



THE SMITHSONIAN TORCH

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Fall 1971



LANGLEY MEDAL PRESENTED—Lt. Gen. Samuel C. Phillips, USAF, former director of the Apollo manned space flight program who received the Smithsonian's Langley Gold Medal for Aerodromics September 26, is congratulated by former Chief Justice Earl Warren. Conversing with them is Rep. Fred Schwengel (R-Iowa), a member of the House Subcommittee on Libraries and Memorials, which is concerned with operations of the Institution. The medal was presented at ceremonies observing the 125th anniversary of the Smithsonian's founding. The former chief justice presided in place of Chief Justice Warren Burger, who was unable to attend. (Excerpts from Secretary Ripley's address at the ceremonies are on page 3.)

Distinguished Group Named To National Associates Board

A National Board of the Smithsonian Associates has been established by the Institution.

The board met for the first time October 7 at the Smithsonian as guests of Secretary Ripley to review plans for its role as an advisor to the Institution on national and international opportunities in education and science. The board also will help to gain support from the private sector for the Institution's public educational goals.

Thomas J. Watson, Jr., Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the International Business Machines Corp. and a member of the Smithsonian's Board of Regents, is chairman of the new group.

Calling on the board to help give the Smithsonian a closer tie with the public that it has served for 125 years, Mr. Watson led a day-long orientation that included talks by Secretary Ripley and other senior staff members on the present status and future plans of the Institution.



Mr. Watson

Members of the board are:

William Blackie, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Caterpillar Tractor Co., Peoria, Ill. Mr. Blackie joined Caterpillar in 1939 having previously been associated for nine years in Chicago with Price Waterhouse & Co., certified public accountants. He is a trustee of the Conference Board Inc., a member of the board of the International Executive Service Corps, the Emergency Committee for American Trade, the International Advisory Committee of the Chase Manhattan Bank, the Advisory Council on Japan-U.S. Economic Relations, the Advisory Committee of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and a member of the British-North American Committee.

John W. Brooks, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Celanese Corp., New York City. Mr. Brooks began his career in 1939 as a junior executive trainee for Sears Roebuck & Co. In 1940 he entered the textile business as a salesman for Nashua Manufacturing Co. After Army service and positions with several textile firms, he joined Celanese Corp. in 1955 as fibers merchandising manager, and nine months later became fibers marketing director. He was promoted steadily and has been a director of the corporation since 1961. He became president in 1965, was named chief executive officer in 1968, and has been chairman since April 1971. He is also a director of ACF Industries, Bankers Trust Co., and the Economic Club of New York, a vice president of Citizens Budget Commission, Inc., and a trustee of the Fashion Institute of Technology.

Richard P. Cooley, President, Chief Executive Officer and Director, Wells Fargo & Company, San Francisco. Mr. Cooley has been with Wells Fargo since 1949, moving through the ranks until he attained his present position in 1968. Active in the National Alliance of Businessmen, he is also a Regent of the University of San Francisco, Director of the United Crusade, President of the San Francisco Clearing House Association, and a director of the San Francisco Opera Association and several corporations.

Joseph F. Cullman III, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Philip Morris, Inc., New York City. Mr. Cullman, a third generation member of one of the nation's best-known tobacco families, joined Benson & Hedges after service as a naval officer during World War II. He joined Philip Morris when it acquired Benson & Hedges in 1954. He became president and chief executive officer in 1957, and assumed his present position in 1967. He is also a director of IBM World Trade Corp., Bankers Trust Co., Ford Motor Co., Cullman Bros., Inc., Braniff Airways, Inc., and Levi Strauss & Co. His many civic activities include trusteeships in Montefiore Hospital and the New York State Nature and Historical Preserve Trust, work with Yale and Stanford Universities, and the Centennial Committee of the American Museum of Natural History. He is New York City Chairman of the United Negro College Fund 1971 campaign, and president and director of the Whitney M. Young, Jr., Memorial Foundation. He was chairman of the 1969 and 1970 U. S. Open Tennis Championships at Forest Hills and honorary chairman in 1971.

Paul L. Davies, Senior Director, FMC Corp., San Jose, Calif., and Senior Partner, Lehman Brothers, New York City. Mr. Davies began his banking career in 1922, joined the staff of the American Trust Co., San Francisco as an assistant cashier in 1923 and later held the positions of assistant vice president and vice president. He joined FMC in 1928, serving in various executive positions until 1956 when he was named board chairman and chief executive officer. He was named chairman of the executive committee in 1966, and became senior director in 1967. He also is a director of the Southern Pacific Co.; International Business Machines Corp.; Caterpillar Tractor Co.; Lehman Corp., and O'Connor Hospital Foundation, and is honorary director of the Stanford Research Institute. He is a board member of several other organizations, both civic and business, and an honorary trustee of the Committee for Economic Development.

Leonard K. Firestone, Director, Firestone Tire & Rubber Co., Akron, O. Mr. Firestone began his career in the Firestone sales department in 1931 and moved through the ranks to become President of the Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. of Calif. He retired from that position in 1970 while continuing as Director of the Akron firm. Since his retirement he has devoted his time to civic activities both in Los Angeles, his residence, and nationally. He is president of the Richard Nixon Foundation, owner of the Desert Sun newspapers, on the board of trustees of the University of Southern California, and on the board of several other civic organizations.

G. Keith Funston, Chairman of the Board of Olin Corp., New York. He joined Olin in 1967 after 16 years as president of the New York Stock Exchange. Prior to his association with the Exchange, he was president of Trinity College, Hartford, Conn. His membership affiliations include the Business Council, Seabury House, and the International Chamber of Commerce. A resident of Greenwich, Conn., he is a director of the Business Committee for the Arts, the Episcopal Church Foundation, and the American Cancer Society.

(Continued on Page 4)

Renwick Gallery to Open With Design, Craft Exhibits

By Benjamin Ruhe

A national showcase in Washington for American design, crafts, and the decorative arts, the Smithsonian Institution's Renwick Gallery, will be opened next January, Secretary Ripley has announced.

Special receptions over three days will precede the public opening January 28.

The Renwick Gallery is named for its architect, James Renwick, and is located in the center of Washington at 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., beside Blair House and across from the White House. It is one of the city's loveliest and most historic buildings. It was constructed during the Civil War period as the city's first real art museum, the original Corcoran Gallery of Art, and then used for half a century as a courthouse before being turned over to the Smithsonian in the mid-1960s. Careful exterior and interior restoration of the building is now in its concluding stages.

For the opening next January, eight concurrent exhibitions will provide a sampling of American applied arts from traditional Indian pottery through contemporary furniture made by craftsmen in wood. Other shows will focus on industrial design, James Renwick's architectural achievements in Washington, the Index of American Design, Frederick Carder's glass craftsmanship, architectural photographs by Frank Roos, and art objects using the once popular "Four Continents" allegorical theme.

In addition, the building has been refurbished with period furniture of the last third of the nineteenth century. Several of the rooms, including the Grand Salon and Octagon Room, will become permanent exhibitions. The latter was furnished through the courtesy of the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation. The Grand Salon will be hung with many of the paintings displayed there almost a century ago when the building served as the original Corcoran Gallery; the works will be on loan from the new Corcoran.

The Renwick Gallery has a long and interesting history. It was commissioned in 1858 as one of the country's first art museums by William W. Corcoran, a wealthy merchant banker, to house his private art collection. Completed after the Civil War, it added a great deal of cultural glamour to the Nation's Capital, but when Corcoran's collections outgrew the building in the 1890s and a new building was constructed two blocks away to house them, Renwick's building was taken over for use as the United States Court of Claims. It was not until 1965 when it was threatened by the wrecking ball that it was transferred to the Smithsonian to be restored and used again as a public museum.

The Renwick Gallery is a department of the National Collection of Fine Arts.

SI Experts Aid New Observatory

The first astronomical observatory in Israel, established with Smithsonian assistance, officially opened October 26 at Mitzpe Ramon, a small town about 100 miles south of Tel Aviv in the Negev Desert.

Astronomers from around the world attended the dedication of the facility, named the Florence and George S. Wise Observatory in honor of the president of Tel Aviv University and his wife. The observatory is a field research facility of the University Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Dr. Fred L. Whipple, Director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, and Dr. David Challinor, Smithsonian Assistant Secretary for Science, were among those at the dedication.

A group of American astronomers coordinated by Dr. Myron Lecar of SAO is collaborating with Israeli astronomers in the observatory's research programs. Its location in the Middle East is expected to be particularly useful for joint programs conducted with Western Hemisphere sites.

Herman, Feldman In Renwick Posts

The appointments of Lloyd E. Herman as Administrator and Arthur M. Feldman as Associate Curator of the Smithsonian Institution's Renwick Gallery have been announced.

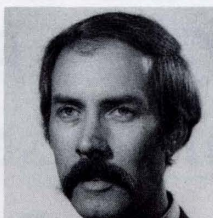
Mr. Herman will direct a staff that will specialize in American applied arts, both past and present. Formerly associated with the National Association of Travel Organizations for five years and then manager of public relations and special exhibition programs

for the National Housing Center, he joined the staff of the Smithsonian in 1966, and previously was Director of the Office of Exposition Hall Programs at the Smithsonian's Arts and Industries Building.

Mr. Herman was educated in his home state of Oregon, and received a bachelor's degree from American University, Washington, D.C.

Before accepting the Renwick appointment, Mr. Feldman served as a visiting curatorial assistant at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. He had previously trained at the Nelson Gallery-Atkins Museum in Kansas City and at the University of Missouri's Museum of Art and Archaeology, where he received a Master of Arts degree in art history and archaeology in 1970. He also did postgraduate work at the University of Pennsylvania. He received a bachelor's degree from Villanova University.

He has taught, organized 12 exhibitions for the University of Missouri museum, served as a member of a Temple University archaeological dig, and has done extensive research and art collection cataloging.



Mr. Herman

Lawton Appointed Assistant Director Of Freer Gallery

Dr. Thomas Lawton has been appointed Assistant Director of the Freer Gallery of Art.

Dr. Lawton has been with the gallery since September, 1967, as Assistant Curator, then Curator, Chinese Art. He studied at the Rhode Island School of Design and the Durfee Technical Institute and received a Master of Fine Arts degree from the State University of Iowa in 1959. Dr. Lawton subsequently attended Harvard University and the Stanford Chinese Language Training Center in Taipei, Taiwan, where he mastered the Chinese language. He was awarded the Doctor of Philosophy degree from Harvard in 1970.

Dr. Lawton has distinguished himself in his studies of Far Eastern art, with special emphasis on China. He has lectured extensively, and has served as an advisor to the National Palace Museum in Taiwan, and as Vice-Executive Secretary of the International Symposium on Chinese Paintings held at the National Palace Museum in Taipei in 1970. He has published a number of scholarly works dealing with aspects of oriental art.



COMPLAINT DEPARTMENT—Under new SI employee grievance and appeals procedures, impartial examiners are to conduct investigations and hold hearings, then report findings and recommendations to the official who must make the decision. To be designated a grievance and appeals examiner, an individual must complete a training course prescribed by the Civil Service Commission. SI staff members who have completed training are William G. Melson, Department of Mineral Sciences, NMNH; I. Marie Hartman, Administrative Services Division; Paul K. Knierim, Assistant Director, NMNH; George W. Riggs, Administrative Officer, NCFA; Robert G. Tillotson, Assistant Director, NMHT. Pictured above with representatives of SI's Office of Personnel Administration, they are from left: Melson; Rodney G. Evans, Assistant Director for Organization Management, Personnel; Tillotson; Miss Hartman; Knierim; Riggs; and Vincent J. Doyle, Director, Personnel.

Special Survey Gives Profile Of Visitors to SI Museums

By Mary Krug

Who visits the Smithsonian Institution? A white, middle-aged, upper middle class man who has a better-than-average education and is not from the Washington area.

That is the conclusion of a year-long visitor survey conducted for the Smithsonian from October 1968 to October 1969 by Mrs. Carolyn H. Wells, a museum consultant, and a staff of trained volunteers. It supports the findings of other museums that have conducted surveys of this type.

The conclusions are based on data collected from nearly 5,000 interviews with visitors to the National Museum of Natural History and National Museum of History and Technology. The sample did not include any of the area school groups visiting the museums because of the difficulty in detaining a whole class while interviewing one member of it. Thus, it does not reflect any of the some 45,000 area youngsters who took Smithsonian-led tours in that year, nor any of the undetermined number of school groups from Washington and elsewhere that came without reservations.

The survey questionnaire was designed by the Bureau of Social Science Research of Washington, in consultation with Smithsonian officials. Questions ranged from "What is the highest level of education you have completed?" to "Is this your first visit to this particular museum?" to "Did you or the people you came with have difficulty finding a place to park?"

Among the facts turned up about the group interviewed were:

Three-quarters of the respondents did not live in the Washington area. The largest group (31 percent) of the out-of-town residents came from the Northeast part of the country.

Sixty percent of the respondents over 18 had had some college education.

Sixty percent of the respondents had incomes over \$10,000, with 17 percent making more than \$20,000. Only 7 percent had a family income of less than \$4,000.

What attracts visitors to the Smithsonian? Of all the exhibits in the two buildings surveyed, dinosaurs, the First Ladies' gowns, the Hope Diamond and the antique cars were the most popular at all age levels.

"Visitors bring friends and relatives and their own children to see objects they remember from childhood," according to the survey report. "They like to return and find the same exhibit at the same location. The Smithsonian Institution is unique among museums in the United States in attracting a large number of visitors from all over the country who have, as mentioned earlier, 'always known' about the exhibits, from school days on; Smithsonian exhibits are truly a national heritage."

Dr. W. R. Ernst, Of MNH, Dies



Dr. Ernst

Dr. Wallace Roy Ernst, Curator of Phanerogams in the Department of Botany at the Museum of Natural History, died of cancer October 8 at Washington Hospital Center, after an eight-month illness. He was 43.

A Californian, Dr. Ernst had earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of California (Los Angeles) and his doctorate from Stanford (1962). He worked summers as a park ranger-naturalist at Crater Lake, Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks, an experience that stimulated a lifelong interest in natural history education.

After working for a year as a herbarium botanist at the University of California, he came east in 1961 and worked for two years as a botanist at Harvard University before joining the Smithsonian in 1963 as Associate Curator of Phanerogams. At the time of his death he was also a Professor of Botany (in absentia) at the University of Kansas. He was an internationally recognized authority on several plant families including the poppy and caper and had published some 20 professional papers and reviews.

Dr. Stanwyn Shetler, in a tribute to his late colleague and friend delivered at the Eighteenth Annual Systematics Symposium, Oct. 18, at the Missouri Botanical Garden, recalled how Dr. Ernst had fought to stay on his feet to continue his work in the final months: "Against considerable odds he did continue his research between periods of hospitalization and completed his 5-year effort on the genus *Lamourouxia* (Scrophulariaceae), sending it to the Smithsonian Press in the summer . . . This cleaned the slate and brought him great satisfaction."

He is survived by his mother, Velma Bell Ernst, and a brother, Charles Edwin, both of Los Angeles.

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November 1971

Published for Smithsonian Institution personnel by the News Bureau of the Office of Public Affairs, Room 107, SI Building. Editor of this issue was William O. Craig. Suggestions for news items are invited. Call Extension 5911.

About SI People

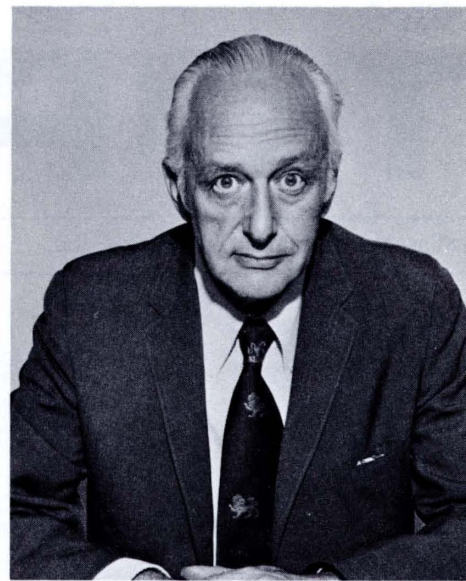
Dr. Robert Brooks Joins Staff

Dr. Robert A. Brooks has joined the staff of Under Secretary James Bradley as Deputy Under Secretary.

Dr. Brooks is a Harvard University graduate and began his career there in 1946, first as a Junior Fellow, then as an instructor in undergraduate and graduate courses in Greek and Latin languages and literature. He changed to international management and educational consulting when he joined Harbridge House, Inc., Boston, Mass., in 1951.

He served as Assistant Secretary of the Army, Installations and Logistics, from 1965-1969, then resumed his career with Harbridge House. He rose to the office of president of the firm prior to coming with the Smithsonian Institution.

Since 1951, Dr. Brooks also has maintained interest in classical and humanistic studies, with intermittent publication of notes, articles, translations, and verse.



Dr. Brooks

Sigma Xi Initiates

Two NMNH scientists were initiated into the Society of the Sigma Xi at its annual dinner meeting. The society, which recognizes "noteworthy achievement in research," tapped **Dr. Clifford Evans**, chairman of the anthropology department, and **Dr. Raymond Manning**, chairman of the Department of Invertebrate Zoology. Each presented a paper to the society, Dr. Evans on "Transpacific Origin of New World Pottery" and Dr. Manning on "Studies on Panamanian Marine Organisms: Implications of a Sea-Level Canal."

Fosberg Honored

Dr. F. Raymond Fosberg, Special Advisor on Tropical Biology to the Director of NMNH, has been awarded the Gregory Medal of distinguished service to the cause of science by the Bishop Museum, Honolulu. Dr. Fosberg, an ecologist and biologist, received the medal at the Twelfth Pacific Science Congress in Canberra, Australia. He is the author of more than 400 papers on Pacific island ecology.

Gould Is SITES Chief

Dennis A. Gould, an innovative arts administrator from Portland, Ore., has been named Chief of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. For the last year and a half, Mr. Gould has served as development director of the Portland Art Association, with broad responsibilities in connection with the association's museum and art school. Prior to that, he served as director of statewide art services operated out of the University of Oregon Art Museum. As head of SITES, Mr. Gould succeeds **Mrs. Dorothy T. Van Arsdale**, who resigned last November to enter private business in Florida. In the interim, **Mrs. Eileen Rose** served as Acting Chief.

Kinard in Africa

John Kinard, director of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum, is on a six-week tour of museums in Cairo, UAR; Kenya, Zambia, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Liberia to talk with museum directors, curators, and general audiences of young leaders of Africa about their nations' cultural heritage.

Scientists Honored

Senior scientist **Dr. Horton H. Hobbs Jr.** of the Department of Invertebrate Zoology, NMNH, has been honored by the Virginia Academy of Sciences with that group's highest award. Dr. Hobbs received the Ivey F. Lewis Distinguished Service Award "for significant contributions to the activities of the Academy." Another Virginian, physical anthropologist **Dr. T. Dale Stewart**, was appointed by Governor Linwood Holton to the Board of Trustees of the Science Museum of Virginia. Another MNH honoree is **Dr. Gus Van Beek**, recipient of the Alumnus of the Year award from the University of Tulsa for his distinguished work in Old World archeology.

Exhibition Awards

The Rube Goldberg exhibition, which closed at the end of the summer after a very popular run at NMHT, brought more honors to the Institution. "Rube Goldberg Or Doing it the Hard Way," a film prepared to run continuously in the exhibition, won a CINE Golden Eagle Award, and the exhibit catalog was honored by the Printing Industries of America's annual awards program. The movie was written and directed by **Benjamin Lawless**, assistant chief of the Office of Exhibits, and produced by **Karen Loveland** and **John Miller** of the Exhibits Motion Picture Unit. **Peter Marzio**, NMHT historian, edited the catalog.

Hubel Named Director

Gordon Hubel, director of the SI Press, was elected to a two-year term as a director of the Association of American University Presses at the group's annual meeting.

Welsh to New Post

Peter C. Welsh, Director of Museum Programs, has been named Director of the New York State Historical Association and its Farmers' Museum. With the Smithsonian since 1959, Mr. Welsh has served as Assistant to the Director General of Museums, Curator of the Growth of the United States, and editor of the *Smithsonian Journal of History*.

Shank Elected

Director of Libraries **Dr. Russell Shank** has been elected Vice-President/President-Elect of the Association of College and Research Libraries. It is his second presidency; he has previously served as president of the ALA's Information Science and Automation Division.

New OPA Director

Carl W. Larsen has assumed the post of Director of the Office of Public Affairs, succeeding **Frederic M. Philips**. Mr. Larsen formerly was public information and personnel director for the Universities Research Association, Inc., a consortium of 52 universities developing the world's largest "atom smasher" to be known as the National Accelerator Laboratory, near Batavia, Ill. Previously he was director of public relations for the University of Chicago for 10 years. Mr. Philips has left the Smithsonian to engage in Hispanic studies at the University of Madrid.

The Smithsonian and the Past

By S. Dillon Ripley

Following are excerpts from Secretary Ripley's address at ceremonies September 26 celebrating the Institution's 125th anniversary:

In September, 125 years ago, the first meeting of the Regents of the Smithsonian Institution was held in Washington. It is perhaps worthwhile celebrating that event every so often. It is now a generation since President Truman proclaimed the hundredth anniversary, and my predecessor Dr. Alexander Wetmore accepted from the Postmaster General a first-class stamp with an image of the Institution building on it—a 3-cent stamp. If so much can happen to so many in twenty-five years it seems doubly worthwhile celebrating the anniversary . . .

A hundred years ago, the Institution was preparing for the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876. The effects of that exposition were dramatic for the Smithsonian. We inherited a vast deal of objects, and the momentum of the acquisition was sufficient to bring us our second building, the Arts and Industries Museum, completed in 1878. Now, a hundred years later, this Institution is busily planning for the Bicentennial in 1976. In Washington, at least, we can concentrate on delineating the American Experience for millions of visitors who will be thronging our Nation's capital in that year. We have a duty and an obligation to do so, not only to remind Americans and others of our past, the impact of our science, our technology, and yes also, our culture on our surroundings and on ourselves, but also through these legacies to discern the possibilities for our future. The projection of our past upon a screen, mirrored with the faces and the colors of the present, can surely be used, as in a camera lucida, to outline the traces of the future.

Who can be so foolish as to put away our past? No man of business in his right mind would overlook a past annual report. It is a travesty of our educational processes in these days of increasing complexity, of vast accumulations of facts and data, that the teaching of history is going out of fashion. The reason for it is not far to seek, and would cause any rational believer in the precepts of education such as John Quincy Adams to assume that we had taken leave of our senses. The teaching of history has been transformed by the teaching of sociology, so that today history is thought by young people to be a collection of myths interpreted through oracles. The oracles are influenced by priests who are thought merely to be 'selling' something. Therefore, none of it is necessarily true. All over the world whole segments of people have become used to systems in which lies are used as the basis for propaganda and policy. In such an atmosphere, enhanced by the instant communications which now subject us to so little opportunity for reflection or objective thought we realize that Adams' "useful truths and knowledge already acquired" are thought of as a very limited part of contemporary higher education. Theories have become more fashionable than facts. The existence of truth is doubted by sceptics, and the young feel that life is a "put on".

At the same time the truth exists in objects. It can be interpreted and understood through objects. They cannot lie. Perhaps objects have been classically revered for this reason. They can be handled, touched, thought about and reflected over, and in so doing convey a sense of the truth beyond peradventure. We know that the teaching of history is vital, we who care about objects. We know that the examples of history contain a reaffirmation of everything we believe in and hope for the future, whether it is in our own interest, that of our country, or that of our environment which is the world's. We know that the truth is contained in these things.

Why then does conventional, organized education pay so little attention to our kinds of research, to museum research,

and above all to museum exhibits and education? If education as an industry is in difficulty, if there is a credibility gap brought on by an excess of scepticism, muddy thinking, outmoded ritual and a failure of belief, then I should think an effort to go back to first principles would be of the highest priority. A well-known Communist intellectual was recently quoted as saying, "after mature consideration I have come to the conclusion that the only revolutionary thing in the world is the truth". In the world today the truth is denied to many people. On our side of the fence it seems to us that perhaps one half of the world's population is so deprived. But the proportion can be said of course to be much greater. If the truth is really revolutionary it can be said not to lie in most established institutions, whether political or otherwise, including vast institutions of commerce which in themselves are like minor nations. We in America had prided ourselves for nearly two centuries on truth as an aspect of the pursuit of freedom and happiness, in a free press, liberty of worship and a national attitude of mind which was endlessly enquiring. From this we produced miracles of technology, shrewd insights into manners of organization and trade and a sense of purpose—our belief in ourselves, our honesty and our idealism. Today's education has degenerated into a temporary transfer of training and information. Much of the best of it is disguised trade-learning, but trades themselves are thought to be demeaning. Professionalism in education is largely a fanciful conceit for officialism. Much teaching today is time serving and produces anomie rather than endowing the student with any sense of purpose or "the enjoyment of his rights as a citizen" as Adams phrased it.

In the last three or four years this Institution, like other major institutional systems in our land, has come under scrutiny. Our purposes like those of the universities are questioned. Doubt and suspicion pervade our institutions, as people at all levels suspect the truth of what they hear and see and read. If we are a sacred cow as indeed we are, we should be capable of reaffirming our own goal to show the truth, to weigh all factors in the balance, not to be swayed by prejudice or bigotry whether it comes from the left or the right, but to diffuse knowledge objectively, to "tell it like it is".

It has been said by those perhaps too eager to claim such a distinction, people like university presidents for example, that a university is the sole instrument devised by man to illuminate and perfect the truth. A moment's reflection and the recollection of academic faculty debates should be enough to corrode one's confidence in such an illusion. No single institutional system or pattern could possibly claim the hegemony of a rational exposure of the truth. The truth is always too revolutionary if you will. One can only strive for perfection but hardly ever assume that it is attainable.

If the Smithsonian is to increase knowledge in the next twenty-five years, let us join with others in using the Bicentennial observance as a means of reviving interest in the truth as expressed in objects. Let us continue our pursuit of the unfashionable by the unconventional. Let us relive the American experience to remind us of our hard-won birthright and to point the way to the enjoyment of our rights as citizens of the world, in that world's only environment, our temporary home, our sole stopping place short of the stars. Let us also join with others in pioneering studies on the creation and capturing of interest, on studies in cognition on the ability to learn effectively so that all of us, men and women of a country in which we believe truth still resides, can eventually achieve that age-old dream of our land, to be qualified through education for the enjoyment of our rights and for the performance of our duties throughout life.



SMITHSONIAN POST OFFICE—Postmaster General Winton M. Blount established letter mail service at the Smithsonian September 27 by hand-canceling a letter for Secretary Ripley. The dedication ceremony was part of the Institution's 125th anniversary celebration. It took place inside a century-old general store-post office from Headsville, W.Va., which has been reassembled inside the Museum of History and Technology. Some of the store's original merchandise is on the shelves behind Mr. Blount. Dr. Daniel J. Boorstin, MHT director, is at right. The letter held by Secretary Ripley is the first of several hundred "first-day covers" canceled that day and sold to collectors. They bore a special design and stamps commemorating West Virginia's statehood and the Smithsonian's 1946 centennial observance.

So They Say About SI...

One hundred and twenty-five years ago Congress enacted legislation which established the Smithsonian Institution to increase and diffuse knowledge among men. This month we celebrate this important milestone in the Smithsonian's impressive record of public service.

Its contributions are a distinguished tribute to the English scientist whose generosity and vision first made its founding possible and to the dedicated generations of scientists and scholars who have carried forward its mission. This anniversary is a brilliant reminder of the public benefits that can result from enlightened private endowment.

Countless Americans and foreign visitors, now numbering thirteen million each year, continue to enjoy profit from the exhibits and collections of the Smithsonian's National Museums.

Creatively combining both public and private resources, the Smithsonian points up the continuing need for partnership in the global task of enlarging man's knowledge of the past, his understanding of the present, and his preparation for the future.

On this milestone I congratulate those who are associated with this remarkable Institution on their success in arousing the curiosity, stimulating the creativity, and satisfying the queries of men, women, and children of all backgrounds and every walk of life. I am confident that under wise and imaginative leadership the Smithsonian will continue to flourish and to serve mankind.

—President Richard M. Nixon

Connecticut people are familiar with Mr. Ripley, who revamped Yale's Peabody Museum when he was director there from 1959 to 1964. He breathed new life into old artifacts, introducing dimensions of sound and smell in addition to sight in the displays. . . . Today's Smithsonian Institution is recognized the world over for the enterprise it shows in increasing and diffusing knowledge among men, in keeping with the purpose of its founder.

—Meriden, Conn., *Record*

The Smithsonian Institution . . . is fantasy turned into reality. . . .

Successful probably beyond Smithson's wildest hopes, the Smithsonian is so huge the National Geographic Society has estimated it would take one person several years to view each of the items on display for just one minute.

Quite a place . . .

—Syracuse (N.Y.), *Herald Journal*

Besides sponsoring scientific research and a variety of cultural programs, the Smithsonian is a museum of American treasures. . . .

Last year, an estimated 13.4 million people visited the Smithsonian and, we are sure, every one of them enjoyed it. In this, the 125th year of its existence, we hope even more Americans treat themselves to a Smithsonian visit.

—Macon, Ga., *Telegraph and News*

This week, Washington's great Smithsonian Institution is celebrating its 125th birthday—livelier than ever after generations as one of our city's most popular attractions. Far from resting on its laurels as a leading museum of history, the Smithsonian today is constantly working to improve its ties to the community and to involve people in its activities. . . .

For everyone—visitors and residents alike—it is a fitting occasion to pay tribute to the Smithsonian, and to find out more about the vast array of programs being planned for the future.

—The Washington Post

The Smithsonian Institution has broken one of the cardinal rules of museum operation . . . for 125 years.

Museums are supposed to concentrate in one field to attract the very best. The Smithsonian will sail into almost any area of human and zoological endeavor. Its 62 million catalogued objects contain such an amazing array of animal, vegetable and mineral that for many it seems the result of a colony of gigantic packrats.

But for many more, it is the ultimate museum, with so much to see and with such variety, that there are very few recorded cases of the "museum blahs" resulting from its exhibits.

—Roanoke, Va., *World News*

To the Editor:

I read with interest the *Dispatch* editorial Sept. 25 on the anniversary of the Smithsonian Institution.

I had the great pleasure of spending three days in Washington over the Labor Day weekend, and I consider it a must for each of us to realize the beauty, solemn dignity, and our debt to the past by visiting and enjoying the Smithsonian.

I came home feeling much richer and my faith uplifted by the trip.

—J. Burgett, Lancaster, Ohio
(letter in the *Columbus*
(Ohio) *Evening Dispatch*)



Examining one of the ancient Chinese axe blades at the Freer Gallery are investigators (from left) Roy S. Clarke Jr., W. T. Chase and Rutherford J. Gettens.

Tests Show Chinese Made Royal Axes From Meteorites

By Tom Harney

Experts at the Smithsonian Institution's Freer Gallery of Art and National Museum of Natural History have established that two ancient Chinese axes in the Freer collection—made centuries before China's iron age began—were fashioned from iron meteorites.

The metal blades are among the oldest objects made from meteoritic iron known to exist and also two of the earliest instances of the use of iron in the Far East. They are believed to have belonged to a Chinese prince.

The findings of the collaborating investigators, Rutherford J. Gettens, Roy S. Clarke, Jr., and W. T. Chase, are reported in a newly published monograph of the Freer Gallery of Art.

The two weapons—a broad axe and a dagger axe—were excavated in 1931 in China's Honan Province, and purchased by the Freer Gallery in 1934, part of a group of 12 weapons, all thought to be made of bronze. They were dated at the time by the Freer's experts as early Chou Dynasty (about 1000 B.C.). The Freer's experts were puzzled by the occurrence of iron, because iron metallurgy in China dates from about 600 B.C. Thus the two weapons were manufactured about 400 years before China's iron age began.

The explanation was not suggested until 1950, when samples from the blades were sent to the laboratories of the National Museum of Natural History for analysis. There it was found that the metal had a high nickel content—a characteristic of meteoritic iron.

The Freer Gallery then enlisted the aid of Roy Clarke, Jr., Supervisor and Curator of the Division of Meteorites, MNH Department of Mineral Sciences. He cooperated in a long-term study of the blades, using a variety of instrumental techniques: X-radiography, X-ray diffraction, electronbeam micro-spectrometry and emission spectrometry. These tests conclusively proved the meteoritic origin of the iron.

The Freer investigators, Rutherford Gettens and W. T. Chase, believe there is evidence that the two weapons were owned by Marquis K'ang, the Prince of Wei, a brother of a Chou Dynasty king.

Engraved with designs of stylized dragons and inlaid with glass, the axes apparently were used as ceremonial ornaments and then buried with the prince when he died. Though some corrosion and damage occurred over the centuries, they are on the whole remarkably well preserved. Their construction sheds light on the skills of early Chinese metalworkers, who used a casting-on technique to attach the meteoritic iron blades securely to bronze axe heads.

The investigators point out that there are many mentions of meteorites in ancient Chinese literature. Most of these are stories of meteor sightings and their interpretations as portents. The investigators believe that if the metal in these weapons had been seen to come from the sky, it would certainly have been interpreted as auspicious and might be an important reason why the metal would have been used as a material for a prince's ceremonial weapon.

The Chinese are not by any means the only people to have made use of meteoritic metal. Other cultures—some of them of a stone-age level—used this rare metal to make amulets, beads, rings and images. The Eskimos of Northern Greenland fabricated harpoon heads and scraping knives by hammering meteorite fragments and inserting them into bone handles. Several instances are known of Mexican Indians fabricating plough shares, machetes and nails of iron meteorites. The Hopewell Indians of North America are known to have made many objects of meteoritic iron—as did the pioneers of North America also.

The authors conclude:

"The proof of the use of meteoritic iron in these objects indicates the sensitivity of the ancient Chinese craftsman to materials and in particular to the use of what must have been to him a new and different material. Holding these aged, damaged and corroded objects in our hands, we appreciate the delight Marquis K'ang must have taken in owning them; and the establishment of this direct, tangible link to the mind of a man who lived 3,000 years ago is one of the greatest pleasures an investigator can have."

The findings are reported in "Two Early Chinese Bronze Weapons with Meteoritic Iron Blades," by Rutherford J. Gettens, Roy S. Clarke, Jr., and W. T. Chase (Freer Gallery of Art Occasional Papers, Vol. 4, No. 1).

Board

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Alfred C. Glassell, Jr., independent oil and gas operator, Houston, Tex. Mr. Glassell is founder and President of the Glassell Drilling Co., which pioneered in the drilling of deep wells in the Gulf Coast of Louisiana and in Texas. He is a director of various firms ranging from the Down Town Real Estate Co., Inc., to the El Paso Products Co. and a member of numerous professional organizations. An avid fisherman, he belongs to fishing and seafaring clubs throughout the world. He is also active in such Houston civic organizations as the Grand Opera Society, Symphony Society, and the Association for Community Television.

Ben W. Heineman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Northwest Industries, Inc. of Chicago, a holding company formed by the North Western Railway for purposes of diversification. Mr. Heineman practiced corporate law in Chicago for two decades before joining the Chicago and North Western Railway Co. in 1956. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago and has served on a number of Presidential commissions, most recently in 1968 when he was appointed chairman of the newly established Commission on Income Maintenance Programs by President Johnson, serving until the submission of the commission report on the nation's welfare system late in 1969.

William Alexander Hewitt, Chairman of Deere & Co., Moline, Ill. He is a director of American Telephone Co., Conill Corp., Continental Illinois National Bank & Trust Co. of Chicago and the Continental Oil Co. Other membership affiliations include: The Chase Manhattan Bank, International Advisory Committee; American Institute of Architects, honorary membership; and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Board of Trustees. Mr. Hewitt has been appointed to a number of special Presidential commissions, most recently in September 1969 when President Nixon asked him to serve on a Task Force on International Development.

Lewis A. Lapham, Vice Chairman of Bankers Trust Co. and President of the Bankers Trust New York Corp., New York City. After beginning his career with the *San Francisco Examiner*, Mr. Lapham joined the American-Hawaiian Steamship Co. in 1937 as assistant to the president. In 1953 he joined Grace Line as Executive Vice President and Director. He was elected President of Grace Line and a Director of W. R. Grace & Co. in 1955. He became a member of Bankers Trust Co.'s board of directors and its executive committee in 1950 and was named Chairman of the board in 1966. In 1968, while remaining Vice Chairman of the bank, Mr. Lapham was elected President of its holding company parent. He resigned the presidency of Grace Line to devote full time to his duties with senior management of the bank. Mr. Lapham is also a director of Federal Insurance Co.; H. J. Heinz Co.; Mobil Oil Corp.; Tri-Continental Corp.; Technical Studies, Inc.; the Chubb Corp.; North American Philips Corp., and Intermodal Transportation Systems, Inc.

Frank Y. Larkin, Senior Vice President and Director of the Putnam Trust Co., Greenwich, Conn. A graduate of Princeton University and Fordham University Law School, Mr. Larkin's past affiliations include: Trustee, Finch College, New York; Chairman, Board of Management, National Audubon Society of Greenwich, Conn., and Vice President, Connecticut Bankers Association. He currently is a Vice President and Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of the Rosemary Hall Foundation.

Francis C. Rooney, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer of Melville Shoe Corp., and Chairman of the Board of Thom McAn Shoe Co., New York City. After service as a naval officer in World War II, Mr. Rooney became a salesman for the John F. Fote Shoe Co., Brockton, Mass., in 1946. He joined the sales department of the Florsheim Shoe Co. in Chicago in 1948, and started with the Melville Shoe Corp. in 1953. He became a director of the Melville corporation, and president of Thom McAn in 1961. He has held his present positions since 1964. He is also a director of Bankers Trust Co.; Collins & Aikman; the Volume Footwear Retailers Association, and United Cerebral Palsy; a trustee of Fordham University and the National Safety Council; an associate trustee of Holy Cross College, and a member of the advisory committee of the Special School for Retarded Children.

Merritt K. Ruddock, President, Almar Minerals Company, San Francisco, Calif. Mr. Ruddock began his career as a journalist and was subsequently in the foreign service before becoming associated with the family business, the Southwestern Development Company, a firm concerned with investments and mineral and oil exploration, in 1952. His many other activities include the World

Affairs Council of Northern California, California Academy of Sciences, and volunteers for Institutional Aid, at Sonoma State Hospital. A member of the Belvedere City Council since 1964, he was the city's mayor from 1964-66.

Helen Belding Smith, Chairman, Smithsonian Associates Women's Committee. Mrs. Smith, wife of Henry P. Smith III, Member of Congress from New York's fortieth district, is active in civic affairs in both Washington, D.C., and North Tonawanda, N.Y., her residence. A volunteer worker in the D.C. public schools, she is on the Women's Auxiliary Board of the Eastern Branch Boy's Club. She has served as Red Cross Chairman of the Congressional Club and District Chairman of the Buffalo and Erie County Red Cross. In North Tonawanda she was also Chairman of the Buffalo and Erie County Girl Scout Board, a member of the Executive Board of the United Community Fund of the Tonawandas, and a member of the DeGraff Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees.

Thomas J. Watson, Jr., Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, International Business Machines Corporation, New York City. A Regent of the Smithsonian Institution, Mr. Watson has been Chairman of the IBM executive committee since June of this year. He was elected President of the firm in 1952. A trustee of Brown University and the California Institute of Technology, he has been honored with a Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian decoration.

The Smithsonian Associates was founded in 1965 as a Washington area membership organization and now includes 10,000 families in the area. With the publication of the magazine *Smithsonian* in April, 1970, the Associates became a national organization with a membership now totaling 250,000.

Executive Director of the Associates is Robert W. Mason, who also serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Service at the Institution. Lynford E. Kautz, the Smithsonian's Director of Development, will serve as executive secretary of the new board.

SI Radio Show Has New Feature

With the beginning of the fall season, *Radio Smithsonian* has expanded its audience to 88 stations in 44 states. The two-year-old program is also broadcast by the American Forces Radio Network around the world.

Produced by Cynthia Helms and Paul Johnson, the show will include a new feature this season. "Ask a Simple Question" will offer curators' answers to factual questions submitted by the audience—questions such as "Why does a lightning bug light?"

Any staff member who has a brief question about any subject area covered by the Smithsonian should submit it to *Radio Smithsonian*, TV Studio, History and Technology Building.

The program can be heard in Washington at 9 p.m. on Sundays on WGMS-AM (570) and FM (103.5). It is also broadcast on Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. on WAMU-FM (88.5) and WETA-FM (90.9).



READING IS FUN!—Reading Is Fundamental launched a major public service advertising campaign last month with the volunteer help of the Al Paul Lefton advertising agency, which prepared print, radio and television advertisements on the theme "If America is to grow up thinking, Reading Is Fundamental." The Magazine Publishers Association has called on its 400 members to support the effort. Meanwhile, Mrs. Robert S. McNamara, RIF National Chairman, has been promoting the program personally, on a national and individual basis. She appeared on the David Frost television show and continued to visit the people who benefit from RIF—children who have no books of their own. Above, she helps youngsters from a Washington day care center select books they want to keep.

Photo by Harry Neufeld