

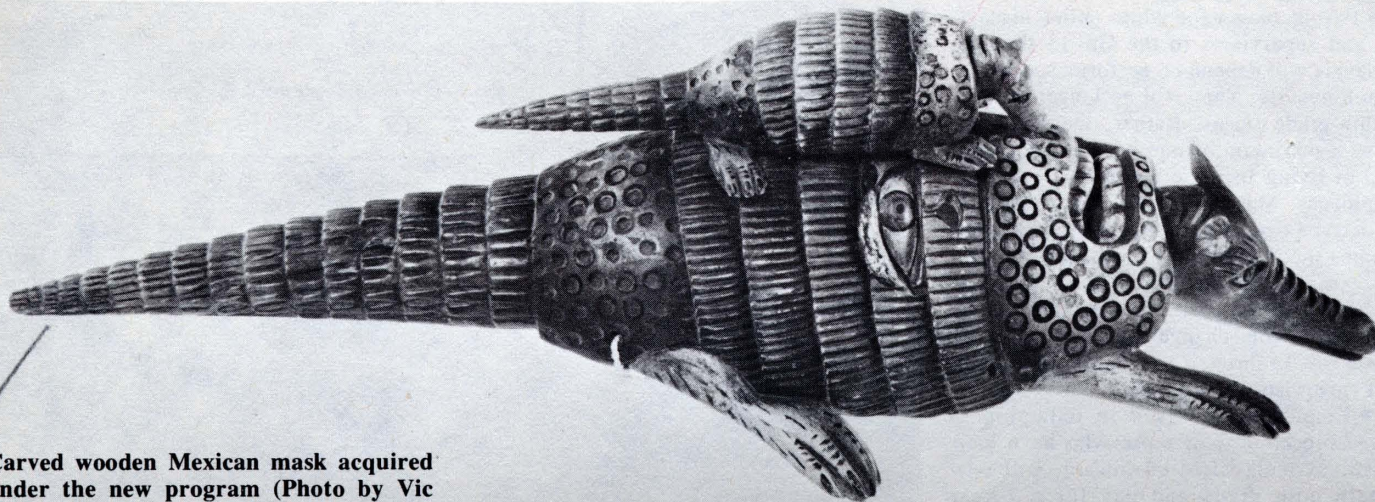


THE SMITHSONIAN TORCH

No. 78-12

Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

December 1978



Carved wooden Mexican mask acquired under the new program (Photo by Vic Krantz)

5-Year Acquisition Plan Begins

A new program to strengthen the Smithsonian's major collections acquisitions, scholarly research and educational outreach has produced results in its first months of operation.

The 5-year program, approved by Secretary Ripley and the Board of Regents, has enabled two museums to purchase important new items for their collections. In addition, it has permitted organizations throughout the Institution to undertake new or expanded research or educational activities.

The Museum of Natural History acquired 185 Mexican Indian masks of the Donald Cordry collection, considered one of the most extensive and best documented of its kind. The Museum of History and Technology purchased a quartet of stringed instruments—two violins, a viola and a cello—handcrafted by Italian masters of the 18th century.

At least one other Smithsonian museum is actively considering a major acquisition under the program, which was launched last January when the Regents approved a fiscal 1978 allocation of \$2 million—\$1 million for acquisitions and \$500,000 each for scholarly and outreach programs—from unrestricted trust funds. A similar sum was later approved for fiscal 1979 and, while it was agreed that a new assessment of spending plans would necessarily have to be made each year, there was the firm stated intention to continue with such trust fund expenditures in the future, providing funds were available.

As a result of the program, the Institution was able to grant new support to outreach programs ranging from audiovisual equipment for Mall museums to research assistantships.

In general, the Educational Outreach Program is designed to reach primarily people who are not members of the National or Resident Associates or of the Friends of the National Zoo. Although

continued attention will be given to these membership groups, the new outreach program will aim to attract and serve people who do not normally have opportunities to visit the museums or join SI programs.

Thus far, outreach projects recommended by appropriate screening committees and approved by the Secretary include:

- Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory: A science intern program for high school students and a reprinting of the booklet "Space for Women: Perspectives on Careers in Science."

- MNH: Van visits to classrooms and to groups of elderly, handicapped and institutionalized persons; the extension of the Friday film and lecture programs to weekends and holidays.

- Tropical Research Institute: Research assistantships for students planning careers in science; environmental training seminars for teachers.

- Office of Museum Programs: Funds for a museum training program for employees of Native American and Eskimo organizations.

- Traveling Exhibition Service: Support for development of educational materials designed to accompany exhibits for children.

- Office of Public Service: Assistance to develop brief radio features by the Telecommunications Office; to develop services for the handicapped by the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Resident Associates; to fund a colloquium by the Office of Seminars and Symposia in observance of Einstein's birth in March 1979; to fund the 1979 Fourth of July celebration to be produced by the Division of Performing Arts and MHT.

Scholarly projects at the Institution have been supported by trust funds ever since the original Smithsonian bequest. Over the years, federal funds, contract monies and grants have supplemented the original bequest.

(See "Trust Funds," Page 2.)

Kudos From GAO

The Smithsonian was singled out for effective procedures in a newly published General Accounting Office report on how federal agencies deal with auditors' findings.

The report by GAO, the investigative arm of Congress, noted that "the government relies on audit as the basic tool for preventing unauthorized expenditures" but concluded, on the basis of a survey of 34 agencies, that \$4.3 billion in audit findings had not been resolved.

The report contended that most of the 34 agencies "are not in full or even substantial compliance" with the Office of Management and Budget requirements for audit resolution systems. "In our judgment," the report said, "only the Department of the Interior and the Smithsonian Institution appeared to be in substantial compliance with the (OMB) circular."

How Will Federal Freeze Affect SI?

A memorandum outlining procedures for implementing the federal hiring limitation ordered by President Carter as of Oct. 25 has been circulated to heads of bureaus and offices by Under Secretary Michael Collins following an Executive Committee decision-making meeting on the question.

The presidential limitation provides that one-half of those vacancies occurring in a given agency beginning Oct. 25 can be filled. A vacancy existing before Oct. 25 cannot be filled except through use of one of the permitted appointments resulting from new vacancies.

The White House action does not provide for automatic exemptions in any job category. However, under Office of Management and Budget guidelines, occupations relating to the safety of life and property may be exempt from the hiring restrictions.

At the close of business Oct. 24, the Institution had approximately 180 vacancies. Excluding guards, the attrition rate at the Institution is about 10 percent yearly.

The Executive Committee decided that as a first step bureaus are to assign priorities to all vacancies and provide a list to the pertinent Executive Committee member with a copy to the personnel office. The list is to indicate those vacancies existing before Oct. 25 and those which occurred thereafter. Based on this data, the Executive Committee members will determine which positions can be filled promptly.

In addition, inasmuch as it is Institution-wide hiring figures which will be monitored by OMB, the Ex Com decided to empower Collins to respond to critical hiring needs in instances where a particular assistant secretary may not have sufficient vacancies in his area to fill a crucial position.

Museums Set For Holiday Festivities

By Linda St. Thomas

There's always been a lot of action at the Smithsonian during the holidays, but this year the museums seem to have outdone themselves. You could easily spend much of the last two weeks of December visiting special holiday exhibitions, picking up gifts in the shops, attending parties or just enjoying the decorations.

And all employees are invited to join Mr. and Mrs. Ripley at the annual staff Christmas party Wednesday, Dec. 20, from 3 to 5:15 p.m. in the Museum of Natural History Rotunda.

It's up to you to find the best office party, but here's a roundup of the official Smithsonian happenings this month.

Trees of Christmas

Last year's "Trees of Christmas" exhibition was so popular—and crowded—that it now extends to two floors of the Museum of History and Technology. Among the decorated trees will be the "U.S. Community," a basic modern American yuletide tree complete with tinsel and shiny ball ornaments. Other trees include Russian, Pioneer, Tidewater Plantation, Dried Flowers, Ecclesiastical Ornaments, Gold Thread Embroidery on Silk, Williamsburg Folk



T.R.'s bear, on view at MHT

Art, Denmark, Poland, American Victorian and Lithuanian.

"Trees of Christmas," organized by the Office of Horticulture, will be open from Dec. 15 through Jan. 2.

The Zoo will have its own special Christmas tree laden with items which double as food for the birds who live in and visit the National Zoo. The Friends of the National Zoo will decorate the tree at a party Sunday, Dec. 10.

Holiday Traditions

Pick up a Holiday Celebration brochure on your way into MHT any time from Dec.

(See "Holidays," Page 3.)

Regent Ryan Dead

Rep. Leo J. Ryan (D-Calif.), 53, a member of the Smithsonian Board of Regents since last August, died Nov. 18 when a fact-finding mission he was leading was attacked in Port Kaituma, Guyana.

"I am shocked and saddened," Secretary Ripley said in a statement, "by the death of Leo Ryan and the other members of his party." Although Ryan had been a Regent only a few months, Ripley noted, he had taken an active interest in Institution affairs.

Rep. Ryan, elected to the House in 1972 after serving in the State Assembly and as mayor of South San Francisco, was a member of the Government Operations and International Relations committees. In a statement on his appointment as a Regent he spoke of the Smithsonian's "extremely significant impact" on American life.



White House Photo by Jack Kightlinger

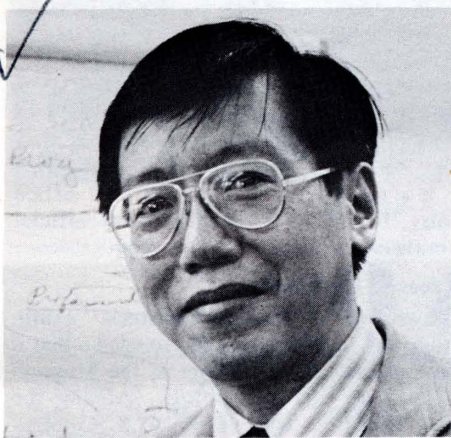
FIRST FAMILY VISITS . . . On half-an-hour's notice, the Air and Space Museum played host Nov. 11 to Jimmy, Rosalynn and Amy Carter and two of Amy's young friends. The presidential party, guided by Acting Director Melvin Zisfein, and attracting crowds and applause wherever they went, toured the Milestones of Flight, Sea-Air Operations and Explore the Planets galleries and saw "To Fly." It was the President's first visit to NASM, but Amy has now seen "To Fly" four times.

Reform Act Implemented at SI

How does the long-debated Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, signed into law by President Carter on Oct. 13, affect federal employees at the Smithsonian?

First of all, the Civil Service Commission itself will disappear in January 1979 and its functions will be divided between two separate, independent units—the Office of Personnel Management, representing management, and an independent Merit Systems Protection Board, with adjudicatory power to hear employee appeals.

Howard Toy, director of the Smithsonian's Office of Personnel Administration, said, "This division of responsibilities will prevent the same individuals from having to deal with management and employee situations and should provide more equitable representation for all." Toy made these points about the Act:



Howard Toy

- The Act established an independent Federal Labor Relations Authority. This means that labor management relations are now a matter of law, rather than Executive Order. Agencies will continue to have the right to manage their operations, but the basic rights of employees and the unions that represent them will be protected. The law expands the areas subject to negotiation to include, for the first time, such actions as discharges, demotions and long-term suspensions.

- The Act abolishes the current employee performance appraisal categories of outstanding, satisfactory and unsatisfactory. The new procedure provides for the establishment of a rating system of acceptable and unacceptable based upon performance standards and critical elements of each position.

- The law requires agencies to communicate job-related criteria to employees no later than Oct. 1, 1981. Up until now, Toy explained, performance ratings have dealt with traits rather than job requirements. The new appraisal system will be the basis for rewarding, developing, assigning, promoting, demoting and retaining or separating employees.

- Pay increases for white collar managers and supervisors in the GS-13 through 15 levels will depend on performance rather than longevity. They will no longer receive within-grade raises. Rather, they will receive a minimum of one half of the yearly cost-of-living increase given to all federal employees. Merit raises for this group will be derived from a pool fund which includes monies that would have been used for step increases under the old system, plus the remainder of the cost-of-living increase for that year. This change does not apply to those GS-13 through 15 employees who are not supervisors or managers.

- Employees involved in reduction in force procedures, or those who have their positions reclassified downward, will now retain both grade and pay for a 2-year period. Previously, only the pay was retained.

- The burden of proof for firing employees remains with each agency.

- Reduction in rank, such as losing a supervisory title or reporting to a lower-ranking person, is no longer reason for appeal, providing the employee's grade and pay are not changed.

- The law also provides that total federal force on Sept. 30, 1979, should be no greater than the total as of a year earlier.

- A Senior Executive Service will be created for managers and supervisors now in GS-16 through Executive Level IV or the equivalent. SES members, who will receive added compensation based on their performance, can raise their level of earnings up to a maximum of \$66,000 per year, including base pay, performance awards and honorary rank payment.

Performance evaluations in SES are based on improvement of efficiency, productivity, quality of work, reduction of paperwork, timeliness of performance, meeting affirmative action goals and cost efficiency.

The Smithsonian could not accurately evaluate the new law's total impact because the Civil Service Commission had not yet fully interpreted it.—*Johnnie Douthis*



"The Magdalen," by Vedder, for "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam"

Vedder's Art: Dreams, Reality

By Susan Bliss

Elihu Vedder was an artist whose work cannot be categorized under labels of artistic style. The exhibition "Perceptions and Evocations: The Art of Elihu Vedder," on view at the National Collection of Fine Arts through Feb. 4, attests to his versatility and energy.

Vedder's work is enticing to those interested in turn-of-the-century graphics, illustration and decorative arts. His sinuous linear style foreshadows Art Nouveau.

But no one who studies this exhibition of 331 paintings, sculptures, illustrations and murals will label Vedder a purely decorative artist. His landscapes and figure studies are direct and natural, with lush colors, arresting composition—as in two striking heads of Samson and Delilah—and bold juxtaposition of light and dark patterns, evident in his Italian landscapes. There is an overall "look" which unifies his work, but his subject matter and technique range from the sensual and worldly to the ephemeral and spiritual.

Vedder was described by NCFD Director Joshua Taylor as "one of the most complex and interesting" of 19th-century American artists. "His complexity never has been examined fully. On one hand, Vedder was quite advanced for his time in the direct painting of nature, but he was always aware of fantasy and creativity of the mind."

"Yet probably the most revolutionary aspect of Vedder was his refusal to take sides, to admit that the perceptual and the visionary were at odds with each other," Taylor noted in the introduction to a gallery list which accompanies the show.

The two aspects of Vedder's work come closest to synthesis in the 54 drawings he made in 1884 to accompany Edward Fitzgerald's translation of "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam;" all are included in the exhibition and will soon be added to NCFD's permanent collection. The drawings combine the dreamlike atmosphere of the artist's imagination with sensual, natural drawings of figures and landscapes.

"The Rubaiyat," a work which describes the poet's search for the true meaning of life, inspired a personal vision in Vedder. The illustrations go beyond the text and Omar's belief in the transiency of life to encompass Vedder's own emerging set of values expressed through classical and Christian symbols.

Publication of "The Rubaiyat" brought fame and fortune to Vedder, but by the time he died his other work was largely forgotten.

Born in New York in 1836, he spent most of his life in Italy. A large number of

his works remained hidden stored away in a Roman apartment until 1957, when they were discovered fortuitously by art historian Regina Soria.

This is the first comprehensive Vedder show to be held since 1937, when the American Academy of Arts and Letters commemorated the centenary of his birth. The NCFD installation was created by Val Lewton, NCFD designer and assistant chief of exhibitions. Ralph Logan and Ann Wood designed the poster, and Georgine Reed assembled the cases containing memorabilia, on loan from the Archives of American Art.

A book, based on the exhibition, will be published by SI Press early in 1979. Contributors to the book are Taylor, Richard Murray of NCFD, Guest Curator Jane Dillenberger, of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, and Regina Soria.

SAO Engineer Dies At Tracking Site

William Charles Johnson, 29, a field engineer for the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, was electrocuted Oct. 17 while working on laser electronics at the astrophysical observing station in Dionysos, Greece.

Mr. Johnson, who died instantly, had been with SAO since 1973. He served his first 2 years as an observer at the SAO tracking station in Natal, Brazil. In view of his electronics expertise, he was assigned to several special design projects dealing with modification of the laser system hardware. In 1975, he transferred to Olifantsfontein, South Africa, to work on tracking the GEOS-3 satellite. There he had responsibility for the mini-computer system. When the station closed in 1976, he was assigned to Dionysos, a site operated cooperatively by SAO and the National Technical University of Athens. He served as the SAO technical representative and was responsible for maintenance of the laser ranging system.

Before joining SAO, Mr. Johnson was senior electronic technician at Solid State Technology, Inc., in Wilmington, Mass. He had also owned and operated a television repair service.

Mr. Johnson, a former student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur K. Johnson of Flushing, Mich. Burial was in Flushing.

Fund Supports Research, Outreach

("Trust Funds," From Page 1)

but these sources have not always been available at the appropriate time or in sufficient amounts.

The new program enables the Smithsonian to provide support for the following scholarly projects:

- MNH: Automated equipment for the experimental coral reef exhibit; two archeological projects in northern Labrador; color illustrations for Catlin and Mooney tipi publications; a study of reef development and productivity throughout the Indo-Pacific; cataloging and analyzing some 300 meteorites recently found in Antarctica; an international symposium on "The Biological Model of Diversification in the Lowland Tropics" to be held in Brazil.

- 1978 Festival of American Folklife: Field research.

- Chesapeake Bay Center: A project on the relationship between die-off of aquatic plants and herbicides in land runoff.

- STRI: A study of tropical wasps, a 3-month fellowship in tropical biology and the sampling of insect density along a climatic gradient in the tropics.

- Zoo: Support of the organizing of current studies of vocal, olfactory and visual communications methods in animals.

- SAO: Projects to obtain information on electron and neutral particle density of a region of the Orion nebula; a study of molecular formation and destruction processes; an analysis of the consequences of low temperature maser operation; travel for six scientists to conduct research and attend meetings on the relationship between solar variability and terrestrial climate.

Funds for the collections and projects under the new program will come primarily from the receipts of the museum shops, cafeterias, the parking garage and the Smithsonian Associates programs, including the magazine. Assuming the continued health of these organizations, trust funds to

strengthen the Institution's work in collections acquisitions, scholarly projects and outreach activities are anticipated in coming years.

In addition to MNH and MHT, the Institution's major Washington art museums have been allocated funds to be used over the next 5 years to augment their collections. In order to stimulate fundraising and outside support, each museum would be expected to raise matching funds totaling one-half of its Institution grant.

It is hoped that over the 5-year period each of the art museums—National Collection of Fine Arts, National Portrait Gallery, Hirshhorn and the Freer—would receive up to \$1 million in trust funds for acquisitions and MNH and MHT would receive \$500,000, the difference stemming from the fact that art prices have escalated in recent years.

In a memorandum to organization heads, Secretary Ripley discussed the problem of funding for major acquisitions, saying: "While many objects are received through donation and affordable items are purchased, Smithsonian museums increasingly have been unable to buy objects of great importance that would add significantly to the quality and comprehensiveness of the collections. Such growth is essential if research and exhibition programs are to thrive."

NCFD Director Joshua Taylor pointed out that "these trust funds come as an extraordinary boon since, with constantly rising prices of works of art, our regular budgetary allotment in no way allows us to keep abreast of present developments in American art or to fill major gaps in our holdings of art from the past."

"If the collection is to provide the future with the kind of broad representation we now enjoy from the past, it must continue actively to collect," Taylor added.

(See "SI in the Media," Page 6.)

Smithsonian Gets Into Seasonal Swing . . .



Richard Hofmeister

(*Holidays*, From Page 1)

26 to 31. You'll need it to find your way to the daily puppet shows, Christmas storytelling sessions, holiday games, the teddy bear exhibition, roving musicians, juggler acts and cookie decorating demonstrations. Everything happens from noon to 4 p.m. daily and many events will be going on simultaneously.

Hanukkah and Christmas fall at the same time this year, so the Division of Performing Arts and MHT have planned their second annual celebration to include many aspects of both holidays, from a menorah maker demonstrating his craft to a dramatic reading of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

"Special holidays like Christmas and Hanukkah give us a chance to show off the museums at their best. Performing arts, music and demonstrations all serve to help visitors become more involved with the regular museum exhibitions," DPA director James Morris said.

The musical program at the pendulum, continuous from noon to 4 p.m. daily, will include handbell ringers, carolers, Renaissance music and dance, 19th-century Christmas music performances and Jewish instrumental and choral groups presenting music for Hanukkah. Roving barbershop quartets and colonial Christmas music bands will perform at various sites in the Museum.

Playing games has been part of the holiday tradition since the days of Henry VII when apprentices in England were permitted to play cards only during the Christmas season. Curators from the divisions of Mathematics and Domestic Life have worked together to present games played by Americans during the holidays since the 17th century: whist, checkers, chess, backgammon, "Go," dominoes, pinochle and games of chance involving dice or dreidels, the spinning tops used during Hanukkah.

Mary Carter Smith of Baltimore will tell children's stories of Christmas and Hanukkah again this year. Dramatic readings and recitations from Charles Dickens, Dylan Thomas, Washington Irving and Hans Christian Andersen will be presented daily. Roving jugglers and mimes in colorful costumes will perform their centuries-old tricks at impromptu locations around the Museum.

Puppets Top List of Kids' Holiday Fun

The Smithsonian puppet theater, closed for renovation since spring of 1977, will reopen just in time for the holiday school vacations.

The new theater, known as Discovery Theater, will open its season Wednesday, Dec. 27, with "Discover the Voice," a presentation with Boston ventriloquist Susan Linn and her hand puppets Catalion and Audrey Duck. Linn's performance is a mixture of songs, stories, serious conversation and tongue twisters. "Discover the Voice" continues through Jan. 7. General admission is \$1.75 for children and \$2.25 for adults. Admission cards for 12 performances will be sold for \$18. For tickets and information, call ext. 5395.

Children will also get special attention at the Hirshhorn Holiday for Children on Dec. 2. Mimes, puppets and musicians will be featured for youngsters 6 years old and older. The Street 70 Mime Troupe will return for its third appearance at the Museum.

At the Museum of African Art there will be free pre-Kwanza workshops every weekend offering children an opportunity to make papier mache symbols of the Afro-American holiday for gifts. For workshop schedules, call 547-7424.

The year now ending marks the 75th anniversary of the teddy bear, so this holiday season warrants a show in teddy's honor. The Political History Division has assembled a case of memorabilia, including the original bear made in 1903 by the Ideal Toy Company and presented to President Theodore Roosevelt.

MHT has also scheduled demonstrations of food preparation and handcrafted and manufactured items. "A Century of Mechanical Christmas Music," which was so popular last year in MHT, will again give visitors a chance to listen to old music boxes, phonographs and tapes of Christmas music in the Hall of Musical Instruments.

Even areas normally not associated with festivities will get into the holiday spirit. Model trains will chug around the Railroad Hall. In the Astronomy Hall, visitors will learn how to make a galaxy of paper stars,

candles, lamps and traditional Danish paper stars used as tree ornaments. A gingerbread house maker and cookie decorators will demonstrate their work in the Museum's cafeteria.

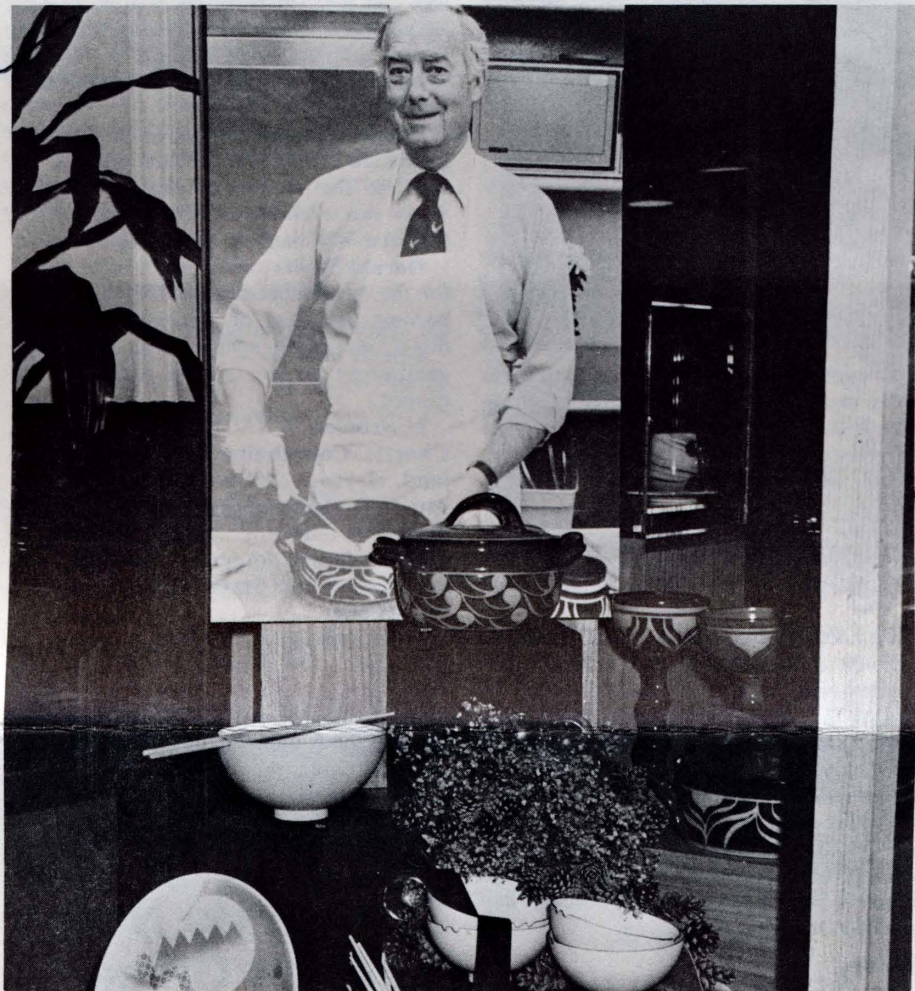
Holiday Decorations

The showcase shop this year will be the Arts and Industries museum shop where the gazebo will be decorated as a Christmas carousel with elaborate stuffed animals specially designed for the Smithsonian by Michelle Lipson.

The A&I shop will be the only one to carry all items shown in the 1978 Christmas catalog. But for the first time the Museum Shops decorator, Eileen Ritter, has selected a single theme—the Christmas carousel—and carried it into all the shops.

The shop display case in MNH will be transformed into a Christmas fantasy with toy animals wandering in a frosty forest.

Renwick Offers Crafty Gifts



Richard Hofmeister

One of the cases in the Renwick exhibit

The old what-to-buy-for-the-man-who-has-everything dilemma may be solved this holiday season by a trip to the Renwick Gallery's shop. There you can select a sheepskin cap, a pewter flask, a goblet, a handcut wooden pipe made in New Jersey or a handcrafted teak desk and chair on sale for \$5,700.

"Gifts for Men" is the most elaborate sales exhibition at the Renwick so far," shop display manager Eileen Ritter said. "We've decorated the shop and nearby vestibule in a classic understated holiday style, using browns, burgundies and colorful ribbons."

As always in Smithsonian museum shops, the gifts are related to the collections. In "Gifts for Men," the craft items have been chosen primarily from the works of northeastern American craftspeople. All the crafts are handmade and many are one-of-a-kind items.

More than 75 items, from pottery bowls to animal weathervanes, have been on display since early November. Not all items are available at the shop immediately. After the gifts are purchased, some of them will stay on exhibition until mid-December when visitors return to pick them up in time for the holidays.

Among the gifts are pottery mugs for \$10, wool caftans made on a handloom for \$125, leather attache cases made by North Country Leather Works in Rochester, silk scarves for \$24, a carved walking stick for \$40 and flamingo boxes with inlay and carving from \$35 to \$58.

Planning for the holiday sales exhibit began back in May when shop buyer Walton Vandiver met with Renwick Director Lloyd Herman, Curator Michael Monroe and merchandise manager Josephine Rowen to choose a specific theme.

"The Renwick," Herman explained, "first became interested in sales exhibi-

tions as a way to show a wider range of current craft works than we normally do. . . . The exhibits also provide a dignified sales setting for the craftspeople.

"Before these sales exhibitions, our shop carried only books and a few items related to the current show. The vestibule was just a vestibule. Now, the shop area is a lively place for visitors to see and to purchase beautiful objects they may not be able to find otherwise."

Thus, the spring sales exhibit, "The Art of the Turned Bowl," showed the work of four craftspeople whose wooden bowls would probably never have been the subject of an entire Smithsonian display. But, in Herman's view, it was just right for the museum's sales exhibit.

The museum initiated its sales exhibits in January with a South Carolina Mount Pleasant Baskets show. Other exhibits were a wooden bowl show, "Catawba Pottery," "Dolls" and "Southern Highland Handicrafts" made by members of a nine-state Southern crafts guild.—Linda St. Thomas

Women's Program Awards

The SI Women's Program presented its 1978 Certificates of Appreciation at a ceremony held in MHT's Carmichael Auditorium. The guest speaker was Alexis Herman, director of the Women's Bureau at the U.S. Department of Labor. Awards were presented to Peggy Anderson, Robert H. Angle, Alfred C. Clark, Dr. Aurelia Downey, Dorothy Twining Globus, Maureen W. Healy, Mary Ann Sedillo, Joyce Simon, Lisa Taylor, Maria Villars, Carolyn Wood and the program committee of the SI Women's Council.



Richard Hofmeister

At the National Air and Space Museum, 20-foot banners will be suspended from the ceiling and a stuffed airplane will survey the museum shop from above.

Decorations will range from a huge tree composed of more than 100 poinsettia plants in the NASM lobby to Victorian displays in the A&I rotunda and the Renwick's 12-foot spruce tree with cornucopias, angels, candles, small presents and painted pine cones. The Freer will feature spruce trees decorated with origami, brightly colored folded Japanese paper in the form of birds and animals.

Kwanza Festivities

Beginning Dec. 26, the Museum of African Art, soon to join the SI family, will celebrate the 7-day Afro-American holiday, Kwanza, with musical performances and drama ensembles, including presentations by the Museum's West African drummers group.

The boutique, which moved last month to its new quarters next door to the gallery, is selling handcrafted items not usually available in this country—baskets, dolls, jewelry—which complement the new Botswana exhibition. For information on the boutique and Kwanza activities, call 547-7424.

Special Events

The eighth annual dinner dance sponsored by the Women's Committee of the National Associates will be held Friday evening, Dec. 9, in the MNH rotunda amidst medieval Christmas decorations, including banners and mistletoe kissing balls.

More than 500 volunteers have been invited to the annual Christmas party in the Castle Great Hall Tuesday, Dec. 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. The party is sponsored by the Visitor Information and Associates' Reception Center.

A special program of dramatic monologues by actress Eugenia Rawls has been scheduled by the National Portrait Gallery for the week between Christmas and New Years. In her 1-hour afternoon performances, Rawls will play 19th-century actress Fanny Kemble. Rawls appeared at the Kennedy Center in "The Enchanted" and performed with Tallulah Bankhead in "The Little Foxes." For the performance schedule at the Gallery, call ext. 5380.

Indian Encyclopedia Adds 2nd Volume

With the first volume of the Smithsonian's new encyclopedia of North American Indians selling briskly, a second volume has now been published.

"California," the first of a 20-volume set designed to summarize all that is known about the history and cultures of North American Indians and Eskimos from their earliest history to the present, was published in a first printing of 5,000 last May. The response was so positive that a second printing of 10,000 copies is now in the works.

The new volume, "Northeast," covers more than 75 tribes in the northeastern United States and southeastern Canada, from the Mississippi to the Atlantic, from North Carolina to Quebec. Among the tribes described are the Anacostank, who lived on the banks of the Potomac in what is now the Nation's Capital.

"Northeast," a 940-page work edited by Bruce G. Trigger, professor of anthropology at McGill University, contains 73 chapters by 54 outstanding authorities on the Indian cultures of the region. The overall encyclopedia, called the "Handbook of North American Indians," is under the general editorship of William C. Sturtevant at the Smithsonian.

Comings and Goings

David Revere McFadden has been appointed curator of decorative arts at Cooper-Hewitt. McFadden comes to New York from the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, where he also held the title of curator of decorative arts. A graduate of the University of Minnesota with a specialty in Renaissance and baroque studies, McFadden was a Kress Fellow in Art History.

He also won fellowships from the National Trust of England and the American Friends of Attingham.

Gilbert H. Kinney, a noted art collector and ex-Foreign Service Officer, was elected president of the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art at a recent meeting of the Archives' board of trustees in New York. The Archives, Kinney said, "plays a unique and vital role in preserving American art history and furthering scholarship in the field."

Kinney, a Yale graduate and Washington resident, is a trustee of the Corcoran Gallery and the American Federation of Arts. He played a major role in raising \$1 million for a UNESCO campaign to restore Borobudur, a 9th-century Buddhist sanctuary.

Dennis O'Toole, curator of the Office of Education at NPG for the past 6 years, has accepted the position of director of group visits and educational programs with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Harold Snider, coordinator of programs for the handicapped at NASM, has left to become president of Access, Inc., a national, non-profit concern that advises organizations on accessibility for the handicapped.

Newcomers to NASM are **Holly Haynes**, **Charles Courchaine** and **Natalie Rowland**. Haynes and Courchaine, in the Education Division are, respectively, coordinator of tour programs and unit chief of museum-based programs. Rowland, formerly with the State Department, is a receptionist.

Other new faces in NASM's Aeronautics Department are Smithsonian Fellows **Val-nora Leister** and **Von Hardesty**. Leister is studying the transfer of space technology and the Outer Space Treaty, while Hardesty is researching the shaping of Soviet Air Force strategy.

Andy Chaikin, a recent graduate of Brown University with a degree in geology,

SI Sets Up New Science Office

The establishment of a Smithsonian Office of Biological Conservation and the appointment of Dr. Edward S. Ayensu as its director has been announced by Secretary Ripley.

Ayensu, formerly chairman of the Museum of Natural History's Botany Department, has directed the Smithsonian's Endangered Flora Project since 1974.

As director of the new office, Ayensu will coordinate the various environmental conservation activities already in progress in the Institution and encourage a variety of new projects related to environmental conservation, especially within the areas of staff interest. The new office will form part of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Science.

"Among the concerns of the office," Ripley said, "will be the status of current national and international efforts devoted to conserving plant and animal species and their educational and legislative programs, as well as liaison with various governmental and non-governmental organizations in the United States and abroad."

"In order to improve public understanding of the conditions in our changing natural environment, the knowledge developed by the scientific staff of the Smithsonian regarding the status of vulnerable species should be consolidated and shared. Change is a constant in nature, but man-made changes threaten to become irreversible. Thus, this office should serve as a monitoring and warning system."

Ayensu, born in Ghana, received his Ph.D. in 1966 from the University of London. He joined the MNH curatorial staff that same year, specializing in the comparative anatomy and phylogeny of flowering plants, especially orchids, and the behavior of fruit-eating bats. His most recent publications include "Endangered and Threatened Plants of the United States" and "Medicinal Plants of West Africa."

comes to NASM as a research assistant in the Center for Earth and Planetary Studies.

Mary K. Barry, chief of the Directives Management Section of the Management Analysis Office, has resigned. Barry began her stay at MAO as a secretary 13 years ago.

Julie Link Haifley has left NCFA's Office of Program Support to assume the position of area collector for the Archives of American Art. She will be responsible for seeking out and acquiring artists' personal papers and art institutional records in the Washington metropolitan area and the mid-Atlantic states.

Daniel Brocius is the new public information specialist at Mt. Hopkins Observatory in Amado, Ariz. Before joining the Observatory staff, he worked for an Arizona manufacturing company.

Joe Buckley has resigned as special education specialist at MHT to attend graduate school at the University of Maryland.

Michael Dobson, presentation specialist at NASM, will leave to join the staff of Resume Place, Inc.

Mary Reed Dies; Raised Zoo Tigers

Mary Elizabeth Crandall Reed, 55, wife of National Zoo Director Theodore Reed and herself a skilled and loving foster-mother of some of the Zoo's rarer cubs, died at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda on Nov. 2 after a long illness.

Mrs. Reed, who took an active role in Zoo projects, serving as her husband's assistant and companion, personally raised two of the Zoo's famous white tiger cubs, Rewati and Moni, as well as leopards and at least a half dozen bear cubs.

In a National Geographic article on the raising of Rewati, she wrote: "Occasionally, we would let her roam free in the house. I still have vivid memories of cozy dinners—with a white tiger frolicking under the table."

Mrs. Reed's interest in the Zoo continued despite her illness. After she was confined to a wheelchair, she made Zoo tours and offered notes on improved services for the handicapped.

Born in LeRoy, Kan., Mrs. Reed was raised on a farm. She met Ted Reed when both were students at Kansas State University. Besides her husband, she is survived by a son and daughter, her mother and two sisters.

A memorial service, attended by many Institution staff members, was held at St. Columba's Episcopal Church in northwest Washington. Mourners were asked, in lieu of flowers, to send contributions to the church or the American Cancer Society.

Managers Sharpen Skills in Workshop

Twenty-five employees and five alternates were selected by the Executive Resources Board to attend a Smithsonian-sponsored Contemporary Management Skills Workshop held Sept. 18 through 22 at George Washington University.

The employees were selected from 49 current or prospective federal or trust fund managers, grade 11 and above or the equivalent, who nominated themselves for management training and were considered by the Board.

The workshop was set up to allow the free exchange of ideas, problems, questions and solutions relating to contemporary management. Dr. Elizabeth Adams, associate professor of management at G.W., presided and was assisted by Dr. Steven R. Chitwood, professor of public administration, and Dr. Erik K. Winslow, associate professor of behavioral science.

Michael Collins, SI under secretary and chairman of the Executive Resources Board, gave welcoming remarks. Other Smithsonian speakers were John Jameson, assistant secretary for administration; Jon Yellin, director, Office of Programming and Budget; James Mello, assistant director, Museum of Natural History; Dean Anderson, special assistant to the assistant secretary for history and art, and Ron Becker, deputy director of personnel.



Vic Krantz

THE PERFECT GIFT . . . This necklace of 42 cushion-shaped, soft blue sapphires weighing almost 209 carats, and embellished by more than 500 diamonds weighing close to 100 carats, was given to the Smithsonian just in time for Christmas by Evelyn Annenberg Hall of New York City. Hall is the sister of Janet Annenberg Hooker, whose gift last year of a 75-carat emerald brooch was recently placed on display at MNH.

Sports

By Susan Foster

Football

The SI football team's winning record (5-0-1) belies the fact that, offensively, they are having problems. In spite of the team's sluggish offensive attack, Coach Joe Bradley of computer services credits the defensive team for its relentless efforts. The defense recovered a fumble, grabbed two interceptions and sacked the opposing quarterback for a safety in the most recent games.

The National Geographic Society team was the latest to feel the defensive power of SI. The Geographic team lost on two separate occasions, 6-0 and 10-6. SI's first win was a defensive bout in which the only scoring occurred with only 20 seconds of play remaining. Tommy Brown of protection services caught a 30-yard pass to break the stalemate. Bradley's two sacks and a fumble recovery in the second game against Geographic provided the added points for a 10-6 victory.

Gary Sturm of musical instruments injured the SI's 14-0 victory over Sheraton Park, catching a pass amidst defensive opponents for the final touchdown. Bob Sea-

bolt of protection services netted two interceptions against H.G. Smithey in yet another defensive battle which the SI team won, 14-2. Pete Nerret of the MNH Library was the key defensive player in that win.

The SI team did show offensive skill in the 20-20 tie with the DOT Cavaliers, scoring two touchdowns in the game's final minutes. Brown scored on both second-half touchdowns.

Bowling

The SI bowling team is still adjusting to its new Silver Hill location. The move is taking a toll on the bowling averages.

Ray Scoggins of MNH, however, has taken the high set for men, bowling a 590. Scoggins is captain of the Thunder Stokers, the league leaders with 29 wins and 3 losses. The Zodiac team is in second place with 24 wins and 8 losses.

Gerald West, bowling 173, remains the leader in men's high average. His nearest competition is Scoggins, with a 159 average.

Faye Norman continues to lead the women with her 153 high average. Sylvia Pinkney, MNH, who bowled a 505 high set, leads the women in that category.

Celebrating 75 Years of Flight

Seventy-five years ago this month, on Dec. 17, 1903, the Wright Brothers made the first successful controlled, powered, manned, heavier-than-air flight. Their plane, the 1903 Kitty Hawk Flyer, was aloft just 12 seconds and traveled a mere 120 feet. Those 12 seconds initiated the development of modern aviation.

The original 1903 Wright Flyer now has a place of honor in the National Air and Space Museum's Milestones of Flight Gallery. Two other Wright aircraft, the Wright 1909 Military Flyer and the Wright EX "Vin Fiz," which made the first transcontinental flight, also are on display.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary, NASM is opening a special exhibit and sponsoring a symposium. A new book on the Wrights is available, too.

The exhibition will open on Dec. 14, the day the Wrights first attempted to fly the 1903 Flyer, which hangs above the exhibit area. On display will be pages from the 1903 patent, documents relating to the 1909 Military Flyer and its sale to the U.S.

Army, models, photographs and other memorabilia.

The First Annual Wright Brothers' Symposium, free and open to the public, will be held Dec. 14 at 8 p.m. in the Museum's theater. The five papers to be presented include: "The Wright Brothers—Their Influence," by Charles H. Gibbs-Smith, the first occupant of the Museum's Lindbergh Chair of Aerospace History, and "Recollections and Reflections," by Paul Garber, NASM's historian emeritus.

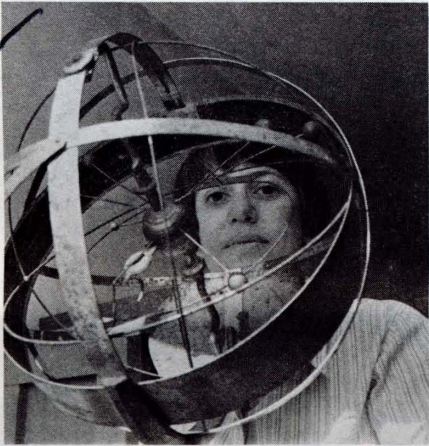
If you can't visit NASM, you still can learn about the Wrights by reading "The Wright Brothers: Heirs of Prometheus." This new book, published by the Smithsonian Press, combines the essays to be presented at the symposium with a comprehensive photographic essay, technical information on the Wright aircraft and engine, a chronology and a bibliographic source guide. The introduction seeks to place the Wrights in their historical context. The book, \$5.95 in paperback and \$15 hardcover, may be ordered through the Smithsonian Institution Press.—*Louise Hull*

Women Who Met the Challenge

By Sheila Reines

Contrary to popular opinion, not all Victorian ladies spent their time sitting primly in the parlor. As education became more widespread, growing numbers of American women in the last century traded lacy frocks for white coats and took to lab and field to conduct important research in astronomy, biology, botany, zoology, anthropology and the other sciences. Their contributions are currently being honored in the Museum of History and Technology exhibit, "Women in Science in 19th-Century America," on view until February.

Eight display cases summarize the story of the woman's struggle to join the all-male exploration party pushing back the frontiers of science. Samples of women's discoveries include a specimen of the Chesapeake Bay blue crab, named *Calinectes sapidus* (Latin for "tasty beautiful swimmer"), by Mary Jane Rathbun, the first woman scientist at the Smithsonian.



Deborah Warner

Richard Hofmeister

Rathbun, with no more than a high school diploma, was hired as a clerk and trained herself to become one of the leading crab experts in the world.

There is also a copy of "The Chemistry of Cooking and Cleaning" co-authored by Ellen Swallow Richards. Richards was the first woman admitted to the graduate program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, but as a "special student" rather than a doctoral candidate. According to one story, MIT's president didn't want one of the school's first doctorates to be awarded to a woman.

The story of these women is a story of "firsts." One case displays a geological map, a 1903 field notebook and rock samples collected by Florence Bascom, the first woman to be granted a doctorate by Johns Hopkins University. In another are the Harvard College Observatory annals kept by Williamina Fleming, the first woman to receive an official appointment from the Harvard Corporation.

Featured among the trailblazers and stargazers is Maria Mitchell, America's first woman astronomer, whose discovery of a comet in 1847 resulted in international recognition, including a medal from the King of Denmark. In 1865, when Vassar College opened, the first women's college with an endowment anywhere near that of a man's school, Mitchell became director of the Vassar observatory. Her telescope dominates the entrance to the exhibit.

"The exhibit dramatizes that women did participate in science in the 19th century," said MHT's curator of the history of astronomy, Deborah Warner, who put together the exhibit.

Biography: Memoir or History?

Was Boswell's "Life of Johnson" a biography or merely a personal memoir, albeit a brilliant one, providing source materials for biographers seeking to evaluate the life of James Boswell's older friend, the 18th-century writer-lexicographer?

Put another way, should a biographer attempt to portray a subject he has known well or focus only on historic figures or contemporaries with whom he had no association?

Can the biographer penetrate the subject's "secret myths," secret self-image, or should that even be attempted?

These were some of the topics dominating the lectures, question-and-answer sessions and cocktail-hours at the 2-day symposium on the Art of Biography in mid-November at the National Portrait Gallery.

The symposium, organized by NPG historian Mark Pachter, heard presentations by Doris Kearns, author of "Lyndon B. Johnson and the American Dream," and three Pulitzer prize-winners—Leon Edel, biographer of Henry James; Justin Kaplan, author of "Mr. Clemens and Mark Twain," and Barbara Tuchman, author of "The Guns of August." Not unexpectedly, their viewpoints often differed.

The proceedings, with additional essays by Alfred Kazin, Theodore Rosengarten and Geoffrey Wolff, will be published next spring by New Republic Books under the title "Telling Lives: The Biographer's Art."

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Filling 2,000 Yule Orders Daily

A fulfillment center may sound like the place to go for an intense EST experience, but at the Smithsonian's center, located in a Virginia industrial park, staff members work day and night filling Christmas catalog orders in time for the holidays.

Last year, catalog sales were so successful that the fulfillment operation virtually burst the seams of its quarters in the Arts and Industries and 1111 North Capitol Street buildings—personnel, boxes and equipment had to be moved into the hallways. This September, Donald Press, mail order fulfillment manager, and his staff moved to the Fullerton Industrial Center in Springfield, renting 24,000 square feet of space, about triple the space available last year.

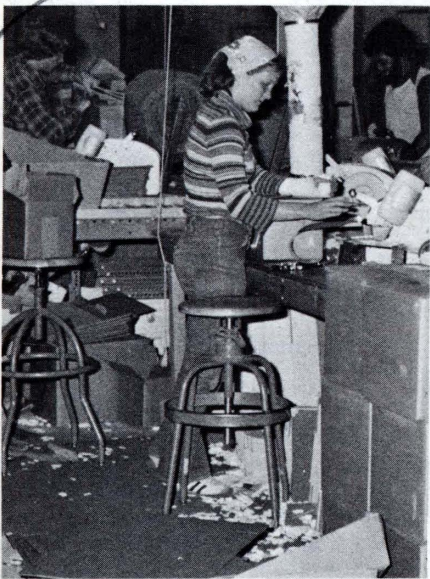
By early November, \$1.5 million worth

of orders had been filled. The average order runs about \$30, but some are as high as \$1,000. According to Press, the staff fills about 2,000 orders a day. To accomplish that, part-timers come in for the 6-to-10 night shift in November and December.

This year's 40-page Christmas catalog, the biggest to date, was sent out to National Associates in early September. As the mail order staff suspected, the Smithsonian engagement calendar is the most popular item again this year. Nostalgic eggs with lithograph designs were taking second place in the popularity contest, with more than 3,400 orders received by early November.

In between filling orders, the center hosted the annual meeting of the Catalog Council held in Washington, D.C., last month. Sixty members signed up to visit the Smithsonian's new facility, the largest turnout ever for a fulfillment operation tour, according to the Council.

The end of December doesn't mean the end of the division's work. In early January, after the Christmas rush, the staffers begin their inventory, and on Jan. 29 the spring catalog goes out—the cycle begins all over again. —Linda St. Thomas



Richard Hofmeister

Dr. Mead Dies at 76

Margaret Mead, 76, the noted anthropologist, died in New York on Nov. 15. Dr. Mead was a frequent participant in Institution education and research activities and served for 10 years as consultant to the Office of Symposia and Seminars.



WOODBLOCK PRINTS AT THE FREER. . . This charming picture of men washing a horse in a waterfall, from a series by the Japanese artist Hokusai (1760-1849), can be seen at the Freer in a recently installed gallery of Edo prints. The museum's four other Japanese galleries are showing displays of Buddhist and Shinto art, Japanese screens, the work of selected artists and painting from the Ukiyo-e school.

Geologist Readies for Antarctic Stay

By Arlene Walsh

Antarctica: raging winds, intense cold, masses of blue ice and drifting snow. The continent is a polar desert. Nothing grows but hardy lichens, and the only animals are seals and penguins living along the coastline. This frozen world, undiscovered until the 19th century, is still partially unexplored. International treaties protect most of the continent for scientific research, and the most exciting new discovery is a treasure trove of fallen meteorites.

Until eight years ago, about 2,000 different meteorites, some represented by hundreds of specimens from the same fall, were known in the world. But in 1970 Japanese scientists exploring the Yamato Mountains, across Antarctica from the U.S. base at McMurdo, discovered large concentrations of meteorites lying on patches of blue ice. Since then, several Japanese expeditions, plus two others led by Dr. William Cassidy of the University of Pittsburgh, have added more than 1,000 specimens to world collections.

The search for still more meteorites is one part of the 1978-79 United States Antarctic Research Program sponsored by the National Science Foundation. The program will conduct a 9-week meteorite hunt there beginning in December.

Among the team of American and Japanese scientists, led by Cassidy, will be Dr. Ursula Marvin, a geologist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. Marvin, a past president of the American Meteoritical Society, has been studying meteorites and lunar samples for many years.

She has been on numerous expeditions in the past, but none has required so much preparation. Marvin, a self-described old-fashioned, romantic field exploration geologist, said she has taken to running every day along the banks of the Charles River in Cambridge to get in shape.

Marvin also had to get special equipment for the trip. She bought dark glasses, with plastic "spaghetti" covering the metal, and



Charles Hanson

Marvin bundles up for Antarctica

lenses flashed with silver for protection against the bright reflection off the ice. She is packing a double parka and goosedown pants and special expedition footwear constructed with sheepskin-lined boots inside heavy leather spiked outers. Each foot will carry four and a half pounds.

Marvin will arrive at McMurdo in early December after a flight by Navy transport plane from California to Christchurch, New Zealand. Survival gear will be issued at Christchurch before the party proceeds to Antarctica. At McMurdo, all field workers will attend survival school, where they will learn to make a "bed" by chopping a trench in the ice, covering it with ice blocks, and actually sleeping in it.

The team members will search from a helicopter for meteorite concentrations, easy to spot on the ice. If a promising lode of meteorites is found, they will set up a camp and go to work.

SI in the Media

The Smithsonian, an upbeat story in the Washington Post Style section reported, is giving \$1 million "presents" over the next 5 years to each of four museums—the Freer, Hirshhorn, NCFA and NPG—for "major acquisitions," such as art works costing more than \$200,000, and \$500,000 each to MNH and MHT for purchases. The monies, the article noted, come from unrestricted trust funds from such sources as the museum shops, cafeterias and the Smithsonian magazine.

The article by art critic Paul Richard, quoted Secretary Ripley as writing in a memorandum to directors that SI museums "in most respects are very well supported. One major deficiency, however, has been the inadequacy of funds to purchase major items." Abram Lerner, Hirshhorn director, was quoted as saying that "\$200,000 sounds like a lot of money, but it is no longer what it once was. Single 20th-century pictures, major Pollocks for example, have sold for 10 times that much. You can't draw up a battle plan for major acquisitions. All you can do is wait, and search, and when a great object comes up—grab it."

Not To Miss

"A Place of Dreams," an hour-long special on the history of flight, which was inspired by NASM, will be shown on WETA-TV (Channel 26) on Wednesday, Dec. 13, at 8 p.m. Cliff Robertson is host for the film, which features vintage photographs, early news film of the pioneers of flight, NASM exhibits and closeups of the Museum's aircraft collection.

Historian Emeritus Paul Garber reminisces in the film about seeing an Orville Wright test flight in 1909 and about how Garber asked Charles Lindbergh to donate the "Spirit of St. Louis" to the Smithsonian. Michael Collins, now under secretary, describes the challenge of planning and creating the Museum while he was its director.

The film also features Dr. Farouk El-Baz, director of NASM's Center for Earth and Planetary Studies, discussing the moon as a "window at the early history of the Earth."

Smithsonian personnel from the Office of Telecommunications, headed by Nazaret Cherkezian, worked closely with the show's producer Peter Vogt and others at WETA.

Showing Our Wares

The September–October issue of Com-

munications Art magazine carried an article on museum design which featured illustrations of Smithsonian graphics. Exhibition posters from NASM, MHT, A&I and SITES were given prominent display.

Money magazine's November article on gifts from museum shops contained illustrations of things to buy at the Smithsonian. The article claimed that the amount of merchandise sold in Smithsonian shops has been growing 15 percent faster than museum attendance.

A photo of the many stuffed animals that make their home in MNH's attic (see Torch, May 1978) illustrated a Christian Science Monitor article on the construction of the Museum Support Center. MNH, the article said, will transfer a substantial portion of its vast collections to the new facility, thereby freeing up about 40,000 square feet.

Zoo News

Dr. Douglas McKay, a physician at Children's Hospital, was described in a Washington Post article as an "unofficial consultant" to the National Zoo, where he assisted head veterinarian, Dr. Mitchell Bush, in orthopedic operations on various Zoo inhabitants. Other helpful specialists from Children's have included a neurosurgeon who operated on the brain of a rhesus monkey and a pediatrician who helped prescribe medication for the monkey.

A recent Detroit News front page article featured NCP's Conservation and Research Center at Front Royal. The article reported on the Center's efforts to save endangered wildlife from extinction by providing an ideal setting for reproduction.

Dale Marcellini, curator of reptiles at NCP, appeared on WRC-TV (Channel 4) in one segment of a special five-part series on fear.

Facing the Light

Sky, the Delta Airlines magazine, in a profusely illustrated article, called NPG's daguerreotype show "a testament to the devotion of the present to the past."

The revived Life magazine devoted a page to the show. The article was illustrated with a daguerreotype of Frederick Douglass and other abolitionists at an outdoor meeting, considered to be one of the first news photographs.

The daguerreotype show and other exhibitions in honor of the museum's 10th anniversary continue to receive considerable press attention. A round-up article in

the Baltimore Sun called "Facing the Light" unique and beautifully displayed. The Sun article also discussed NPG's show of Civil War satires by Adalbert Volck, a Baltimore dentist, and the new room devoted to the portrait sculptures of Jo Davidson.

Smithsonian People

The September–October issue of Postal Life magazine carried a warm article on the services rendered in MHT's country store Post Office by Mary E. Wood and Franklin A. White and called them great P.R. agents for the Postal Service because they are so friendly and helpful.

A Washington Star feature by Betty James on Charles Harvard Gibbs-Smith, the first person to hold the Charles A. Lindbergh Chair of Aerospace History at NASM, focused on his research on the Wright brothers. Gibbs-Smith, the story pointed out, has spent much of his time rebutting the claims of some Europeans that Europe first developed power flight.

A recent issue of Museum News carried an interview with Paul Perrot, assistant secretary for museum programs, which reviewed the services of the National Museum Act programs and other museum-related subjects.

Perceptions and Evocations

Washington Star art critic Benjamin Forgey called NCFA's Elihu Vedder show scholarly and thorough. Forgey said the show, dealing with a once-famous American artist whose work has been forgotten or misinterpreted, was the type of exhibition at which NCFA excels.

An enthusiastic review of the Vedder show by Elizabeth Stevens in the Baltimore Sun described the exhibition as "one of an excellent and ongoing series of NCFA shows devoted to comprehensive, in-depth explorations of the achievements of half-forgotten American artists of the 19th and early 20th centuries."

Steinberg at HMSG

Philadelphia Inquirer art critic Victoria Donohoe called Saul Steinberg the most inventive cartoonist alive. Donohoe's review noted that HMSG's show is "important because some of the finest creations tend to be neglected if they occur outside high art's hallowed precincts."

More kudos for the Steinberg show came from Benjamin Forgey of the Washington Star who said, "The superabundance of images tells its own tale about the rich, superabundant imagination of the artist."

A Block Buster and Eastern Paradise

A Los Angeles Herald Examiner article gave details of the maneuvering required in order to install the Beatles' Rolls-Royce at Cooper-Hewitt—it was done with a half inch on each side to spare! The Museum's "Ornament in the 20th Century," where the Rolls was displayed, was described by the Herald Examiner as a "blockbuster."

Washington Post critic Paul Richard was enthusiastic about the Freer's show of drawings from Iran and India. It should be seen, he wrote, in some sweetly scented garden. "There should be silken cushions there, and sloe-eyed maids and blossoms. The viewer should recline there, surrounded by the music of the songbirds and the streams, studying these drawings in a reverie of ease."

And, Finally

The workshops for directors of Native American museums sponsored by the Office of Museum Programs was covered in a Washington Post article. Reporter Jean White talked with George Abrams, director of the Seneca Iroquois National Museum in Salamanca, N.Y., and Dawn Little Sky, head of the Harry V. Johnson American Indian Cultural Center in Eagle Butte, S.D.

The Baltimore Sun reported on the visit of that city's fourth generation builder, John Gerwig, to a display of antique hand tools at MHT. The display represented one portion of Gerwig's collection of 30 years, which he had donated to the Smithsonian.—*Johnnie Douthis*

Calendar

The Smithsonian Calendar for January will appear in the Washington Post on Friday, Dec. 29, and in the Washington Star on Sunday, Dec. 31.

Schlepping Through The Cooper-Hewitt

By Sheila Reines

Christmas shoppers in New York, frazzled by the crowds, the cold, the strain of thinking up the perfect gift, may be tempted just to "bag it." They can do so by escaping to the Cooper-Hewitt Museum for a look at the new show, "The Shopping Bag: Portable Graphic Art."

The exhibit, which opens Dec. 9 and runs through Jan. 27, is the first venture acknowledging the Museum's decision to collect this uniquely 20th-century graphic art form.

"Staff members have been gathering interesting shopping bags informally for a while now," Richard Oliver, curator of contemporary design, said, "but the show marks their official status as part of our contemporary design archives. They create an upbeat kinetic art form when seen in motion in a crowded shopping center of downtown. We want the exhibit to show their amazing range and variety of images."

"Some of the bags become status symbols," Oliver said, pointing to the bright red Halston bag lacking words or pictures. "If you didn't know that Halston's



Warhol's soup can bag

hallmark was red, the bag would mean nothing. So the bag projects a sort of underground chic."

The exhibit features more than 100 examples from around the world. There are eye-catching renditions of the stock paper-and-twine-handled variety that abound on New York streets at this time of year, hand-painted bags from India, net "filets" from France and a vinyl hexagonal offering from the boutique of Kenzo in Paris. Perhaps the most unusually shaped item is a long, thin wallpaper bag from the shops of Laura Ashley.

And there are designs by Peter Max and Andy Warhol, the latter represented by his omnipresent Campbell's soup can silkscreened onto a kraft bag. The work of graphic artists Patricia Schneider, designer of Estee Lauder's "Aramis" bag, and Michael Vollbracht, responsible for many of Bloomingdale's popular bags, are also represented.

Peter Krueger, who helped organize the show, theorizes that the popularity of the paper shopping bag waxed in this century as the number of servants to carry parcels for wealthy shoppers waned. The pre-shopping bag era is represented by several bandboxes, those painted cardboard and paper hatbox-like containers used as all-purpose carryalls in the early 19th century.

The exhibition was made possible through grants from the New York State Council for the Arts and Interstate Bag Division of Champion International Corps. The show is expected to hit the road after it closes at Cooper-Hewitt.

In conjunction with the show, a catalog and a special Cooper-Hewitt shopping bag will be on sale in the gift shop. It will bear the architect's drawing of the Cooper-Hewitt building, the old Andrew Carnegie Mansion, which is the Museum's logo.

A New Feature For Blind Visitors



Gashel tries out NASM's brailier.

By Louise Hull

When James Gashel visited the National Air and Space Museum's Benefits from Flight gallery, he made just one stop to read quotations from scientists and philosophers who have speculated about life in the future. His interest was not surprising. What was unusual is the way Gashel, who is blind, obtained the information.

Gashel, chief of the Washington office of the National Federation of the Blind, may have been the first visitor to use NASM's new paperless braille reading machine. The device stores information on a standard cassette and displays that information in braille on demand. The electronically encoded messages on the cassette tape are sent to a series of 12 braille cells on the outside of the machine. The braille dots are

raised or lowered, enabling a blind person to read the material stored on the tape.

Developed in France, the machine was introduced in this country barely a year ago. And the model at NASM is believed to be the only one in America that a blind person can use on demand.

Noting that braille is "the only system that allows blind people to maintain their literacy," Gashel said, "it is encouraging that the Smithsonian recognized this."

A number of the visitors in the gallery were more interested in seeing Gashel operate the new machine than in reading the same information on the TV screens which are available for the sighted. Several had never seen braille before, much less a machine which translates from material stored on a cassette.

The invention is a major breakthrough for the blind, since these machines can be directly linked to computers to give the visually handicapped access to data banks. Paperless braille requires only the space it takes to house a cassette, whereas traditional braille books are large and heavy. Thus, libraries will be encouraged to stock more material for the blind.

The micro processor chips and memory storage chips used in the device at the Benefits from Flight Gallery are direct spin-offs from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Apollo program, which landed men on the moon. To use the machine, blind visitors should borrow a key from the Museum's main information desk and follow the braille instructions.

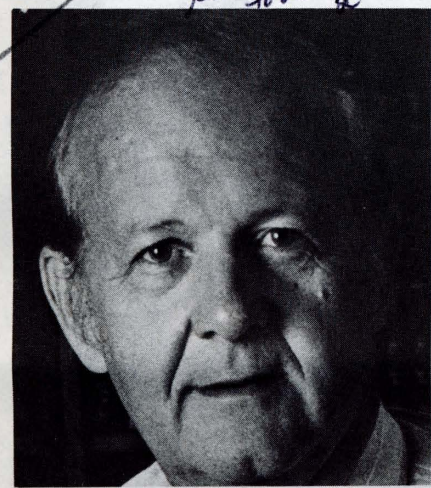
The Digidicassette paperless reading machine was donated by the Air Force Officers Wives Club of Washington, D.C., and was manufactured by Elinfa, Inc., also of Washington.

Newsmakers

By Johnnie Douthis

A new mineral has been named Desautelsite in honor of **Paul E. Desautels**, curator of MNH's Department of Mineral Sciences. The new species was discovered at several localities in late 1977 and has been characterized as a totally new chemical compound, a magnesium manganese carbonate hydroxyl hydrate. The bright orange crystal encrustations are found on altered serpentine rocks from San Benito County in California and from the Cedar Hill Quarry in Lancaster County, Pa. Desautelsite was discovered and characterized by scientists at the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Michigan.

Brooke Hindle, senior historian at MHT, has been elected first vice president.



Paul E. Desautels

of the Society for the History of Technology. He will also serve as chairperson of the history and philosophy of science of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Hindle will assume both positions in January.

The National Academy of Sciences has appointed **George Field**, director of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, to head a 2-year survey of astronomy and astrophysics for the 1980s.

Among other tasks, the committee will review the effect of the Greenstein report on the development of astronomy and astrophysics in the 1970s and examine the implications of post-1972 scientific, technological and management advances on the development of astronomy and astrophysics in the 1980s.

Adelyn Breeskin, NCFA consultant for 20th-century painting and sculpture, delivered a lecture on "The Art of Mary Cassatt" at the Neuberger Museum in Purchase, N.Y., in conjunction with an exhibition of Cassatt's color prints of 1891.

"The Courts and Social Policy," a book by **Donald L. Horowitz** of the Research Institute on Immigration and Ethnic Studies, was a finalist for the C. Wright Mills Prize of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. The book, published in 1977, has won the Louis Brownlow Award of the National Academy of Public Administration.

Arthur P. Molella, associate editor of the Joseph Henry Papers, gave a lecture on "The Agony of the Philosophy of Science" at the South Carolina Medical University in Charleston. The lecture was a part of the Medical Sciences Department seminar, "Was Joseph Henry a Pragmatist?"

Cooper-Hewitt Museum Director **Lisa Taylor** attended the trustees conference of the American Association of Museums in Atlanta, where she lectured and conducted a workshop on "The General Public as a Target Audience."

Monroe H. Fabian, associate curator at NPG, has been named to the editorial board of Pennsylvania Folklife magazine at Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pa.

Lloyd E. Herman, director of the Renwick Gallery; **Ellen Myette**, associate curator at the Renwick, and **Martha Kappelletti** and **Nancy Davis**, exhibition coordinators for SITES, attended the Northeast Museums Conference recently held in Baltimore. Herman is on the Board of Governors and Myette is national chairperson of

the Registrars Committee of the American Association of Museums.

Bonnie Gordon, assistant editor of Smithsonian magazine, read her poetry in November at the Folger Library's "Midday Muse," a series of noontime readings and concerts.

Martina Norelli, associate curator in NCFA's Department of Prints and Drawings, was a judge for the Vienna Woman's Club Art and Crafts Festival in Vienna, Va.

The paper, "Yankee Practice and Engineering Theory: Charles T. Porter and the Dynamics of the High-Speed Steam Engine," by **Otto Mayr**, acting director at MHT, has been awarded the Abbot Payson Usher Prize by the Society for the History of Technology.

Claudia Oakes and **Bob Mikesch**, of NASM's Aeronautics Department, attended the Northeast Aero Historians meeting held at Rhinebeck, N.Y., in October.

Breton Morse, an exhibits specialist at NCFA, had a one-man retrospective at Fraser's Stable Gallery last month. The show included Morse's abstract paintings done over the past 18 years.

The Egyptian-Israeli peace talks at Blair House brought two luminaries to the Institution. Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, a dedicated amateur archeologist, visited MNH's Hall of Western Civilization and the Museum's coral reef, with MNH director **Porter Kier** and Resident Associate Director **Janet Solinger** as guides. And Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman, a World War II RAF pilot who owns his own Spitfire, was escorted through NASM by Acting Director **Melvin Zisfein**.

Robert E. Mulcahy, head of NZP's Office of Graphics and Exhibits, and two staff members, **Peter Kibbee** and **Virginia Mahoney**, attended the annual meeting of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums in Denver, where they shared NZP's experience in developing Zoo graphics and exhibits.

John Falk, CBCES associate director for education, presented a workshop for the Elementary School Heads Association of the National Association of Independent Schools at a meeting in Williamsburg, Va. He focused on new directions in science education, giving as illustrations two innovative programs at CBCES.

Frederick Starr, secretary of the Kennan Institute and member of the traditional jazz band, the Federal Jazz Commission, was pictured with the group in the Oct. 26 issue of National Press Club Record. The combo has just cut a record, "The Federal Jazz Commission at the National Press Club."

Tom Crouch, associate curator in NASM's Department of Astronautics, who is also an American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics distinguished lecturer, recently spoke to AIAA groups in Cape Kennedy, Fla., and Hampton Roads, Va.

Dennis Gould, director of SITES, recently acted as advisor for the Brooklyn Rediscovery Project of the Brooklyn Education and Cultural Alliance. Gould assisted the group in developing and promoting a poster exhibition program. The Alliance is trying to improve the borough's image among its residents.



Holding the 1978 Education Awards presented to the Zoo by the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums are (from left) Office of Education staffers **Judy Herman**, **Judith White** and **Marlene Robinson**. The plaques recognized significant achievement in Zoolab, a family learning center, and the fourth grade Washington, D.C., school program. The Zoo also received the distinguished **Edward H. Bean Award**, presented by the Association for the most notable birth of the year, a second-generation orangutan.

Janet W. Solinger spoke on experiential learning in museums at the National Conference of the Council for Advancement of Experiential Learning in Dallas.

Louise Hutchinson, historian in the Research Department of the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum, delivered a paper on the Oblate Sisters of Providence at the St. Benedict the Moor Church in Washington. The presentation on the first black religious order of sisters was also given at the November meeting of the Anacostia Historical Society.

SITES staffers **Eileen Harakal**, **Antonio Diez** and **Mary Lou Cocker** attended regional museums conferences in Indianapolis, Victoria, B.C., and Newport, R.I., respectively.

"The World's Who's Who of Women" has selected **Lynda Hartigan** for inclusion in the current volume. Hartigan is assistant curator of the Joseph Cornell Study Center in the Department of 20th-Century Painting and Sculpture at NCFA.

James Dean, curator of art at NASM, wrote "The Artist and Space" for the September issue of Interdisciplinary Science Reviews.

Paul J. Edelson, coordinator of adult courses for the Resident Associate Program, attended the 32nd Annual Conference of the Maryland Association for Higher Education, on "Educating Students for the 21st Century—A Renaissance of Liberal Arts Education."

Wilton S. Dillon, director of Smithsonian symposia and seminars, attended meetings at Wake Forest University, where he is a member of the College Board of Visitors.

Louis S. Casey, curator of aircraft at NASM, led a 2-week tour of European aviation museums for 27 members of the International Association of Transport Museums.

Designers Help Create New Office Space

By Kathryn Lindeman

Thinking about redesigning your office space or launching a new exhibit? Interior design services are now available within the Smithsonian. James Shelton, chief of the new Visual Communications Branch, and his assistant, Fran Gallagher, provide

interior space planning, develop visual presentations and coordinate all Smithsonian exhibits related to construction projects. The branch is located in the Office of Facilities Planning and Engineering Services.

"In the past, some interior design was provided on an informal basis," Shelton

said, "but with specialization in interior space planning, we can develop greater expertise."

Suggestions for furniture, fabrics, carpets, lighting and graphics are included in the design package, along with budget estimates when requested. "We have up-to-date information on new items available to the interior space planning field, and our resource library includes retail furniture catalogs, samples and materials for furnishings, floor coverings and fabrics."

"We interview the client, conduct an in-depth study of his needs and let function determine design. A possible solution for Smithsonian offices with space problems is the use of office landscape systems—modular interchangeable units designed to meet 20th-century space requirements. Office landscape systems can be less expensive, more functional and can produce a more organized work atmosphere." Modular systems have recently been put to use at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama and the Office of Protection Services.

Through visual presentations which include renderings, photos and graphs, a client can visualize how a proposed project will appear—before funds are committed. This approach can help the Smithsonian save money, Shelton said.

Clients of this service range from the SI Board of Regents and various Smithsonian bureaus to organizations, such as the National Capitol Parks and Planning Commission, the Fine Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, which may have an interest in certain Smithsonian projects. These groups frequently request drawings of proposed projects so members can more easily visualize suggested concepts.

In addition to space planning and presentations, the branch coordinates reviews of exhibits—through the requesting office and the offices of Plant Services, Protection Services and Facilities Planning and Engineering Services—to insure compliance with Smithsonian construction review policies and federal and state laws.



Fran Gallagher and James Shelton



Steve Tatti and "The Great Warrior of Montauban"

Q & A

Thanks to Steven Tatti, object conservator for the Hirshhorn Museum, the sculptures in the Museum's outdoor garden are better able to stand up to years of weather and wear. He and an assistant take care of some 1,000 objects—about 900 indoors and 100 outside. Tatti, who has been at HMSG for more than 3 years, studied conservation in Italy for 2 years after graduating from Ithaca College in New York and has worked with a private conservator in Baltimore and at the National Collection of Fine Arts and the Museum of History and Technology. He was interviewed by Torch staff writer Kathryn Lindeman.

Q. What makes it difficult to maintain sculpture outdoors?

A. I fight a constant battle against the elements. Most modern bronzes have artifi-

cally induced patinas applied by the artist or his foundry. What I try to do is maintain and preserve these surfaces. It's the atmosphere and the fallout which contain the majority of harmful elements, converted by moisture into corrosive agents. The streaky, pitted green surface which covers most bronzes left unprotected in parks is what I'm trying to prevent.

Uneven wear and oxidization can also occur on unprotected bronzes due mainly to the modeling of the piece itself. Winter presents other problems. For example, moisture trapped inside a stone piece might freeze and cause the stone to crack open. Handling by visitors is still another source of wear on the surfaces. It is all these things which we are trying to control to maintain the sculpture out of doors.

Q. What steps do you take to prevent deterioration?

A. Each piece outside has at least one or more coats of protective substances—oils, waxes, paint—to seal against moisture and retard corrosion. Recoatings are done often—at least twice a year, in fall and spring. One simple thing we do is to hose down and wipe off the outdoor sculptures frequently in the summer because they collect dirt and fallout very quickly. Sometimes, though, if we do the hosing in the morning, sculptures can be covered with dust again by afternoon. Our main priority is to protect the material; the secondary priority is to keep the surface aesthetically as the artist intended. The coatings which conserve best may not be best in texture and look. I try to confer with the artist about the surfaces whenever possible.

Q. Do the pieces inside the building require much attention?

A. Pieces deteriorate on their own inside the building, too. Wood, for example, reacts to humidity changes and can crack open. So we try to set a norm for climate control of all the objects. Most pieces indoors are coated, but the coating doesn't have to be as tough. All of them are polished, buffed or dusted about once a month.

Q. What kind of equipment do you use?

A. We make our own coating mixtures—it's easier to control what's in them. For the outside sculptures we use wax, lacquer, acrylic, oil, paint or combinations of these. On one piece, we may use a lacquer first for protection and then add a wax coating to make a less glossy finish. Sometimes, we spray the coatings on with a compressor. It depends on the purpose of the coating or the physical intricacies of the piece—we can't always reach all the areas by hand.

Q. Is the mounting of the sculpture a part of conservation?

A. We work with the exhibits staff on mountings. The sculptures have to be properly secured so they won't fall or blow over, but you have to be careful what metal you use for the mounting. Different metals may react chemically with each other, particularly iron next to bronze, and could cause rust streaks on the sculpture. Mountings do weaken and have to be checked periodically along with the bases.

FLORA SMITHIANtha

By James R. Buckler

Since early colonial days, boxwood and other cut greens have been a favorite decorating item for the celebration of the Christmas season. In Tidewater Virginia and Maryland, the magnificent boxwood hedges provided natural sources of a lush green foliage for use in making "kissing balls."

The balls, usually containing a sprig of mistletoe on the bottom, were hung from pantry windows, under doorways, in center hallways, on lamp posts and any other area where two friends might meet for a moment of amorous reflection.

Making your own kissing ball is rather simple. Start with a grapefruit, a 4-inch ball of styrofoam or chicken wire stuffed with sphagnum moss. Place a sturdy wire through the center of the ball for hanging. It will make your task easier if you hang the ball at eye level for assembly.

Collect boxwood from your own property or purchase several pounds from your local florist, who usually stocks it from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Break or cut the boxwood in 5- to 6-inch lengths and insert it uniformly around the ball. The pieces should all be the same length to assure symmetry. A minor amount of pruning might be necessary to groom the kissing ball when completed, but avoid shearing it because the foliage should have a natural look.

Boxwood dries quickly, so it is a good idea to spray the ball with a foliar anti-desiccant such as Wilt Pruf to retard the drying process. Then mist or soak the kissing ball in water for a few minutes each day to freshen it.

Hang the festival decoration in your home with a bright colored ribbon. A small piece of mistletoe wired or stuck into the bottom of the ball will assure that no mistakes are made as to its purpose. But remember this hint from a recent issue of Reader's Digest:

Oh! Innocent victims of Cupid,
Remember this terse little verse:
To let a Fool kiss you is stupid.
To let a Kiss fool you is worse.

The staff of the Office of Horticulture wishes you a happy and merry Christmas. Beware, though—we will be installing several of these kissing balls around the Castle and A&I Building in early December.



Books

If you have written, edited or illustrated a recently released book, please notify Smithsonian Press Assistant Director Felix Lowe, so that your publication can be listed in Torch. Smithsonian books for this month:

"Where Did They Come From? The Mysterious Origins of Ancient People," James Cornell, CFA; Scholastic, 1978.

"Apollo Over the Moon: A View From Orbit," H. Masursky, W. Colton and Farouk El-Baz, NASM; U.S. Government Printing Office, 1978.

"Settlement and Metamorphosis of Marine Invertebrate Larvae," edited by Fu-Shiang Chia, University of Alberta; Mary E. Rice, MNH; Edward E. Ruppert and John F. Pilger, SI postdoctoral fellows; Elsevier North-Holland, 1978.

"Insect Magic," by Kjell Sandved, MNH, and Michael G. Emsley, George Mason University; photographs by Sandved; Viking, 1978.

"Human Skeletal Remains: Excavation, Analysis, Interpretation," by Douglas H. Ubelaker, MNH; Aldine Publishing Co., 1978.

"Freshwater Wetland, Ecological Processes and Management Potential," edited by Ralph Good, Rutgers University; Dennis Whigham, CBCES, and Robert Simpson, Rider College; Academic Press, 1978.

"Release the Breathless," poetry by Bonnie Gordon, Smithsonian magazine, Street Press, 1977.

"Charles Fenderich: Lithographer of American Statesmen," edited and with a foreword by Lillian B. Miller, NPG; University of Chicago Press, 1978.



Give to the Combined Federal Campaign.

Winter Lunch Hours on the Rink



"Winter," by Winslow Homer, is on the cover of the catalog for "The American Skating Mania," an exhibit at MHT opening Dec. 1. For some 20th-century skating, try the Constitution Ave. rink, scheduled to open early this month.

Winter sports enthusiasts have been eagerly watching the annual transformation of the National Park Service's sculpture garden into a skating rink and hoping for a drop in temperature. Mary Arthurs, manager of the rink for Government Services, Inc., hopes the rink will open in the first week of December, weather permitting.

The rink will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sundays and from 11 a.m. to 9:15 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Holiday hours are from 9 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. The fee for each of the 2-hour sessions is \$2.

You'll find the rink most crowded during the three 1-hour lunchtime specials, at 11, 12:15 and 1:30, when admission is reduced to \$1. The last part of the day also brings out the enthusiasts, so if you want to practice your Hamill camel or disco technique, go on a weekday afternoon, when you may have the ice to yourself.

Skates can be rented for 75 cents plus

D.C. tax, in sizes from a child's 9 to a man's 13. Identification—Smithsonian ID, driver's license or credit card—is required. A small snack bar serves hot dogs, soup and the skater's staple, hot chocolate.

In case you haven't noticed, the skating rink is located at Constitution Avenue and Seventh Street next to the Museum of Natural History. It will be open through the end of March. For further information, call 347-9041.

SMITHSONIAN TORCH December 1978

Published for Smithsonian Institution personnel by the Office of Public Affairs: Alvin Rosenfeld, Acting Director; Susan Bliss, Editor; Kathryn Lindeman, Assistant.