Coerr to Direct SI International, Environmental Office

Ambassador Wynerley DeK. Coerr has been appointed Director of a new Office of International and Environmental Programs at the Smithsonian.

The new office will combine the Office of International Activities with the Office of Environmental Programs, overseeing a range of programs that includes the Institution’s Oceanographic Survey Centers, Center for Short-Lived Phenomena, and foreign currency programs.

A native of New York City, Mr. Coerr is a graduate of Yale University and has had a long and distinguished career in the Department of State. He served in various posts, particularly in Latin America, and was ambassador to Uruguay and Ecuador. He also spent a year as Diplomat in Residence at Cornell University. Before being appointed to the ambassadorial post, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs.

Mr. Coerr’s most recent position at the Department of State was Special Adviser in the Office of Environmental Affairs. In this assignment he took part in the international negotiations concerning a number of conservation and environmental issues. Earlier this year he served as chief negotiator of the U.S. Delegation to the Endangered Species Conference.

“The Smithsonian is fortunate in having the talents of Mr. Coerr, for it has become increasingly evident to me that the Institution’s activities in environmental programs will continue to expand overseas,” Secretary Ripley noted.

Mr. Coerr, 60, is married to the former Eleanor Page Hicks and resides in McLean, Va.

New MNH Senate Officers

New officers were elected by the Museum of Natural History Senate of Scientists at its annual meeting October 4, 1973. The new officers elected are: Mr. Ervin B. LaSalle, chairman; Mr. Ervin B. LaSalle, chairman-elect; Mr. Daniel M. Minturn, vice-chairman; and Mr. Terry Erwin, secretary. Mr. Hope spoke of the forthcoming season of events planned for Women’s Week at the Smithsonian Institution, and the upcoming session of events planned for Women’s Week at the Smithsonian Institution.

Mr. Erwin, director of the National Museum of History and Technology, said that an important activity of Women’s Week at the Institution is the annual women’s conference, which is being sponsored by the National Museum of History and Technology. Mr. Erwin spoke of the forthcoming season of events planned for Women’s Week at the Smithsonian Institution, and the upcoming session of events planned for Women’s Week at the Smithsonian Institution.

RIPPLEY REPORT

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. November 1973

Euell Named Asst Secretary

Julian T. Euell has been appointed Assistant Secretary for Public Service of the Smithsonian, Secretary Ripley has announced.

Mr. Euell has served as Acting Assistant Secretary for the past year. He succeeds William Warner, who has been an officer and will hold another position in the Smithsonian, Mr. Ripley commented:

“Mr. Warner has given many years of outstanding service to the Smithsonian, and I am delighted that we have a successor of Julian Euell’s qualifications to succeed him. Mr. Euell brings to the Smithsonian a deep and sincere interest in public service which has been reflected throughout his career both at the Smithsonian and before he joined the Institution.”

Mr. Euell had served as Mr. Warner’s Special Assistant since January 1970.

As first director of HARYOU’s art program, Mr. Euell received a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology from New York University in 1965. Earlier, he studied extensively at the Juilliard School of Music, and for some ten years prior to entering social service work on a full-time basis was a professional jazz musician and is among the musicians whose biographies are included in the 1960 edition of the authoritative publication The Encyclopedia of Jazz, edited by Leonard Feather.

While employed as a musician, Mr. Euell also worked with delinquent groups, and with the juvenile court system in Essex and Hudson counties, New Jersey. Mr. Euell is now working on a doctoral degree in American Studies at George Washington University. He has been doing research in cultural history as it relates to the development of black music and research on American culture in general.

Chinese Librarians Tour Smithsonian

by Dan Clemen

SI Endowment Left

Eight librarians from the People’s Republic of China visited the Smithsonian Institution as a part of a cultural exchange program.

They were accompanied by two Chinese interpreters and one member of the Chinese delegation in Washington. Their visits to the Smithsonian and other American libraries were arranged by the Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People’s Republic of China, an organization that is sponsored jointly by the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Social Science Research Council.

The librarians’ visit was the first of its kind to the United States this fall as a result of an exchange agreements reached in China last May between the Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People’s Republic of China and the Chinese Scientific and Technical Association.

The delegation was welcomed to the Smithsonian by Paul Perrot, Assistant Secretary for Museum Programs, who presented a copy of The Smithsonian Institution, published by the Smithsonian and American Heritage, to the Peking National Library. Each member of the delegation also received a personal copy.


After a brief tour of the Smithsonian and their current activities by Miss Jean Smith, Acting Director of Libraries, the delegation visited the MNHI Division of Libraries where Dr. George E. Watson described the research done by ornithologists at the Smithsonian, how scientists use the libraries, and the use of electronic data processing in the Field Museum.

The visit was followed by morning tea in the Botany Department Library, hosted by Mrs. Ruth Schallert, Miss Peggy Seeler, and Mr. Charles Staton.

After a brief visit to the National Anthropological Archives where Dr. Herman B. Adkins and his staff had prepared a display of recent acquisitions, the delegation visited the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Dr. James H. Billington and Miss Mary Anglemeyer introduced the group to the work of the Center and its activities, and several Fellows of the Center asked questions concerning Chinese research materials. The visit was concluded with lunch in the SI Commons and a brief visit to the new SLR Rare Book Room.
The following article, entitled "Aero­space on the Mall," was written by Michael Collins, Director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum, for Aerospace magazine. It was reprinted in the Congressional Record, and is being reprinted here by permission of its author, Mr. Collins.

**To most Americans, the Smithsonian Institution means the old red, castle-like building on the Mall in Washington—the nation’s attic, where one can find the Hope Diamond, the Spirit of St. Louis. Today, however, the Smithsonian is a growing complex of museums and research facilities spread literally around the world.**

On the Mall itself, the changing character of the building is evident between 4th and 7th Sts., S.W., directly across the street from the headquarters of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, where the new National Air and Space Museum is rapidly rising out of a three-block-long hole in the ground.

In building with modern ideas, this new National Air and Space Museum is not as young as one might imagine. In 1916 Congress directed a study to be made by the late Gen. H. H. Arnold, Army Air Corps, of the late Dr. Robert O. Smaller (then Commissioner of Building) to look into the feasibility of building an air museum in the United States. The Secretary of War, Dr. Elmer M. Engstrom, directed, and financing was provided by the War Department. The genius behind the design is Gyo Obata of the Lawrence Halprin Associates, a modern architect who has created for the museum a building that will be among the best in the world. ... In all we have accomplished with an eye toward displaying the history of flight, which followed the fateful day in 1903 at Kitty Hawk. From Kitty Hawk to the moon, the story has become increasingly swift, the technology more and more sophisticated, the story ever more complex. No important aspect of it can be slighted, no contributions of a Goddard or a Lindbergh nor the story of the aeronautical, astronautical, and space industries and what they contribute to the quality of our lives.

In the new building with modern ideas, this new National Air and Space Museum will be called the Spacearium, an attempt to project upon the surface of the earth, from a borrowed auditorium, a comprehensive and current survey of man’s past and present concepts of the solar system, with the boundless benefits of flight which followed the fateful day in 1903 at Kitty Hawk.

"Spacearium" will be call the new building, taking shape between Fourth and Seventh Streets, North, on the Mall. Photo by Harry Neufeld.

Steel skeleton of the Air and Space Museum building takes shape between Fourth and Seventh St. on the National Mall. Photo by Harry Neufeld.

The front of this room will accommodate eleven Command Module, we have acquired some of the very finest (such as the Wright Flyer) will be on permanent display. In regard to our space program, the Smithsonian has an agreement with NASA which allows us to acquire any new spacecraft, once it has completed its technical requirement for it has terminated. From Alan Shepard’s Mercury to the Apollo Eleven Command Module, we have acquired a representative sample of spacecraft, supporting hardware, documents, and photographs. We have started an art collection, small at present, but one which we believe will grow, for frequently one artist’s eye has captured the flavor of an important event which incorporates power and vision. Also, from a practical standpoint, color photographs may fade after 50 years, but oils are good for 500 at least. In the new building, one hall will be devoted to space and art, but in addition we will add paintings and three-dimensional art objects wherever they enhance exhibits.

In addition to the 26 exhibit halls, our new home will have two special-purpose chambers for education and entertainment. One will be an auditorium with a full-size screen, slanted to grow into the Mall center for aerospace historical research.

On July 19, 1966, Public Law 89-509 was passed, amending the name to be given the new building, the National Air and Space Museum. (It was originally proposed to use the term "Smithsonian" instead.) In 1916 Congress authorized the construction of a temporary building for the Smithsonian Institution to prepare plans for a permanent building for the National Air and Space Museum.

Appropriations for construction were subsequently deferred by the Congress until expenditures for the Vietnam conflict had shown a substantial reduction. In 1971, with the help of Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona and James Webb, former NASA Administrator, among many others, Congress Appropriated funds to redesign the building, to make it smaller, and to provide the additional space required for the collections in the National Air and Space Museum.

When completed, it will have a clean, stately, balanced appearance, of stately, balanced appearance, of a remarkable, but harmonious balance between the sleek aerodynamic shapes within it and the classical, elegant exterior, with its suggestions of the National Gallery of Art. The genius behind the design is Gyo Obata, of the Louis F. Sullivan firm. Mr. Obata developed this concept after several years of studying the museum’s original winning design has the approval of the Regents of the Smithsonian, the National Capital Planning Commission, and the Commission of Fine Arts. In the shadow of the Capitol, the building will be worthly of its location, which is the finest available in the city of Washington.

The exterior of the building will be reminiscent of the Farnsworth House (matching that of the National Gallery of Art, and gray violet yays. However, as interesting as it will be, it is the interior and its contents that will keep me and my stuff busy—designing, experimenting, refining, changing—looking for the ideal blend of subject matter. Our charter is an extremely broad one, beginning with man’s first aspirations to fly, spanning his first faltering efforts in hydrogen and hot air balloons, and then recording the surge of powered flight which followed the fateful day in 1903 at Kitty Hawk.

From Kitty Hawk to the moon, the story has become increasingly swift, the technology more and more sophisticated, the story ever more complex. No important aspect of it can be slighted, no contributions of a Goddard or a Lindbergh nor the story of the aeronautical, astronautical, and space industries and what they contribute to the quality of our lives.

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Unfortunately, modern exhibits technology, the audiological and electromechanical devices, have made no commitment to finance an additional 30 per cent to complete the exhibits program. Clearly help will be needed in this area, and I hope a large share of it will come from our friends in the aerospace industry. With an estimated seven or eight million visitors in its first year of operation, the National Air and Space Museum will offer an unparalleled opportunity to communicate with the public, as well as our many foreign visitors. Our country has always been in the forefront of the space age, and there is no way it can be left out of it in some way. That message must be a part of our exhibits, which have the potential of serving as an effective catalyst in the struggle for the future.
SAO 15-Year Employees Honored

The first 15-year pin ceremony honoring employees at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Mass., took place October 13 in the Phillips Library of Harvard Observatory. SAO headquarters shifted to Cambridge in 1955, with the appointment of Dr. Fred L. Whipple as Director. In 1956, Dr. Whipple accepted responsibility for optical tracking of satellites during the International Geophysical Year (1957-58). In October 1957 Spottonik I, the first artificial satellite, was launched by the Soviet Union. The first major bings of support staff at SAO began shortly afterward.

Outstanding members of the Smithsonian staff have beenbucks during the months of August and September by the commanding officers of each of the four companies that comprise the force. Outstanding guards for August are Pfc. Charles A. Parker, Company A; Pfc. Maurice Washington, Company B; Pfc. Alynda D. McDonald, Company C; and Pfc. Gregory Miller, Company D. Outstanding guards for September are Cpl. Edward J. King, Company A; Pfc. George R. Kuntz, Company B; Pfc. Tom W. Howard, Company C; and Cpl. Sherwood Pelham, Company D.

The 15-year pins were presented by Dr. George B. Field, who is now SAO Director, to Dr. Whipple and these staff members:


Guards of the Month Named

month (30 minutes or longer), and at end of workday.

Replaced bulbs with smallest effective size.

Reduce space lighting to levels ade-
quate for work tasks.

Use natural light to supplement arti-
ficial when it does not conflict with air conditioning use.

Vehicle Use

Establish maximum highway speeds (10 miles per hour below posted speed) for all agency vehicles.

Use multigrade motor oil in engines.

Keep engines properly tuned and in good repair.

Keep tires properly inflated.

Use the lowest octane gasoline suit-
able for a particular vehicle.

Use car air conditioning sparingly, avoid extended idling.

Require the use of compact or sub-
compact rental cars when practical.

Purchase more efficient cars in agen-
cy auto fleet such as compact auton-
ice.

Give parking space preference to employees using carpools.

Reduce the mileage driven in gov-
ernment vehicles by cutting unneces-
sary trips by combining trips and by following better routing.

Reduce the number of official busi-
ness trips.

The dazzling display of flowers around the Smithsonian building that attracted both staff members and visitors in the past few months was the product of care-
ful planning by the Institution's first full-
time horticulturist and the hard work of an American crew. Even as cold weather sets in, plans are continuing for a kaleidoscope of floral decorations to educate as well as decorate during the next tourist season and in the years to come.

In addition to improving the Smith-
sonian's image through attractive land-
scaping, Mr. Buckler has the goals of continuing research and public education. He is keeping accurate records of plants at the Smithsonian, and the Horticultural Services Branch is embarking on a thorough labelling program. Eventually all plants will be marked with labels bearing their common and scientific names and their countries of origin.

"People should be able to come away from the Smithsonian with landscaping ideas," Mr. Buckler said.

He envisions using plants appropriate for each building, such as oriental plants to go around the Freer Gallery, native American plants around the National His-

tory Building, and plants of each state outside the Museum of History and Technology. He is also working the Smithsonian emblem into a floral pattern to go in front of the Joseph Henry statue on the Mall. He is reproducing an elabor-
iate emborideery parterre border of the late 1870's period to go in front of the restored Arts and Industries Building.

Plans call for continuing changes in each of the flower beds. Other plans in-
clude increased numbers of interior plant-
ings and continued landscaping in areas of heavy traffic and construction work. Mr. Buckler hopes to restore the exterior of the MHT building by next spring, erasing the Metro excavation scars on the east side of the Museum. An extension on the present greenhouse south of the Smithsonian Building is also to be built.

The Horticultural Services Branch has landscaping responsibility for all of the Smithsonian buildings in downtown Washington and for Barney House and the facilities at Silver Hill. Mr. Buckler also works as a consultant for the Na-
tional Zoo, the Cooper-Hewitt museum in New York, and Hillwood and for the Chesapeake Bay Center for Environ-
ment.

"We hope to make the grounds a show-
place by 1976 (the Bicentennial year)," Mr. Buckler said. A 'WISE OWL' HONORED—Mary J. Mann, an MNH technician, is the first Smithsonian employee to become a member of the SI chapter of the Wise Owl Club of America. The club is sponsored by the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, Inc., to encourage vision conservation and provide recognition for those in industry or schools whose sight has been saved through the use of safety eyewear. Miss Mann qualified for membership June 27 when a fragment of metal struck a lens of the safety glasses she was wearing. Had she not been wearing the glasses her vision could have been seriously impaired. Richard S. Minich, SI Safety Management Officer, is present showing Miss Mann a copy of the charter received August 31 establishing the SI chapter of the club.

Gathered around one of the Victorian-style flowerbeds outside the Smithsonian Building are the men responsible for the new floral landscaping of the SI complex this year. Standing, from left, are Robert Nicholson, Gerald Williams, James Jones, George Thomas, Howard James. In front row, from left, are James Buckler (director of the Horticultural Services Branch of the Office of Plant Services), Dennis Hazelton, Ricky Austin, Yousuf Abdul-Kadir, Ken Hawkins (foreman), Ray Dun-
dley, and Wayne Moody.

A "WISE OWL" HONORED—Mary J. Mann, an MNH technician, is the first Smithsonian employee to become a member of the SI chapter of the Wise Owl Club of America. The club is sponsored by the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, Inc., to encourage vision conservation and provide recognition for those in industry or schools whose sight has been saved through the use of safety eyewear. Miss Mann qualified for membership June 27 when a fragment of metal struck a lens of the safety glasses she was wearing. Had she not been wearing the glasses her vision could have been seriously impaired. Richard S. Minich, SI Safety Management Officer, is present showing Miss Mann a copy of the charter received August 31 establishing the SI chapter of the club.

Hard Work by Landscapers Beautifies SI Grounds

Energy Conservation

- November 1973

Published for Smithsonian Institution personnel by the Smithsonian Office of Public Affairs, William O. Craig, Editor.
The prospect of perhaps several thousand dollars in ready cash may tempt the federal employee who leaves Government service before eligible to retire. This project is particularly relevant to an employee who has completed at least five years of civilian service. He may forego the right that by taking a refund of his contributions to the retirement fund if he wishes.

To withdraw or not withdraw his retirement contributions is the dilemma. However, those with long service or nearing retirement age might do well to banish the thought of withdrawing retirement contributions. For such federal employees, the total return in monthly retirement payments, beginning at age 62 will probably far exceed contributions to the retirement fund.

For example, a 40-year man with an average salary of $8,000 and with 15 years of service would have contributions to the retirement fund of about $16,000 to the retirement fund if he does not withdraw his contributions, his annual pension at age 62 would be $2,100 at present rates. With a life expectancy of more than 40% at age 62, he would receive some $35,000 in annuity payments—almost six times his original investment.

The employee may also wonder what would happen if he withdrew the money from the retirement fund and invested it. This depends primarily on the age of the employee, the number of years the invested money will draw interest, and the rate of interest.

Generally, an employee aged 40 or more who withdraws his contributions would find that he is giving up a benefit worth much more than the refund, even if the money were prudently invested. An employee separating between ages 30 and 40 might also find it to his advantage to leave the money in the retirement fund.

Below age 30, however, a wisely in­ vested refund could probably accumulate to an amount large enough to purchase a single or joint life annuity. The deferred annuity under the retirement system is obviously, if the money is not quickly and prudently invested and then left to earn interest, the under-30 em­ ployee will not be in as good a financial position upon retirement as he would if he had left the money in the retirement fund.

A final word to the wise: If you are leaving Government employment before you retire, and if you are considering taking a refund of your retirement contrib­ utions, ask yourself if you can afford it. If you are in doubt, write to the Personnel Director on the subject asking for a copy of the booklet, "Retirement Benefits When You Leave Government Service" (GPO 2822-A) available in the Office of Per­ sonnel.

Personnel Director Gives Advice on Retirement Funds

by Vincent J. Doyle
Director, Office of Personnel Administration

The SMITHSONIAN TORCH

November 1973

NEW SECRETARIAL COURSE—Secretaries who recently completed a new course, "Secretarial Techniques," sponsored by the Office of Personnel Administration were Alice T. Rafter, Patricia Clark, Shirley Solomon, Joanne Wescott, Joan Miles (standing, from left) Barbara Newfield, Sheryl Buma, Linda Booth, Jean Smith, Carole Broussard, Betty Grier, Mary Pollard, Diane Hasen, and Martha Wassermann. The course was conducted by Brenda Haswell (standing at right). It is intended to provide Smithsonian secretaries and adminis­ trative assistants with an opportunity to analyze their duties and responsibilities and to exchange, present and discuss new ideas: to refresh and reinforce the essential office concepts, and to stimulate an interest in striving toward increased efficiency and job satisfaction. For information call 5226.

SI Employees Invited to Give Management Ideas

The Smithsonian Suggestion Program provides an opportunity for all staff mem­ bers, at any socio-economic level and at any job-grade level, to express ideas on management. "An employee can be the creator of his own 'job enrichment' program if he can communicate an idea that is original and workable," remarked Vincent J. Doyle, Director of the Office of Personnel Admin­ istration. "All suggestions will be considered on their merit. I suggest to the Smithsonian Institution appreciate your suggestions. If your idea is turned down you have the personal satisfaction of having had experts evaluate your thoughts. If it is accepted, the benefits to you may include a monetary award."