Quincentenary Exhibition Opens on Columbus Day

When Columbus set out on his voyages, what did he know about science? "Science in the Age of Columbus" gives viewers some insight into an answer. On display are titles that Columbus is known to have owned along with works recounting new information that he and other travellers took back to Europe and that informed later generations about wonders of the New World.

Books by earlier authorities and by Columbus's contemporaries provide a perspective on the state of scientific knowledge five hundred years ago. During his fourth and final voyage (1504), Columbus used information found in a copy of the Kalendarium by Regiomontanus which he carried on board to predict a lunar eclipse before the Taino people of Jamaica, when he invoked the "moon to rise and flame." Other works on view include popular accounts of New World peoples, plants, and diseases published in the sixteenth and subsequent centuries.

The exhibition was curated by Ellen B. Wells, Exhibition Officer. The Smithsonian Office of Exhibits Central staff designed, edited, and produced the exhibition. The Dibner Fund and Telesec Temporary Services generously provided funding support.

The exhibition will remain open through March 26, 1993.

Lower right panel predicts lunar eclipse of 29 February 1504. Kalendarium, by Johannes Mueller, Regiomontanus, Augsburg, 1499.
Gifts to the Collections

Selected gifts that have enhanced the Libraries’ collections

A Lutheran Bible published in Marburg, Germany, in 1679 was given to the Libraries by Edward A. Reach, Ann D. Nolan, and Mildred Erby, heirs of Charles and Alta May Pride of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Mrs. E. H. Stevens of West Palm Beach, Florida, donated an Ethiopian Biblical manuscript of the Book of Psalms in the Geez language. Dating probably from the eighteenth century, the manuscript includes a liturgical calendar for the Coptic (Christian) church.

Operation Vittles Cook Book [2nd edn] (1949), a community cookbook compiled by American women in blockaded Berlin and illustrated by school children, was the gift of Mrs. Jean R. Williams of Los Angeles, California.

An 1897 Twentieth-century cook book was donated by Mrs. Judith A. Wright of Downington, Pennsylvania, in memory of her mother Wanda Rose Witherby.

Mr. Frank L. Keller of Turner, Oregon, presented the Libraries with The Presidential Cook Book [circa 1895], adapted from The White House Cook Book.

A collection of bound Delineator magazines (1885–1931, incomplete) which provide valuable information on the history of costume were donated by

Letter from the Director

The Internet Comes to the Smithsonian

This fall the Smithsonian Institution joined the Internet. Although we came to the Internet a little later than most major research entities, the Institution plans to waste little time in taking advantage of the opportunities it provides. The membership effort itself speaks a great deal about the commitment of the Institution’s staff to improving research capability. Nine units across the Smithsonian including the Libraries contributed toward the start-up costs, and staff from diverse offices assisted in laying the groundwork for establishing Institutional policy for responsible and effective use of the Internet.

What is the Internet? It is a network of information laden networks linked globally, and currently encompassing over one million computers used by five million people in more than one hundred countries. Only the public telephone network exceeds it in terms of extent and connectivity.

The Internet began in the early 1970s as a Federal effort which was soon applied to research activities in academic institutions. Commercial service providers are now the fastest growing group of users. Growth of the Internet exceeds ten percent per month, a rate unprecedented in the field of communication.

What is the value of the Internet? All the networks “talk” to each other and provide for communication and exchange of information facilitated by a standardized set of protocols. These protocols permit individual networks to be joined and appear to users as a single network. Addresses identifying individual users facilitate the routing of messages, information, and data, mimicking in many ways the transport of letters through postal systems worldwide. Transport is with vastly greater speed, however. Indeed, communication can be instantaneous.

The Libraries is pleased that Internet capability is at hand. The connection will allow users access to over 250 online library catalogs to verify library holdings in areas of interest. It will permit staff to access a growing number of databases on subjects as varied as literature and meteorology. Electronic journals and newsletters, which are increasing in number and diversity, are accessible on the Internet. We look forward to the near future when we will have the capacity to provide Internet access to our own library catalog so that others can browse our collections from remote locations.

Use of the Internet as a means of locating, accessing and making information available is yet another example of how service provided by the Smithsonian Libraries is changing to accommodate the needs of researchers in the technologically enhanced world of communication. If you are interested in finding out about the Internet I refer you to Zen and the Art of the Internet: a beginner’s guide. 2nd ed (Prentice Hall, 1993) by Brendan P. Kehoe. I am sure your local library can suggest other appropriate readings.

Libraries in research institutions are in transition, perhaps more so than other libraries because of the wide-spread use of the Internet as a means of scholarly communication. These libraries are progressing from a paper-driven environment to an environment dominated by electronics. The Smithsonian Institution Libraries is at the beginning of that transition. Limited funding is forcing hard choices as we try to maintain the traditional paper library and move toward the electronic library. Access to the Internet is an important step into tomorrow for us.

Barbara J. Smith

Dr. Smith chaired the Institution’s Internet Implementation Committee, which facilitated various aspects of introduction to and implementation of the Internet.
National Museum of American History  
Branch Library

SERVING SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS with some twenty-one divisions and major object collections and the Archives Center in the National Museum of American History, the NMAH Branch staff offers its users access to information in disciplines that range from the history of science and technology to social and cultural history. Branch Librarian Rhoda S. Ratner administers the collections of some 120,000 books, 45,000 bound volumes of current and historical journals, 8,000 reels of microfilm, and over 20,000 microfiche. The branch provides a full range of reference services including online database access.

A major strength of the branch library is the commercial trade catalog collection with an estimated 300,000 pieces. Dating from the mid nineteenth century, the catalogs cover a full range of manufactured products. The Libraries is seeking funding to more fully organize and catalog the trade literature for easier access by scholars working in the history of manufacturing or in social, economic, and business history. Currently, preservation measures are being applied to help ensure the survival of this national treasure.

Branch staff includes Bridget Burke, Reference Librarian, responsible for incoming reference questions and database search coordination; Jim Roan, Interlibrary Loan Librarian and coordinator of on-going work on the trade literature collection; Tim Carr, Reference Librarian, who also serves as Branch Librarian for the Anacostia Museum Branch; Helen Holley, Interlibrary Loan Technician; Lindsey Ealy, Serials and Acquisitions Technician; and Stephanie Thomas, Circulation Technician.

Collection development responsibilities are shared among Ratner, Burke, and Roan.

(See “Interns and Visiting Professionals at the Libraries,” p. 6, for more work on the trade catalog literature by Bryan Culp and Susan Cole.)

Gifts to the Collections  
(continued)

Ms. Scherry Harrah of Reno, Nevada.

Ms. Ethel Halpern of New York, New York, gave thirty-two trade catalogs of Montgomery & Co. which fill in gaps in the trade catalog collection.

The ongoing review of a very large gift from the Federal Aviation Administration and Civil Aeronautics Board has revealed that the gift includes a complete series of technical memoranda, notes, and wartime reports issued by the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics between 1915 and 1958. This collection documents most of the major advances in aeronautical sciences in its most critical years.

A copy of President Harry S. Truman’s memoirs bearing his autograph was presented to the Libraries by the estate of Alice I. Winterer, St. Louis, Missouri.
FEATURING...

Professional Appointments

Donna Coletti was named Branch Librarian of the Center for Astrophysics Branch (CfA), Cambridge, Massachusetts, in May. Ms. Coletti holds a B.A. from California State University in San Bernardino, and an M.L.S. from University of California, Berkeley. She worked in the Physical Sciences Library at the University of California, Davis, and has several years' experience at the CfA Branch Library.

Anne Gifford was selected as Automation Librarian in the Systems Department in September to work with serials and acquisitions projects. She received her M.L.S. at University of Maryland where she also earned a B.S. in Marketing. Her previous position was Administrative Librarian at the Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology Center, Indian Head, Maryland.

Paul McCutcheon, Reference Librarian, came to the National Air and Space Museum (NASM) Branch Library in September from The Enoch Pratt Public Library in Baltimore. Mr. McCutcheon earned his B.A. and his M.L.S. at the University of Maryland, College Park. He previously worked at three University of Maryland libraries in College Park.

Diane Shaw was appointed Rare Book Cataloger in the Original Cataloging and Indexing Department in August. Ms. Shaw did her undergraduate work in Medieval Studies at Agnes Scott, received an M.A. in Latin from Fordham University and an M.L.S. from University of North Carolina. Since

Dibner Library Lecture

Professor Elizabeth L. Eisenstein delivered a lecture on "Celebrating Western Technology in the Age of the Hand Press, (15C–18C)" on June 4 to some ninety people in the Reception Suite, National Museum of American History. The lecture surveyed different periods of printing from Gutenberg's invention in 1440 through the centennial anniversaries of 1540, 1640 and 1740, ending with the period of the French revolution.

The slide presentation included illustrations from two works in the collections of the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology: the rare sixteenth-century Nova Reperta (new discoveries) of Stradanus and the eighteenth-century Diderot Encyclopédie. Professor Eisenstein, Professor Emerita, University of Michigan Department of History, published The Printing Press as an Agent of Change (1979) which was issued in French and Italian translations and was published as an illustrated and abridged 2-volume work in 1983. Members of the audience had the opportunity to meet and speak with Professor Eisenstein at a reception following the talk. Both events were supported by The Dibner Fund.

**Dibner Library Resident Scholars Praise Program**

The first scholars selected for the Smithsonian Institution Libraries/Dibner Library Resident Scholar Program had high praise for the new program which is supported by The Dibner Fund. Gregory K. Dreicer, a Ph.D. candidate at Cornell University, Department of Science and Technology Studies, describes his experience as “fantastic,” noting that his “relationship with the Dibner Library is only beginning.” Michael P. Kucher, a Ph.D. candidate from the University of Delaware Department of History, reports that he “has already begun enthusiastically recommending it to other scholars.” Mr. Kucher was awarded his scholarship to study the building of two early Renaissance Italian cities. Mr. Dreicer received a grant for his research in “Cultural Exchange in Building Technology: the Framed Beam in Western Europe and the United States, 1820–1870.”

To encourage study of the history of science and technology, the Smithsonian Institution Libraries offers two grants a year for periods of one to three months each for scholars to do research in the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology and other library collections of the Smithsonian.

Mr. Kucher, who is at an early stage of his doctoral research, needed access to Italian works of the Renaissance. Mr. Dreicer delivered presentations to the museum’s Tuesday Colloquium series, drawing capacity audiences. Mr. Kucher spoke on “Taccola’s Notebooks and the Search for New Urban Technologies in Late Medieval Siena,” and Mr. Dreicer’s topic was intercultural exchange in the construction of bridges in Western Europe and the United States.

**Development Watch**

The James Smithson Society awarded $37,500 for the Libraries to establish a one-year pilot program for a post-graduate residency in library and information science to enhance the cultural diversity of the Libraries’ staff, and to extend the resident’s formal education by providing practical professional work experience in a research library, and providing exposure to the bibliographic resources in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.
IN BRIEF

National Reading Promotion Winner

Daniel Clarke of Evansville, Indiana, visited the National Air and Space Museum Branch and its rare book room, the Ramsey Room, after lunch and a tour with his family and Dr. Barbara J. Smith. The eleven-year-old fifth grader won a week's trip to the nation's capital for himself and his family in August as the winner of a reading promotion contest, "Bozo Bonkers for Books." The contest was sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) in cooperation with United Video, Inc., and local cable television stations when the ALA was promoting its "Kids Who Read Succeed" program.

SIRIS Contract Awarded

The Smithsonian Institution selected NOTIS to replace the system which now carries the Libraries' on-line catalog and its acquisitions and circulation modules. Installation of the new system which will be called the Smithsonian Institution Research Information System (SIRIS) should be completed by the end of 1993.

Interns and Visiting Professionals at the Libraries

The 300,000 PIECE TRADE CATALOG LITERATURE PROJECT benefitted from the contributions of two visitors this year. Bryan A. Culp is a library school graduate student at University of Tennessee/Knoxville. Mr. Culp worked with sorting and cataloging the trade literature in cooperation with staff of the Original Cataloging and Indexing Department and the Museum of American History Branch.

Susan W. Cole is assisting staff of the same departments in a pilot program to catalog the trade literature. Mrs. Cole, a Visiting Professional on sabbatical leave from the Colby College Science Library in Waterville, Maine, is also working on user statistics for the Database Searching Center with staff from the Museum Support Center Branch and Central Reference and Loan Services.

At the Cooper-Hewitt Museum Branch, Alan Balicki, an intern from Columbia University's Conservation Program, is preparing a plan for a projected rare book room. Intern Claudia Gistolfi worked on the collection of graphic artist William Metzig.

The Museum of Natural History Branch is grateful for the prototype procedure manuals for the collections drafted by Wade M. Kotter, an M.L.S. student from the University of Maryland. Kotter also worked with staff in the Invertebrate Zoology section and in the Anesthesiology and Botany Libraries.

Meg O'Brien completed a practicum on rare book exhibitions in the Special Collections Department. Currently an M.L.S. student at Catholic University, her training included as a final project an exhibition on nineteenth-century children's books from the Comegys Collection.

Lai Lee Li, a recent M.L.S. graduate from Clarion University, Pennsylvania, helped to plan for bibliographies at the Air and Space Museum Branch which will be used in the forthcoming Visitor Resource Center at the "How Things Fly" gallery at the museum. This is the Libraries' first cooperative venture with the museum's Education Division.

Susan Hefter, another Air and Space Museum Branch intern and an M.L.S. student at Catholic University, also collaborated with the museum's Education Division, preparing bibliographies for several age levels that will be used in the center.


Contest winner Daniel Clarke.
**S I L  N E W S  D I G E S T**

**Scott Installed as SLA President**

CATHERINE D. SCOTT, SENIOR REFERENCE LIBRARIAN, Central Reference and Loan Services, was installed as 73rd president of the Special Libraries Association (SLA) in San Francisco on June 10. In her inaugural address, “Discover Our Vision as SLA Charts a Course to the 21st Century,” she challenged SLA to “embark on a voyage of reflection” and “to examine our vision of an information age.” Noting that she intends to continue the SLA tradition of stressing the association’s international character, Scott believes that SLA can both affect information policy and promote worldwide exchange of information in an attempt to “put knowledge to work.”

SLA is an international professional association with 14,000 members in many countries around the world, with fifty-five regional chapters in the United States, Canada, Europe, and the Pacific Rim. It is the second largest library and information management association in North America and is organized in twenty-seven divisions representing various subject interests and types of information-handling techniques. It provides scholarship aid and supports continuing education and research. Ms. Scott’s term extends to June 1993.

**Hyltoft Retires**

John Hyltoft, Head Conservator, retired in July. Mr. Hyltoft established the Libraries’ Book Conservation Laboratory (BCL) in 1977 and over the past fifteen years repaired and rebound thousands of irreplaceable manuscripts and books in the collections. Hyltoft played a crucial role in the Libraries’ exhibition program by ensuring that exhibition designs allow for proper support and environmental housing to safeguard the fragile volumes displayed. He rescued countless items in the collections from destruction threatened by water, mildew, and insect infestation, and he set up an environmental monitoring program throughout the Libraries’ forty locations. In the BCL, he trained scores of staff, interns, visiting professionals, and volunteers, who benefited from his skilled and meticulous guidance. He has been awarded numerous prizes in international bookbinding competitions; he curated two exhibitions, and published articles on bookbinding and conservation. He has actively promoted conservation as a profession. Mr. Hyltoft is now consulting in the mid-Atlantic region.
Calendar of Exhibitions

SIL EXHIBITION GALLERY
National Museum of American History, first floor, west wing
10:00 a.m.--5:30 p.m. daily, except December 25

October 12, 1992, through March 26, 1993

Science in the Age of Columbus
Ellen B. Wells, Curator
With support from The Dibner Fund and Telessec Temporary Services

Opening May 1993

Tunnels! A Celebration
Ellen B. Wells, Curator

SIL LIBRARY HALL
National Museum of Natural History, first floor, east hall
Restricted access. Call (202) 357-2240 for appointment to view.

Through January 3, 1993

Cristobal, Christoforo, Christopher: Images of Columbus from the National Museum of American History Branch Library
Margaret D'Ambrosio and James Roan, Curators

Opening January 15, 1993

Charles Coffin Jewett: Smithsonian's First Librarian
Tom Baker, Bridget Burke, and Leslie Overstreet, Curators

Smithsonian Institution Libraries
Natural History Building 22, MRC 154
Washington, DC 20560