exploring these with AAM, the Office of Education, and other agencies. Projects are proposed to study and test the existing facilities for training museum technicians; to prepare a roster of museum professionals capable and willing to advise museums on construction and programs; to contract for the writing of museum manuals on security, conservation, exhibits, design and production, and other matters of universal interest to museums. Although there are many museum training programs, they are mostly inadequate to meet present-day needs of the museum community. The USNM and the AAM are cooperating to develop special training programs which could in the future include university courses.

VISITORS FROM BRAZIL AND JAPAN TO SI DEPT. OF INVERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

The Division of Crustacea is at present host to a visitor from Brazil, Jayme de Loyola e Silva of the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Parana, Curitiba, Brazil. Dr. Loyola e Silva, with the support of a Guggenheim Fellowship, is working with some of the extensive North American isopod collection, originally reported on by Harriet Richardson. In addition, he is identifying portions of the unidentified backlog of the isopod collection. Dr. Loyola e Silva will be at SI until June 1966.

And from the other side of the globe, the same division reported a visit from Tune Sakai of Yokohama National University. Dr. Sakai is associated with the Biological Laboratory of the Imperial Household of His Majesty, the Emperor of Japan, and is one of the world's leading authorities on the systematics of crabs. During his visit Dr. Sakai indicated an interest in an exchange of crustaceans between the Division of the Biological Laboratory and the Imperial Household. The exchange was initiated by Dr. Saka with a gift of three lots from the Emperor's collection.

SI FOREIGN CURRENCY PROGRAM PROGRESSING

The International Council of Museums (ICOM), at its October 1965 meeting, passed a resolution endorsing the use of excess foreign currencies for aid to foreign museums. The ICOM is preparing to apply to UNESCO for a grant of \$50,000 which would finance the development of low cost science teaching exhibits which would be duplicated for distribution to developing museums.

William Warner, Special Assistant for International Activities, Office of the Secretary, and his staff are now exploring these possibilities. Letters have been exchanged with the President of ICOM describing the Smithsonian Foreign Currency Program. Furthermore, such a use of excess currencies is proposed in the FY1967 foreign currency budget request.

EMPLOYEES NOW GIVEN NEW RIGHT FOR APPEAL

The provision of the Salary Act of 1965 which gives employees the right of appeal to the Civil Service Commission when a within-grade salary is denied, will become effective approximately January 28, 1966. Procedures for handling these appeals are being developed by the Civil Service Commission.

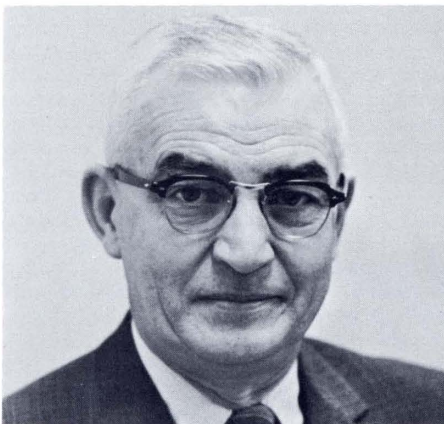
RECENT RETIREE RELAYS THANKS

Note received by the TORCH from Alphonso Jones: "I want to express sincere thanks to my friends and co-workers at the Smithsonian for the warm farewell extended to me as I embarked on my retirement."

NEW CHAIRMAN FOR DEPT. OF ENTOMOLOGY

Dr. J. F. Gates Clarke has now become Senior Scientist in the Department of Entomology, in recognition of his outstanding scientific and managerial accomplishments at SI during the last 11 years. It was largely through his efforts that entomology was established as a separate department in 1963. He will be replaced as chairman of the department by Dr. Karl Krombein, formerly a taxonomist with the Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Krombein came from Cornell University to join the old Division of Insect Identification, USDA, in 1941; most recently he has been leader of taxonomic investigations of the Hymenoptera. His taxonomic research is based as often on the total biology of the bees and wasps as it is on conventional morphology. He currently serves as consultant in entomology in the Office of the Surgeon General, Headquarters U.S. Air Force. During World War II, he collected as commanding officer and entomologist of a Malaria Survey Unit in the Air Force. His publications, over 100 in the past 30 years, include catalogs, taxonomic revisions, life history observations, and general biology reports on his specialty, the bees and wasps.



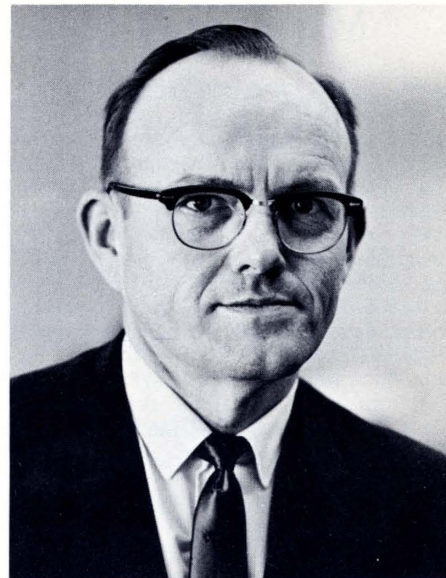
Karl Krombein

KNOW ANY SI RETIRED EMPLOYEES?

SI's retired employees are about to establish a new organization: "ARESI," Association of Retired Employees of the Smithsonian Institution. The main purpose of the organization will be to keep in greater contact with each other, old friends still at SI, and projects going on at SI in which they are all still very interested.

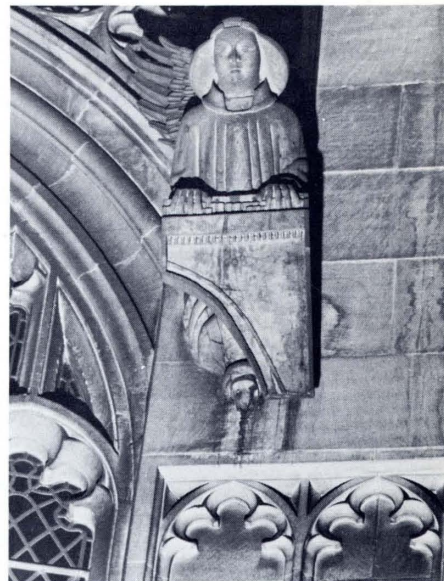
At the present time William Johnson (former asst. treasurer) is happy to perform the duties of the chairman of the organization. During the planning period, Frank J. Berek, though not yet retired, has consented to act as secretary.

The big problem now is to find the retirees who would be interested in joining. If there are any SI employees who know the names and whereabouts of retired employees, please write to Lt. Frank J. Berek, Protection Division, Company "C," MHT, SI, Washington, D.C., 20560.



Richard S. Cowan

Richard S. Cowan, recently appointed director of MNH, joined SI in 1957 as assistant curator in the Department of Botany. Previously he had taught at the University of Hawaii and was on the staff at the New York Botanical Gardens. Dr. Cowan, born in Crawfordsville, Ind., has a BA degree from Wabash College; MS from the University of Hawaii; and a Ph.D. from Columbia University. His home is now at 4409 Tonquil Place, Beltsville, Md.



Above is a photograph of a harpsichord, carved on the ceiling of Manchester Cathedral in Manchester, England, about 1465. The harpsichord, reports Helen Hollis, Division of Cultural History, MHT, was shown in 14th century manuscripts, but this is the only satisfactory photograph known to SI curators of what is believed to be the earliest illustration available of a harpsichord. It was taken from scaffolding by arrangement with Canon Collin Stephenson, Norwich Cathedral, when the Manchester area was in the process of being cleaned.

Museum of History and Technology

Second Anniversary

January 1966 is the second anniversary of the opening of the Museum of History and Technology. When Mrs. Barbara Blanton of Richmond, Virginia, entered MHT on Dec. 5, 1965, she became the 10-millionth visitor to SI's newest building. Along with Mrs. Blanton as visitors to MHT during these two years have been world leaders, heads of state, and royalty—the latest of whom were Princess Margaret and Lord Snowden. What they saw has been aptly described as a “history book written in objects” and designed to “deepen the content of American patriotism.”

The spectacular marble building is equipped to accommodate 50 exhibition halls, workrooms, thousands of study collections, laboratories, and a public cafeteria.

The history of domestic life in America is documented by a choice selection of period rooms. America's political history comes to life with campaign buttons, posters, and banners. Stamps are transformed into postal history, coins into monetary history, cars, and coaches and locomotives into a history of transportation.

Technology's progress is recorded in hundreds of patent models, in Whitney's cotton gin, Edison's light bulb, and Morse's telegraph.

The diversity of the museum's collection is extraordinary. Gowns worn by the First Ladies form one of the most popular displays. A western settler's kitchen, surviving from Gold Rush days, was assembled piece by piece, as was a complete 19th-century machine shop.

But the exhibit that usually interests all visitors is America's number one historical artifact: the original Star-Spangled Banner. This huge flag, originally 30 feet by 42 feet, was made to fly from a 90-foot-high flagpole over Ft. McHenry in Baltimore harbor. It inspired Francis Scott Key to write the National Anthem.

The scope, variety, and display of all

exhibits in MHT are unparalleled in any other single large museum. In 1964 only 12 halls were open. Sixteen have been added including a wide range of historical fields: merchant shipping, armed forces, electricity, graphic arts, musical instruments, etc. By 1968, an additional 22 halls will have been added, tracing the historical growth of the U.S., ceramics, chemistry, health, petroleum, nuclear energy, photography, underwater exploration, forest products, medicine and dentistry, etc. There seems to be no end to the variety of historical, cultural, social, and political displays, designed by the staff of SI's Office of Exhibits to educate and entertain visitors.

Since MHT's first opening, several innovations have been added, both in- and outdoors. During the past summer, shaded tables and chairs were installed on the south terrace, with vending carts serving light refreshments. During 24 days the terrace attracted 32,680 visitors, outdrawing the indoor snack bar over a comparable period. The Terrace will open again in April and close in October.

Special exhibitions opened this past year were Profiles of Poverty, Nehru Memorial, American Folk Art, and the Trotting Horse in America. Ballet and band music were standard fare on the terrace for summer. The late Adlai E. Stevenson joined the National Symphony in presenting the Lincoln Portrait to an overflow crowd of 18,000 last Memorial Day.

And the white marble building, with its staff of history and technology scholars, led by Frank A. Taylor, director, has a character all its own. Back in 1887, George Brown Goode, Smithsonian officer until 1896, believed that museum administration should become one of the learned professions, with a modern view that a museum should provide “possibilities for public enlightenment” as well as facilities for scholarly research. MHT is today this comprehensive museum which Goode envisioned.

NEW DEPT. OF AMERICAN STUDIES ESTABLISHED

The Department of American Studies has recently been established in MHT. Wilcomb E. Washburn has been designated as Chairman of the new Department for an initial period of one year. He will report to the Director, MHT, and will inform the Director, Division of Education and Training, of major, significant actions taken in connection with SI's co-operative program of graduate studies with universities.

This program provides an orientation or survey course on the opportunities for research in the history of American civilization based on the National collections in history, technology, and art; a reading course; and a dissertation course. The orientation course will be taught and graduate students supervised by Smithsonian curators on a voluntary basis. The over-all program is designed to emphasize significant aspects of American culture through interpretation of artifacts and associated documentary materials not normally available on a university campus.



Wilcomb E. Washburn

SI ARCHEOLOGICAL TEAM TO EXPLORE MEXICAN AREA

SI has recently sent a team of archeologists to the Oaxaca Valley of Mexico. Dr. Richard Woodbury, head of SI's Office of Anthropology said the study is expected to “reveal the circumstances under which settled village farming life replaced temporary camps and dependence on wild foods—thus laying the foundations for the growth of great urban centers of civilization, such as Mitla, now one of the largest and most beautiful ruins of Mexico.”

The Smithsonian-sponsored team is headed by Kent V. Flannery. The trip is planned to last for eight months. Dr. Flannery is accompanied by Aubrey Williams, Jr., an ethnologist from the University of Maryland; Michael and Anne Kirkby, Johns Hopkins University geomorphologists; James Schoenwetter, pollen analyst, Museum of New Mexico; and Wallace Ernst, paleobotanist from SI. This team of scientists will search dry caves, which help to preserve ancient materials, hoping to find tools, basketry, cloth, skeletons, vegetables, and remains of food that will reveal much about the type of people who inhabited the area centuries ago.

