



STRI NEWSLETTER

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NOVEMBER 10, 1983

SEMINAR NEWS

The luncheon seminar at Ancon on Tuesday, November 15 will be given by BYRON CHANIOTIS, MEDDAC, who will speak on:

Vector-borne Diseases in Panama:
Past and Present

The seminar on Tuesday, November 22 will be given by STRI's RICHARD COOKE on:

Prehistoric human settlement of
the Santa Maria Basin

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

Leaving on November 15 to attend the American Anthropological meeting in Chicago, and the African Studies meeting in Boston is OLGA F. LINARES.

Arriving on November 14 is ARIS T. ALLEN, from the Smithsonian Office of Design and Construction. He will be at STRI for four days.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Smithsonian Institution Bibliographic Information System (SIBIS) will be operational in early 1984. The system and equipment has been purchased from GEAC, a Canadian corporation which has installations at several U.S. and Canadian universities, including New York University Library. Management of SIBIS is under the Smithsonian Institution Office of Information Resource Management. The data system, as devised and written by the Smithsonian Institution Librarians has been adopted for all the bibliographic and archival records of the Institution.

Operations will begin in stages starting in April with the transfer of current records. July 1st is the current target date for the online catalog, to be followed at intervals by acquisitions, serial records and circulation. Eventually, personal computers now in various offices will be able to connect with SIBIS.

The STRI Library will not be directly connected to SIBIS. Plans have not been completed, but probably will include a stand-alone system with a data base consisting of the STRI Library's book collection and probably eventually other records. Reliance will be placed on other data bases, however, such as DIALOG, for access to Library of Congress catalogs and other bibliographic sources.

LIBRARY (CONT.)

Ultimately the transition to an automated system will transform all written records to electronic data and replace card catalogs, Kardexes, etc. with terminals.

NOTES OF INTEREST

-MICHAEL ROBINSON will be the speaker at the upcoming seminar for the administrative staff, on Thursday, November 17 at 12 noon in the Tivoli Conference Room. The subject of his talk is: What is Tropical Biology?

-AMBIO Volume XII, Number 5, 1983 (the latest issue) carries in the Focus Section IRA RUBINOFF's "A Strategy for Preserving Tropical Rainforests". Also in this issue is an article by JAMES D. NATIONS and DANIEL I. KOMMER on "Central America's Tropical Rainforests: Positive Steps for Survival" describing "as one of the most enagaging success stories", the efforts of Panama's Kuna Indians to protect the rainforests that are part of their Comarca. The article also acknowledges the Smithsonian Institution as one of the institutions providing the Kunas with technical and financial assistance.

REMINDERS REGARDING MAIL

-During the months of November, December and January mail sent through the Panama post office will require a special .02 stamp, in addition to the regular postage. The proceeds from this go to support the CIUDAD DEL NIÑO, an orphanage in Panama.

-Remember that all visitors' outgoing mail sent to the Tivoli office must be stamped, except for letters coming from BCI, San Blas or Taboga. A mail charge will not be kept for visitors at other facilities. Unstamped mail will be returned to the sender. This policy also applies to all personal mail posted by the STRI staff nonresidents of BCI.

-Please put your full name on the envelopes you mail. Several people may have the same first name, thus making things difficult for the mail clerk. Letters that are not properly addressed will be returned. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.