

Dr. Ripley Appoints Treasurer, Personnel Chief

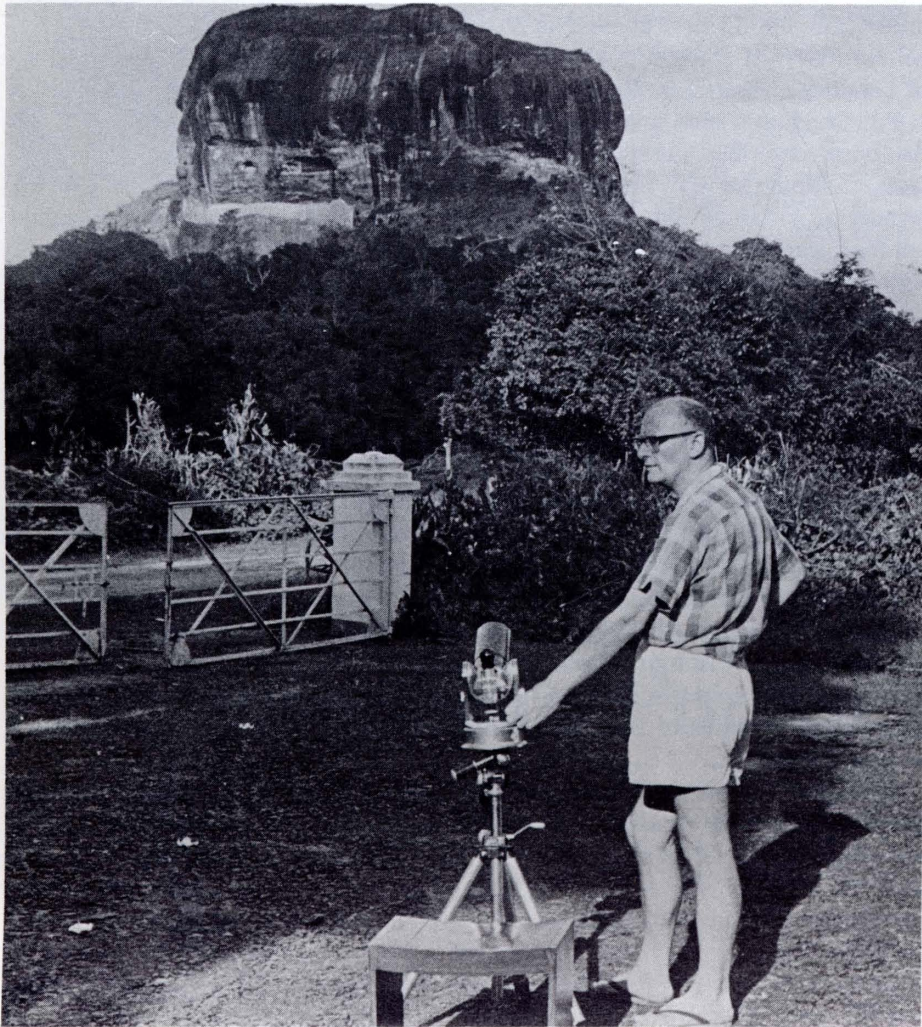


THE SMITHSONIAN

TORCH

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SIGIRIYA PROGRESS—British author Arthur C. Clarke reports from Ceylon that a high degree of success has been achieved in restoration of the vandal-damaged Sigiriya frescoes—a joint Rome Centre-SI project. Clarke poses with the 1000-mm Questar telescope he used to photograph the spot on the Sigiri rock (background) where the 1500-year-old frescoes are painted.

Italian art conservator Luciano Maranzi was sent by SI and the Rome Centre to direct the restoration efforts. "It seemed to me that the frescoes that had been daubed with paint were now practically as good as new," Clarke said in a note to the TORCH. The restoration effort is still in progress.

SITES Shows Transport SI Name Across Country

by Mary M. Krug

While some components of the Smithsonian measure their public in terms of millions of visitors, one important element uses millions of miles.

The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service circulates 85 to 115 exhibitions every month to museums, schools, libraries, community colleges, and universities throughout the United States from the Metropolitan Museum of Art to the Illyria (Ohio) Library, from San Francisco to Greenville, Tenn.

Last year alone, for example, displays bearing the Smithsonian name traveled roughly 1.5 million miles, or about far enough for three round trips to the moon.

Dorothy Van Arsdale, the individual behind all this moving about, calls the SITES operation an administrative job which requires knowledge of editing, publishing, transportation, conservation, art history, and diplomacy.

There are 91 of 108 shows listed in the SITES catalog, and more than 95 percent of them are currently booked. They range from a collection of Jewish marriage contracts to the massive Tunisian mosaics.

For such a major exhibition as the latter, years of groundwork are required. The original idea for this spectacularly successful show came in 1964 from Secretary Ripley. The formal opening was not until last summer. In the intervening three years, a typical

range of financial, administrative, and diplomatic problems had to be solved.

Before negotiations can begin, for even the smallest exhibition, the proposal must be approved in a process of review, by curators in fields related to the show's subject.

Working through the Smithsonian's Office of International Activities, the country's embassy here, and the U.S. embassy abroad, SITES irons out the problems involved in the 30 percent of their exhibits that come from foreign nations—such problems as who will pay for transportation, what places it will appear, and how it will be shipped. The Turks, for instance, insisted that their exhibition be sent in two separate shipments, so that the entire national treasure would not be lost in case of a plane crash.

This is a common request, Mrs. Van Arsdale points out. Swiss authorities

(Continued on Page 4)

"THIS TAKES GUTS", a U.S. Navy painting by Charles Waterhouse, is one of nearly 200 works in NAFMAB's first art show, "The Armed Forces of the United States as Viewed by the Contemporary Artist."

David W. Scott, director of NCF, Hermann W. Williams, director of the Corcoran Gallery, and Boston portrait artist Gardner Cox selected the works in the exhibition from collections submitted by the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

The show can be seen in A & I through March 9.

T. Ames Wheeler, Pouliot Named to Top Positions



Pouliot

Secretary Ripley has announced the appointment of a new Treasurer and Director of Personnel.

T. Ames Wheeler, Secretary and Vice President-International of the Allegheny Ludlum Steel Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pa., has been named Treasurer. He will assume his new post on March 1.

Leonard B. Pouliot, special assistant to the director of personnel at Ft. George G. Meade, will succeed Joseph A. Kennedy as director of Smithsonian Personnel. Kennedy will become Director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Office.

As Treasurer, Mr. Wheeler will be the Smithsonian's chief financial officer. He will administer both federal and private resources, with responsibility for all financial aspects of Institution management including planning, budgeting, accounting, contracting, and associated fiscal operations.

Mr. Wheeler, 56, is a graduate of Harvard University and the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration. He began his business career in engineering, working briefly for the Chrysler Corporation in Detroit.

He changed to the financial field and, from 1939 to 1942, he was a member of the investment department of a Detroit bank. That same year he moved to Pittsburgh where he worked in the



Wheeler

financial department of the United States Steel Corporation.

Mr. Wheeler joined Allegheny Ludlum in 1946 and became manager of costs and statistics in 1949. He served as controller of the corporation from 1950 to 1960, when he was named Vice President of international affiliated operations.

In December 1966, he became Secretary and Vice President-International of Allegheny Ludlum International, S.A., of Geneva and Allegheny-Longdoz, S.A., a stainless steel manufacturing facility in Belgium jointly owned with the D'Esperance Longdoz organization of that country.

Mr. Pouliot, 44, has had broad international experience in personnel work. He holds a BA in history from Mexico City College and an MA in personnel management from the George Washington University, where he is an associate professorial lecturer in the Graduate School of Business and Public Administration.

He began his career in government personnel work in 1949 in Mexico City, where he was assistant personnel officer for a commission of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. From there he moved on to France, as supervisory personnel specialist at U.S. Army headquarters from 1952-59.

Pouliot returned to the United States in 1959 to spend three years as personnel officer at Ft. Meade and a year as an administrative officer with the Department of State. Germany was the next duty station, where he directed the personnel department of the U.S. Embassy in Bonn.

Since 1965 Mr. Pouliot has been working in the U.S. once again. He served as an organization development specialist with the State Department until August of 1967, when he returned to Ft. Meade.

Atelier Moulrot Donates First 33 Prints to NCF

Atelier Moulrot, the new American branch of the famous French lithographic shop, has presented a portfolio of the first prints produced in its studio to the National Collection of Fine Arts.

The portfolio is the first part of a continuing gift that will provide the NCF Archives with an example of everything done at Moulrot.

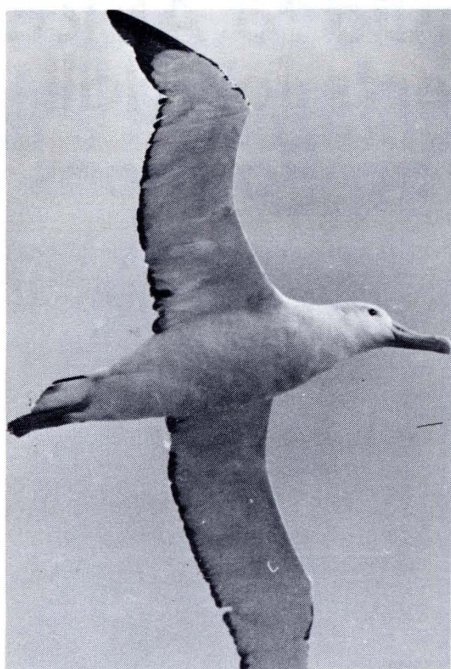
Jacques Moulrot, director of the U.S. atelier, and his father Fernand, who heads the Paris operation, presented the 33 prints to NCF director David W. Scott.

Imprimerie Moulrot Freres in Paris has done work for such artists as Picasso, Chagall, Miro, Dufy, and Matisse. Atelier Moulrot opened in New York's Greenwich Village last November.

The initial gift to the Smithsonian includes prints by Chessa, Claes Oldenburg, Minoux, F. Albert, Haymson, Sam Francis, Alice Baber Bera, Paul Jenkins, Chaim Goldberg, Brigitte Coudrain, Jack Levine, Cleve Gray, Dorazio, Frances Gray, and Larry Rivers.

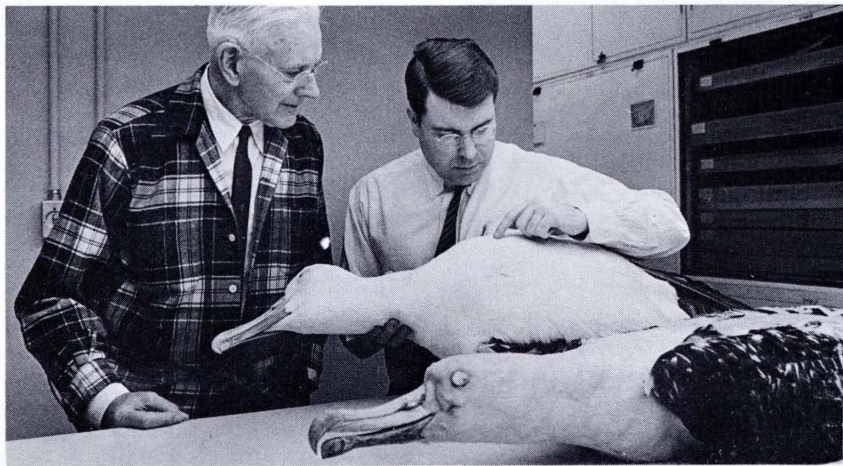
'THIS TAKES GUTS'





Rare Bird Seen

The first and only Wandering Albatross ever sighted in North America soars at left in the photograph used by Smithsonian ornithologists to make a positive identification. Drs. Alexander Wetmore and George E. Watson, shown below with two other albatross specimens, were called on to identify the bird spotted over the Northern Sonoma coast of California. How the bird wound up in that area is still a mystery. No zoo keeps this species, so it did not escape from captivity. The bird came ashore for a full day and was photographed by Robert O. Paxton, who submitted the pictures to Watson. J. P. Angle and John W. Aldrich of the MNH staff also assisted in determining the bird's species.



Dr. Ripley Seeks Spike Presented to Sidney Dillon

The upcoming centennial of the completion of the transcontinental railroad of course holds historical interest for SI staff members, but it has personal interest as well for Secretary Ripley, who is eager to locate one of the spikes used in the ceremony.

In a letter to the editor of Antiques Magazine, Mr. Ripley explained that:

"My great-grandfather, Sidney Dillon, was a director on the board of the Union Pacific and was present at the driving of the last spike. He was given one of six presentation spikes which had been prepared for the occasion. (I think it was called the Arizona iron-silver-gold spike.) This has been described as six inches long, three-quarters of an inch thick, one and a half inches across the head, and weighing ten and one-quarter

ounces. It was inscribed: *Ribbed with iron, clad in silver and crowned with gold Arizona presents her offering to the enterprise that has banded a continent, dictated a pathway to commerce. Presented by Governor Safford.* Last in the possession of my cousin the late Mrs. Arthur Whitney of Mendham, New Jersey, the spike has been lost sight of. In later years Mrs. Whitney could not recall to which historical society or museum it had been given shortly after her mother's death in the 1930's.

"If any of your readers have any knowledge of the whereabouts of this, or indeed of the other commemorative spikes, I am sure the members of the centennial commission, as well as we at the Smithsonian, would be greatly interested."

Branch Museum Marks Negro History Week

The Anacostia Neighborhood Museum will commemorate Negro History Week February 11-18 with special programs and exhibits.

Thirty paintings and two sculptures of outstanding Negro Americans, from the Harmon Collection of the National Portrait Gallery, will be on display. Among the personalities included are Marian Anderson, Ralph Bunche, Mordecai Johnson, Joe Louis and Harriet Tubman.

The collection, never before publicly displayed, was presented to NPG last year by the Harmon Foundation of New York, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving human relations. The portraits were painted by Betsy Graves Reyneau and Laura Wheeler Waring.

A period room dedicated to Benjamin Banneker, essayist, mathematician, astronomer and friend of Thomas Jefferson, will also be shown. Banneker reproduced from memory L'Enfant's plans for laying out Washington, D.C., after L'Enfant left the city, thus enabling Andrew Ellicott to complete the plans for the Capital.

RBL Schedules 12-Week Course

The Radiation Biology Laboratory will follow up last year's successful graduate seminar with a similar 12-week course in developmental biology. The series starts February 8 and is open to SI staff.

The course, organized by RBL assistant director Walter Shropshire, is co-sponsored by the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area.

Classes will be held on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the MHT auditorium. Some of the nation's outstanding biologists will speak on their research specialties and then lead discussion. All lectures will be oriented to naturally-occurring biological phenomena, with comments and speculation about possible control by man of growth and development.

Speakers for February and their subjects are:

February 8—"Supramolecular Biology of Development", Paul Weiss, Rockefeller University.

February 15—"Changing Concepts of the Relations Between DNA Synthesis and Differentiation", James D. Ebert, Carnegie Institution of Washington.

February 29—"Reconstruction of Tissues from Dissociated Cells", Malcolm Steinberg, Princeton University.

ABOUT SI PEOPLE

New Shetler Book Traces Komarov Institute History

In the early 1700s Peter the Great established two botanical institutions in St. Petersburg, the city he dared to create a mere seven degrees south of the Arctic Circle. These were the predecessors of the present-day Komarov Botanical Institute, formed in 1931 by the merger of two previous institutions.

Stanwyn Shetler, MNH's associate curator of phanerogams, tells the story of the institute and its predecessors in his new book, *The Komarov Botanical Institute*,—a glimpse at two-and-a-half centuries of botanical research in Russia.

Published this month by the Smithsonian Press, the book describes the physical setting and intellectual climate of the Institute along with its vast resources: a staff of 700, two dozen major laboratories, a large greenhouse and outdoor garden complex, an arboretum-park, several experimental farms, 450,000-volume library, and combined herbaria of nearly 6 million specimens dating back to 1709.

Shetler's interest in the Institute and in Russian botany was furthered when he visited the Komarov in 1964, its 250th anniversary.



HAZARDS OF SI EMPLOYMENT

Betty Walters, museum technician in the Division of Cultural History, passed on an item of interest found by her husband in *Nebraska History*. Walters, currently facing hazards himself in Vietnam, thought today's SI employee might be interested in the perils the job held in the 19th century. The article reads in part:

"An early Omaha newspaper wrote, 'Ridgway Glover Esq., Photographer of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington, arrived in this city last night. He accompanies the Fort Laramie Indian Commission for the purpose of taking solar and stereoscopic pictures of the various Indian chiefs who participate in the Treaty of Fort Laramie...'

"Ridgway Glover, a Philadelphia boy, had left home in the summer of 1866 for the purpose of securing photographs 'to illustrate the life and character of the wild men of the prairie.' On June 30, 1866, he was at Fort Laramie. On July 29, 1866 he was at Fort Phil Kearny in Wyoming. On the way they were attacked by Indians who killed an officer of the party. 'Our men with their rifles held the Indians at bay until we reached a better position on a hill, where we kept them off until night, when Captain Burroughs, coming up with a train, caused the redskins to retreat. I desired to make some instantaneous views of the Indian attack, but our commander ordered me not to.'

"In September this report was received from Fort Phil Kearny, 'Mr. Ridgway Glover was killed near Fort Phil Kearny on the 14th of September by the Sioux Indians. He and a companion had left the Fort to take some views. They were found scalped, killed and horribly mutilated.'"

FROESHNER TAPS GRASS ROOTS AMERICA

A good example of how the Smithsonian reaches into the "grass roots" of America to aid and motivate young people is illustrated in the continuing communication between Dr. Richard C. Froeschner of MNH's Division of Hemiptera and Miss Shelley Samuelson of Pleasantville, Iowa.

Shelley is a 13-year-old farm girl not content to amble along the roadsides stirring up the yellow Sulphurs in the alfalfa or simply admiring the big orange-and-black Monarchs dipping in milkweed clumps.

Shelley is, above all, a serious student of moths and butterflies and her contributions to entomology aren't to be sniffed at.

Dr. Froeschner, who has been exchanging correspondence with Shelley for the past two years, as well as giving her moral and scientific support, credits Miss Samuelson with recording for the first time in North America the parasitizing of the Question Mark butterfly by a small wasp, the "Pteromalus puparum."

In addition to this find, Dr. Froeschner said that Shelley and her young Iowa friends discovered a dwindling population of moths that make abnormal cocoons.



BISSON OFF TO TAIPEI

Gary Bisson, assistant general counsel of the Smithsonian, is leaving the Institution to join the legal staff of Air Asia, based in Taipei, Taiwan.

Bisson, 31, holds a LL.M. degree from George Washington University, and has been at the Smithsonian since 1962. He leaves a gap not only in the general counsel's office, but in the Torchlighters, of which he was Vice President. Tom Jorling, of the Interior Department, and Irene Black, Peace Corps, have been appointed to the SI legal office.

TORCH STAFF:

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James Cornell, SAO Correspondent, Marion McCrane, Zoo Correspondent,
Sylvia DeBaun, John White, Sam Suratt, Al Robinson (Photos)
Frederic M. Philips, Editorial Advisor

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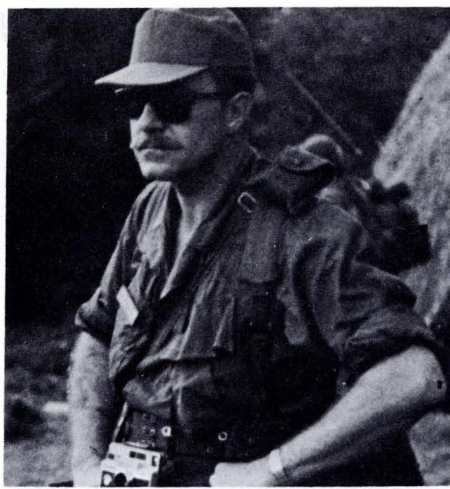
MHT Designer Tours Vietnam

Peter Copeland recently made the transition from exhibits designer in the sheltered confines of MHT to combat artist on the front lines of Vietnam. He spent 30 days—from November 20 to December 20—on the battlefield as a civilian volunteer in the Army's combat art program.

Copeland was given complete freedom to go wherever he chose, with the Army making all arrangements. "The Army leans over backwards to be fair—no strictures. You see whatever you want to see," he reports. In return for the trip he will execute an "undetermined number" of paintings for the Army.

He divided his time between sketching in the field and developing his drawings back in Saigon. Although he brought back a portfolio of sketches and watercolors, the difficulty of working under fire forced him to record most of the scenes he wanted to remember with camera rather than pencil. MHT's Division of Military History will receive copies of the photographs for its collections.

Most of the Army's volunteer artists (in fact, all of them except Copeland) are given civilian ranks equivalent to that of a field officer. Because of an administrative slip-up, however, Copeland received no rank at all, "so I got a real GI's view of the war."



Peter Copeland in Vietnam

ART LECTURES

Members of the SI staff are invited to two special lectures by Dumbarton Oaks faculty planned for participants in this summer's tour to Greece and Turkey.

Ihor Sevcenko, professor of Byzantine history and literature, will give "An Introduction to Byzantine Art History" on February 15 at 11:30 in the east conference room of MHT.

Miss Susan A. Boyd, assistant curator, will give a lecture-tour, "An Introduction of Byzantine Collections," February 29 at 11:30 in Dumbarton Oaks.

Entomologists Go to Africa To Gather Insects for Hall

The insect hall being developed for MNH has drawn three entomologists overseas to collect specimens for it.

Karl Krombein is collecting in Kenya and South Africa and conferring with colleagues in England until March 1. Paul J. Spangler is also gathering insects in Kenya, South Africa, Rhodesia, Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda, and studying the collections of museums in Italy, Germany, and England. He will return April 24.

Another entomologist, J. F. Gates Clarke, is conducting field explorations in insects, particularly microlepidoptera, in the Marquesas Islands and French Polynesia. He will be away until April 15.

MHT Director Robert P. Multhauf departs February 7 for Italy, Israel and Yugoslavia, where he will visit science and history museums to strengthen cooperative exchange programs with MHT and arrange future programs. He will then take sabbatical leave in Germany, researching the history of chemistry in the 18th century.

Dieter Wasshausen and Lyman B. Smith of Botany, and Paul Slud, Birds, are all in Brazil. Wasshausen is studying and collecting plants on the Planalto in conjunction with floristic studies directed under the New York

Botanical Gardens. Smith is collecting living and herbarium specimens of Bromeliaceae and other tropical plants, while Slud is making a reconnaissance of prospective sites for ornithological investigation in Amazonia under the auspices of the National Research Council of Brazil.

Lunchbox Talks For February

A variety of subjects, from the SST to the Spanish Revolution, is again in store for participants in the National Air and Space Museum's lunch box seminar.

Talks are held each Wednesday at noon in A&I. All employees are welcome to bring their lunch and join in.

Speakers for the coming month are:

February 14, Paul Garber, assistant director, NASM, "Musee d'I Air."

February 21, Sr. Luis Bolin, former attache to Francisco Franco and Information Officer in the Spanish Embassy in Washington, "The Political Use of the Airplane in the Spanish Civil War."

February 28, Dr. S. J. Geratwohl, Office of Aviation Medicine, Federal Aviation Agency, "Aero-medical Aspects of the SST."

Smithsonian's Poplar Island Is for the Birds

By Frank Megargee

Poplar Island, Maryland—Until recently this deserted island in the Chesapeake Bay off Talbot county was mostly for the birds.

The great blue heron nests here and raises families. Wild ducks do their courting here and "pair up" before flying north in the early spring to breed.

But now scientific bird watchers have arrived—specialists from the Smithsonian who use the island as a natural outdoor laboratory.

The birds keep their privacy, though. "We're not going to disturb them nor even build a permanent structure lest we upset the balance," said Dr. George E. Watson, 36, chairman of the Department of Vertebrate Zoology in the Museum of Natural History.

The Smithsonian, which recently announced that the island is closed to the public, including hunters, acquired it more than a year ago from Dr. William L. Elkins, of Philadelphia, who still owns two nearby isles, Jefferson and Coaches.

Crescent-shaped Poplar Island, thickly grown with pines, covers about 30 acres. Nobody is quite sure of the exact acreage because it is melting away in great chunks due to a spectacular case of shore erosion. About the only signs of humans, Dr. Watson said, are some crumbling building foundations left by former inhabitants.

Armed with binoculars and cameras, the Smithsonian researchers, who use the island chiefly from early spring through the summer, want to observe three types of birds in particular—the wild ducks, the great blue heron (a huge, long-billed bird with stilt-like legs) and the osprey or fish hawk.

In February and March, Dr. Watson said, many species of ducks use the island during their courting time. "They choose mates and form pairs. The drake follows the hen to the north where they breed. The female goes to the place where she was hatched and reared."

If a male duck, born, for example, in the Midwest, courts and pairs here with a female born in eastern Canada, he will fly with her to Canada to raise his family.

"Geese, on the other hand, don't act this way," Dr. Watson said. "They form into pairs at the northern breeding grounds."

"We want to observe the courting ducks," he continued, "and add to our fund of knowledge about their displays."

When courting, a male and female go through a number of instinctive steps. The male displays (rears up, puffs his chest, wags tail, spreads wings) and the female makes set responses.

"If the courting doesn't go through the precise steps, the pairing doesn't take place," Dr. Watson said. "This is nature's way of insuring that there is no mixing of species."

Though the displays are essentially the same of all ducks, each species has different markings and variations in behavior. It is these variations the Smithsonian experts want to observe.

The osprey studies are for a different purpose. As a species the osprey, which lives on fish it catches by diving into the water, is having trouble maintaining itself in some parts of the world. It has been almost eliminated in southern New England, on Long Island and in Great Britain.

On the other hand, Dr. Watson said, the osprey is doing reasonably well in the Chesapeake Bay area.

"People are studying the problem in Connecticut, and we are working here, hoping to come up with some answers."

Here, the scientists are looking closely into the breeding habits of the osprey, trying to determine such things as how many chicks on the average are brought off the nest successfully, what contributes to osprey mortality and whether the use of artificial nests might help.

The great blue heron poses another problem. "There is a colony of them on the island with 300 or more nests," Dr. Watson said. "They come from a fairly

large area. We want to find out how far they disperse from the nesting area, whether they stay around the Chesapeake in the winter or migrate farther away." This will be traced chiefly by banding the birds.

Both the birds and men are confronted with a survival problem on Poplar. The island is eroding away fairly rapidly in some places, particularly on its exposed western side. High banks

tumble into the water, toppling stands of tall pines with them. Unless something is done, the island will entirely disappear in time.

"The Smithsonian," Dr. Watson said, "is not equipped to study erosion. We hope to get some help on this from the United States Corps of Engineers and, perhaps, the State of Maryland."

(Reprinted from the *Baltimore Sun*.)



GREAT BLUE HERON—These large birds nest on deserted Poplar Island.



OUTDOOR LABORATORY—The island off the Talbot county coast is used for bird studies by SI.

Reorganization Modernizes SI's Publishing Tradition

As a publishing institution, the Smithsonian has one of the oldest active imprints, and one of the newest publishing establishments, in the United States.

Its first scholarly publication, a grand study of Midwestern Indian mounds, was issued in 1848, and has been followed by well over 12,000 others in successive years. But as an organization, the Smithsonian Institution Press dates only to May 1966, when it succeeded the Editorial and Publication Division.

"The Institution itself was established by Joseph Henry as a publishing house as well as a center for advanced studies," says Anders Richter, first director of the Press. "Henry saw in the well-known credo of the founder the essential unity of research with publication. In his wisdom he translated the word diffusion to publication, thereby bestowing upon the Smithsonian an historic mandate for this consequential extension of research."

Richter was assistant director at the University of Chicago Press before coming to the Smithsonian. Since his arrival he has reorganized the Press into functional departments such as are common to publishing houses. New managing editor Roger Pineau, whose background in Japanese linguistics includes several years of editorial assistance to the Naval historian Rear Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison, directs a staff of ten editors. Stephen Kraft, newly hired managing designer, heads a production section of three designers and assistants. Kraft previously ran his own typography and design studio, and teaches at American University. And to publicize their efforts, Virginia F. Barber was hired as promotion manager.

The Press does not serve simply as an arm to publish papers written by the SI staff. Last year, about 30 percent of Smithsonian publications were written by outside authors, Richter points out. It also, on occasion, licenses publication rights to commercial houses. The *Smithsonian Library*, for instance, is being published by American Heritage, with SI consultants advising on the content of the series and on the qualities of indi-

vidual manuscripts. The first of the 12-volume series will appear early this year.

The traditional means of publishing Smithsonian research papers and monographs, begun in 1848, is in series form. There are currently eight active series, with about 100 publications issued under them each year. They include U.S. National Museum Bulletins, Proceedings of the U.S. National Museum, Contributions from the Museum of History and Technology, Contributions from the U.S. National Herbarium, Smithsonian Contributions to Astrophysics, Smithsonian Annals of Flight, and the privately-funded Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections. A reorganization of the series, to provide greater subject coherence, will probably come within the next year, Richter says.

It is up to the bureau or museum department most closely related to the subject matter to evaluate the validity and importance of content of manuscripts for the series. The Press determines whether the work is in fit shape for publication, and whether "its literary style is such as to require no more than the usual ministrations of a copy editor. We are not," says Richter, "no more than any other reputable publishing house, in the business of rewriting or extensively reorganizing manuscripts."

An eight-member Editorial Policy Committee, appointed by Secretary Ripley and chaired by Richter, meets about once a month. In addition, MNH and MHT each have their own committees on publications, with representatives from all their departments.

The Institution's book publishing activities are supported by private funds and Richter is actively soliciting book-length manuscripts for consideration. The works which originate in the museums are often descriptive in nature, heavily illustrated, and therefore expensive to produce. For this reason, the number of privately funded books produced for sale each year under the SI imprint is likely to remain between 15



With the foreground guarded by the owl used as its symbol, the staff of the SI Press examines one of its latest publications. From left are Roger Pineau, Stephen Kraft, Anders Richter, Eileen McCarthy and Virginia Barber.

and 25 per year for the next several years.

Examples of heavily illustrated works in editorial preparation or production are *Design and Color in Islamic Architecture* by Sonia Scherr-Thoss, and *The Birds of Panama* by Alexander Wetmore.

The Press expects to score a major publishing event with the publication of the diary which Commodore Matthew C. Perry dictated during his voyage to Japan. The manuscript was discovered only recently and is currently being edited for publication by Pineau.

Exclusive distribution of SI Press books in the United States and Canada is being handled through Random House, Inc., an arrangement which began last month. The Press will continue selling directly to the Smithsonian Museum Shops, SI staff, and the Smithsonian Associates. For this purpose, and to distribute its numerous serial publications, it operates a distribution section under the direction of Eileen McCarthy.

In fiscal 1967 alone the Press distributed 306,494 publications—a testimony to the long tradition of publishing at the Smithsonian, and a challenge to the new organization.

SITES

(Continued from Page 1)

asked to have their collection of master drawings transferred in five shipments, which of course increases the cost of transport. They were persuaded to settle for three flights.

SITES keeps close track of all such costs. As a private, self-supporting, non-profit arm of the Institution, it receives no appropriation and must earn precisely enough from show rental fees to balance expenses.

The expenses of mounting, transportation, printing catalogs, and salaries of SITES staff members are divided by the anticipated number of rentals to arrive at fees paid by the exhibitors that range from \$35 for a show on plants of the stonecrop family to \$11,000 for the art treasures of Turkey.

With the Tunisian exhibition, one of the challenges was putting together a catalog. The text came from Germany, in German. Plates came from Holland and pictures from Tunisia. When arrangements were finally completed, and the show was ready to open, war broke out in the Middle East. However, the opening went forward as planned.

In their dealings with other countries, SITES enjoys the assistance of the Smithsonian Office of International Activities and the State Department. "We mustn't underestimate the value of the help we get from desk officers at the State Department. We have to make the snowballs, but they throw them. They know who is politically motivated and who is culturally involved. We try to keep everything we do on a cultural plane."

About 60 percent of SITES' shows are initiated by outside groups. Other ideas come from catalog exchanges with museums, galleries and private institutions. There are other organizations circulating exhibits around the country, but SITES, Mrs. Van Arsdale believes, is the largest.

Some 700 different organizations, from the largest museums to the smallest community centers, are in SITES' file of approved renters. For protection of the displays, the facilities of each potential exhibitor must be checked out.

"I think there are many people who don't realize how much these shows mean to some localities," Mrs. Van Arsdale says. "One town in Georgia gave the entire front page of its newspaper to one of our smallest exhibits. Some of the places we send displays are so remote that even the Railway Express Agency goes only part of the way there, and a truck has to come out and meet them."

A staff of eleven keeps the show on the road. They include Mrs. Van Arsdale's deputy, Frances Smyth, and registrar Eileen Rose, who has what Mrs. Van Arsdale calls "a job of constant crises." Not only does she keep track of all 108 exhibits as they travel about, but she must also examine and note in detail the condition of every item on its arrival at the Smithsonian, and any changes that take place from station to station.

The Smithsonian has the largest natural history collections in the world, some 50 million-plus specimens.

And there are no signs of a let-up, according to Dr. Donald F. Squires, who notes that one million specimens are being added to the Museum of Natural History collections annually.

The problem, he says, is not one of storage so much as it is knowledge of what the collections contain and means of controlling them.

Dr. Squires is deputy director of MNH and a staunch advocate of information retrieval.

So strong are his feelings on the subject that the Department of Health, Education and Welfare is funding a Squires-directed project to develop an information storage and retrieval system for the museum's biological and geological data.

Three Smithsonian divisions and 20 employees are participating in the three-year pilot program, which is now in its sixth month.

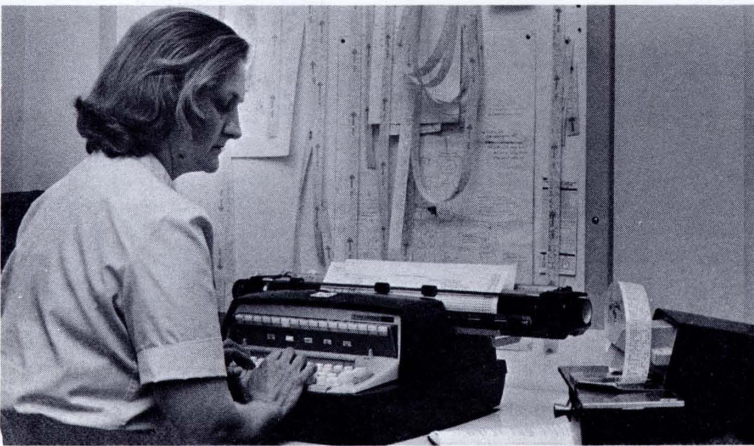
Data processing machines are set up in the divisions of Birds, Petrology, and Crustacea. At the rate of 100 words per minute the machines type and duplicate visual record cards and simultaneously produce program tapes which can be read by a computer.

The tapes are then sent to the SI building, where a Honeywell 1200 computer stores the data, giving the Smithsonian a record-keeping system capable of handling all the documentation of the biological and geological specimens and citations applying to these specimens.

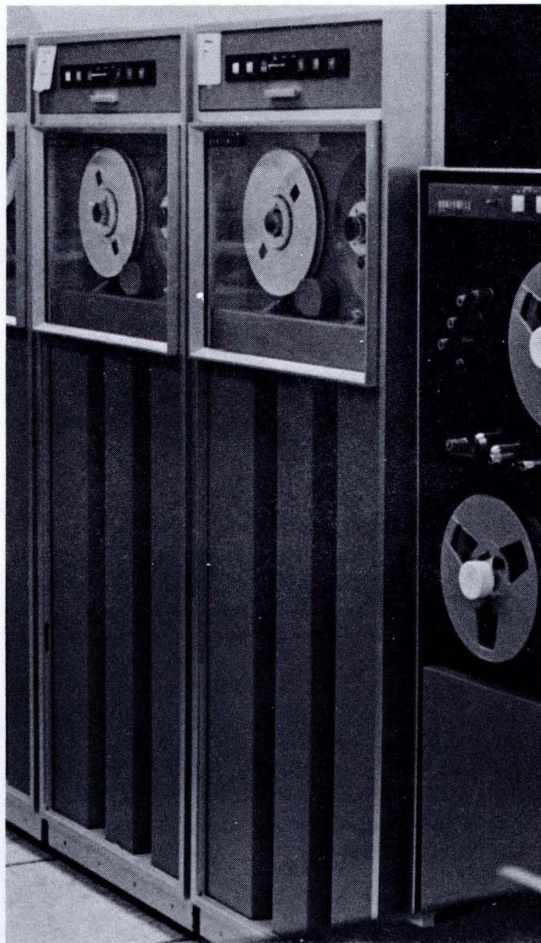
The implications are obvious: a better understanding of the collections and a greater accessibility will be achieved.

And, as Dr. Squires points out, the new technique will reduce MNH scientists' filing time to 20 percent, allowing them more time for research.

That prospect, in itself, makes the project more than worthwhile.



HEW Financing Pilot Computer Project in MNH



The Honeywell 1200 computer, which stores the data on MNH collections, stands waiting instructions. At left, Dorothea Curcio, Division of Birds, operates one of the data processing machines that produce tapes the computer can read.

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