New Mail Center Inaugurated To Improve Service for SI

A new Mail Services Center was inaugurated with a brief ceremony May 30 in the Natural History Building near the location of the previous mail room in the west loading dock area. Richard L. Ault, Director of Support Activities, said to assembled staff members: "This signals more than the opening of a new facility. It signals an awareness and consciousness on the part of management. I am glad to see you in better equipped and more efficient facility.

Kenneth E. Shaw, Director of the Office of Plant Services, added his congratulations. John L. Moreci, Chief of the Communications and Transportation Division, OPLANTs, said that better service will result from these factors, explaining: "One is that the new MSC has six sorting modules with larger working areas rather than the two contained in the previous facility in the Natural History Building. Because of the new facility, we are not going to have to interrupt the sorting process while the mail is being delivered.

He believes that a potential of eight additional sorting hours per day can be realized. Since sorting is the key factor in permitting schedules to be met, MSC personnel believe that dependable delivery schedules can be achieved. There is also additional room in the slots of the new sorters so that mail need not be crammed into too small an area, thereby eliminating the potential for damaged mail.

Another important feature of the new center is that there is room for expansion of the facility in the future as the need arises. "One large problem," Mr. Moreci said, "is the backlog of mail on a Monday morning that has been received over the weekend. For several months, the Communications and Transportation Division has been bringing people in over the weekend to sort the mail received during that period of time. I am pleased that we have been able to resolve the Monday morning backlog."

Thomas J. Matthews, Supervisor, Mail Services Section, said another improvement is that no outgoing U.S. mail is held in the mail center overnight. It goes out the same day it is brought in for sorting. Mr. Matthews invited SI employees to visit the new facility. Call Mr. Matthews on Extention 5454 to arrange visits.

A Bicentennial gift from the government of West Germany will grace the Albert Einstein Spacearium in the new National Air and Space Museum. It is a Carl Zeiss Model VI planetarium instrument. The gift also includes a control system for the instrument. (Illustration by Ron Miller, NASM staff)

Einstein Spacearium to Feature Instrument From West Germany

By Lynne Murphy

In his "View from the Castle" column in the March 1972 Smithsonian Magazine, Secretary Ripley said of the new National Air and Space Museum: "A Spacearium ... will give people the illusion of journeying into space ... And they will begin to comprehend the significance of what they see — and judge for themselves the relationship of Man to his universe."

The author of this article, Lynne Murphy, has assumed public affairs responsibilities for the National Air and Space Museum. She formerly was with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the U.S. News and World Report. She received a B.A. degree from Northwestern University and did graduate work in mass communications at Stanford and the California State University, San Jose.

Taking part in the official opening of the new Mail Services Center were (from left) Thomas J. Matthews, Supervisor, Mail Services Section; Richard L. Ault, Director of Support Activities; Kenneth E. Shaw, Director, Office of Plant Services; Steven H. Bullock, Chief, Communications Branch and John L. Moreci, Chief, Communications and Transportation Division of the Office of Plant Services.

Horticultural Services Opens Expanded Greenhouse-Nursery

By Kathryn Lindeman

The greenhouse-nursery operation of the Smithsonian's Horticultural Services Division has recently grown from a greenhouse of 800 square feet on the Mall to an area of 37,000 square feet at the U.S. Capitol Street in Washington.

After a two-and-a-half year search for a larger and more complete facility, the greenhouse-nursery complex is in operation for production of annuals, perennials, cut flowers, specialized nursery crops, topiaries or sculptured shrubs, standards consisting of an upright stem cleared to the foliage on top, and other plants needed in the educational, scientific and display programs of the Horticultural Services Division headed by James R. Buckler, Smithsonian horticulturist.

The greenhouse complex includes a headhouse of 3,000 square feet with an apartment for the manager, refrigeration for cut flowers, and storage for chemicals, soil pots and other supplies. Radiating from the headhouse are five greenhouses totaling 24,000 square feet of production space (60 x 200 feet each) and a 600-square-foot propagation house. Each greenhouse is constructed of aluminum and glass with both steam and hot water heat.

The nursery complex includes a production area for cut flowers, testing plots, nursery stock and specialized plants. Also planned for installation this summer is a 3,000-square-foot lathe house to provide shade for plants which would otherwise be burned by the sun and 69 cold frames which permit some hardy plants to be left outside during the colder periods of the year thus allowing room for other less durable plants in the greenhouses.

The facility is located on a three-year basis with an arrangement for providing the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home with annual flowers and floral funeral arrangements. The personnel required to operate the

(continued on page 4)
Mrs. Mary E. Massey came to the Smithsonian in 1967 as a matron and elevator operator at the Fine Arts and Portrait Galleries building. The staff at that time was very small, since the new galleries were not scheduled to open until the following year.

The duties of the employees were overlapping and far-reaching. Mrs. Massey, an energetic and industrious woman, soon was involved in many phases of work. As matron of the building she supervised maintenance work. When the grounds crew arrived she supervised planting of shrubbery. She supervised equipment used as "the horse" used in removing stones and debris left from construction work on the building, and she labored with the exhibits crew moving art works into the galleries.

An Institution-wide policy of shifting employees to the areas where they were most needed was then in effect, so after the building was opened the public Mrs. Massey was transferred to the Natural History Building despite pleas from her superiors at the Post Office asking that she be permitted to stay there.

Luckily afterward, however, a leader position became available at the National Collection of Fine Arts. Mrs. Massey was selected to fill it, and she returned from FAPG. Then she was again transferred, this time to the Smithsonian Institution building. Later she was selected for a junior supervisor position.

Mrs. Massey's next promotion was a first for a woman Smithsonian employee: She was selected to fill an assistant general foreman's position at the National Museum of History and Technology.

Although she never intentionally aimed to "liberate," some of the duties Mrs. Massey has performed and enjoys are not those usually performed by women. "There is no real or too demanding for her to tackle, including driving a snow plow. "I am working outside," she tells surprised observers as they watch her plowing snow and ice.

Mrs. Massey has always been interested in improving herself and increasing her work opportunities, while remaining responsive to the needs of employees under her supervision. She has attended training classes when including an Equal Employment Opportunity class on the supervisor's role; an introductory class dealing with supervision; a building service supervisor's training program, and a managerial course at the Department of Agriculture, and a course in first aid. In building the museum was the only woman among 22 men.

At NMH Mrs. Massey demonstrated a special ability for working with people, and last year she received an outstanding performance award.

While there, she supervised custodial maintenance of many special events, including President Nixon's Inaugural Ball, a function for former Vice-President Agnew, and Admission openings. She has received numerous letters of appreciation from sponsors of these functions.

In addition to her work at the Smithsonian, Mrs. Massey is busy as a wife and mother of three teenagers. She is now back in her favorite spot. In 1974 she was selected as one of five referees for the Fine Arts and Portrait Galleries, where she also has supervised custodial employees for special events.

The SI Women's Council applauds Mrs. Massey's efforts, not only her upward drive, but also her support of others attempting to further their careers!

By Edith Martin

About SI Women

One Woman's Success Story

Upward Mobility Program For NMHT in Action

An upward mobility program for women in lower-graded jobs with limited growth opportunities to move into a new career field and to provide the Museum with another source of qualified and specially trained employees.

The trainers will receive both on-the-job and class training in order to develop the skills that will enable them to climb up the career ladder towards the target of 30% woman in Exhibits Maintenance Technician, GS-7.

NZP, NIH Hold Behavior Symposium

Scientific investigators in two areas of research will convene at the National Zoological Park on May 7-8 to discuss the symposium's "Stress and Behavior in Primates and Other Animal Species." The symposium will feature discussions of reproductive biology, cardiovascular, central and peripheral nervous system function, as well as strategies for dealing with stressors. The symposium is being held in conjunction with the National Institute of Mental Health. Topics of discussion will include studies of laboratory and non-laboratory animals, including the effects of stress on the brain and behavior in humans.

The symposium is cosponsored by the National Zoological Park and the National Institute of Mental Health.

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Notes From SI Press

Editors Presented FEA Awards

By Maureen Jacoby

Spring means award time to many sponsoring organizations and this year is no exception to the Press's garnering of recognition for its accomplishments in editing and design.

Smithsonian publications led the field in awards presented by the Federal Editors' Association. Appropriate certificates for differing categories were presented to Nancy Link Powers for The Outdoor Scenium of Washington, D.C. by James M. Goode and A Standard of Excellence by David E. Finley; Hope Pantell for Suing Everyone: The Democratization of Dressing in America by Claudia Kidwell and Margaret C. Chrisman (National Museum of History and Technology); Joan Horn for The Peoples and Cultures of Ancient Peru by Luis G. Lamperez; John S. Lea for First Steps Toward Space by Frederick C. Durant (National Air and Space Museum); and Mary Frances Bell for The Barrowing Sponges of Bermuda by Klaus Rutzler (National Museum of Natural History).

Two Smithsonian exhibits have been selected for exhibition in the design and production show sponsored by the Association of American University Presses. They are Smithsonian at the Smithsonian (National Collection of Fine Arts) designed by Managing Designer Stephen J. Kraft and Smithsonian Year — 1974, the Institution's annual report, with newly revised design by Cominda Pontes. Both books join a circulating exhibit that will be seen on major college campuses and in cultural centers abroad. Smithsonian at the Smithsonian also won an award for printing from the Printing Industries of America. Accepted for display at the 1975 design show of the Art Directors Club of Metropolitan Washington was an exhibit catalog published for The Anacostia Neighborhood Museum, The Barnett-Aden Collection, designed by Hubert Leckie, a free-lance designer engaged by the Press. July 24 is publication day for Margaret Klapthor's definitive work, Official White House China: 1789 to the Present. As Chairman of the Department of National and Military History, Mrs. Klapthor has long been associated with the Smithsonian's unmatched collection of White House China. As far back as the mid-1950s, she realized that there did not exist an official documentation of the methods and details of the acquisition of official tableware by Presidents and their families. Enlisting the help of then-First Lady Mamie Doud Eisenhower, Mrs. Klapthor embarked on what was to become an exhaustive, diligent search through hundreds of sources. The result is an astonishingly handsome volume produced by the Press. Edited by Louise Herkt, the book is designed by Steve Kraft and is sure to be a candidate for next year's publishing awards.

In identifying and associating both the White House and Smithsonian collections to the written records, many different facets of history are revealed. The place of purchase, the types of china being used, the pieces which make up a dinner service and its design tell much about America's material culture and social customs. The White House buying patterns reflect those of other elegant homes in America from the end of the eighteenth century to the present and exemplify changes of taste during that period. Official White House China with its 83 black-and-white and 81 color illustrations is a 14" x 11", has 284 pages, and is priced at $15.95.

Secretary Ripley and Thomas J. Watson, Jr., a citizen member of the Board of Regents, were awarded honorary Doctor of Laws degrees by Yale University at its 247th commencement exercise May 19.

In the course of the presentation (photo above) it was said of Mr. Ripley that:

"Your energy has brought vitality to national collections. Your vision has made them coherent and magnetic for throngs of your fellow citizens. You have bridged the gap between exploration and appreciation; thus you have had a profound effect on all public institutions which seek to respond to the desire for knowledge. Your skillful, perceptive and professional approach has for the first time brought to our nation's capital a center of true intellectual significance."

The citation for Mr. Watson, who is chairman of IBM and was the first chairman of the National Board of Smithsonian Associates, read as follows:

"When too many corporate leaders were digging in their heels against the winds of change, you sought to apply the energy of private enterprise to the solution of public problems. When automation threatened massive readjustments, you headed a commission which opened the door to bold concepts of guaranteed minimum income. When urban blight began to erode our inner cities you sponsored private redevelopment of Bedford Stuyvesant Town. Throughout these public efforts you continued to lead the most successful and innovative corporate enterprise in the world. The technology you developed has revolutionized thought and organization in both public and private affairs. Yale is happy to confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Laws."

Mr. Ripley also was honored by Brown University at its 207th commencement ceremonies June 2, when he was presented an honorary Doctor of Science degree. The Brown citation concluded:

"We salute you, Sidney Dillon Ripley, for showing us the plumes of our heritage and your high-soaring hopes for our future."
Arrival of ‘Lucky’ Hope Was Highlight of Switzer’s Career

It is hard to imagine the National Museum of Natural History without the Hope and the other glittering and important diamonds that surround it in the special safety vault display cases in NMNH’s Gem Hall.

But Dr. George Switzer remembers that when he came to work at the Smithsonian in 1948 there were not any diamonds of great value on exhibit.

In those days the precious stones, minerals and rocks were all on display in the somewhat dowdy hall of the U.S. National Museum (see photo). A row of old-fashioned tabletop exhibit cases in the center of the hall held the gems, the best of which had come to the Institution in the late 19th century from the estate of the Philadelphia collector Dr. Isaac Lea.

Dr. Switzer in 1948 was in his 30’s and was delighted to be joining the Museum staff as an associate curator in the Department of Geology’s Division of Mineralogy and Petrology. Ever since his boyhood in Petaluma, California, he had been interested in minerals and gemstones. In high school he and a friend had gone into business selling specimens they collected on bicycle trips all over the state. One person they corresponded with was Dr. W. F. Foshag, curator of mineralogy at the National Museum who would eventually hire Switzer.

Dr. Switzer graduated from the University of California at Berkeley, with a degree in geology in 1937, and went on to take a graduate degree in geology at Yale University at Berkeley, with a degree in mineralogy in 1937, and went on to take a graduate degree in geology.

Dr. Switzer recalls, “When the new hall opened it was the first time gems had been displayed in a U.S. museum in such an attractive setting. People liked that. Then the Hope came. It gave us the major gem we needed to put us on the map. That’s when all the donations started to come in. The whole thing began to snowball. Soon afterward we got the Portuguese diamond and the Rosser Reeves Ruby, the Star of Asia Sapphire, and a lot of other stones.”

The Hope, which Dr. Switzer always thinks of as lucky, continued to exert an influence on his career at SI. As the collections began to assume major importance he spent an increasing amount of time following the gem trade, cultivating potential donors, and traveling. He even attended the international diamond exhibition to the Louvre in Paris for an exhibition and had two hairbreadth escapes from serious accidents on the way that have since become part of the Hope lore.

One thing is certain: Neither of these incidents involved Dr. Switzer, a soft-spoken man who is noted for his calm. His colleague Paul Desautels says: “Most of us here all become upset and irascible on occasion, but George is imperturbable.”

In 1965 he went along when the Hope was sent to South Africa for an exhibit in Johannesburg, which was an anti-climactic after it. But Dr. George Switzer was in his 60’s and was delighted to be joining the Museum staff as an associate curator in the Department of Geology’s Division of Mineralogy and Petrology.

Dr. Switzer moved up to become head of the Department of Geology, “In those days no one ever got promoted until someone retired,” Dr. Switzer recalls.

Diamonds — the gemstones that were to become his chief curatorial and research interest — first began to occupy a significant amount of his time in 1949 when the U.S. Bureau of Mines asked him to write its Annual Review of the Diamond Industry. He wrote the Review for the next 23 years, becoming a world authority on diamonds and their mining.

Howard I. Chapelle, Marine Historian At NMHT, Dies

Howard I. Chapelle, 74, an internationally known marine historian and author who was Historian of Marine Architecture at the National Museum of History and Technology until 1971, died June 30 in Lewes, Del., following a stroke.

Mr. Chapelle first gained prominence as a marine architect and widely-published author. His field research and writings on the history of sailing ship design and construction made him a leading authority in the field.

Born in Tolland, Mass., in 1901, Mr. Chapelle early developed his lifelong interest in the sea and its ships. In 1919, he became a marine architect at the Webb Institute of Naval Architecture, which he attended until 1923.

Active professionally as a marine architect after 1932, designing fishing vessels, military craft and supply vessels, Mr. Chapelle early in his career supervised the gathering of data for the New England section of the Historic American Merchant Marine Survey. In World War II, he was commanding officer for the Marine Transportation Section of the Army’s Research and Development Division.

In 1950, as a Guggenheim Fellow, he accompanied, as the American naval architect at the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, England.

In September 1957, Mr. Chapelle joined the Smithsonian as curator of Transporta­ tion, He became Historian of Marine Architecture in 1967. Under Mr. Chapelle’s direction several hundred ship models were built and documented for the national collections. The Museum’s Hall of Merchant Shipping, researched and developed by Mr. Chapelle, opened in 1964 and is still on view. He also supervised the difficult restoration of early Indian canoes for the National Museum of Natural History.


Upon his retirement from the Smithsonian in 1971, he received the Secretary’s Excep­ tional Service Gold Medal.

FEA Head Praises SI Energy Savings

Frank G. Zarb, Federal Energy Ad­ ministrator, in a speech June 11 applauded the Smithsonian for achieving a significant reduction in energy consumption. Mr. Zarb’s remarks were made at a load management conference in Washington sponsored by the Federal Energy Ad­ ministration.

“A single example of effective load management stands out in my mind as an indication of what we can expect from a concentrated national effort,” he said.

“The Smithsonian Institution...found last year that by following FEA’s lighting load management program it was able to realize an additional 17-percent reduction in energy use.”

“This is only one example of the sort of innovative action that can help us meet our national objectives for more efficient energy use.”

Gerald Lipson Is OPA News Chief

Gerald Lipson has been appointed Chief of the Office of Public Affairs, responsible for making available information concerning the Institution to the press and other news media.

Mr. Lipson served as Director of Public Information for the Commission on Population Growth and the American Future, a Presidential panel headed by John D. Rockefeller III. He also served as a press officer on Capitol Hill with Sen. Charles H. Percy of Illinois, and most recently with Rep. John B. Anderson of Illinois.

Mr. Lipson also has worked with the Chicago Daily News, The Washington Star and United Press Interna­ tional. He received his undergraduate degree from Roosevelt University in Chicago, and an M.A. degree in journalism from Northwestern University.

Spacearium

Continued From Page 1
dome. The dome is aluminum sheet with millions of tiny, even perforations which make it semi-transparent so that rear screen projections and other back-projection techniques can be used for various effects.

The noted German composer, Karlheinz Stockhausen, will present a special work for the dedication of the Albert Einstein Spacearium. He has titled his electronic composition "Sirius," and it is dedicated in his words to "the American pioneers on Earth and in Space."