Youthful Yuletide Impressions

Jose C. Cardenas, Ambassador of Ecuador, (left) discusses a realistic reconstruction of an Andean market scene while he tours the new South American exhibit hall at the National Museum of Natural History — "South America: Continent and Culture," which opened October 11.

New MHT Food Facilities Opening

A school girl's view of carolers is one of the entries in a national contest to choose designs for Christmas seals. Entries are on exhibit at the National Collection of Fine Arts through January 4. This entry was by Shari Halker of Lima, Ohio.

Science Event Network Set Up

As a service to the scientific community, the Smithsonian Institution has established a Scientific Event Akt Netzwerk to provide scientists with timely information concerning transient geophysical, astronomical, biological, and anthropological events. Its focus will be on in-depth investigations of natural events, and will not include mainstream pollution effects such as oil spills. The network personnel will utilize tele, telephone, media wire services, and radio to receive information from selected correspondents in the field. In turn, those scientists with an immediate need to know will be alerted by telephone, telegraph, or radio, and monthly summaries of all events will be prepared for distribution.

Reflecting the interests of Smithsonian scientists, initial emphasis will be on whale and penguin strandings, volcanic activity, and meteorite falls. It is anticipated, however, that as the network becomes established additional categories of ephemeral, but nevertheless important, events will be included and reported.

The SEAN office, located in Room 9 at the National Museum of Natural History, is directed by David Squires, formerly associated with the Smithsonian's Center for Short-Lived Phenomena in Cambridge, Mass. Assisting him are John Whitman, Shirley Manna, and Betty Grier.

Families Needed for 'Interm '76

Host families are needed for the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education program, "Interm '76," which will bring ten twelfth-grade students from South American countries to spend seven weeks next summer to take part in learning-service projects at the Smithsonian. Those interested in opening their home to one of these carefully selected young people, are asked to call David Estabrook, (301) 5987 for details.

Major Exhibitions Opened in Busy Fall Season at SI

Museum activities at the Smithsonian this fall have centered about the preparation and opening of a number of major exhibitions, including some relating to the nation's approaching Bicentennial celebration.

They include:

- The second of the reconstructed exhibit halls planned for the National Museum of Natural History — "South America: Continent and Culture," which opened October 11.
- NMNH's Bicentennial exhibition, "Our Changing Land," which opened November 19.
- "American Presidential China," organized by the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service for circulation during the Bicentennial period, and opening at the National Museum of History and Technology December 6.
- "Portraits From the Americans: The Domestic Experience," based on the prize-winning book by Daniel J. Boorstein, former director and senior historian at NMNH, and now Librarian of Congress, opened November 14 on the renovated third floor of the National Portrait Gallery.
- Two art exhibitions at the National Collection of Fine Arts, featuring works by Peggy Bacon, opening December 5, and Bob Thompson, opening December 19, an exhibition of children's Christmas paintings is also at NCFA (see photo on this page).
- An exhibition at the Hirshhorn Museum of the works of Elie Nadelman, opening December 18.
- "Artists and Models," an exhibition of photographs and documents from the collections of the Archives of American Art, on display December 10 until November 1976 in the Archives Gallery at NPG.

South America...

"South America: Continent and Culture," a permanent new exhibit hall at the National Museum of Natural History, presents an ecological view of South America's diverse cultures.

Starting high in the Andean mountains at the awesome Incan citadel of Machu Picchu, visitors can set forth on a "journey" that takes them the length of a continent and thousands of years. Along a reconstruction of an Incan road they walk into the plaza of a modern Andean town on market day — where they can see clothing, architecture, ceramics, tapestries, and metalwork that reflects a mixture of prehistoric, colonial and 20th century cultural influence.

On the Peruvian coastlands archeologists, among them the exhibition's script writer, Dr. Geoffrey Conrad, have excavated one of the largest prehistoric cities in the Americas — Chan Chan, the brilliantly planned capital of the great Chimú Empire. Fine pottery, gold bracelets, silver tweezers and pins that were undoubtedly royal possessions are among the articles from the site on view.

Nearby, the visitor sees a modern Ecuadorian coastal scene with a beached balsa-wood raft. From Valdivia, a coastal site in Ecuador, are exhibited pieces of the oldest pottery (3000-1500 B.C.) ever found in the New World. They were uncovered by Drs. Clifford Evans and Betty Meggers, the NMNH husband-and-wife archeological team.

Moving down out of the mountain valleys and coastlands into the heart of the conti­ nent, the visitor walks through a three-dimensional reconstruction of a tropical rain forest. Photographs and artifacts illustrate the life of forest Indian tribes.

From the tropical forest the visitor enters a area of grass-covered plains in southern South America. Here, in a life-sized diorama and mural, nomadic Tehuelche Indians on horseback armed with bows are hunting fleeing rheas.

As they walk through these widely different South American environments visitors can see that it is not by accident or pure chance that the urbanized Incan and Chimú civilizations developed where they did instead of in the Amazonian tropics or the Patagonian grasslands.

Throughout, painted murals and life-sized dioramas give an atmospheric reality to the entire exhibition. It was designed by Steven Makovevy and Gail Singer of the Museum's Office of Exhibits (See the article in this issue naming others who worked on the new hall.)
Chinese Group Tours Center For Astrophysics


The visit to the Center was part of a 30-day tour of United States scientific installations sponsored jointly by the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Social Science Research Council as part of the joint U.S.-Chinese program of cultural and scientific exchanges that began in 1973.

The Chinese scientists, led by Professor Chou Pei-yuan of the Peking University, toured the Cambridge facility and held dual discussions with members of the High-Energy Astrophysics, Solar and Stellar Physics, and Radio Astronomy Divisions. The tour included laboratories where instrumentation is being developed for space flight experiments to detect celestial X-ray emissions and for ground-based radio searches for interstellar molecules. The scientists also viewed solar ultraviolet and X-ray data returned by the experiments aboard the Skylab satellite and received a briefing on the design of the Multiple-Mirror Telescope now under construction by the Smithsonian and the University of Arizona.

One member of the delegation, Dr. Chung Hoo-ch of the Frisch-about (Purple Mountain) Observatory, presented a special after­noon colloquium on the properties of galaxies, the role of the Inner Corona and a Condensation Region in the Solar Corona,” describing solar research in China for Center staff members.

Dr. Robert A. Brooks, Center director, served as host for the one-day meeting, which came as a response to an invitation extended by the Harvard College Observatory director, Donald Mentzel, during his visit to the Chinese People’s Republic a year ago.

Hamarneh Compiles Arabic Works

Dr. Sami K. Hamarneh, historian of pharmacy at the National Museum of History and Technology, has published a book entitled Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts on Medicine and Pharmacy at the British Library, through a grant from the Smithsonian Research Foundation.

It is described as the first independent catalogue of its kind devoted to medico-pharmaceutical documents with a chronological study of authors and their contributions, and with a critical evaluation of their works. The 324-page work includes over 300 manuscripts, many never before studied or known.

SI Grid Team Takes Second Place

The Smithsonian’s 1975 grid squad included: (kneeling from left) Robert Thornton, Tony Gooden, Allan Dobbins, Chuck Mangene and center Tony Gooden tied for team scoring honors. (Standing from left) are Joe Young, Al Blunt, Buddy Connally, Lyn Henley, Joe Blunt, Ted Mavrante and Oran Young.

The team finished as second place in the standings with a respectable 4-2-1 record and enough second place play in the strong Government Division of the D.C. Recreation Department’s Adult Football League.

But it wasn’t good enough for co­coach and offensive lineman Bobby Garrison. "We’re very disappointed at this finish," he said, noting it was the third straight year that the Smithsonian had finished as "bridesmaids" in second place. Only division winner successfully played in the D.C. league.

"We had hoped to win the division title this year," Garrison added. "We certainly had the material. We just didn’t have the breaks.”

The cruncher came against Navy, Garrison noted, which Smithsonian lost 19-6. The defeat gave Navy the edge it needed to enter the playoffs. Smithsonian’s other only loss was its opener to last year’s division champs, Labor, 14-6.

After dueling HUD to a scoreless tie, the “Fossils” went on to record the following victories: NIH, 13-4; EPA, 20-6; Marines, 13-6; and Agriculture, 11-12.

Cornerback Chuck Mangene and center Tony Gooden tied for team scoring honors with 18 points each, while split-end Les Johns was second with 14 points. Garrison said the team will start gearing up for the 1976 season in August, and that anyone interested in playing, regardless of any previous experience, should call him on Ext. 6455.
The exhibition will be at NMHT from December 5 until January 11, when it will begin a tour of museums in five other cities. Each of the 38 Presidents is represented by at least one table display. The six living First Ladies have lent examples from personal services.

The White House, the Smithsonian, and the Presidents, many presidential birthplaces and private collectors have participated in gathering a revealing assemblage of objects that has never been seen before.

An international Traveling Exhibition Service provided the exhibition for circulation during the bicentennial period. It was conceived to illustrate the evolution of tastes in styles and in one aspect of American cultural history.

Many other examples represent services imported by Presidents after the year 1815, when it became possible for producing china of sufficient quality to grace the executive mansion. Each place is marked by a poem, but he often composed inscriptions to be added. Three examples of this practice in the exhibition are a neophyte pebble with a description of its presentation to the imperial collection, a presentation pillow with a poem by the emperor, and an anxious bow on which C.F.L. carved his own poem as its origin (confirmed by modern scholars).

The exhibition from China in the exhibition include silk, down, porcelain, and silk chair covers; a carved rhinoceros horn; a gold and turquoise, silver, bowl, and vase, polychrome, lacquer and glass; a jade bowl, and paintings on silk and paper.

"The variety of objects, materials, and modes of expression from these cultures illustrate the important changes that took place in the New World and give visitors an opportunity to consider different backgrounds from their own," commented James Robinson, a member of the Freer Gallery staff who coordinated the exhibition.

An unusual Bicentennial exhibition, composed of Oriental art works from the period of the American Revolution, will open December 13 at the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

The exhibition includes approximately 90 objects from the Freer collection that give amply evidence of the high state of the arts in the Orient at that time - the period of the Chinese Emperor Ch'ien-lung, the Japanese Edo period, the Mughal period in India, and the Iranian Salajid and Turkish Ottoman period.

Objects in the exhibit from the Near East include small bronzes and lacquer works, porcelain, lacquer, and corrugated work. Paintings from India include a view of the famous well as portraits, and scenes from Hindu mythology.

Painters from Eastern Europe have expressed their admiration of China in the exhibition.

The exhibition will be at NMHT from December 5 through February 8, is the most comprehensive exhibition of Chinese art's ever held.

Included are 175 plates, pastels, drawings, paintings and engravings. The pastel, satirical portraits, the hallmark of her work, produce a witty and revealing record of society of the 20s and 30s. In her foreword to the exhibition catalog, Dr. Joshua Taylor, Director, writes:

"The faces of people who did things of note were not yet mechanically repeated to the point of visual absurdity in the public media, and a face was still believable as a sign of character and accomplishment. It was, possibly, the last great moment for caricature."

Robert Taft wrote a detailed essay for the catalog, and, in addition to the listing of the exhibition, a work by Jean Clair. NCFA Curator of Prints and Drawings, compiled an illustrated checklist of all of Peggy Bacon's known prints.

Bob Thompson: 1937-1966" is an exhibition which will be at NCFA A from December 19 through next February 22.

Thompson was a black artist who spent some of his creative years in Europe. Despite his brilliance, he achieved limited recognition during his short lifetime. Thompson attended both the Boston University School of Fine Arts and the University of Louisville. Studying the works of old masters, he was particularly influenced by Pietro della Francesca, Poussin and Breslau. He used their compositions, but translated them into visions which were totally his.

This exhibition of 22 oils and five works on paper was organized by Mrs. Adelyn Breskin, Consultant in 20th Century Paintings and Sculpture.

...The Americans...

The National Portrait Gallery's exhibition, based on Dr. Boorstin's Pulitzer Prize-winning book, The Americans: The Democratic Experience, presents the forward-thinking men and women who, through their inventions and innovations, revolutionized America in the decades following the Civil War. To this viewer, the artist has a special affinity with the theme of inventors, with other items related to his ideas, visualize what Dr. Boorstin has described as the "process of democratizing of American life. The exhibition opened..."
November 14 runs and through next May 30. In his foreword to the exhibition catalog, Marvin B. Hirschl, Director of the Gallery, writes: "...As these early years of its existence, the National Portrait Gallery has focused its attention mainly upon political, military, art­istic, and scientific personalities, and the historic episodes in which they played a part. They’ve given the public an opportunity to view, through the medium of the richly orchestrated format (of Dr. Boorstin’s book) a new cast of characters."

...It is a cast of characters includes the famous as well as the little known talents that helped mold the way America works, relaxes, eats, and lives today. It is that which has become known as The American Way of Life.

The exhibition is mounted on the newly reopened third floor of the Gallery. What was once the largest room in America (1,062 feet long, 62 feet wide) has been restored to its former Victorian Renaissance splen­dor — a color combination of patterned stone, marble, marbled plaster, tile, colored glass decorations and relief panels. After its restoration following a disastrous fire in 1877 the space was once used for exhibitions, but later became closed to the public. Now for the first time in nearly 100 years this space is open as an exhibition area.

...Artists, Models

"Artists and Models" an exhibition of photographs and documents from the collections of the Archives of American Art, open December 10 at the Archives Gallery on the first floor of the National Portrait Gallery, and will remain on view until November 15, 1976.

The exhibition centers on the 19th and 20th centuries and includes a manuscript by Rembrandt Peale concerning portraits of George Washington. The exhibition is organized by the Whitney Museum of American Art in cooperation with the Archives of American Art where members of the Exhibits Committee, and Com­mittee members, reviewed and designed the exhibition and models and design plans and made many comments that helped enrich the hall’s message.

The specimens were prepared for exhibit by the Anthropology Conservation Lab headed by Bethune Gibson. The lab’s Edith Dietsche, Jane Norman, Toby Raphal, Janet Linner, Iesla Yonkers, and Carolyn Rose all worked on the project. Specimen handling and recording was cared for by George Phebus’ Processing Laboratory and especially Barbara Stuckenketh.

The Exhibits Office staff, under the direction of Harry Hart, was responsible for setting it all together.” Steven Makovenko developed the hall’s physical plan and design. Gail Singer specified style types, colors and other exhibit fine points, and Gene Heiden was responsible for the overall development of the Exhibition. The Office of Exhibits’ cabinetmakers, under the direction of Karl Jurack, and the Production Lab under Carl Alexander, collaborated in creating most of the diorama-like areas. Tom Haney and Anita Demchick made the giant relief maps which act as symbols of the hall as well as their thematic interpretation. Pat­rilla Powell and Max Chance created the beach which is crowned by the beautiful balsa raft. The fire in 1877 was assiduously recorded by Dr. Douglas Ubelaker (Anthropologist and the present Exhibits Committee Chairman) while his field work in Ecuador. The painted wall murals throughout are by Jerome and Elma Connolly. Robert Lewis, Anthropologist ill­ustrator, made many special drawings showing how the hall came to be. Percussion sound was used for a couple of exhibits. M Mann and photo work was done by Vic Krantz and Roy Jones, Jr.

The Highlands and Coastal areas are set off by a stone wall typical of the Andes but which in reality was Mr. John De Bergh’s stone wall in the Washington, Va. moun­tains. Our production people tore it down and Thomas Thill worked out a system to rebuild the walls in our hall using paper­mache mortar. Most of the specimen cases were made by Mr. Tom Thill, Outsid­er Wallace, Pat­tie Powell, Anita Demchick, and Al­gie Porter, who also produced the graphics. Dr. Thomas Semink advised upon the geolo­gical aspects throughout the hall. Intricate cabinet work was accomplished by Paul Gallagher, Derek Feldier, Tom Haney, and John Rynanzwiazy. The paint­ finish was applied by Alfred Pearson. Maurice Anderson and Michael Ketton pushed and grunted to get everything in place on time while David Carlin drove all over town and called all over this country acquiring the stuff that exhibits are made of. Help in acquiring specimens was provided by Paul Ketton, Robert Kanawara.

Carroll Lusk and Edward Robinson worked out the lighting of the hall with design­er Steve Makovenko. The rain forest habitat was built upon information and observations gathered during several trips to South America and Panama by Staff Curators Drs. Cowan, Soderstrom, Duckworth and Exhibit modelmakers. John Stalder and John Babky led the exhibits team, and William Donnelly, Michael Fritscher, Walter Hoke, Bruce Haug, Jet Lewis, Emanuel Morgan, Reginald Sayre, Sylvian Sean, Walter Sorrell, and James Reuter actually constructed the forest here in Washington. The market place mummings were designed by John Menke. Mary Lewis, Christina Mills, and Michelle, volunteering their talents, painted model vegetables and worked on the Church replica.

Ken Clevinger of Exhibits Central made the ultra–realistic–filtered Preigual cases which protect the objects from fingers as well as have the look of age. Vermillion Rockefeller sculpted the Tehuacuan Indian who rides endlessly on a horse tax­able and the African man who chases a stuffed and worried-looking Rhea.

Each specimen case is supported by Staff Curators Drs. Cowan, Soderstrom, and Linda Angle, and Robert Reuter actually constructed the forest here in Washington. The market place mummings were designed by John Menke. Mary Lewis, Christina Mills, and Michelle, volunteering their talents, painted model vegetables and worked on the Church replica.

For Dr. Evans, it was the second time he has been involved in the hall’s moderniza­tion. He and his wife, Dr. Betty Mengers, stimulated a general revamping in 1954–55. In the fall of 1976 the hall had become physically deteriorated.)

SL, Scholaristic Issue Portfolio "Museum" Series

Publication of "The American Ex­perience," a pictorial history of America in 20 portfolios designed to serve as a portable museum for individuals, schools, libraries and other institutions throughout the coun­try, has been announced by the Smithsonian and Scholaristic Magazines, Inc.

The portfolios, one of 23 Smithsonian Bicentennial programs, bring together for the first time photographs, documents, paintings, historical publications, maps and other Americana around 20 broad and­ expansive themes of American life.

Each portfolio contains some 50 1-by-14­ inch reproductions, plus textual material which describes the development and major facets of American life. Altogether, the series will cover most of the American experience.

The materials were selected by the National Archives, the Library of Congress and museums and libraries throughout the country.

The portable museum format was developed to reach groups and individuals to use the portfolios in a variety of ways, ranging from individual studies in homes, libraries or classrooms, to group research projects and displays in classrooms or other institutional settings.

RALPH E. BECKER HONORED — The silver James Smithson medal was presented to Washington attorney Ralph E. Becker (right) by Secretary Rippey in a ceremony November 3 at the National Museum of History and Technology. The presentation was in recognition of Mr. Becker’s donation to the Institution of his valuable collection of political campaign memorabilia. Becker’s donation was a cornerstone of the "National Museum of History and Technology," a long-range plan for the reconstruction and refurbishing of virtually all the present halls in the Museum. The many people who made this handsome and exciting hall possible deserve special notice on the occasion of its opening.

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