Selection of Gordon Bunshaft as architect and Abram Lerner as director of the Joseph H. Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden has been announced by Secretary Ripley.

Mr. Bunshaft, 57, a partner in the New York firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, has designed a number of significant buildings, including the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library which will rise on the University of Texas campus in Austin.

Other notable designs by Bunshaft are the Lincoln Center, the Belknap Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University, the Banque Lambert in Brussels, Belgium, and the Lever House, in New York.

A graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he is currently a member of the Commission on Fine Arts in Washington.

Mr. Lerner, 53, has for the past ten years served as curator of the Hirshhorn Collection, which the New York financier-philanthropist donated to the United States in May 1966.

As curator, Mr. Lerner will be charged with the awesome task of cataloguing the 4,000 paintings and 1,500 pieces of sculpture that comprised the most valuable collection of its kind in private hands.

Lerner's influence and guidance on the growth of the $25 million collection is a result of both his curatorial ability and training. The native New Yorker holds a B.A. degree in art history and education from the City College of New York and a Master of Arts degree in art history from the University of Sussex, England.

Some 300 scholars, administrators, legislators and members of the Smithsonian staff will participate in an international symposium on "The Quality of Museum Environments" February 16, 17, and 18.

The symposium, supported by the Ford Foundation, is the second annual international convention of scholars in a series that began with the James Simon Bicentennial last year.

The Right Honorable Jennie Lee, Minister for the Arts in Great Britain, will provide a "re-examination of the premises underlying present attitudes and methods for dealing with the physical environment," Secretary Ripley said.

He added that he hopes the symposium will give planners of the physical environment "a new sense of direction and a new structure of knowledge, derived from past experiences and able to influence present and prospective purposes."

NOT FOR SALE—Six-month-old cheetahs attract the attention of downtown shoppers to their temporary home in the windows of Woodward & Lothrop Department Store. A gift from the store to the Zoo, they were put on display after Christmas along with exotic birds and a baby elephant.

Although Zoo personnel supervised the care of the animals the elephant died, from a congenital lung deformation. The cheetahs and the birds, some of them students initiated last fall, will be at the Zoo by January 26 for their permanent home in Rock Creek Park.

Architect, Director Named for Hirshhorn

Gordon Bunshaft
New York University. He also had five years of subsequent study in various art schools in the City. Lerner was among those who advocated that the Collection be turned over to the U.S. and located in Washington, D.C. Said Lerner: "The new museum will give the Nation's Capital a fresh look at 20th century American art and focus its attention on recent developments here and abroad. In addition, the Museum will house an unequaled survey of sculpture from the middle of the 19th century to the present."

The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden will embrace many of the things other Washington galleries have been trying to put together, and, as Lerner emphasized, "it will complement and add new perspective to the fine collections that already exist in the National Capital."

As director, Lerner envisions a program of rotating exhibitions from the permanent collections, special exhibitions featuring current art and sculpture in the United States and Europe, and an active educational program directed toward meeting the demands for new public interest in the visual arts.

He also expects that the new museum will become an important center of national and international exhibitions in this medium held at regular intervals.

The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, which carries with it $1 million for the purchase of additional works, will be situated on the National Mall. It is expected that it will be completed within the next three years.

International Symposium

Set for February 16-18

Emperor, Baker Nunn to Share Space on Stamp

Ras Tafari Makonnen, king of Abyssinia, Lion of Judah, the Eelect of God, Emperor Haile Sellassie of Ethiopia will share the commemorative stamp with an SAO Baker Nunn outfit to mark the opening of the new science research station of the Debre Zeit.

A cooperative venture of the Haile Sellassie I University and SAO, the station will be dedicated by the Emperor on February 8, when the Ethiopian government will issue the stamp.

Robert Citron is field manager of the station, which is equipped with a giant, 3-ton, 8-foot-high camera capable of recording images 3,000 times fainter than those seen by the unaided eye. An electronic clock, accurate to ten-thousandths of a second, will help make the observations precise.

Construction of the station last summer was accompanied by what could have been a disaster for SAO. Deep cracks opened in a valley of the Ethiopian Rift, about 44 miles southeast of the Debre Zeit facility. Such activity is frequently followed by volcanic eruptions, and there are two volcanoes within 70 miles of the SAO output.

The eruptions did not occur, and there was no immediate damage to the station. But there could have been an effect that won't show up for years. The geographic position of the facility could have been changed by the earth movement. Surface surveys and geodetic measurements by satellite photography will determine any shift.

Additionally, the Baker Nunn camera made its first successful satellite photograph in its new site on a day of intense fortuning.

In May 1966, Secretary Ripley, with a view to the promotion of modern sculpture, held a competition in the United States and Europe for a large outdoor sculpture to be placed in the Hirshhorn Collection.

The winning entry was "Outpost," a monumental bronze sculpture by Gordon Bunshaft, 57, a partner in the New York firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. It will be installed in Washington, D.C., in an important center of modern sculpture.

In addition to the winning entry, three other designs were selected for display at the Competition. They were "New York" by Wilcomb Washburn, chairman, Department of American Studies; "Swords into Plowshares" by Gordon Bunshaft; and "Fountain" by Asa Briggs, vice-chancellor, University of Sussex, England.

"It was a disaster for SAO. Deep cracks opened in a valley of the Ethiopian Rift, about 44 miles southeast of the Debre Zeit facility. Such activity is frequently followed by volcanic eruptions, and there are two volcanoes within 70 miles of the SAO output."
Neither Strike, Nor Wreck
Nor Revolution Stay SAO

By John White

"Mr. Smithsonian has been aston­
imated to learn that his bequest to the United States would have led to support of astrophysical studies in Argentina, 5,000 miles away. During the past 12 months the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory has designed modern controls for the largest telescope in South America—the 61-inch reflector of the Cordoba observatory, located on a 4,000-foot mountain in Western Argentina near the SAO satellite tracking station at Villa Dolores."

So begins a report on "The Cordoba Project" by SAO's Dr. Mark Heiles, who says: "We haven't space to print his whole re­port here, but it's more interesting than traumatic, with a happy ending. Here are some of the high, low, and medium points:

1) The big telescope which has been set up since 1932 is only good but mechanically bad when Dr. Page had occasion to use it, for study of southern-sky galaxies, in 1964—the battery-powered motor drive was "so antiquated, inconvenient and inefficient" that three people were needed to man the controls. So he headed to Smithsonian, and in the spring of 1965 was granted $10,000 to modernize the control mechanism.

2) Since 1965, the observatory has been used by a lot of volunteer astronomers, but the instrument has been under construction for over five days.

3) At last, everything was released and cleared, and once more all seemed well, except that the new observatory was financed, in part, by a donation of $1,250,000 from the Swedish Exchange between Science and Industry, which has on its books an 1891 law that states that no one may fly a kite, parachute, or balloon here under a penalty of $100.

4) Nobody was hurt.

5) Argentinians are so much in favor of freeze-drying that the first time they used this technique through which subject were preserved without being harmed, they only spent $100,000, which is more than our present price of $1,800.

6) We hope so.

7) And we think it is Amazing and Wonderful and a great credit for SI.

8) "The Pursuit of Beauty," Alton Tobey's work depicts such quaint folk customs as dental, foot, head, and body modifications. The letter was signed "M. Bedini." You'll remember the author as the author of the New York Times bestseller "I would like to say I thought the picture of the elephant's hindparts was cute, but I do hope the article has not made hindparts of your magazine." The letter was signed "M. Bedini." You'll remember the author.

9) However, SAO engineer Julio Monjes (an Argentine by birth) man­aged to shepherd most of the staff to New York by truck, to Buenos Aires by unstruck aircraft, through Customs as property of the new government, on to Cordoba by airplane and truck, and all seemed well, except

10) at Cordoba the airline would not release the shipment for a long time—"no evidence of payment of $1,000 air freight charges"—and

11) officials were so busy that Monjes and his moving companies had to wait around for five days.

12) At last, everything was released and cleared, and once more all seemed well, except

13) at Monjes' Merry Movers moved up the steep mountain road from Cor­doba to the Observatory in a 1938 sta­tion wagon, the brakes gave way.

14) Nobody was hurt.

15) Meanwhile, back in Cordoba, Prime Mover Page wandered into a stu­dent riot, and was "dispersed by tear gas and police dogs."

16) end of disaster?

17) Maybe.

18) We hope so.

19) And we think it is Amazing and Wonderful and a great credit for SI.

20) Our hope is that the exchange of barbs between Ra and the author was so interesting that he filed a story on it which appeared in February. Under the headline, "Ran as Gods," the Smithsonian has made a fine piece of history the exchange of barbs between Ra and the author was so interesting that he filed a story on it which appeared in February. Under the headline, "Ran as Gods," the Smithsonian has made a fine piece of history.

21) The ship was dispatched by a fibreglass hull and has space for 25 researchers and cargo. The name of our first secretary, Joseph Henry, soon will grace the 21st and Pennsylvania Avenue building now under construction by the George Washington University. It will rise on 21st and Pennsylvania... Rolland Hower, who goes by the title "exhibits specialist," is really a chemist by profession. His research in freeze-drying has been revolutionizing the art, and he has almost made conventional taxidermy obsolete. Over the past six years since he first used this technique through which subjects are preserved without being harmed, Rollie has freeze-dried more than 500,000 animal specimens, from fishes to fiddler crabs. He was interested in what he called a "massive" Palas Cat. He is newly acquired a larger chamber in which he has a 10-foot atabas being readied for the American Museum of Natural History. ... Paul Gardner, President of the Canadian Museum of Nature, has just inspired his youth and plans a Kite Festival for the kiddies. His movie, "The Kite Festival," has been released and has since been scheduled, "Our hopes for the time being..."

22) Mr. Smithsonian looks for the first completed work of North America. "I... Press..." Replying to a question on "The Smithsonians, Smithsonian Looks," Dr. Martin Moynihan, director of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama, has ac­cepted a boat to be used for scientific research. The boat is constructed with a fibreglass hull and has space for 25 researchers and cargo. The name of our first secretary, Joseph Henry, soon will grace the 21st and Pennsylvania Avenue building now under construction by the George Washington University. It will rise on 21st and Pennsylvania... Rolland Hower, who goes by the title "exhibits specialist," is really a chemist by profession. His research in freeze-drying has been revolutionizing the art, and he has almost made conventional taxidermy obsolete. Over the past six years since he first used this technique through which subjects are preserved without being harmed, Rollie has freeze-dried more than 500,000 animal specimens, from fishes to fiddler crabs. He was interested in what he called a "massive" Palas Cat. He is newly acquired a larger chamber in which he has a 10-foot atabas being readied for the American Museum of Natural History. ... Paul Gardner, President of the Canadian Museum of Nature, has just inspired his youth and plans a Kite Festival for the kiddies. His movie, "The Kite Festival," has been released and has since been scheduled, "Our hopes for the time being..."

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Carl Condit Lists 'Human Community' as Mall Need

"Human community." That, according to prominent architectural historian Carl Condit, is what the Mall is lacking.

Dr. Condit is working at the Smithsonian as a visiting post-doctoral research associate, developing a course on the history of building techniques and civil engineering that he will teach next year at Northwestern University. He discussed his work here as well as the Mall and other aspects of Washington architecture, in an interview with The Torch.

The city has other lacks, Condit pointed out. It "lacks what a great city always has—density, power and intensity." He explained that the power he referred to was not political, but the visible images of architectural power. He doubts that the city can ever gain these qualities with the height limitations imposed on buildings here.

His criticisms of the District, he added, were not of its scenic beauty or its transportation problems, or any of the other shortcomings common to all modern cities. They were aimed at "the part of the city that was most carefully planned," which turned out, interestingly, to be "bland."

The Smithsonian came in for some praise, however. Asked what in Washington he would consider good architecture, he cited the new free flight cage at the zoo. "It has a soaring intensity," he said, that actually captures the feeling of flight.

He anticipates that the headquarters of the new Department of Housing and Urban Development, going up at 7th and D Streets, S.W., will also exemplify good contemporary design, and he praised Washington's "niminy metrics," such as Rock Creek Park and some of the Potomac vistas.

For the Mall, it suffers from "an excessive area of level lawn" and a "lack of spatial definition." His suggestions for improvement were similar to those advanced by other planners—kiosks, wide walks, "things to attract people." He also proposed pedestrian tunnels under the streets, explaining that the Mall "turned out to be made for cars."

The new Smithsonian buildings will also help, Condit thought, in defining the edges of the Mall and closing gaps. And the Mall sculpture garden that will accompany the Hirshhorn gallery is the sort of thing needed to bring the missing "human community" to the area.

Smithsonian architecture in general is "in the doldrums," Condit said. "It used to be in the R.C.Razz, which began "We are a handful of private citizens of America, striving simply for recognition and unostentatiously, as becomes our unofficial status, and therefore we will not abuse ourselves under your majesty."" Twain reported that the Czar listened to this address with unfainting fortitude; then took the looking-bookyad and handed it to some great officer or other, to be filed away among the archives of Russia—in the stove.

The mystery of how Dr. Gibson gained his title still stands. Was it Twain's imagination or did some other agency give him a commission? Was Dr. Gibson really the "Commissioner of the United States of America to Europe, Africa, and Asia" or just another innocent abroad?

REGENT—U.S. Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania has been appointed to the Board of Regents, replacing recently-retired Senator Leverett Saltonstall.

Already a member of the Oriental Art Committee of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Senator Scott is a recognized authority on Chinese art and author of "The Golden Age of Chinese Art: The Lively Tang Dynasty," scheduled for publication this spring.

A lawyer, he earned an A.B. at Randolph-Macon College and his LL.B. at the University of Virginia. Scott served his second term in the Senate after 16 years in the House of Representatives.

Young Viewers Of 'Smithsonian's' Send Fan Mail

The "Smithsonian's" some fifty million viewers are happy. Some fans of the NBC-TV series—most of them eleven-year-olds—have even begun to write enthusiastic letters about the show. But for all his titles of importance in both help, Condit thought, in defining the edges of the Mall and closing gaps. And the Mall sculpture garden that will accompany the Hirshhorn gallery is the sort of thing needed to bring the missing "human community" to the area.

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Volunteers Bringing Order To Tons of Air Documents

Most people think of a quantity of reference material in terms of number of volumes, or file drawers, or shelves. At the Air and Space Museum they’re thinking these days in terms of tons—from 100 to 200 tons of documentary material donated through the years and waiting to be sorted.

Staff limitations have so far prevented the job from being tackled on any large scale, but an unusual volunteer opera-
tion is now beginning to bring order to some 12,000 volumes of books, 4,000 to 5,000 bound volumes of periodicals, 100,000 photographs, and several million pamphlets.

About a dozen members of the local American Aviation Historical Society, directed by NASM staffers Ernest Robischon, Robert Wood and Stuart MacKenzie, have been giving their Wednes-
days and Saturdays since April to sorting and shelving for retrieval the museum’s buried treasure. In return, they earn points for the number of hours they put in and periodically are allowed to bid these points for duplicates in the collection.

The duplicates, not yet accessioned or catalogued, can be utilized in this way, after being checked carefully by the curatorial staff to assure that they are surplus and can be spared. Auctions are held periodically as the duplicates accumulate and volunteers earn points. Other items are kept for trading with institutions and individuals.

The volunteers, Robischon says, “give us better man hours than we could ever buy on the labor market.” Being aviation enthusiasts, and well read on the subject, they are able to quickly accumulate and volunteer earn points. Other items are kept for trading with institutions and individuals.

The Radiation Laboratory Offers Course

The Radiation Biology Laboratory will sponsor its first course, a graduate seminar in photobiology, this spring according to acting director Walter Shropshire.

The course will be given here in cooperation with the Consortium of Universities and Institutions of the Metropolitan Area, and is the first Smithsonian-Consortium joint effort.

Outstanding photobiologists from universities and government agencies throughout the country will lecture at the class in the MHT auditorium every Tuesday evening beginning February 2. Dr. Shropshire will present the opening lecture, “What Is Photobiology?”

Dr. Shropshire is chairman of a committee on photobiology which planned the seminar. Also on the committee from the Smithsonian are Charles Switzer, director of the Office of Education and Training.

The seminars will be open to SI staff members. They will begin at 7:30 p.m. and last about 90 minutes, with a question and answer session following.

Radiation Lab Offers Course

There may be no place like home for the holidays, but the New Year finds researchers abroad again for the increase of knowledge.

Miss Freedom, who has graced the rotunda of the Arts and Industries Building for about 75 years, was scheduled to be put into mothballs by February 1. The 1914-foot-high plaster figure used to cast the statue atop the National Capitol will be shipped to SI’s facility at Silver Hill, Md., where it will remain in storage until a suitable area is found for its display in the new Fine Arts and Portrait Gallery.

Designed in five sections, the statue was scheduled to be removed in only two, Leon Doane, of the Buildings Management Division, said. He was responsible for contracting a mover to bring in a crane to take the figure down. The statue was to be put on two pallets and fork lifted onto a truck, Doane said. He called it a relatively simple moving job.

Miss Freedom was designed by sculptor Thomas Crawford in Rome in 1856 and came to D.C. in 1858. She was displayed in the old hall of the House of Representatives until space became a problem, then banished to the Capitol basement for about 30 years. She was given to SI December 15, 1890.

A pool filled the center of the rotunda before Miss Freedom’s arrival. After she leaves, the area will be converted into a lounge where tourists can rest, according to Frank A. Taylor, Director of the National Museum.

Freeedom Statue Leaves Rotunda

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Contemporary Steel Sculpture for Mall

The first contemporary sculpture on the Mall, and the largest piece of contemporary sculpture ever commissioned by the Federal Government, soon will rise on the South Terrace of MHT. Sculptured by Jose de Rivera, the stainless steel composition—16 feet long and 8 feet high—is scheduled to be installed late this spring. According to MHT exhibits chief Benjamin Lawless.

Who Is 'Smithsonian’ Owl?

Who is the owl that greets viewers of the NBC “Smithsonian” series?

He is a figure on an ancient Greek coin, the reverse design of an Athenian Athena of the late 5th century B.C. According to curator of numismatics V. Chian-Stefanelli, and he travels in the best of circles.

The symbol of wisdom, the owl once belonged to the goddess Athena and now belongs to Secretaries of the Smithsonian Institution. He was selected by Mr. Ripley to be the central figure on the Secretary’s ceremonial badge of office.

The badge, which hangs around the neck from a cherry red ribbon, was made for the Bicentennial. It was designed by English goldsmith Leslie Durbin and cast in gold given to the Smithsonian by the Islam of Muscat.