Cracking Linked To Metro Work, Gallery Closed

By Benjamin Ruba

Despite a reported $7.6 million in precautionary underpinning and other work by subway builders, cracking of the ma- sonary—apparently minor—has forced the NCFA to close for the time being its Lin­ coln Gallery for repair of damage resulting from Metro preparation adjacent to the building.

The NCFA will take advantage of the situation to create a new installation and a new system of lighting, tasks previously planned, in the historic gallery, scene of Lincoln's Second Inaugural Ball. Meanwhile, the displaced works of art have been placed on exhibition elsewhere in the museum or put into temporary stor­ age. None of the paintings or sculptures was damaged.

"There seems to be no damage to the fabric of the building," said Dr. Joshua C. Taylor, Director of the NCFA.

The problem—a crack across the floor and up both side walls just where the north and east wings meet in the Lincoln Gallery and the collapse there of two cornices, plus secondary cracking elsewhere—was not completely unexpected.

As George O. Kline, chief consulting engineer for DeLeuw Cather Co., the general engineering consultant for the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority which is building the subway, put it in an interview:

"We expect movement. And in this type of building—a porous masonry building without a frame of support—cracks cause cracking. We try to minimize it."

A $5-foot deep Metro trench abuts the NCFA. Metro, according to Mr. Kline, spent $7.6 million and one year underpinning the building. "It's a hellish building to work around—any sort of movement will show up... whereas it wouldn't in a modern building."

Noting that the pre-Civil War struc­

$30,000 Is Donated In Charity Drive

During the recently completed Com­ bined Federal Campaign for 1972, 1,033 Smithsonian employees contributed or pledged a total of $30,023 to area charitable and service agencies. This rep­ resents an average gift of approximately $25.

Secretary Ripley, as Campaign Chair­ man for the Smithsonian, has expressed his gratitude to all those who participated in the campaign, particularly those "vol­ unteers" who served as unit coordinators. He noted that 77 percent of the Build­ ings Management Department employees contributed and the Department achieved 80 percent of its self-imposed goal of $5,000.

SI Site of Group of 10 Money Accord

"The most significant monetary agree­ ment in the history of the world" was reached at the Smithsonian December 18.

President Nixon, speaking in the Arts and Industries Building, used that sweeping phrase to describe the agreement taken by the finance ministers of the 10 leading industrial countries of the world to for­ mulate a new set of exchange rates.

Itself the product of an international monetary transaction—a bequest from English scientist James Smithson—the Smithsonian was an appropriate locale for the "Group of Ten" negotiations. At the request of John B. Connally, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary Rip­ ley granted the use of the SI Building and A&I December 17 and 18 for the meeting that resulted in what history may call "the Smithsonian Agreement."

Mr. Connally personally inspected the facilities and decided they were suitable for the historic gathering of representa­ tives of Belgium, Britain, Canada, Ger­ many, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the U.S. Switzerland attended as an observer.

The gavel used to open the conference was presented by Mr. Connally to the Smithsonian for its political history col­ lections.

The meeting was held in the Commons room, which was converted to an assem­ bly hall for the occasion. Translators' booths occupied the south end of the room—two for English, one for French and one for Japanese.

As part of the preparations, additional shields displaying crests of prominent families were hung on the walls of the room.

The lounge, or West Range, leading to the Commons was converted into a secondary meeting room, while the Great Hall served as a dining hall and lounge for the delegates.

A special exhibit of historical items of interest to the delegates, selected from the Smithsonian's political history collection, was mounted in a case in the Great Hall in addition to those placed in ob­ servance of the 125th anniversary cele­ bration. The items included a writing case of George Washington's, a key to the original United States Treasury, a silver peace pipe presented to the Dela­ ware Indians in 1814, souvenirs of the Treaty of Paris in 1899, and a copy of Presi­ dent Kennedy's inaugural address.

Preparations for the meeting were coor­ dinated by the Office of Special Events headed by Meredith Johnson, who worked with representatives of the Dept. of Treasury and other divisions of the Institution to complete the complex ar­ rangements with little more than a week's advance notice. Special assistance was provided by James Good, Head of the Smithsonian Building.

The meeting concluded in a holiday De­ cember 17 for most personnel working in the SI Building. Executive offices in the SI Building were occupied by the official delegates and their staffs. Secretary of the Treasury John Connally occupied Secretary Ripley's office.

The SI Building was closed to the pub­ lic December 15 through 19, and the A&I Building was closed to the public December 17 through 19. A press room with telephones, teletype machines and typewriters was set up in the Hall of Space Art of the A&I Building to accom­ modate the 300 newsmen from many nations who covered the meeting. It was there that President Nixon provided the dramatic ending to the negotiations by making a surprise appearance to announce the agreement.

"Please, Mr. Hower..."

Rolland Hower, freeze-dry specialist at NMMH, has received a protest from two young animal lovers. Reproduced as they wrote it:

Mr. Rolland Hower
Smithsonian Institute
Washington, D.C.

Mr. R. Hower,

Our 5th grade was Reading the weekly Reader. We do not like your freeze-drying animals. We think it is very cruel to Nature. If they had to die let them rest in peace.

Don't freeze-dry animals you've already done it to enough isn't that enough? Your destroying Nature!
A ROYAL AFTERNOON—The Women's Committee of the Smithsonian Associates recently announced a six-month-afternoon-with-royalty. The Chogyal and Gyaltso of Sikkim greeted guests at a sell-out show of Sikkim textiles in the S.H.A.L. gallery, with the United States' attention to Sikkim as well as other countries of their nation. Above, Mrs. Henry P. Smith III, chairman of the Women's Committee, introduces Mrs. Adelyn Breeskin, curator of contemporary painting and sculpture at the N.C.A.A., to the king and queen in the receiving line.

SI 'Excess' Currency Program Backs U.S. Research Overseas

Since its inception in 1965, SI's Foreign Currency Program has made grants to some 100 museums, colleges and universities across the United States to support overseas research efforts.

Recently, the Smithsonian offered more than 130 grants totaling nearly $5 million in foreign currency support.

Kennedy B. Schmertz, acting director of SI's Office of International Activities, which oversees the program, notes that scholars are taking part in a wide-range of archaeological, biological, astrophysical research projects that is believed to be the oldest and largest such program in the United States.

In fact, a Stanford University team helped save priceless relics dating back to the early Roman occupation of Yugoslavia.

Item: An Italian conservator went to Yugoslavia to restore 1500-year-old frescoes that were severely damaged by vandalism.

Item: A Yale University expedition to Egypt has discovered the fossil skull of what is believed to be the oldest known member of man's "family tree."

All of these projects have one element in common—they were financed by SI's Foreign Currency Program.

Schmertz advised museums across the nation to watch for the program's list for overseas research.

Old Link Is Continued

The longtime association, personified by the late Remington Kellogg, between mammals and the National Geographic Society is one of the Smithsonian's strongest financial ties. Since 1956, the National Geographic Society has given the Smithsonian $5.3 million by way of grants. As director, Mr. Kellogg joined the National Geographic Society in the Great Hall, planning to work on the building's collection and to raise $1 million for the United States' attention to Sikkim.

The Smithsonian has been a member of the Smithsonian Association since 1943, and the National Geographic Society has been a member of the National Geographic Society since 1936. The Smithsonian has received millions of dollars through the Smithsonian's Grant-in-Aid Program, and the National Geographic Society has received millions of dollars through the Smithsonian's Grant-in-Aid Program.

Since the beginning of the National Geographic Society, both institutions have had a long history of cooperation.

In fact, a National Geographic Society expedition to the Great Hall will go off the list next June 30.

Mr. Kellogg's successor, Mr. William W. Warner, Assistant Secretary for Science, has been the chief executive officer of the National Geographic Society since 1943, and the Smithsonian has been a member of the National Geographic Society since 1936.

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Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, one of three heads of state to visit the Wilson Center in its first year of operation, leads a discussion that also included, from left, Senator Hubert Humphrey, Senator John Sherman Cooper, and Center Director Benjamin Read.

Christian Manuscripts, Art
On Exhibit at Freer Gallery
By William O. Craig

One of the world's great collections of Biblical manuscripts is among the treasures of the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art, a museum more generally recognized for its famed collection of Far Eastern art objects.

Of special artistic as well as scholarly interest are the Armenian manuscripts. Selected pages from the manuscripts will be displayed during the holiday season in an exhibit hall at the Gallery. Also on exhibit will be religious and decorative objects in Byzantine style, including items from a gold treasure unearthed in Egypt some 60 years ago.

The acquisition of the manuscripts now in the Freer collection began in 1906 with Charles Lang Freer, the Detroit industrialist whose bequest created the Freer Gallery, purchased four Greek manuscripts, including items from a gold treasure unearthed in Egypt some 60 years ago.

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Significant Congress is a national Art Program of the NCF A. American and their loan was taken, in the word at America House. At were displayed in Budapest in an hit in a recent visit to Central Europe. American Indians on the hunt were a Four George Catlin paintings showing.

**Gallery Closed**

(Continued from Page 1)

Culture is one of Washington's most beautiful edifices and houses national art treasures. Mr. Kline said: "Believe me we don't want to damage it either." He feels the monumental two-block-long, three-story building is the most difficult one Metro will have to contend with during the entire time of its construction. What caused the cracking, exactly? Mr. Kline theorizes that weight transfers during the underpinning operation might have caused the north wing to settle slightly and break away, in a hinge-like action. Construction of the subway along the two-block stretch next to the NCF A is now in the home stretch. Pouring of the concrete cocoon that will house the subway itself should next month end the peril of further structural damage to the building from that source.

**SAO to Build Third Largest Optical Scope**

A radically new type of astronomical instrument using an array of several relatively small mirrors to produce a single large image has been announced by the University of Arizona and the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory.

The unusual concept will cluster six to eight small mirrors, each about 9 inches in diameter, making up a single instrument of aperture 176 inches. A single mirror 176 inches in diameter could not be supported and would wobble too much to be useful. The new kind of telescope will allow astronomers to see more faint and distant objects than ever before.

The completed instrument will be a major educational resource of the Museum of History and Technology, whose six million yearly visitors give it the highest recorded attendance of any museum in the world. The bookstore is designed to be a major educational resource of the Smithsonian Institution-

**New Bookstore To Open in MHT**

A major bookstore operated for the Smithsonian by McGraw-Hill Inc. will be opened next spring at the National Museum of History and Technology. It will be located immediately inside the Constitution Avenue entrance and will reflect the vast range of Smithsonian exhibits and research interests, which include everything from the lives of the Presidents to the workings of a steam engine.

The bookstore will feature a wide range of titles in science, technology and American history. Book exhibits, author-reader meetings, and similar activities are planned.

**Inside the NCF A, a crack crosses the Lincoln Gallery terrazzo floor; outside, work proceeds on the 55-foot deep subway trench.**

**Is Civilization an Accident? Valdiva Finds Fuel Dispute**

Betsy J. Meggers, MNH research associate, is one of the contributors to the newly published Praeger book "The Quest for America," edited by Geoffrey Ashe. ($15)

The book examines links—in literature, mythology, archeology, and history—between the Old World and the New. Anthropologist Meggers, and her husband, MNH anthropologist Clifford Evans, co-authored with a South American colleague the 1961 Smithsonian Institution Press Study, "Early Formative Period of Coastal Ecuador: The Valdiva and Machalilla Phases," documenting links between Japanese pottery and pottery they uncovered in excavations at Valdiva, Ecuador, which they suggested was evidence that Japanese sailing vessels had made contact with coastal Ecuador as early as 3000 B.C.

In the Praeger book, Meggers points out that even though the archeological record makes it a difficult case to prove, the growing number of complexes cannot be explained except as the result of contact, and many anthropologists are convinced not only that Trans-Pacific contact took place but that it occurred repeatedly and independently at different times on different parts of the western coast of the Americas. It seems increasingly probable, she writes, that Trans-Pacific introductions played an important part in shaping the civilizations that existed at the time of the European discovery.

Her conclusion: "The archeological nature of the debate about trans-Pacific influences on New World cultural development reflects the subconscious realization that more is at stake than the inven-
tiveness of the American Indian. If New World civilizations are part of the Old World diffusion sphere, then civilization has developed only once on this planet. Such a conclusion forces us to recognize that culture is not the free creation of the human intellect, but a unique product of the complicated interaction over many millennia between man's needs and the resources of the environment. If destroyed, there is no assurance that it would rise again in a similar form. Nor is there any ground for assuming that something comparable exists elsewhere in the universe."

**4 Catlin Paintings Score Hit in Europe**

Four George Catlin paintings showing American Indians on the hunt were a hit in a recent visit to Central Europe. On loan from the NCF A, the canvases were displayed in Budapest in an exhibitionHighest "Hunting in Art" which then in Vienna at America House. At both places they aroused much interest and their loan was taken, in the word of the USIS in Vienna, "as evidence of American friendship.

The project was managed by the International Art Program of the NCF A.

**THE LOOK OF YESTERYEAR**-Fire engines, clowns, motorbikes, buses, taxis, trolleys, and trains, all fashioned from cast iron or Gilbert, are the feature Christmas attraction at MHT through January. About 500 of a collection of nearly 3,000 nostal-
gic toys given to the museum were readily available. Examples include the U.S. Weather Bureau, the Smithsonian Neighborhood Museum, and the Chesapeake Bay Center for Environmental Studies. The Smithsonian will retain a working fund of $2.5 million to take advantage of any opportunities as they occur.

The Smithsonian Research Foundation—"Congress appropriates $400,000 annually to underwrite many basic research projects at the Smithsonian through funds provided by scholars and scientists independent of the Smithsonian—examines a project and determines which merit funding. Only half of the projects accepted can be funded by the annual appropriation. The Smithsonian seeks an additional $200,000 annually, or half the appropriated amount, from private sources to augment the Foundation total." A brochure titled "Smithsonian Institution Opportunities in Private Giving" has been printed at private expense. It may be obtained through Arthur W. Gardner or Henry D. Steele, of the Office of the Development.

**More Private Aid Is Asked to Spur Venture Projects**

(Continued from Page 1)

exhibits and the use of educational tech-

niques to aid formal teaching at all levels.

2. Environmental Studies, in which, noted Mr. Ripley, "the Smithsonian through its collections holds a major role. Our collections form a historical data bank. Using them as a base, current research can project rates of change, thus helping to monitor environmental balances on an international scale and assist in the creation of needed warning sys-
tems. Few investments are more important for future planning and productivity assessment."

Mr. Kautz pointed out that "most people today have forgotten that the Smith-
osian was established with private mon-
ey. And few of the more than 13 million individuals who annually visit the Smith-
osian's national museums recognize that they are all, in a sense, the outgrowth of an act of generosity of a man who evi-
dently had great faith in America, a land he had never visited."

Among other gift opportunities de-
scribed by Mr. Kautz were:

The Venture Fund — "Significant Smithsonian accomplishments have been made possible because we were readily available. Examples include the U.S. Weather Bureau, the Smithsonian Neighborhood Museum, and the Chesapeake Bay Center for Environmental Studies. The Smithsonian will retain a working fund of $2.5 million to take advantage of any opportunities as they occur."

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TV Crew Has Own River Adventure

"Smithsonian Adventure" has a very various means and, basically, to exhibit a tion crew working on the new series that bears that title.

Filing a show on naturalist John Wesley Powell's exploration of the Colo-
rado River, the crew found out first-hand the kinds of hazards he faced when their boat overturned and their equipment was lost. More equipment was flown in, and the Powell special was completed. Produced in cooperation with the Smithsonian and coordinated by the Office of Public Affairs, the series of one-hour specials got its start last summer with "The Search for the Goddess of Love." The story of archeologist Iris Love's search for the Praxiteles statue, the show drew an enthusiastic audience response. Nearly 1,000 letters from throughout the country have flowed to OPA, seeking additional information on the search and on the Smithsonian.

**What Is a Museum?**

The International Council of Museums provides the following definition: "A museum is a permanent establishment administered in the public interest, with a view to conserve, study, exploit, by individual and group interests, for the pleasure and education of the public, objects of cultural value."