



STRI NEWSLETTER

#23

JUNE 22, 1984

SEMINAR NEWS

The seminar on Tuesday, June 26 will be given by DAVE MCGUIRE, STRI Short-term Fellow from the University of Alaska. His subject will be:

Foraging Behavior of solitary bees on second growth species of Piper

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

June 23 - 29:

June 24 - Leaving, JOE WRIGHT, for one week to Costa Rica.

Arriving, NICK BROKAW, Manomet Bird Observatory, to study tree population dynamics in experimental tree fall gaps on BCI. He will stay until August 25.

Arriving, ERIC FISHER and his assistants, MARY BUIR and PRESTON HARDISON, to conduct studies on the behavioral ecology of the chalk bass (Serranus tortugarum). They will be in the San Blas until December.

June 26 - Arriving, LENNY FREED, University of Hawaii, to continue a demographic study of tropical house wrens. He will be in Panama for one month.

June 28 - Arriving, HUGH CAFFEY, for a brief stay at Naos. He will be spending a month in Costa Rica and returning August 1st to begin his postdoctoral year at STRI.

June 30 - July 6 :

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Arriving, DAVID BLEST, Australian National University, to study vision in various hymenoptera and spiders. He will be at BCI for one month.

Arriving, SILVIA CHURGIN, SI Libraries, to look for housing in Panama. Ms. Churgin will be moving to Panama in September and will be filling the position of Librarian when Dr. Jopling retires later on this year.

July 1st:

Arriving, JANALEE CALDWELL, Emory University, for a brief visit of STRI facilities.

Arriving, PETER GLYNN, University of Miami, to continue studies on corals in the eastern Pacific. He will be here for one month.

Arriving, JIM KARR, University of Illinois, for one month in Gamboa, to continue studies on habitat selection in a tropical avifauna.

AND STILL MORE....

July 1st:

Arriving, AARON YEDID, University of Miami, on an Exxon Fellowship, to conduct a reconnaissance study of diseases in eastern Pacific corals. He will be at STRI for one month.

Arriving, JOHN GUARNACCIA and MERCEDES VILLAMIL, to collaborate with R. Ridgeley on the Spanish translation of the book, BIRDS OF PANAMA.

June 2nd:

Arriving, JORGE ARIAS, INPA, for a brief visit of STRI facilities.

Arriving, JESS ZIMMERMAN, on a STRI short-term fellowship, to carry out an examination of sex choice in the orchid, Catasetum viridiflavum. He will be on BCI for three months.

Arriving, ELIZABETH MCMAHON, University of North Carolina, to study the biology of termites and associated predators, particularly the assassin bug, Salvadora variegata. She will be visiting various sites in mainland Panama for one month.

JULY

June 3rd - Returning, ALLEN HERRE, University of Iowa, for one month to continue studies on the reproductive biology of figs and fig wasps on BCI.

July 5:

Arriving, JAMES FULLARD, University of Toronto, for two months to conduct studies on the behavioral physiology of Neotropical moth/ bat interactions on BCI.

Arriving, NANCY HAWKINS, to assist K. CLIFTON with studies in the San Blas.

LIBRARY NEWS

New books:

- Animal Physiology. 2nd. ed. (R. Eckert and D. Randall, 1983).
- Archaeology and Volcanism in Central America (P. Sheets, ed., 1983).
- Biometry. 2nd. ed. (R.R. Sokol and F.J. Rohlf, 1981).
- C³C⁴ Mechanisms and Cellular Environmental Regulation of Photosynthesis (G. Edwards and D. Walker, 1983).
- Culture and Marine Invertebrates. (C. J. Berg, Jr., ed., 1983).
- Handbook for Scientific Photography, rec. ed. (A.A. Blaker, 1977).
- Man and Cattle (A.E. Maurant, 1963).
- Vision (D. Marr, 1982).

New faces:

FIONA SMYTHE, who is working in the Library during her summer vacation.

MARCIA GUTIERREZ DE SMITH, working on Tuesday evenings and Saturdays.

The meetings will be held at the Instituto de Geociencia, University of Panama. ARGELIS RUIZ, who is in charge of coordinating these meetings, has been trying to find lodging for persons attending the meetings. Anyone willing to provide accommodations for one or more participants should contact Argelis at 25-9710.

RECOVERED

The nose of D.R. Robertson, from an attack by an orange-chinned parakeet last month at the San Blas station.

SIBUP CONGRESS

The SOCIEDAD DE INVESTIGACIONES BIOLOGICAS DE LA UNIVERSIDAD DE PANAMA will be holding their III Congress for Biology Students from Oct. 1 - 5. Talks will be given by the following STRI participants; A. Rodaniche, R. Richmond, D. Roubik, A. Ruiz, O. Vallarino, J. Ventocilla, D. Windsor, D. Werner. The program will be posted on bulletin boards.

REMARKS By Dr. Robert McC. Admas, at his installation as ninth secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, September 17, 1984.

French historians have taught us to distinguish between structures and conjectures, between the almost-glacial movement of customs or institutions along gentle slopes of change and the flow of transitory events that largely monopolizes our attention. Particularly for one who works with the depersonalized data of archaeology, it is natural to think that events are dust, as Fernand Braudel has put it, that the future is largely shaped by the slowly accumulating mass of individually imperceptible changes. Yet that leaves little role for leadership, for the creative response, for the goals around which we know that people come together. It excludes the possibility of our valuing and understanding the extraordinary changes Mr. Ripley has brought to the Smithsonian, in matters of spirit as well as substance. It may well exclude an understanding of the important symbolic place that the Smithsonian has come to occupy in American life.

So a moment of transition like this drives one to think of the two themes of change and continuity, opposed to one another and yet always linked. More concretely at this moment, with those themes in mind, I find myself looking admiringly backward as well as forward. Concealed with the changes Dillon brought, it seems to me, is a basic resonance to enduring issues and alternative ways of dealing with them that are inherent in our stated purposes and even in our existence --- that are already identifiable, in fact, at the moment when the institution was first conceived.

Consider the breadth of our activities. It may be hard to believe now, but there was not a little grumbling when the Smithsonian magazine was first inaugurated. Enough grumbling so that I heard about it in Chicago at the time, even though the Smithsonian in the early 70's was only on the peripheries of my field of communication. Where did it say in the charter, some initially asked, that the Smithsonian had any business appealing to a broadly national public through a popular magazine? Well, the past supplies an answer to that kind of strict constructionism. Listen to John Quincy Adams (no relative, though I'd be glad to claim him!) during the Congressional debates on establishing the Smithsonian.

A colleague inquired of the gentleman from Massachusetts as to the power under the Constitution by which Congress was authorized to accept and administer James Smithson's fund. "If the gentleman (from S. Carolina) will point me to the power in the Constitution of the U.S. to annex Texas," Adams replied, "I will answer his question." Pressed further, he added that he "could find in the Constitution many clauses authorizing Congress to provide for the common defense and general welfare. What means are more efficient to this end than the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men?" That is the truly understanding, confident and venturesome spirit, I submit, in which the Smithsonian has become so important a part of the American tradition. Certainly it is the spirit in which Mr. Ripley brought it to the present, flourishing state in which, with this key, it falls to me.

Let me take a last moment for a further example of how issues reappear and resonate throughout Smithsonian history. It is an example reflecting the difficult and controversial choices that have been faced in the past --- and that surely will crop up in new forms again and again. The Chief Justice has spoken of what I suppose is the classic version of the Smithsonian's charter, Joseph Henry's "Programme of Organization" in his first annual report in 1847. The two objectives of the Institution, to increase and diffuse knowledge, should not be confounded with one another, Henry wrote. The enlargement of the existing stock of knowledge by the discovery of new truths was the Smithsonian's first responsibility. These it would diffuse among men, secondly, by scholarly and scientific publication.

Recently William Bird, a young historian with our National Museum of American History, has published a provocative further look into the intellectual background of this position. He argues, I think convincingly, that Henry's position need to be understood in the context of the advancing specialization and professionalization of American science that Henry correctly perceived as an important requirement in the mid-nineteenth century. If we go back a generation earlier, however, to the time when James Smithson composed his will, the intellectual context was very different. "Every man is a valuable member of society, who, by his observations, researches, and experiments, procures knowledge for men," Smithson wrote in one of his notebooks. The implication is that the long-run health of science does not rest exclusively with a small professional elite, nor with the Smithsonian seeking to advance knowledge with the resources of its staff alone. The diffusion of knowledge, a valid goal in itself, is also a means to a further end. It multiplies the number of researchers, widens the range of inquiry, assures the public's readiness to support their work, and hence powerfully enhances the chances for new discoveries. The increase and diffusion of knowledge are in some respects ultimately bound together, in other words. In the long run --- and I confess an archaeological preference for thinking in the long run --- each can flourish only as the other flourishes.

That too, I think, is part of the spirit in which this Institution has become something of which we can all be proud. Changing circumstances surely will dictate periodic shifts in emphasis from one direction to the other, but neither the increase nor the diffusion of knowledge can be permanently or decisively favored at the expense of the other without loss to both. With the help --- and I might say, the instruction --- of a splendid staff, a deeply committed Board of Regents, and a host of generous supporters, I'll do my best to carry on this tradition.