

# Secretary's 'State of Smithsonian' Report

By Elizabeth McIntosh

Are there "limits to growth" for the Smithsonian?

Secretary Ripley takes a cautious look ahead in his annual statement, a part of Smithsonian year 1975. He explores a selected program of museum growth based on future limitations on natural resources, as reflected in a growing environmental consciousness.

The Secretary notes that museums are especially concerned with expansion.

"I often think that today's museums are the only legitimate growth industry left," he observes, adding that it is the "nature of a museum to acquire objects."

At the same time, Mr. Ripley states, museum keepers know that the supply of objects, whether made by man or by nature, is finite and eventually will run out. These objects must be preserved for the future, and

a museum thus becomes "both a growth industry and an instrument of conservation."

In reviewing the past ten years, Secretary Ripley points to highlights in Smithsonian progress: the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, which has provided a new dimension in art; the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum, a new experiment in community relationships; the vast thrust into space marked by exhibits at the new National Air and Space Museum; the newly created facilities at the Chesapeake Bay Center for Environmental Studies, near Annapolis, Md.

He also notes that the Smithsonian Associates program has led to a growing national awareness of the Institution, with a national membership totaling more than 900,000.

"This means that for the first time Americans in a measurable proportion across the land have a feeling of belonging to

the Smithsonian and are in the process of understanding more clearly their own heritage," Secretary Ripley comments.

What can visitors to Washington in the decade ahead expect to find in Smithsonian museums where concern for measured growth will be a principal guideline?

In the statement, Secretary Ripley has projected a series of priorities for museum development with considerable attention to improvement of collections now in hand. Emphasis also will be placed on the safeguarding of acquisitions, collating and computerizing, while continuing to produce imaginative presentations and exhibits.

"In all this," he states, "we feel that our growth has been a logical outcome of expressed needs of the Institution for further appropriate support, and for the addition of new activities to supplement and buttress what we are already trying to do."

Each research center, museum and zoo has its own goals, the Secretary observes, but there are "holes" in basic collections.

For example, the Smithsonian's National Museum of History and Technology has a fine collection on the evolution of railroading in the United States, but it lacks a "donkey," a small, now rare, shunting engine used in logging operations.

In the field of ceramics, the Museum possesses an important collection of European hard-paste porcelains, Mr. Ripley says, but in the next decade the present group could be augmented and made more comprehensive historically by acquisitions of 17th and early 18th century soft-paste French porcelains.

One new Smithsonian exhibit of some magnitude is being considered in what Secretary Ripley describes as a "flexible area" on the National Mall, next to the new National Air and Space Museum, where some "presentiment of the future may be exhibited."

There, he says, the Smithsonian would show results of known technologies for solar energy, water conservation, food resources — all that we know of life support systems.

"As we near the end of our Bicentennial it is well to look ahead to our Tricentennial, and in the process demonstrate to our citizens some of the implications contained in the concept of *limits to growth*," the Secretary states.

He says that the next ten years hopefully will see the completion of a consolidated Museum Support Facility in suburban Suitland, Md., to house, catalogue, conserve and study collections away from the Mall, where museum space is at a premium.

"We need to create a new way of looking at collections, working with them, and training conservators as a prototype for a national conservation school," the Secretary states, observing that present efforts to conserve our legacy of man-made objects are still in their infancy.

The Institution's fiscal year 1975 is summarized in the report as one of continued sound progress despite inflation-bred increases in salaries, utilities and other operating costs.

Federal appropriations totaling \$74,511,000 provided 76.3 percent of the \$97,623,000 in overall Smithsonian operating funds in fiscal year 1975. Grants and contracts, and private trust funds provided the rest.

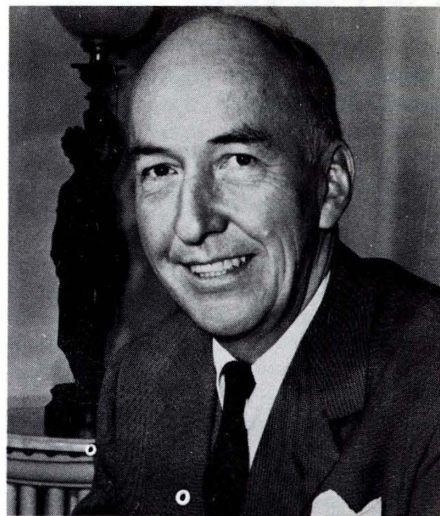
Selected highlights from principal divisions of the report follow.

## Science

David Challinor, Assistant Secretary for Science, sees basic research as perhaps the most important quality in Smithsonian science. He states: "When quantum leaps are made in space sciences and medicine, these advances have come about only through years of unspectacular *basic research*."

**Center for the Study of Man:** The Center is starting research on surviving Indian groups in the southern and eastern United States as part of its American Indian Program. Preliminary work shows that more Indian groups have survived than previously estimated.

**Chesapeake Bay Center for Environmental Studies:** An important contribution to ecological programs is the Center's research on the interaction of Maryland's Rhode River estuary with its watershed, and man's impact upon this system. A full year of monitoring material entering the estuary from land runoff was completed this year. **Fort Pierce Bureau:** For the next decade, scientists at this Bureau will continue their studies on the estuarine and marine en-



Secretary Ripley

vvironments of Florida's east coast and adjacent continental shelf. They hope to establish basic information for measuring natural and man-made causes of stress and change.

**National Air and Space Museum:** July 4 will mark the official opening of the newest Smithsonian museum, just off the Mall. Its 200,000 square feet of exhibit space will feature airships from the Wright Flyer to the Apollo spacecraft, a "Spacearium," a film theater and an art gallery which will exhibit all facets of man's dreams of flight and those which became realities.

**National Museum of Natural History:** This Museum goes back to the founding of the Smithsonian. It is one of the world's major centers for the study of plants, animals, fossils, minerals and man. In the next 20 years there will be a reconditioning of virtually all present halls, with at least one major opening a year. A new west court addition now under construction will provide 48,324 square feet of space for classrooms, specimen reference library and a cafeteria. New exhibits have also been geared for the physically handicapped. Following are highlights of specific museum disciplines:

**Anthropology:** NMNH scientists have worked out a framework for the study of 7,000 years of Labrador coast pre-history.

**Ethnology:** Field teams are assembling demographic information on Himbas, pastoral cattle keepers in Angola and southwest Africa.

**Botany:** Scientists have submitted to Congress a list of 750 endangered plant species and 1,200 threatened species. **Entomology:** A fascinating study by Smithsonian scientists in Central America has been launched, entitled: "Where Have All The Ground Beetles Gone?"

**Invertebrate Zoology:** Scientific studies on Ascension Island have resulted in the discovery of a new family of clawless shrimp. **Mineral Sciences:** The earth-circling vessel "Glomar Challenger" has been coring the ocean floor in support of scientific exploration within the earth's mantle, including a search for mineral and oil deposits.

**Paleobiology:** Through a study of 360 million year old plants in Queensland, Australia, scientists have determined at which point in geologic time a root system can be defined as an integral part of a plant.

**Vertebrate Zoology:** Studies in the social behavior of howler monkeys at the Smithsonian's Tropical Research Institute reveal that yellow fever has the potential to cause a devastating impact on this monkey population.

**National Zoological Park:** There will be more living room for residents of the National Zoo. For the first time giraffes will

(See SECRETARY'S REPORT, p. 2)



**AAAS MEETING —** Dr. Robert W. Noyes, Associate Director for the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, presented a paper at the recent meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Science held in Boston. (See story on page 4.)

## THE SMITHSONIAN TORCH

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## Smithsonian Scholars Present Papers in ASW Lecture Series

The Smithsonian and the Anthropological Society of Washington, their lives intertwined since both were founded at about the same time, are collaborating again in the Bicentennial observance.

Three Smithsonian scholars recently have given papers in the Bicentennial lecture series of the A.S.W. Dr. Herman Viola, director of the National Anthropological Archives, gave an illustrated lecture on "Washington's First Museum: The Office Collection of Thomas L. McKenney." McKenney served as the first commissioner of Indian affairs, a post held later by Dr. Philleo Nash, current president of the A.S.W., who introduced Dr. Viola.

Dr. Wilton S. Dillon, director of Smithsonian Symposia and Seminars, and a past president of A.S.W., gave a paper on "Thomas Jefferson as Anthropologist."

Dr. J. Lawrence Angel, curator of physical anthropology, spoke on "Biological Changes in the American Population Since Colonial Times."

Drs. Nash and Dillon also appeared together in February at the all-day tribute to Dr. Margaret Mead in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of her first field work in Samoa, held in Boston during the recent meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Dillon's paper was: "Margaret Mead as World Citizen" (see story on AAAS meeting in this issue).

## W. H. Costley, SI Veteran, Dies

William H. Costley, 65, a veteran of 15 years' employment with the Smithsonian, died February 13.

Mr. Costley began working at the Institution in February 1961 as a laborer. In August 1961, he was assigned temporarily to the Division of Political History. Due to his outstanding work for the Division, he was placed on permanent status and promoted to a museum aide position and later to museum technician.

Mr. Costley's care and devotion to the objects in the Division were demonstrated during the move from the Arts and Industries Building to the National Museum of History and Technology. He participated in physically moving the First Ladies' gowns from the old exhibit area to the new one, and then bore the brunt of moving all the collections and offices from one building to the other.



Dr. Harold Jefferson Coolidge, great-great-grandson of Thomas Jefferson, was given special recognition at a recent meeting of the Anthropological Society of Washington, held in the Ecology Theatre of the National Museum of Natural History. He is shown here (left) with Dr. Philleo Nash, president of the society, and Dr. Wilton S. Dillon, who had given a paper on "Thomas Jefferson as Anthropologist." Dr. Coolidge is founder of the Pacific Science Board of the National Academy of Sciences, and former president of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. He was praised by the anthropologists for perpetuating Mr. Jefferson's natural history approach to knowledge, including the study of humans as part of nature. In the picture, Dr. Coolidge is being toasted with white Italian wine from vineyards visited by Mr. Jefferson. During the same evening, the society heard a tape recording of the oral history interview with the man who served as a model for the statue of Jefferson in the Jefferson Memorial.



# MHT Thronged as Ali Presents Gloves, Robe For Bicentennial 'Nation of Nations' Exhibit

By Geraldine Sanderson

March 17 will be remembered affectionately in the annals of the Museum of History and Technology as the day Muhammad Ali presented a pair of boxing gloves to the Nation of Nations exhibit and the day the Museum came to a complete standstill for an hour.

Staff members caught in the excitement of the moment became groupies searching for a handshake or an autograph. Museum guards who formed a detail around the champ were polite, calm and masterful in their handling of the crowd.

It was to be a simple presentation ceremony with Ali, Museum Director Brooke Hindle, and Carl Scheele, chairman of the Nation of Nations Committee, present to exchange a few words and have their pictures taken. Ellen Hughes of the MHT staff had been in touch with Ali's staff in Chicago for more than a month.

She had requested a pair of boxing gloves for the sports section of the exhibit which includes Hank Aaron and Joe Garagiola's baseball shirts, Billie Jean King's tennis dress, and baseball bats used by Babe Ruth, Joe Dimaggio and Mickey Mantle.

The answer finally was yes, and when Ellen phoned on March 16 to make arrangements for the gloves to be mailed to the Museum she was told Ali would be in Washington the next day and was asked could he deliver them in person? Was the Museum interested?

Does the sun rise in the east? Arrangements were made and an announcement was sent over the wires from the public affairs office to Washington area news bureaus inviting them to photograph the presentation.

Within 45 minutes the public affairs phones started ringing. They rang constantly for the next 24 hours. By the time Ali arrived at 3:15 the next day, more than 30 reporters were assembled in the reception suite, including film crews from ABC, West Germany, UPI and USIA, as well as all four of the local television stations.

History and Technology staff members were told they could watch the ceremony and they did. Ali arrived early and wanted to see the museum, so Warren Danzenbaker, MHT



A crowd of enthusiastic fans surrounds Muhammad Ali at NMHT.

Director's staff, escorted him on an impromptu tour.

Word of his presence in the building spread like wildfire, and soon teenagers began to follow, and a relaxed Ali shook hands, hugged, and warmly greeted the eager youngsters.

To everyone's delight, Ali presented the gloves from the Foreman fight in Zaire and a robe (which was unexpected) he wore for six months while he trained for the fight in Deer Park, Pa. and in Zaire.

A serious Ali autographed each glove, the robe, and good naturedly answered reporters' questions. A *Washington Post* reporter recorded the following scene:

"With shrieking kids providing an ambience usually associated with Led Zeppelin concerts, the heavyweight champ gave the Museum a pair of his gloves, one of his robes, and the first thoughts that popped into his mind. 'My gloves will be the most famous things in this building,' he said."

The ceremony over, Ali headed for the exhibit moving slowly through the shoulder-to-shoulder crowd. Carl Scheele showed him where the gloves would be placed, and after a few minutes' banter about the bare floors in the exhibit Ali paused before the statue of

George Washington and on an impulse mugged for the cameras.

Ali wanted to see more of the Museum but the hundreds who swarmed around him prevented this. And so after a few handshakes he departed as he had come in a long black limousine, leaving behind several thousand thrilled fans and a Museum staff that showed it could stand up to the most extraordinary of events.

## Davis Lectures on Medicine

Dr. Audrey Davis, Associate Curator and Supervisor of the Division of Medical Sciences, at the National Museum of History and Technology, presented a lecture at Johns Hopkins University on March 3, entitled "The Technology of American Medicine in the First Half of the Twentieth Century." She is completing a 40-page chapter on the history of medical technology in the 20th century for a new volume in the classic series, *History of Technology*, edited by Charles Singer, E. J. Holmyard, A. R. Hall, and Trevor Williams.

## Personnel Now Has Taped Message

A new system for listing job opportunities has been put into effect by the Office of Personnel Administration.

Information about current vacancies may be obtained 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by dialing 381-6545 or 381-6278. The printed vacancy announcements will no longer be sent to each individual employee but will be posted on bulletin boards in various locations. Administrative officers will be able to advise employees of the location of the bulletin boards. The new telephone number for Recruitment and Placement is 381-5736.

## Associates to Tour Hopkins

The "Regional Program" of the Smithsonian National Associates will focus on Tucson the weekend of April 23-25, when Southern Arizona members may tour the Mt. Hopkins Observatory and hear firsthand about the Institution's science programs.

The more than 4,000 Smithsonian National Associates, living in the Tucson area will be invited to attend one of two special "open days" on the mountain, Saturday, April 24, and Sunday, April 25.

They will tour observing facilities at the 7,600-foot level as well as visit the summit site of the Multiple Mirror Telescope. The Associates may also attend an introductory lecture by David Challinor, Smithsonian Assistant Secretary for Science, on Friday night, April 23, in Tucson.

The National Board of Smithsonian Associates, an advisory group drawn from the worlds of business, science, and art, will also hold its annual meeting in Tucson at the same time and members will participate in the general program.

The weekend is one of several regional programs planned by the National Associates to take Smithsonian projects and people from the Mall to other cities around the country.

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have enough space to kick up their heels; elephants will have larger bathing pools; the monkey house will accommodate all types from jumpers to climbers; soon lions will be lodged in a natural amphitheater. This is all part of major construction work now being carried out.

In addition, some 3,100 acres at the Conservation and Research Center at Front Royal, Va., have been utilized for care of such endangered species as Felds deer, bongo, kangaroo, zebra, Bactrian camels, rheas, scimitar horn oryx and Pere David deer. Quarters for maned wolves (now in residence), bush dogs and crab eating foxes have also been constructed.

The Zoo reports that its Office of Animal Management presided over the hatching of the first kiwi chick born outside New Zealand. Zoo scientists have also been successful in breeding other rare creatures in captivity: Hawaiian nene geese, Utah Prairie Dogs and lesser pandas. Work is also progressing in animal health and pathology, zoological research and visitor services.

**Office of International Programs:** This office gives support to the Smithsonian (and other U.S. institutions) through Foreign Currency Program grants. Its Center for Short-Lived Phenomena, world-wide in scope, provided rapid communication of data on natural and environmental phenomena of short-range duration. A total of 235 events were logged in from 45 countries, islands and ocean areas last year. The Office also provides assistance for Peace Corps projects involving environmental problems abroad.

**Radiation Biological Laboratory:** Sunlight energy and its effect on man's food and growth is of primary RBL concern. The laboratory also deals with problems involving ozone and ultraviolet radiation. It has installed ultraviolet measuring instruments at several 'ozone' monitoring sites.

Another RBL area of investigation is carbon dating. A recent project which has received national attention was the carbon dating of materials from the Meadowcroft

Rockshelter in western Pennsylvania. Samples of hearth debris at the site indicate that man was in America already over 16,000 years ago. Since the most recent entry to North America by way of the Bering land bridge could only have taken place between 14,000 and 17,000 years ago, when land was exposed there, the carbon dates from Meadowcroft suggest that man's entry goes back some 25,000 or 30,000 years. As a result, archeologists are revising their estimates of man's antiquity in the New World.

**Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory:** (SAO) Collaborating with the Harvard College Observatory, SAO continues to "conduct excellent astrophysical research in a variety of interdependent subfields." *Geoastronomy:* A worldwide net of tracking stations is utilized to observe precise positions of artificial satellites, using the resultant data to extract information about the earth's shape and gravitational field. *Optical and Infrared Astronomy:* Scientists have discovered high winds in the atmosphere of Venus and have also made a high resolution map of the Orion nebula in far infrared. *Solar and Stellar Physics:* Stellar research using orbiting ultraviolet telescopes, has discovered that Capella, a nearby star of the solar type, may have a stellar wind. By applying analytical tools developed for the sun, the division hopes to infer the properties of the wind. Future activities of SAO are heavily oriented towards completion of the Multi-Mirror Telescope at Mount Hopkins, Ariz.

**Smithsonian Science Information Exchange, Inc.** The Exchange, a major scientific and technological information center, has been designated the Current Cancer Research Project Analysis Center. It is thus involved in collection, storage and retrieval of comprehensive information on current research projects in cancer on a national and international scale. The Exchange is also involved in energy research. Information collected on this vital topic will be used in review and

planning of new international efforts towards conservation of energy.

**Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute:** A diverse scientific staff is working at this Panama Institute to study tropical biological organization. By pooling various disciplines, studies in ecology and evolutionary adaptations of tropical organisms are better understood. The Institute work includes such varied studies as hermaphrodite fish, fluctuations in insect life in tropical forests, adaptive aspects of plant morphology and studies of animal communication involving visual and signalling systems. Grants have enabled students to take part in these studies; 24 students from the United States, Canada, Panama, Colombia and the Virgin Islands participated in 1975 projects.

### History and Art

Charles Blitzer, Assistant Secretary for History and Art, sees in the acquisition of art objects a requirement "as part of our obligation to posterity, to the future generations who will then be able to use what we have collected, as we use what earlier generations collected..."

**Archives of American Art:** Research in American art is thriving. During the past year 1,750 visits were made to regional offices in Boston, New York, Washington, Detroit and San Francisco. As a service to art historians, the Archives accessioned over 250 collections, some of major importance in American art investigations for the 19th and 20th centuries. Another Archival activity is the Oral History Project which records life stories and reminiscences of persons involved in this area of art.

**Cooper-Hewitt Museum of Decorative Arts and Design:** The historic Andrew Carnegie Mansion at 91st St. and Fifth Ave. in New York City has been renovated to house the Cooper-Hewitt Museum collection. It opens this bicentennial year, with the initial exhibit designed by architect Hans Hollein. There will be significant international participation in this show.

**Freer Gallery of Art:** The Freer, which houses one of the world's most distinguished collections of Middle East and Oriental art, including bronzes, has been engaged in research relating to metal corrosion. Recently, the conservation staff surveyed major

bronze collections in Asia in an effort to alleviate pressing problems in bronze deterioration. It was recommended that a center be established in Thailand to prevent further deterioration of priceless art objects in Asia infected with bronze diseases.

**Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden:** A major contribution to the nation's cultural life was the opening of the Hirshhorn in October 1974. In the first six months, more than one million persons visited this museum of contemporary art. In addition to permanent exhibits, the Museum has featured film programs, lectures, special docent-led tours and contemporary music concerts. A new show, "Artist-Immigrants of America from 1876-1976," is being planned for the Bicentennial celebration. The show will consist of some 230 works by approximately 70 foreign born painters, sculptors, architects, photographers and film makers.

**Joseph Henry Papers:** Volume Two of the Joseph Henry Papers was published this year, the second in a series of 15 books based on the life of the first Secretary of the Smithsonian, and a pioneer in physics. Volume Two traces Henry's career at Princeton and his work in electromagnetic induction. During the past year, the Smithsonian received title to another set of important papers, those of Alexander Graham Bell. These will be incorporated with the Henry papers.

**National Armed Forces Museum Advisory Board:** This year the Board has given special attention to the development of programs for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Institute for Historical Research, now located in the National Museum of History and Technology. This study center is currently working on a seminar scheduled this spring on U.S. Occupation Policies.

**National Collection of Fine Arts:** This important collection of over 17,000 works represents all aspects of American art, including not only the great artists, but those acclaimed in their own time but ignored by succeeding generations. Notable among the 995 acquisitions this year was Charles Wilson Peale's portrait of Mathias and Thomas Bordley, probably his most important miniature painting. Many of the NCAFA acquisitions have suffered physical neglect

(See SECRETARY'S REPORT, p. 3)



## Hirshhorn Shows Levine Caricatures



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Caricatures of Willem de Kooning (left) and Humphrey Bogart are part of an exhibition of pen-and-ink drawings entitled "Artists, Authors, and Others: Drawings by David Levine," which opened at the Hirshhorn Museum March 4. The 65 drawings by the renowned American caricaturist form the first exhibition of Levine's caricatures devoted entirely to personalities in the arts rather than politics. Four unpublished drawings are shown along with examples of works that Levine has published since 1965. Artists such as Rembrandt, Picasso and Pollock; authors such as Hemingway, Joyce, and Mann; and "Others," such as Stravinsky, Mahler, Fellini, and Chaplin are among the cultural giants shown. The exhibition, the first to originate at the Hirshhorn, has been organized by Frank Gettings, Assistant Curator of Prints and Drawings. It includes loans from many private and public collections and will remain on view through June 6.

## Sargent Exhibit Presented by AAA

"Sargent on Sargent," an exhibition of letters from the collection of the Archives of American Art, written by John Singer Sargent's father to his family in Philadelphia — a proud father's description of the development of his talented son John from the age of one week to 28 years — is on view at the New York Center of the Archives of American Art, 41 East 65 Street until April 30.

The exhibition is open to the public from 9:30 to 4:30, Mondays through Fridays.

At the conclusion of the New York showing, the exhibition will go to Archives centers in Boston, Detroit and San Francisco.

## Hamarnah Elected To Pharmacy Post

Dr. Sami K. Hamarnah, Historian of Pharmacy, at the National Museum of History and Technology, has been elected Chairman of the Committee on Awards, American Institute of the History of Pharmacy for 1976-77.

His recent publications include "The Life Sciences," in *The Genius of Arab Civilization — Source of Renaissance* (J. R. Hayes, editor, New York, New York University Press, 1975, pp. 143-172); "The Pharmacy and Materia Medica of al-Biruni and al-Ghafari — a comparison," in *Pharmacy in History* (vol. 18, 1976, pp. 3-12); "Abu'l Hasan al-Tabari," in *Dictionary of Scientific Biography* (vol. 13, 1976, pp. 229-231).

## Grover Loening, Recipient of Langley Medal, Dies

Grover Loening, 87, a pioneer in aviation invention and recent recipient of the Smithsonian's Langley Gold Medal for aerodynamics, died February 29 after a long illness.

Mr. Loening and Leonard Carmichael, former Smithsonian Secretary, were instrumental in obtaining Congressional approval for the National Air and Space Museum. Mr. Loening served as a member of the NASM advisory board for about 20 years.

In addition to the Langley Medal, Mr. Loening was a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Merit and almost every major American aviation medal including the Eggleston, Air Force and Guggenheim medals.

A graduate of Columbia University, he was the first person to receive an M.A. in aeronautics from an American university.

His pioneering efforts in aviation aided significant contributions such as the first American steel frame airplane, a small airplane to be launched from destroyers and the M8 two-seat pursuit monoplane using rigid-strut bracing. He produced the Flying Yacht, a five-seat monoplane boat which established world records and opened the market for private aircraft following World War I.

He also developed the Loening Amphibian with the first practical retractable undercarriage and researched the design of the Pan American Building rooftop heliport in New York City. Mr. Loening was one of the first directors of Pan American Airways and wrote several books and many articles on aviation.

## F. J. Berek, of NMHT Staff, Dies

Frank J. Berek, 70, a museum specialist in the Division of Postal History at the National Museum of History and Technology, died February 6.

Mr. Berek began his 33-year career at the Smithsonian in July 1939 as an elevator conductor and joined the guard force in the next year. In 1942 he transferred to the U.S. Department of Commerce, but he returned to the Smithsonian less than four years later. He then served as a guard in several different buildings.

After becoming a lieutenant, Mr. Berek joined the Division of Postal History in August 1966 where he continued his career until last February. In Postal History he devoted special attention to U.S. precanceled stamps and certified plate proofs, specialties in which he collaborated with philatelic scholars in many parts of this country.



**ON EXHIBIT** — An effigy vessel depicting an acrobat performing a back-bend is one of the objects on display in the exhibition "Ancient Ecuador: Culture, Clay and Creativity, 3000-300 B.C.," at the National Museum of Natural History from April 13 through July 15. The exhibition, which originated at the Field Museum in Chicago, features about 600 objects, among the earliest known ceramics in the Western Hemisphere (3100 B.C.). The objects, depicting plants, animals and man, reveal much about the life of the peoples in early settlements along the Ecuadorian coast.

### SMITHSONIAN TORCH

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and require extensive restoration. For this work, NCHA has added a "conservator of paper" this year. The "health" of paintings is thus maintained and also, with proper cleaning, the original brilliance of the art work emerges, often forcing re-evaluation of prior historical assumptions.

**National Museum of History and Technology:** More than 22,000 objects have been collected by the Museum for display in its five major Bicentennial exhibits, three of which have already opened. These are: "Suiting Everyone", democratization of clothing in America over a 200 year span; "We The People", a reflective look at Americans and their government, "Nation of Nations", a story of America's immigrants. The restored Arts and Industries Building will house still another exhibit, NMHT's microcosmic recreation of the Philadelphia Centennial Trade Fair.

A new feature of the NMHT Educational Program has been the Spirit of 1776 Discovery Corner where visitors are encouraged to touch and handle artifacts relating to the common soldier in the American Revolution. A total of 3,395 persons visited this particular exhibit during the first six weeks it was open. Other "discovery corners" are planned to bring visitors into contact with the Museum's wide ranging collections which touch on virtually every aspect of American life and history.

Among notable acquisitions of the NMHT this year are: an 1892 cable car trailer; an early 19th-century orchestral horn by Courtis of Paris; nearly 20,000 objects relating to political campaigning; a Chinese export porcelain bowl from a set purchased by General Washington; a silver platter inscribed to Dr. Benjamin Rush in 1798 for his services in Philadelphia during the yellow fever epidemic; two extremely rare pieces of early Chelsea porcelain; a pair of Hepplewhite-style side chairs of a Philadelphia type predating 1800; a large collection of medical forceps representing two centuries of development; Helen Keller's gold touch watch and the world's first transistorized portable videotape recorder.

An important academic gift to the Museum was the Dibner Library, the History of Science and Technology. This collection contains nearly 25,000 published

works, the core of which is some 200 epochal books dealing with the history of physical and biological sciences. These books proclaimed new truths which redirected scientific thought, brought understanding of natural laws and introduced industrial change.

**National Portrait Gallery:** The Gallery acquired 60 portraits during the past year, the most important being the "porthole" paintings of George and Martha Washington by Rembrandt Peale; and the portraits of two Chief Justices, John Jay, begun in 1844 by Stuart, finished by John Trumbull; and John Marshall, a small cabinet-size canvas by William J. Hubbard. The Gallery also acquired one of only two known life portraits of Frederick Douglass, painted in 1844 by Elisha Hammond. The Gallery's Bicentennial efforts are focussed on two displays: "The Mind and the Hearts of the People, 1760-1774", and "The Dye Is Now Cast, 1774-1776."

**Office of Academic Studies:** This office develops and administers Smithsonian programs in higher education. The programs provide a regular flow of ideas and information between the Institution's research faculty and the international academic community. Students are offered the opportunity to receive individual training and guidance at Smithsonian research centers.

**Office of American Studies:** This office was established to maintain a relationship between Smithsonian activities related to American studies and the academic community. Twenty-five graduate students participated in the fall seminar on "Material Aspects of American Civilization," including a field trip to Belmont House in Maryland, operated by the Smithsonian. Other seminars in the past year included: "Studies in American Art and History"; "The Art and

Architecture of Washington, D.C., 1791-1929," and "Early American Decorative Arts."

### Museum Programs

"An institution which collects and studies the tangible remains of the past, presents and interprets them for the information and delectation of the present, and conserves and transmits them for the future." Thus Paul N. Perrot, Assistant Secretary for Museum Programs, defines a museum and its legacy. It is the job of his area of responsibilities to safeguard this legacy by the care and handling of the collections; by developing systems for their registration and conserving them from the ravages of time; by providing libraries and archives to support and interpret the vast Smithsonian holdings and finally, by educating Americans to the importance of their history.

**Conservation-Analytical Laboratory:** This Laboratory supports conservation and research throughout the Smithsonian complex. During FY 75 its technicians have examined such things as 11th Century A.D. marble beads by X-ray defraction to determine their mineral content; mortar from a brick cookstove off the privateer brigantine "Defense" (circa 1776) by microscopy and infrared spectroscopy. They have also helped restore the ceremonial mace for the House of Representatives. Equipment for thermoluminescent dating of ceramics is in place and ready for use.

**National Museum Act Programs:** This Act is a specifically funded grant program administered by the Smithsonian. It provides assistance to museums, colleges and other organizations which wish to establish curricula in museum management, conservation, exhibitions and teaching techniques. In 1975 available funding amounted to \$802,000.

**Office of Exhibits Central:** This Office produces exhibitions for Smithsonian museums which do not have their own facilities. It also provides many special services such as film making, lighting, audio-visual installation, freeze-dry taxidermy, model making and restoration. The main thrust of work for this year will focus on

Bicentennial programs. In the past year the Office participated in 106 projects.

**Office of Museum Programs:** This Office coordinates activities related to training in museum management; disseminating information on conservation principles; and developing methods to assess the Museum as a learning environment.

**Office of the Registrar:** Registration is an important aspect of the overall care and documentation of the national collections. The Central Registrar and Council of Registrars provide coordination with each museum in the Smithsonian complex. More than 2,400 accessions and 4,500 transactions, involving the movement of about 550,000 specimens or objects, were processed during FY 75.

**Smithsonian Institution Archives:** The Archives is the repository for papers of historic interest in the fields of science, art, history and the humanities. Material of interest in these files includes papers concerning the surveys of the West, manuscripts of Samuel Langley's early experiments in flight and Robert Goddard's work in rocketry. During this past year, the Archives has been consolidating control of archives throughout the Institution.

**Smithsonian Institution Libraries:** The major mission of the libraries is to develop a system which mobilizes all required information resources for use by the Smithsonian staff. The Libraries' holdings of more than 900,000 volumes contain outstanding works on American ethnology, and the history of science and technology. During the past year there has been a notable increase in the Libraries' staffing, coincidental with the growth and development of new museums and facilities. The creation of rare book cataloging and hand binding facilities testify to the importance of collection preservation.

**Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service:** This is a unique organization which originates and circulates exhibitions to galleries, museums, community colleges and other institutions. Now in its 23rd year, SITES plans to place 50 or more Bicentennial related exhibits on tour in the United States. Internationally, SITES staffers

(See SECRETARY'S REPORT, p. 4)



# SI Scientists, Historians Give Papers At AAAS Meeting

Eleven Smithsonian scientists and historians — a record number — presented papers and participated in symposia at the 142nd national meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, February 18-24 in Boston.

Dr. George Field, Director of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, chaired a session on "The Magnetically Varying Sun and its Effects on Terrestrial Climate", arranged by Dr.

Robert W. Noyes, the Center's Associate Director. Dr. Noyes, who also is Professor of Astronomy at Harvard, gave a paper on "Magnetic Variability in the Sun's Atmosphere."

Dr. Field presented a paper on "The Cosmological View of High Energy Astronomy" in session on high energy radiation in the universe that was arranged by Smithsonian astrophysicist Dr. Paul Goernstein.

A day-long meeting on zoos and wildlife conservation featured Dr. Devra G. Kleiman, reproductive zoologist at the National Zoo. She predicted that the golden lion tamarin, the tiny and strikingly beautiful monkey found only near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, faces certain extinction in the wild and probably cannot survive in captivity over the long run.

Dr. Christen Wemmer, curator in charge of the National Zoo's conservation and research center, described the propagation of endangered ungulates at the Front Royal facility.

Dr. John Eisenberg, chief resident scientist in the Zoo's research office, offered cross-species comparisons of differential biological rhythms.

"Shaping Structures for World Citizenship" was the subject of a paper by Dr. Wilton S. Dillon, director of Smithsonian Symposia and Seminars, in conjunction with an academic tribute of anthropologist Margaret Mead.

In a symposium on Science and Revolution, Dr. Brooke Hindle, director of the Museum of History and Technology, discussed "Science and the American Revolution."

Dr. Nathan Reingold, editor of the Joseph Henry Papers, in cooperation with the History of Science Society, arranged a three-day Bicentennial retrospective on the sciences in America.

Historian Robert Post of MHT discussed "Public Policy and Popular Attitudes to Science, 1820-1860." History of astronomy curator Deborah J. Warner presented a paper titled "Astronomy in Antebellum America."



Anne DeCaprio and Ellen Clain-Stefanelli view a model of an 1870 freight river barge in a new exhibit called "America's Forests" which recently opened at the National Museum of History and Technology.

## MHT Exhibit Shows 'America's Forests'

What do a child's ringtoss toy, a dulcimer and rocket fuel have in common?

"America's Forests," a new exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of History and Technology, answers that riddle by indicating all are made of wood or wood by-products.

The exhibit uses artifacts from the museum's collections to point out that, from cradle to grave, people's lives are encircled by wood, and that wood was an important material for building the new nation.

Early settlers depended upon wood for their homes and ships. Wooden wagons later helped to open the West.

Today, wood by-products are used in plastics and in many uses of the space program — nitrocellulose, for example, is a rocket propellant.

The exhibit's objects, ranging from wooden plates to ship models to a wooden

Indian to forestry tools, illustrate each step of the nation's growth and expansion.

The exhibit's diorama has tall trees silhouetted against a warm brown background. Tall and short cylinders set on dark brown carpeting give the illusion of stylized trees.

Through peepholes visitors can view color photos of various kinds of forests, and uses of the forest for industry and recreation such as hiking, camping and skiing.

A three-minute slide show, with country music as background, shows how man, animals and industry all depend upon the forest for a variety of resources.

Sponsored cooperatively by the Smithsonian and the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the exhibit will be on view in the Museum of History and Technology during the next six months.

## AAM Meet to Be Held in Washington

The annual meeting of the American Association of Museums will be held in Washington May 30 through June 3 with the theme "Threshold to the Third Century."

Some of the topics to be covered include museum education, conservation and collecting policies; museums in broadcasting; information management; registration and membership programs, and a women's caucus.

For further information and registration materials, interested Smithsonian personnel may contact the American Association of Museums, 2233 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007. (telephone 338-5300).

# Secretary's Report

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visited 11 foreign countries to develop new shows to implement the on-going "International Salute to the States."

### Public Service

Julian T. Euell, Assistant Secretary for Public Service, is concerned with the many phases of public service for and about the Smithsonian — from television specials to school seminars, from reading programs for children to festivals on the Mall. "In the coming year," he states, "we must draw on this experience to determine what manner and what level of public appeal best fulfills the Smithsonian mandate for the 'increase and diffusion of knowledge.'"

**Anacostia Neighborhood Museum:** This unique Museum, which emphasizes neighborhood involvement, has grown into a nationally recognized center of black history and culture. The Museum is now in its ninth year of service, education and special programming for the Anacostia community. Over 35 major exhibitions have been produced by the Museum since its inception. Anacostia's first Bicentennial offering will be the exhibit "Blacks in the Westward Movement" which tells the story of the blacks who explored, conquered and settled the western part of the United States.

**Division of Performing Arts:** This Division presents performing arts events, with an emphasis on programs that relate to Smithsonian collections. The annual Festival of American Folklife brought 900 performers last year from seven foreign countries, 15 Indian tribes, nine trade organizations representing workers in communications and the state of Mississippi. More than one million visitors attended the ten-day 'happening.' The Division's winter programs, in more intimate settings, featured jazz, chamber music, American popular songs and country music. During the year, a total of 54 folk music troupes, puppet companies and little theater groups toured 21 cities in 12 states.

### Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

This Office gives assistance to education offices of Smithsonian facilities and to public service bureaus. One of the most successful programs for Washington area educators has been the workshops and seminars held at various museums. Last year a total of 2,200 teachers participated in 70 workshops in art, history and science.

**Office of Public Affairs:** This office supports museum programs to engender a greater public awareness and understanding of the many-faceted Smithsonian programs. News releases, radio and television productions, filmstrips and Code-a-phones are among the techniques employed to reach a maximum audience. Three special Smithsonian television programs on flight and natural science made an outstanding showing over prime time commercial network TV. Another part of the OPA "outreach" effort is the development of educational filmstrips on *Museums and Man*, in conjunction with the Encyclopedia Britannica Educational Corporation. The filmstrips are used for middle school levels and up. The special events staff worked on approximately 675 special events during the past year.

**Office of Smithsonian Symposia and Seminars:** This Office develops educational programs and serves as a resource facility for governmental and private organizations, universities and scholars. For the Bicentennial celebration, the Office is planning a symposium of the history of religious toleration and freedom in the United States. The Trouro Synagogue, Trinity Church and other historic structures will be the settings for scholarly dialogues related to this program.

**Reading Is Fundamental, Inc.** This national, nonprofit, tax-exempt organization was founded to motivate children to read. Presently 367 RIF programs are operating in 46 states. Since its founding ten years ago, more than 2 million children have received

a variety of services. A developing activity is the popular travel program arranged by the Associates' Travel Office. Last year more than 1,400 members took either foreign or domestic charter study tours, including two study flights to the Soviet Union. In Washington, an important Association activity is the Visitor Information and Associates' Reception Center. Manned by volunteers, the Center has provided information and direction for hundreds of thousands of visitors. Another Associates' Program, established by Secretary Ripley in 1965, provides an opportunity for Washington area residents to participate in Smithsonian functions. This Smithsonian Resident Associate Program has attracted a local membership of 75,000. The program sponsors classes in art, science, humanities and crafts and also holds seminars and performing arts events.

**Smithsonian Magazine:** *Smithsonian* began publication in 1970 and at the time was the principal benefit of the Smithsonian National Associates' membership. Today the magazine has not only stimulated national and international interest in the Institution but is one of the fastest growing monthlies in the country with a readership of more than 900,000. Edward K. Thompson, former managing editor of *Life*, is the editor.

**Smithsonian Institution Press:** The proliferation of Smithsonian publishing activities has led to a re-evaluation of the Press' goals and capabilities. The Press plans better coordination with all Smithsonian publishing programs and will work towards production of moderately priced books on Smithsonian collections and research. During the past year, production costs of 176 publications were funded by the federal government in the amount of \$298,000. Nine trade publications were supported by private funds (\$130,000). A total of 166,873 publications, 104 records and 10,000 art catalogues were distributed.

more than 5 million paperbacks. Teachers report children are reading more, exchanging books with friends, building libraries of their own. The Smithsonian acts as RIF's fiscal agent.

**Smithsonian Associates:** There are 900,000 members of Smithsonian Associates across the United States. The organization provides

### Other Smithsonian Bureaus Separately Administered

**Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars** (James H. Billington, Director): Congress established a "living memorial" to President Woodrow Wilson in 1968, which is now the rapidly growing international center for advanced scholarship in the Smithsonian Castle Institution Building. This is a center in

which humanistic, Wilsonian connections are made between intellect and moral purpose, the world of ideas and the world of affairs. The number of scholars is kept at a minimum (35 this past year). However, they represent a variety of cultures and backgrounds. The list includes a former U.S. Attorney General, a former head of Chile's Christian Democrat Party, intellectuals from universities at New Delhi, Tokyo and Oxford; jurists from Australia, France, Israel and Poland; journalists writing major books on subjects identified with the Center's goals.

**John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts:** (Roger L. Stevens, Chairman) Organizationally a bureau of the Smithsonian, the Kennedy Center is administered separately by a 45-member board of trustees. Since its opening in 1971 as a national culture center and living memorial, more than 4,000 performances have been held on its stages with an estimated audience of more than 6 million. The performances have included drama, musicals, opera, dance and choral concerts, performed by hundreds of world-famed artists.

**National Gallery of Art:** (J. Carter Brown, Director) The National Gallery is an autonomous and separately administered organization, although established as a bureau of the Smithsonian. During FY 75 more than 1,827,300 persons visited the Gallery. A number of important works were also acquired, the most significant being Georges de La Tour's *Repentant Magdalen*. The Gallery has extended its work through the new Extension Program Development Department, which circulates materials, film strips, slide lectures and films to an audience of nearly 3 million in the United States and abroad.