

# THE SMITHSONIAN TORCH



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, WASHINGTON, D. C.

NO. 16 (NEW SERIES), MAY 1966

## OPERA BALL IN MHT WITH DIAMONDS ON DISPLAY

The Opera Ball (held last year in the French Embassy) was held May 6 in the Smithsonian's MHT Flag Hall. Peter Duchin provided the music for Washington's spring highlight. The Smithsonian put some of the most famous and ill-fated diamonds in the world on special exhibit for the occasion. The historic jewels, including earrings Louis XVI gave Marie Antoinette, and a necklace Napoleon Bonaparte gave to the Empress Marie Louise, were installed inside one of the most impenetrable and immovable display cases ever devised by any museum.

## RARE ANTARCTIC CORALS LIVING IN MNH AQUARIUM

Donald Squires, Deputy Director of MNH, is in charge of a refrigerated aquarium where some tiny and rare animals from Antarctica are now living. They arrived in an ice chest after a 6000-mile trip, most of it by air, from the west side of the frozen continent's Palmer Peninsula. This is the first attempt to transplant living deep-water Antarctic corals from Antarctica's extremely chilly waters to an artificial but comfortable environment.

## MUSEUM RECEIVES FIRST PLUTONIUM-239 SAMPLE

The world's first sample of Plutonium-239 and the cigar box in which it was stored for a quarter-century have been presented to the Smithsonian by the two scientists who "made" it—Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, (now Atomic Energy Commission Chairman) and Dr. Emilio Segrè of the University of California.

## SMITHSONIAN SEEKING FUNDS TO RENOVATE OLD COURT OF CLAIMS BUILDING

The Smithsonian has asked Congress for \$1.8 million to restore and renovate the old Court of Claims Building in downtown Washington, as a gallery of American arts, crafts, and design. A special exhibit area is planned for foreign exhibits arranged by embassies to coincide with visits of heads of state.

The old court building is at the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and 17th Street near the White House.

## SMITHSONIAN FEDERAL RECREATION ASSOC. TO BE HOST

The Smithsonian Federal Recreation Assoc. will be host to the Board of Directors of the League of Federal Recreation Associations on May 26. About 100 board members will have dinner in the MHT cafeteria.

## FRONTIER NURSING SERVICE DEPICTED IN MHT EXHIBIT

The Smithsonian has an FNS (Frontier Nursing Service) exhibit in MHT which received added notice with the showing of a film "The Last Frontier," depicting rural Kentucky 30 years ago. The film was made by Mrs. Jefferson Patterson, cousin of the late Mrs. Mary Breckinridge, founder of the Frontier Nursing Service. Shown on April 23, it depicted FNS work, which is considered a "part of medical history." The exhibit includes a saddle-bag; familiar carryall carried by all the courier nurses; nurse's uniform worn by Mrs. Breckinridge; and a diorama showing a nurse ascending a mountainside to a cabin on horseback.

## BACTERIOLOGY LABORATORY EQUIPPED FOR MHT EXHIBIT

A reproduction of a bacteriology laboratory, equipped as it would have been during the late 1880's, will be exhibited in MHT as a part of the area devoted to health and medicine. The University of Michigan has supplied the majority of items. Walter Nungester, Chairman of Michigan's Department of Microbiology, has collected and identified the articles.

## NATIONAL ZOO DIRECTOR TO BE HOST

Theodore H. Reed, Director of the National Zoo, recently attended the board meeting in San Diego of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums as future host for the meeting this fall, which will be held in Washington as part of the National Recreation and Parks Association meeting. The dates for the convention are October 9-13 and the Zoo can expect to host some 200 delegates during the convention.



Smithsonian Secretariat: left to right, seated: Asst. Sec. for Science Sidney Galler, Sec. S. Dillon Ripley, Asst. Sec. for Admin. James Bradley; standing: Philip Ritterbush, John Whitelaw, William Warner, Peter Powers, Charles Blitzer, Robert Mason, Theodore Taylor, Frank Taylor, Robert Cunningham, and Richard Berg.



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AN EMPLOYEES' NEWSPAPER, PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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

EDITOR: ELIZABETH BEVERLEY

PHOTOS: ALBERT J. ROBINSON

## SMITHSONIAN REGENT



Michael Joseph Kirwan was appointed a member of the Smithsonian Board of Regents in January 1962. He is a Congressman from Youngstown, Ohio. He was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., in December 1886. As a young boy he worked in the coal mines and later on the Pennsylvania, Lehigh Valley, and Southern Pacific Railroads, and as a yardmaster for Youngstown Northern. He is an active member of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

Congressman Kirwan traveled extensively throughout the West in his youth, working in wheat and oil fields, on ranches, and in lumber camps. During World War I, he served as an Artillery Sergeant in France. He served two terms as member of the Youngstown City Council, representing the Fourth Ward in which he still resides.

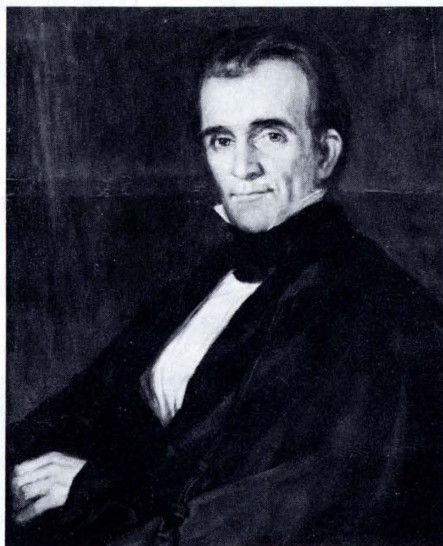
Congressman Kirwan is in his 30th consecutive year in Congress. He is a member of the powerful Committee on Appropriations and is now chairman of the subcommittee on Public Works Appropriations. He has recently been re-elected chairman of the Democratic National Congressional Committee.

Many awards and degrees have been conferred upon him, including Doctor of Humanities from Oklahoma City University; Doctor of Laws degrees from Vincennes University, Vincennes, Ind.; University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Ark.; and University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio. He has been given a Charter Life Membership in the Cowboy Hall of Fame, Oklahoma City, Okla., where such members included Will Rogers, Charles Creighton, and others who did so much in the

## NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY GIVEN PORTRAIT OF PRES. POLK

A copy of a portrait of President James K. Polk has been accepted for display at the National Portrait Gallery. Max Westfield, a well-known painter of Nashville, did the portrait from an oil painted from life by G. P. A. Healy. The original is displayed in the Polk Mansion on West Seventh Street in Columbia, Tenn.

Mr. Charles Nagel, director of the gallery, said: "This is the first gift to the gallery from a Presidential Shrine, and it is especially appropriate since the National Portrait Gallery is a bureau of the Smithsonian Institution founded during the Polk Administration."



President James K. Polk

## CHINESE KITE STILL REMAINS ON EXHIBIT

The first exhibits in the aeronautical collection of the Smithsonian were Chinese kites, not airplanes. They were obtained at the close of the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876 from the Chinese Imperial Commission. One of these kites can still be seen on exhibit in the Air and Space Building.

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development of the West. He received a Humanitarian Award from the United Labor Congress presented for staunch support of organized labor; and the Disabled American Veterans of Youngstown, Ohio, presented him with an award in recognition of his long years of dedicated service in behalf of America's disabled veterans.



Signing of Exclusive Recognition for Photo Services and Mechanical Divisions for AFGE 2463. L to R, back row, T. R. Cook, H. Alexander, Andrew Wynn, A. Robinson, Alton Stanley, Cornelius Chase. Seated, L to R, Cora Purcell, Asst. Sec. James C. Bradley, and E. Jennings.

## NAM HOLDS MEETINGS WITH U.S. AND CANADA MUSEUMS

The National Air Museum was the stage for a two-day conference of directors and curators of air museums from the United States and Canada. The purpose was to exchange ideas in areas of common interest. The meeting was considered a great success, from the opening remarks given by the Smithsonian's Asst. Sec. James Bradley, and the "Status Report on NAM" given by NAM's Director S. Paul Johnston to the closing speech on the "NAM Cataloging System" by Louis S. Casey, curator-in-charge, Flight Craft Division.

The program included addresses by Paul E. Garber, James Mahoney, Robert B. Meyer, Harry Hart, Frederick C. Durant, and Kenneth Newland, and a tour of the Silver Hill Facility where much of NAM's material is stored.



Smithsonian Society of Associates and their families are shown on the night of April 20, in MNH, when John Anglim, Chief, Office of Exhibits, and his staff gave a tour "Behind the Scenes: How Exhibits Are Prepared."

## CHANNEL 26 TO SHOW BEHIND SCENES AT ZOO

Recently Washington's educational TV station, WETA, channel 26, has been filming a half-hour program on Zoo veterinary medicine with Dr. Gray, Zoo veterinarian, and some of the Zoo's animals. It is scheduled to be televised later in the year.





Louis S. Casey, curator, NAM Aircraft Division, has recently been appointed Chairman-Secretary, Committee for Transport Museums, by the International Committee of Museums (ICOM).

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#### NAM GETS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-EXHIBITS

James A. Mahoney, Jr., has recently been appointed by S. Paul Johnston, NAM Director, as Asst. Director NAM-Exhibits. Mr. Mahoney was born in Philadelphia in March 1931 and received his B.A. degree in Industrial Design from the Philadelphia Museum College of Art. He spent four years in the U. S. Air Force from 1951 through 1954, principally in Germany. He used his free time then to travel the free world countries and explore the museums. In 1958 he joined the MHT Exhibit Staff, and left briefly in 1963 to work on exhibit designs for the new National Geographic Society Building. In October 1963 he joined the Air Museum staff, where he is presently charged with the establishment of a new Department of Exhibits, including the preservation and restoration division at Silver Hill and the visual presentation division responsible for all NAM exhibits. He will also develop exhibit design and production staff for the new air museum.



James A. Mahoney, Jr.

#### DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION REVIEWS HISTORY OF FIRST CURATOR

Recently the Associate Curator, Division of Transportation, J. H. White, was visited by Charles H. Moorefield of Columbia, S.C., the grandson of J. Elfreh Watkins. Mr. Watkins was the first curator of transportation of the U. S. National Museum, 1885. Mr. Moorefield contributed the picture of his grandfather, reproduced here.

Mr. Watkins was born in Virginia and went to Lafayette College in Easton, Pa. He was graduated as a civil engineer in 1871. In 1874, with experience behind him as a mining engineer for the Delaware and Hudson Canal Co., he earned his M. S. degree from Lafayette. He then joined the Pennsylvania Railroad, whose history he was still compiling at his death in 1903. He devoted 20 years to the U. S. National Museum, was responsible for building up the technologic collections pertaining to the transportation industry. In 1895, after working for the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 and the Field Museum in Chicago, he returned to Washington as curator of mechanical technology and superintendent of buildings of the National Museum. He remained in this position until his death. Through his 20-year association with the museum, he became an authority on the history of engineering and the mechanical arts. In 1900, he received an honorary degree of doctor of engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology.

Among his best-known publications are "The Beginnings of Engineering," 1891, "The Development of the American Rail and Track," and "The Log of the Savannah," published by the U. S. National Museum in 1889 and 1890.



J. Elfreh Watkins

#### KOHN APPOINTED DIRECTOR

Edward H. Kohn has been appointed Director of the newly created Office of Programming and Budget. The new office incorporates the present Budget Division and will be responsible for the formulation, presentation, and control of the Smithsonian Federal Budget.

Mr. Kohn comes to this position from the Science Information Exchange where he served as Executive Officer and, prior to this, from the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory.

#### HALL OF PHOTOGRAPHY OPENS NEWS EXHIBIT



Eugene Ostroff

One of the newest MHT exhibits is in the Hall of Photography, "Twenty Years of News Photography." This exhibit will be shown until July 15.

More than 100 important news photographs of the past 20 years are displayed to emphasize the vital role which photography plays in the visual reporting of news events. According to Eugene Ostroff, curator of photography, "These pictures would have been impossible but for the unique talent of the news photographer—an outstanding sense of timing to anticipate an event and the ability to do the right thing at the right time."

An added feature of the exhibit is a collection of all the Pulitzer prize-winning news photographs since 1942, when the award was first made. The winning photograph for 1966, selected on May 2, is included.

Each of the photographs on display has received nation-wide distribution by either Associated Press or United Press International during the past two decades. These news services have kindly made the photographs available for exhibition.

#### AFRICAN WITCHCRAFT LECTURE

Cyril Adler, M.D., Honorary Director of the Museum of History of Medicine, University of Witwatersrand, lectured on April 25 at MHT on African Medicine and Witchcraft.



Edward H. Kohn



# FOCUS: Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute

Once known as the Canal Zone Biological Area, the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute is now the new and more appropriate name for the Smithsonian scientific work which is growing continually in this area of the Institution's research fields.

Barro Colorado Island is approximately 2600 acres in area. The nucleus of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute is administered by the Smithsonian Institution, under Dr. Martin H. Moynihan, Director. The island is part of the Panama Canal Zone, about three miles wide and three and one-half miles long and is the largest island in Gatun Lake, created in the early 1900's in the course of the construction of the Panama Canal. The flooded area included a large hill, the top of which projected above the water level to form Barro Colorado Island.

In the early 1920's Governor J. J. Morrow reserved the area for scientific purposes under the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences. It was not until July 1940 that it was set aside permanently by Congress as a reserve to be managed by a board of directors composed of Secretaries of War, Agriculture, Interior, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the President of the National Academy of Sciences, and three eminent biologists. Thus it remained until July 1946 when it was placed under the administration of the Smithsonian.

Today, in addition to the money appropriated to the Smithsonian by Congress for the regular operations of the area, trust funds for the maintenance of the island and its living facilities are obtained by collections from visitors and scientists, and donations. Table subscriptions continue to come from scientific organizations and industrial concerns interested in different phases of tropical biological research.

Barro Colorado is particularly suitable and convenient for research on many aspects of tropical biology and the tropical environment. It is one of the few places in the American tropics close to large centers of human population yet largely unaffected by recent human activities.

The island is almost completely covered by a rich tropical forest containing a rich fauna. In a small clearing overlooking Gatun Lake, one can find laboratories, dormitories, a library (4700 volumes plus 84 periodicals), and a dining room, for the convenience of scientists and students from all over the world. A system of trails has been set up on the island to make its use readily accessible.

During the past year, 109 scientists and students representing 14 nations worked on Barro Colorado for at least several days, using many research facilities on the mainland. Of particular importance were behavioral researches on insects, fishes, amphibians, birds, and mammals; systematics of insects and arachnids; communication systems of moths, birds, and primates; and the ecology of species diversity in vertebrates and higher plants. Extensive

investigations of the acoustical properties of the island forest were conducted for the U. S. Army recently by the General Electric Corporation. Valuable studies have been and are being made on various substances for termite-proofing wood; the deterioration under tropical conditions of textiles and plywood; and the effect of tropical fungi on optical glass. The results of these and many other researches have appeared in more than 1000 publications on various phases of tropical biology, ecology, physiology, medicine, forestry, and related topics.

The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute also has authority to use a large tract of land on the adjacent mainland, near Gamboa, Canal Zone. This area is covered by various types of second growth vegetation and patches of forest which are more humid than the jungle on Barro Colorado. Studies in different habitat may be made there, since ecologically, as pointed out, this land is a complete contrast to the island.

Small marine laboratory facilities have been started on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. The staff is also conducting research in South America in Colombia and Brazil.

Dr. Martin H. Moynihan, Director, is continuing his research in this area on the communication systems and social behavior of New World primates. There are four senior staff scientists, including the director, working on Barro Colorado: Drs. Austin Stanley Reed, Robert L. Dressler, and Neal G. Smith. Five research assistants also are on the staff.



Dr. Martin H. Moynihan, Director, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

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The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute looks forward to taking part in an ever-expanding Smithsonian program for the study of tropical conditions, and is ideally located to do so.



Barro Colorado Island, Laboratory Clearing, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, overlooking Gatun Lake, Panama Canal Zone.