Nine Smithsonian-Related Bills Authorized By 89th Congress; Four Executives Get Pay Boosts

The recently adjourned 89th Congress, considered by some political scientists to be the most productive in history, did very well by the Smithsonian, clearing for Presidential approval nine bills affecting Institution programs and personnel.

S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary of the Institution, released to the Torch the following landmark Smithsonian legislation passed by the Congress:

The National Museum Act, approved by President Johnson in October, is designed to increase the capacity of the Smithsonian to provide information, advice, and assistance to museums in the United States and abroad.

"true and trustworthy," explained Secretary Ripley, "furnishes the legislative framework for programs of museum training, research, conservation, surveys and publications" to be carried out by the Director of the National Museum.

"The Institution," Mr. Ripley added, "will conduct programs by cooperating with other museums and national and regional professional societies."

On November 7, 1966, the President approved legislation to establish the Joseph H. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. This act contains a ceiling of $15,000,000 for funds authorized to be appropriated for planning and constructing the Museum and Sculpture Garden.

The 5,600-piece Hirshhorn collection, valued at $25 million, will be situated on a site now occupied by the Medical Museum.

Presidential approval was given in July 1966 for the construction of a $44 million National Air and Space Museum on the Mall directly opposite the National Gallery of Art.

When completed the monumental structure will be equipped to handle more than 50,000 visitors daily and make possible the first comprehensive display of the national aerospace collections, more than five percent of which is now available for public viewing.

On November 2, the President approved a bill to compensate at Executive Salary Act levels four administrative positions of the Institution.

SI executives who positions now will be classified at levels comparable with those in other Federal agencies include Frank A. Taylor, Director of the U.S. National Museum; Sidney R. Galler, Assistant Secretary for Science; Fred F. Whipple, Director, Smithsonian Astro-

physical Observatory; and the yet-to-be-appointed Assistant Secretary for Arts and History.

President Johnson in July 1966 approved legislation authorizing the Attorney General to transfer to the Smithsonian Title of the Von der Heydt Collection of jade, stone, and bronze objects.

Edward Von der Heydt, a Swiss national, donated these objects to the Buffalo Museum of Science prior to and during World War II. By vesting order dated August 21, 1951, the Attorney General acquired these objects as property of an enemy as defined in the Trad ing with the Enemy Act. The adjudicated value of this collection is $250,000.

In October 1965 legislation was approved increasing appropriations authority to support scientific programs at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute from $10,000 to $350,000 per year.

Significant to the Smithsonian was passage of the National Museum Act, approved legislation authorizing the bicentennial celebration of the birth of James Smithson, and Smithsonian authority to negotiate concession agreements with non-profit organizations at the National Zoo.

Damkaer to Supervise SI Marine Sorting Center Established Near Tunisia

David Damkaer, 28, formerly supervisor of plankton at SI Marine Sorting Center, is now in Tunisia as director of the new Mediterranean sorting center there.

The center was set up in cooperation with the National Scientific and Technical Institute for Oceanography and Exploration at Palermo, Sicily. It will be supported by excess foreign currency which has accumulated in Tunisia from the sale of U.S. surplus foods.

A graduate of the University of Washington, Damkaer is the only American staff member at the center.

The Mediterranean Sea has attracted marine biologists for its biological riches and the fact that it has been studied by the scientists in question of considerable past efforts, which have seldom been international, the opportunities for oceanographic research in the Mediterranean have been rarely recognized.

The Tunisian unit will operate as a regional marine biology center and receive environmental data and bulk collections of oceanographic expeditions, especially in the Mediterranean.

The Center will sort the bulk collections and distribute data and samples to scientists and research institutions around the world.

Four other citizen regents.

Other citizens have joined a very limited group of Americans. Three persons were chosen by the Congress to serve in this capacity as citizen regents. Only four other citizen regents, including Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, have been appointed to four terms.

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Fair Weather Brings Crowds

Easter-like weather brought out Easter holiday crowds last week. With the temperature in the mid-60's, more than 182,000 visitors toured the Smithsonian buildings, an increase of nearly 12,000 over the total for the four days in 1965.
SI Aerospace Museum: Gets WW II Documents

The Department of Defense has decided there is no longer anything to hide in some 60,000 German and Japanese aeronautical research documents captured after World War II.

The documents, which had been classified, recently were turned over to the National Air and Space Museum.

NASM Director S. Paul Johnson said the documents are recorded on 900 reels of microfilm which will become part of the museum's research center collection.

White Tiger Loses Mate; Plaque Will Designate Zoo's Vanishing Species

The National Zoo's handsome Bengal tiger, Samson, died this week at age 11. Samson, who had been at the zoo for several weeks, leaves Mohini, the nation's only white tiger, without mates. Young son, Razan, is expected to fill the role, according to Zoo Director Theodore H. Reed.

Endangered and vanishing animals are fast becoming a major problem throughout the world. The zoo, for example, will designate with plaques 24 species in its collection as threatened with extinction: Hairless-nosed wombat, Golden marmoset, Orangutan, American red wolf, timber wolf, spectacled bear, Grizzly Bear, Peter's bearded dragon, Aculeata, and Indian lincolners. Also White rhinoceros, Black rhinoceros, Pygmy rhinoceros, Pere David's deer, Anoa, Bighorn sheep, Komodo dragon lizard, Duncan saberback tortoise, South Alhambra tortoise, American alligator, Trumpeter swan, Nene goose, and Giant Canada goose.

Incidentally, the Museum of Natural History has an exhibit labeled "Extinction," featuring Martha—stuffed and modestly perched on her perch—the world's last Passenger Pigeon.

Her story, and that of the Zoo's endangered species, is one of the tragic sagas of our nation's wildlife.

Greek Tracker Added; To SAO's World Unit

Director Fred L. Whipple said the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory has enlisted the National Technical University of Athens in a globe-girdling satellite tracking network. The Greek university is the 15th station to join SAO's network subsidized by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

About SI People

Jack Whitelaw Soares A First; Benson, Van Beek Dig Carthage

Jack Whitelaw, who must have the SI's longest title—special assistant to the assistant secretary—is the first Smithsonian employee ever to be enrolled in the Congressional Fellowship Program. Jack will spend several months on the Hill. . . . Richard H. Benson and Gus Van Beek of MNH are considering the feasibility of a research project in ancient Carthage. Benson is a specialist in marine geology; Van Beek, old world archeology. They envision 5 to 10 years of work there, resulting in a complete excavation of Punic remains. This would be the first project of its kind there. . . . However else you felt about Sophy Burnham's Washingtonian article on the Smithsonian, the Fenykovi elephant was never more imaginatively photographed. . . . John Carroll, mail clerk in USNM's office of the registrar, handles about 2000 incoming letters a week, some addressed to "Smith's Onion Institute." . . . John White of SAO and co-author of the British-revered "Stonehenge Decoded," turned up in another recently published book, "John Fitzgerald Kennedy—As We Remember Him." William Walton, made this statement in the book: "In Washington, I lived on N Street, near 34th, and he (Jack Kennedy) rented a house around the corner, in about '48. And I knew Jackie separately. She was working on the "Times-Herald," and I had a friend who was a reporter there, named John White. She thought John White was just about the most intellectual man she'd ever met—he collected all kinds of books." . . . Eva Merbach, MHT's curator of mathematical instruments, is serving this semester as visiting professor of the history of science and technology at the University of Pennsylvania . . . . John Latham, special assistant in the National Collection of Fine Arts, just returned from Brazil where he made advanced arrangements for the American exhibition of the Sao Paulo Bienal, for the space required by NCFA in September 1967. The show will be here in January 1968 . . . . The east door lobby of the SI Building is fast becoming an art gallery of sorts. Under the direction of Mary Bootstrap Howland, chairman of MNH's department of art, the lobby has been dressed up in cocoa brown (74) and on the walls hang a number of works ranging from an acrylic, "Red Wagon" to an oil portrait of "Vinnie Ream." (Some say the acrylic is really a beach towel in disguise.) . . . .

End of December, 1966
Smithsonian's Most Unusual Gift: 19th Century Foundling Left Here

By Sam Sorrati

On June 1, 1863, in the midst of the anguish and confusion which gripped Washington during the Civil War, the Smithsonian received from an anonymous donor, what can only be described as its most unusual gift.

Mary Henry, daughter of the first Secretary of the Smithsonian, recorded in her diary that they "had found an addition to the family in the shape of an infant which had been left at the door of the Institution."

The gift had no accession record, and very little is known about its eventual disposition: one can only speculate about the infant's origins and what it turned out to be as an adult.

Perhaps it was the product of wartime passion, the father being killed in battle, or merely marching off without the occasion being solemnized or the product legitimized. Then the mother, knowing of the origin of James Smithson, thought that her child would fare best in the hands of Smithson's Institution. Or, she might have considered the child as a trophy of war suitable for inclusion in the National Museum.

The Henry family, which lived in the East Wing of the Smithsonian building, had recently suffered the loss of an only son, William, but they did not wish to replace him with the foundling.

After a few weeks residence at the Smithsonian the infant was taken to an orphanage from which he was returned to the Henrys for occasional visits. Mention of the infant disappears after a year or two and its name and future remain a mystery.

Ass't. Secretary Bradley Given SI's Highest Honor

On November 16, James Bradley, Assistant Secretary, was given the Exceptional Service Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Smithsonian Institution.

In making the award Secretary Ripley said:

"The dedication Mr. Bradley has shown to the Smithsonian and the amount of energy he has devoted to the guidance and development of its programs, far exceeds the performance expected of any individual. Mr. Bradley's assistance, to me, has been unequivocal since I became the Institution's eighth Secretary. Each year he has continued competently and skillfully in achieving our objectives."

"This ennobling, national legislative year, I am convinced, has been accomplished in large part through Mr. Bradley's resourcefulness, perseverance and personal drive. Not only have we accomplished a rather remarkable severance and personal drive. Not only have we accomplished a rather remarkable..."
DIALOGUE IN CAMBRIDGE

An Observatory's Lament, Or "No Sir, We Do Not Belong To Harvard"

It goes without saying that we cringe at the reference "nation's attic" when applied to the venerable S.I. Consider, however, the plight of one James C. Cornell, erstwhile public information officer at SAO, who spends a good time of his day trying to define, defend, describe, and decipher our Cambridge unit to the inquirer. Jon offers the following as an example of "a daily dialogue in Cambridge."

CALLER: Hello, is this the Astronomical Laboratory?

PIO: This is the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. Can I help you?

CALLER: I didn't know the Smithsonian Institute was in Cambridge.

PIO: Well, sir, it isn't. What I mean is, you have a call from a museum and it's a bureau of the Smithsonian Institution.

CALLER: But I thought the Cambridge Observatory was part of Harvard.

PIO: Oh, no, sir. The Smithsonian Observatory is located on Harvard property, but it isn't a part of the University.

CALLER: You mean the University doesn't have an observatory?

PIO: Yes, sir, er, I mean no. They have the Harvard College Observatory under Dr. Goldberg.

CALLER: Isn't Dr. Menzel the director?

PIO: No, sir. He used to be director of the Harvard Observatory, but now he's joined the Smithsonian staff.

CALLER: You mean the Harvard astronomer?

PIO: Well, he used to be a Harvard astronomer, I mean, he still is, but he's really director of the Smithsonian, too, and has been since we moved to Cambridge in 1955.

CALLER: Who's Dr. Goldberg, then?

PIO: Oh, he's a former Smithsonian staff member who's the new director of the Harvard College Observatory. Of course Smithsonian and Harvard still cooperate on many projects, but the two observatories are really independent of each other.

CALLER: Well, anyhow, I want to bring my kids to see the exhibits in the museum.

PIO: Well, they don't have any telescopes. Our scientists analyze data from satellites and conduct laboratory experiments and make theoretical computations and so forth. And they don't have any astronomy at the laboratory.

CALLER: I thought you said you were part of the Smithsonian Institute.

PIO: I did, but that's the Institute in Washington, and this is a research facility. We only have computers and laboratories in Cambridge.

CALLER: But you said this was an observatory.

PIO: I know I said, sir, but we really aren't an observatory, that is, not in the literal sense. I mean we don't have any telescopes. Our scientists analyze data from satellites and conduct laboratory experiments and make theoretical computations and so forth.

CALLER: Then why all those domes at Garden Street?

PIO: Oh, those belong to Harvard. But they don't use them, either. Actually, Harvard's observatory is at Harvard—Harvard, Massachusetts, that is—a little town about 30 miles west of Harvard Square.

CALLER: You gotta have telescopes to be an observatory, don't you?

PIO: Well, we have field stations for tracking satellites and we also send up special telescopes aboard satellites and balloons.

CALLER: Oh, so you're part of NASA.

PIO: Well, not exactly, we do track satellites under a grant from NASA, but...

CALLER: Don't you do any astronomy at the laboratory?

PIO: Of course the Observatory does. It's not exactly astronomy. You see, we do astrophysics. I mean, astronomers only look at the motions of celestial bodies, but astrophysicists are more concerned with the physical properties of these bodies, so our astronomers are really physicists and geophysicists who are studying the shape and size of the earth and the atmosphere, and the relationships between solar energy and atmospheric phenomena. We also analyze meteorological material that has fallen on earth and we are studying the origins of life in the lab and so forth.

CALLER: But, you gotta do some kind of observing to be an observatory!

PIO: Sure, like I said, we have these Baker-Nunn cameras to provide precise photographic data on satellites and comets, plus other stations such as the Harvard-Smithsonian Meteor Project headed up by Dr. Hawkins of Boston University.

CALLER: Boston University? What happened to the Institute? And Harvard?

PIO: Well, he's also on staff at Harvard's, too, and I almost forget, we'll soon have an observatory—a real observatory—in Arizona.

CALLER: With a big telescope.

PIO: Not exactly. I'll really be a well, a giant "light bucket." You know, a big dish to look for gamma-rays which no one has ever seen before and...

CALLER: Dish? Bucket? Is the government paying for this?

PIO: Well, yes, I suppose you could say so, in a way.

CALLER: Is your Lab a government agency?

PIO: Well, not exactly. You see, the Observatory is a bureau of the Smithsonian.

CALLER: And that's a government agency isn't it?

PIO: Well, not exactly. Actually, it's an "establishment" of the U.S. Government. You see this guy, Smithsonian, left all his money to the United States and...

CALLER: I don't remember any Smithsonian in my American history books.

PIO: That's because he was an Englishman who had never seen America, but who...

CALLER: Forget it. Say, what if I jumped by to see some of those computers and labs at Observatory Hill on Garden Street?

PIO: Sure, come ahead. There's only one thing... The computers are actually at 185 Alewife Brook Parkway and that's about a mile and a half from Garden Street. And you can't even stop by my office first. It's at 5 Bay State Road, on that little street half-way between the other office, and adequate curator of graphic arts, has gathered all of the master's landscape etchings but one. Only two known copies of the missing print, "The Bull," exist, one in England and one in the Netherlands. A photograph of the missing print is included in the exhibition, which the Evening Star's art critic called the most important currently in the area.

The other "big name" is Gilbert Stuart, renowned American portraitist. The first two Stuarts acquired by the National Portrait Gallery are on display with other recent acquisitions in the Arts and Industries Building.

Rembrandt and Stuart Challenge Pop Artists

In December Exhibitions

The flashy, modern Biennale art in the Museum of Natural History Art Hall (see page 1) is not the only exhibition drawing art buffs to SI this month. The old masters are proving that their appeal is not outdated in special showings featuring two of the art world's best-known names.

Rembrandt, history's outstanding etcher, is the attraction at MHT, where Peter Moore, associate curator of graphic arts, has gathered all of the master's landscape etchings but one. Only two known copies of the missing print, "The Bull," exist, one in England and one in the Netherlands. A photograph of the missing print is included in the exhibition, which the Evening Star's art critic called the most important currently in the area.

The other "big name" is Gilbert Stuart, renowned American portraitist. The first two Stuarts acquired by the National Portrait Gallery are on display with other recent acquisitions in the Arts and Industries Building.

Likenesses of Major General Samuel Smith (1752-1839) and his wife, Margaret Spear, were donated to the Smithsonian by Dr. B. Noland Carter, a Cincinnati physician, and his wife. The portraits, which have never been out of the family, are a major acquisition, according to gallery director Charles Nagel.

Come Fly With Me

If you like to fly, or think you might, exhibits specialist Ralf Nelsen would like to hear from you. He is organizing a flying club which will purchase its own airplane. Being a licensed pilot it is not necessary, Nelsen says. If interested, call him on 5181.