

# THE SMITHSONIAN TORCH



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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## HIRSHHORN ART COLLECTION TO BE UNDER SMITHSONIAN ADMINISTRATION

Joseph H. Hirshhorn and Mrs. Hirshhorn were the luncheon guests of Mrs. Lyndon Johnson at the Museum of History and Technology on May 17. Later, it was officially announced that the United States, with the Smithsonian Institution as administrator, has acquired the Hirshhorn famed art collection. Included are 5,600 paintings, drawings, and sculptures representing one of the largest private art collections in the world. The present-day value has been estimated at \$25 million to \$50 million.

The collection will be housed in a new museum with an outdoor sculpture garden which will be built on the Mall site of the Medical Museum of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. Abram Lerner, the present curator of the Hirshhorn collection, will become the first director of the new structure to be named the Joseph H. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. The bill forwarded to Congress by President Johnson authorizing construction of this museum provides for a special Board of Trustees, four to be nominated by Mr. Hirshhorn and four by the Smithsonian Board of Regents. The Chief Justice and the Secretary of the Smithsonian will be ex officio members.

In addition to the collection, Mr. Hirshhorn is also giving a million-dollar endowment for the purchase of works of contemporary art.

The collection contains probably the world's largest single assembly of American art, with examples ranging from Thomas Eakins of the mid-19th century to Willem de Kooning, the great contemporary abstractionist. Works of the 1930's by such artists of later prominence as Milton Avery, Franz Kline, Ben Shahn, Philip Evergood, and Stuart Davis are included.

The sculpture collection is international in scope, encompassing the Hittite culture, Greece's Golden Age, and late 19th- and early 20th-century masters. The contemporary collection includes such greats as Jacques Lipchitz, Marino Marini, Henry Moore, Picasso, and Giacometti.

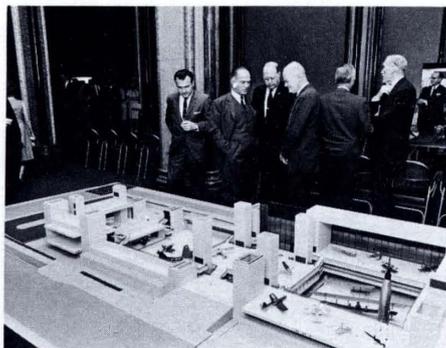
Secretary Ripley said of the collection in regard to making Washington the number two art center in the country: "We are big enough now to be able to have Washington as a foil to New York. This is what is so very exciting about this gift."



Mrs. S. Dillon Ripley, Mr. Joseph H. Hirshhorn, Mrs. Hirshhorn, and Sec. Ripley.

## SPENCER BAIRD'S BIRTHPLACE REDEDICATED IN READING, PA.

Paul H. Oehser, Research Associate, represented the Smithsonian on April 30 at ceremonies held in Reading, Pa., rededicating a plaque marking the birthplace of Spencer Fullerton Baird, second Smithsonian Secretary. The house where Baird was born in 1823, in downtown Reading, has been torn down, and on its site a modern bank building was recently erected. Through the good offices of members of the Historical Society of Berks County, the plaque was rescued and now occupies a prominent place on the new building. Mr. Oehser spoke briefly at the unveiling and also gave a talk on Spencer F. Baird at a luncheon held at the headquarters and museum of the Society. The Museum has on display an exhibit of Baird memorabilia and an exhibit of recent Smithsonian publications in history and technology.



Smithsonian Regents study the model of the new Air and Space Museum at the recent dinner when Dr. Robert Multhauf and Dr. Richard S. Cowan were sworn in as Directors of the Museum of History and Technology and the Museum of Natural History, respectively.

## ARTIST IN RESIDENCE CHOSEN FOR SMITHSONIAN

Saul Steinberg has been chosen to be the first occupant in a new position established at the Smithsonian, artist in residence. Mr. Steinberg, the brilliant New York painter and cartoonist, is often characterized as being as "delightful, charming, and interesting" as his provocative cartoons and water colors. A friend once remarked: "Steinberg enjoys talking about his work and is not at all loath to explain what he means to say."

"Within an informal framework, the artist in residence would be available for talks, avail himself to the staff and the people who drop in on him, and, hopefully, would show his own works while here," said Charles Blitzer, Director of Education and Training. The tenure of the position will be one year, as is that of the Library of Congress consultant in poetry. The artist will have an office in the National Collection of Fine Arts but will be free to allocate his talents as he sees fit. This position also further establishes one of Secretary Ripley's goals of a lively university atmosphere within the Smithsonian complex.

Mr. Steinberg has been generally elevated by the critics to lofty heights. Recently the London *Times* rated him as one of the greatest draftsmen of all time. The artist is a Rumanian-born naturalized American citizen with a unique background including studies in sociology, psychology, and architecture at Milan; service in the U. S. Navy instructing Chinese guerrillas in blowing up bridges and transporting explosives and later with the Office of Strategic Services in Africa. At the present time Mr. Steinberg is in Europe, where an exhibition of his work is running in Paris. His first tour of duty with the Smithsonian will begin next January.

## EWERS GIVEN HONORARY DEGREE BY U. OF MONTANA

John C. Ewers, Senior Scientist, Smithsonian Office of Anthropology, received an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) on June 5 at the University of Montana commencement exercises at Missoula, Mont. The sponsoring departments of the University were the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Welfare, and the Department of History within the College of Arts and Sciences.

AN EMPLOYEES' NEWSPAPER, PUBLISHED MONTHLY

EDITORIAL BOARD: S. PAUL JOHNSTON, PAUL H. OEHSER, WILLIAM WARNER  
 EDITOR: ELIZABETH BEVERLEY PHOTOS: ALBERT J. ROBINSON

SMITHSONIAN REGENT



George Herman Mahon, member of the Smithsonian Board of Regents, was born on September 22, 1900, in Mahon, La. The family of eight children moved to Loraine in Western Texas in 1908. He was reared on a cotton farm and has been engaged in farming all his life. He attended a rural school and graduated from Loraine High School, where he met his wife. In 1924 he received a B. A. degree from Simmons College, now Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., and in 1925 he received a law degree from the University of Texas Law School.

In 1925 Mr. Mahon began the practice of law in Colorado City, Tex. A year later he was appointed District Attorney and was subsequently elected to that office three times. He was elected as U. S. Representative from the 19th Congressional District of Texas in 1934. He has been re-elected at two-year intervals since that time.

In 1939 Congressman Mahon became a member of the House Appropriations Committee. He was elected to the position of Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations on May 18, 1964.

He has received honorary degrees from Wayensburg College, Pa., Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex.; Texas Technological College, Lubbock, Tex.; Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex.; and Pepperdine College, Los Angeles. In 1963 he was presented with the Congressional Distinguished Service Award of the American Political Science Association.

He and his wife have two married daughters and three grandchildren. When Congress is not in session, the Mahons live in Lubbock, Tex. While in Washington, they live in an apartment in Arlington, Va.

HAMARNEH RECEIVES AWARD FROM AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY

Sami K. Hamarneh, Curator, Division of Medical Sciences, has received the Edward Kremers Award for distinguished pharmacohistorical writing by an American at the annual meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association at Dallas, Tex. The award was made "for his meticulous scholarship and important revisionary interpretations concerning the history of pharmacy in Islamic culture," specifically, as stated by the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy's Committee, for his publication "The Rise of Professional Pharmacy in Islam," in *Medical History* 1962 and his steadily growing contribution to the history of pharmacy in the form of numerous bibliographical and historical articles of high merit relating to Islamic pharmacy, including his book (with Glenn Sonnedecker as co-author) *A Pharmaceutical View of Abulcasis Al-Zahravi in Moorish Spain* (Leiden, 1963).

Dr. Hamarneh is an American, born in Jordan, and earned his B.S. degree in pharmacy in Jordan. He subsequently received his M.S. degree from the School of Pharmacy at North Dakota Agricultural College, and his Ph.D. (with a joint major in history of pharmacy and the history of science) at the University of Wisconsin. He joined the Smithsonian Institution in 1959.

★ ★ ★



Col. John Glenn pays his first visit as a member of the National Advisory Board to the National Air Museum. Left to right: Frederick Durant, Asst. Dir., NAM; James Bradley, Asst. Sec.; Col. Glenn; and S. Paul Johnston, Dir., NAM.

TEN-YEAR PROJECT BY SAO ESTABLISHES "STANDARD EARTH"

SAO has completed a ten-year program to establish a "Standard Earth," one of the most precise representations of the earth's geometric figure and gravitational potential ever made.

The Smithsonian "Standard Earth" estimates intercontinental distances to an accuracy of less than 50 feet, as compared to previous errors of hundreds of feet. This milestone in geodetic research, based on more than 40,000 observations of artificial satellites, was announced at the Seventh Annual International Space Sciences Symposium (May 11-17) at Vienna, Austria. Five scientists presented individual papers describing different aspects of the "Standard Earth" in detail. Three papers were presented by Smithsonian Observatory scientists—Dr. F. L. Whipple, Dr. Walter Kohnlein, and E. M. Gaposchkin, and two were presented by men closely associated with the Observatory—Dr. George Veis of the National Technical University, Athens, Greece, and Dr. William E. Strange of the University of Hawaii.

The "Standard Earth" will provide reference data for future investigations of distances between points on the surface of the earth and determinations of small irregularities in the earth's gravitational field. Speaking for the Smithsonian staff, Dr. Whipple said: "This milestone in satellite tracking and analysis culminates a decade of world-wide scientific cooperation which has produced gratifying results. The potential of artificial satellites as powerful and penetrating tools for geophysical research is now generally recognized. The next decade will see them integrated completely with earthbound methodology to produce even more striking progress in understanding our earth and its past."

The following papers were also presented by members of the SAO staff at this Seventh Annual International Space Sciences Symposium: "An Inorganic Model of Martian Phenomena," Drs. Carl Sagan and James B. Pollack; "The Shape and Location of the Diurnal Bulge in the Upper Atmosphere," Dr. L. G. Jacchia and J. Slowey; "Satellite Range Measurements with a Laser at an Astrophysical Observatory," C. G. Lehr, L. A. Maestre, and P. H. Anderson; "On the Nature of Clouds and the Origin of Surface Temperature of Venus," Drs. Carl Sagan and James B. Pollack.

DEPUTY CONTRACTS COMPLIANCE OFFICER APPOINTED

James M. Murphy, BMD, has been designated as Deputy Contracts Compliance Officer, where he will assist Dr. T. W. Taylor in seeking compliance with the provisions of the Executive Order pertaining to nondiscrimination in employment by Government contractors and subcontractors.



The Society of Associates was treated to some cartoon chalk-talk capers by Milton Caniff, creator of Col. Steve Canyon, who is seen above with his original character.

#### MUSEUM SERVICE HAS NEW ACTING DIRECTOR

Meredith Johnson has become Acting Director of the Smithsonian Museum Service with responsibility for special events, visitor services, orientation programs, and arranging for Smithsonian social activities.

#### SOCIETY OF ASSOCIATES GAINS ACTING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

G. Carroll Lindsay has become the Acting Executive Secretary of the Smithsonian Society of Associates. He will continue to plan and develop this important program founded to stimulate interest and active participation in the Smithsonian's work among the millions of people who visit the Institution and others in this country and abroad. Mr. Lindsay continues to retain supervision over the Smithsonian's Museum Shops. His new telephone extensions are 5156 and 5157.

#### ZOO MAY HAVE PART OF BELMONT FARM PROPERTY

The 340-acre Belmont Farm property near Baltimore, recently acquired by the Smithsonian, is being developed as a conference center. The National Zoo, however, has been granted permission to use part of this property—the two barns and a large part of the pastures and woodlands—as a research and experiment station. They will establish herds of about six species of hoofed animals. A house is available for a resident farm manager. Estimates have been prepared of the costs of fencing, water supply, barn repairs, and other improvements. The Zoo is seeking a foundation grant to support it and, if received, will take only a few months to arrange the animals on the land.

#### MEGGERS' BOOK ON ECUADOR JUST OFF PRESS

Betty J. Meggers' book *Ecuador* was published on May 23 by Praeger in the "Ancient Peoples and Places" series. It will be sold from the Smithsonian shop desks and will cost, as all books in this series, \$7.50.

Dr. Meggers and her husband, Dr. Clifford Evans, left on June 3 for Brazil where they will synchronize the field studies of nine Brazilian archeologists just completing their first year of field work under the grant given to Meggers and Evans by the Smithsonian for work in Brazilian archeology. The visit of the two Smithsonian researchers will help to keep the Brazilian group working in the same parallel manner, so that at the close of the project they will have aimed for the same goal.

Summer is coming, and so are vacations. Here is a reminder to those holding parking permits. It is requested you advise Mrs. Pflieger, extension 5258, when you plan to take leave in order that your parking space may be assigned to the next person on the pending point list for that period of time. Your cooperation will be appreciated in complying with this regulation so that others may have the privilege of using your space while you are away.

#### DIRECTOR OF U.S. NATIONAL MUSEUM MOVES OFFICE

Frank A. Taylor, Director of the United States National Museum, now has offices located on the East Gallery of the A & I Bldg., Rooms 56 and 57. His extension is 5452.

#### PERSONNEL INTERESTED IN RIFLE TEAM

All personnel interested in joining the Smithsonian small-bore 22 cal. or 30 cal. rifle team, call Joseph M. Young, ext. 5502. Leave name and extension number.



Lodge 2463, Federation of Government Employees, is shown purchasing a \$500 bond as the first contribution in the new bond drive at the Smithsonian. Albert Robinson, president, is showing the bond to James Bradley, Asst. Sec.



Anders Richter, Director of the Smithsonian Press, reported for duty May 2. He is directing the wide-ranging editorial and publishing activities of the Smithsonian Institution. The former Editorial and Publications Division has been renamed the Smithsonian Press.

#### PHILADELPHIA VICTORIAN MANSION LIBRARY REMOVED TO SMITHSONIAN

A room from a Philadelphia Victorian mansion has been reconstructed in the Museum of History and Technology. It is the library of the Benjamin B. Comegys mansion, built about 1870 and demolished in 1959. Before demolition, the library was removed piece by piece by the Smithsonian, which regards it "as one of the most authentic period rooms in any museum." C. Malcolm Watkins, Curator of Cultural History, said that the library symbolized "the literary orientation of the well-read 19th-century gentleman."

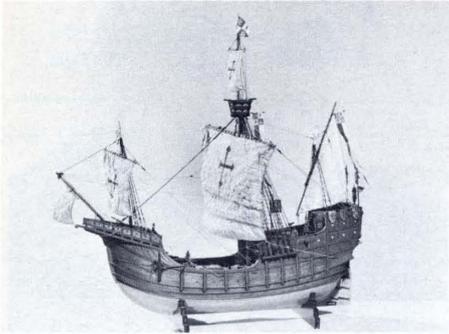
#### ZOO ACQUIRES FOSSA

The National Zoo now has one of the rarest of captive animals, a fossa, which looks like a long-tailed cat. It is described, however, as a "large, brown, unstriped carnivorous mammal of Madagascar which has the form of a huge weasel (twice the size of a house cat), and like a weasel is lithe, active and bloodthirsty." Fossas, about three feet long with tails as long as their bodies, live in the wild only on the island of Madagascar. Because they raid henhouses and even carry off small goats they are not particularly popular.

Nevertheless, zoos have not found it a simple matter to obtain fossas for their collections. The National Zoo had one from 1954 until its death in 1962. Early in the century a few were found in the London, Paris, and Bronx zoos, but none has been seen recently.

The National Zoo's new acquisition (a male) is credited to John Eisenberg, a new resident scientist who is winding up a study mission to Madagascar. While there he obtained from the government the fossa now on exhibit at the Zoo.

# FOCUS: HOWARD I. CHAPELLE AND THE SANTA MARIA



Model of *Santa Maria* in Museum of History and Technology.

The Smithsonian's employees can be personally interested in the *Santa Maria*, docked at Pier 3, Maine Avenue, Southwest, for one of their own employees, Howard I. Chapelle, Curator in Charge, Division of Transportation, Department of Science and Technology, served as consultant to Laurence H. M. Vineburgh, the ship's owner, on the design and construction of this ship.

Mr. Chapelle is one of the world's outstanding authorities on the history of naval architecture. The present *Santa Maria* is the latest in a series of reconstructions. It incorporates the results of the most recent research in Renaissance naval architecture. Mr. Chapelle made four official trips to Spain before the launching of the *Santa Maria* in 1963. The ship at the pier on Maine Avenue is acclaimed as the most satisfactory representation of Columbus's original flagship which discovered America in 1492. Into it went the finest of educated reconstruction based on exhaustive research.

The Smithsonian today has on exhibit a model of the *Santa Maria* in the section of marine transportation in MHT. As



Figures at the Rudder Tiller. Above on the right can be seen a bird cage. Sailors of the 15th century were known to have birds for pets.

the *Santa Maria* was being built at Barcelona at Mr. Hidalgo's model studio in the old arsenal, the model now on exhibition in MHT was constructed with the very same plans (scale, 1/40 original size).

Jose Maria Martinez-Hidalgo y Teran, Curator of the Maritime Museum of Barcelona, Spain, was the naval architect for the *Santa Maria*. After nine years of research in the museums and Naval archives of the world, Sr. Martinez-Hidalgo completed his plans. With Mr. Chapelle's help, a ship was constructed which was qualified to sail the Ocean and Seven Seas. Over-all, this 110 ton vessel is 80 feet in length, with a 25-foot beam. Her main mast is 80 feet tall.

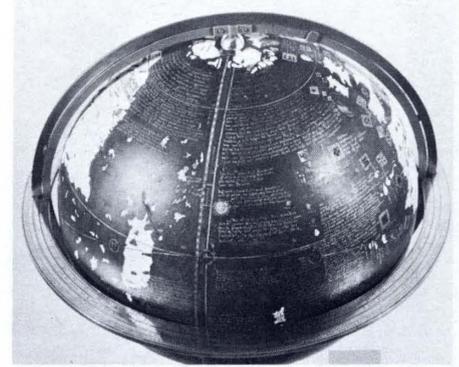
In the hold of the *Santa Maria* are 12 dioramas depicting the events of Christopher Columbus's first voyage and return. These dioramas were specifically constructed by the Scenic Department of the Barcelona Opera House under the direction of Señor Cabanes, an outstanding Spanish artist. They are valued at over \$100,000 for they are the only three-dimensional dioramas ever constructed depicting 12 historic events in the life of Columbus.

The *Santa Maria* is outfitted in complete detail and was built with 15th-century tools and by 15th-century methods. Her sails were woven on 15th-century looms and her iron wrought on a forge that had been in continuous use for over 500 years.

And now that a small taste of the educational and cultural items for the ship for which Mr. Chapelle did his research has been given, here are a few reminders of facts concerning the historical captain of the *Santa Maria's* crew. Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa in the year 1451. He worked, as a young man, with his family who were weavers and wool carders. In 1477 he was shipwrecked off the coast of Portugal. He swam ashore and arrived in Lisbon where he apprenticed himself as a map maker. Columbus's first voyage, financed partially by the Spanish court and given royal support, sailed on August 3, 1492, from Palos, Spain, to the Canary Islands and then due west to the Indies. His destination was Japan. Thirty-three days later the island now known as Watling Island (San Salvador) was sighted. The winds had been favorable throughout the journey. There were no storms, and the voyage was completed with virtually no difficulties.

Columbus made three other voyages to the New World, the last on May 11, 1502, with four ships and 140 men. Accompanied by his son, Ferdinand, and his brother, Bartolome, they returned to Spain in November 1504 after exploring the coasts of Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Panama.

Two years later Columbus died at the age of 55, broken in spirit and out of favor with the court, and never to know he had discovered the American Continent.



The Martin Behaim Globe of 1492. This replica of the Behaim Globe, soon to be on exhibit in MHT, affords an idea of how Columbus pictured the relation of Europe and Asia. The large island in the lower left quadrant is Columbus's Xipangu (Japan). Spain is clearly visible in the upper right quadrant. It was while at Cuba that Columbus was convinced he had reached Xipangu and that the Asia of the Khans was close at hand.

The 17th Cristobal Colon, Duque of Veragua, Admiral of the Indies, is alive today. He is an officer in the Spanish Navy and has inherited all the titles granted his great ancestor by Ferdinand and Isabella. He is still called the Admiral of the Indies.

Columbus opened the New World of the Western Hemisphere, the Unknown of that day. He was indeed the "Space Man" of 1492. The Smithsonian is grateful to Mr. Chapelle for his part in recreating the Christopher Columbus *Santa Maria* "Space" Ship of 1492 as a cultural, educational, and historical display.



Looking toward the bow of the *Santa Maria*. The decks were used for the crew of 40 to sleep at night. Pig iron dipped in hot tar provided ballast.