



Smithsonian Institution

Smithsonian Institution Archives

Proceedings of the Board of Regents Meeting held on January 24, 1983

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[[bullet point]] Future transfers to the Institution of historic buildings that might be preserved for Smithsonian use are possible, but the timing is not known. Likewise, it is not possible to speculate on the availability of major new gift collections that might require special housing for display or other purposes.

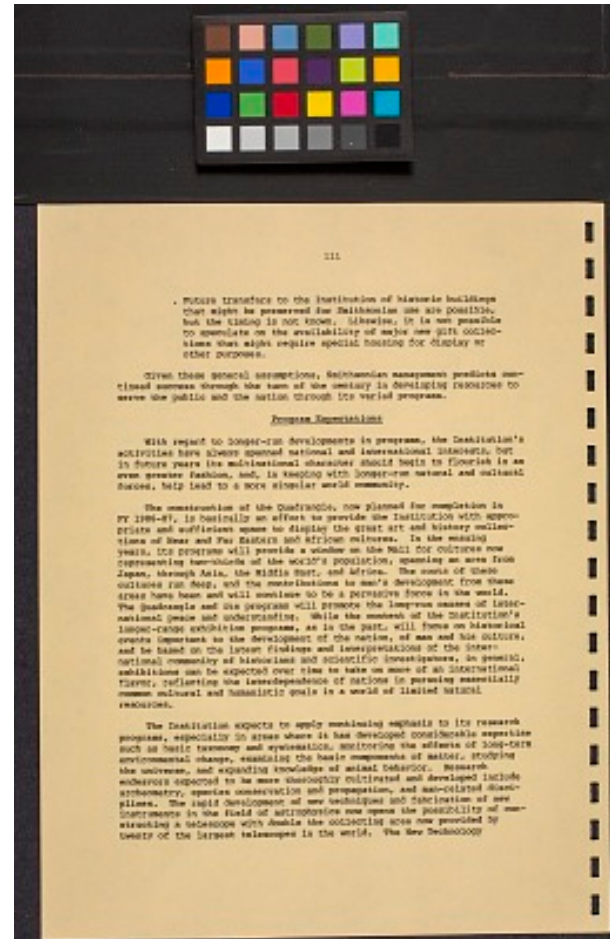
Given these general assumptions, Smithsonian management predicts continued success through the turn of the century in developing resources to serve the public and the nation through its varied programs.

Program Expectations

With regard to longer-run developments in programs, the Institution's activities have always spanned national and international interests, but in future years its multinational character should begin to flourish in an even greater fashion, and, in keeping with longer-run natural and cultural forces, help lead to a more singular world community.

The construction of the Quadrangle, now planned for completion in FY 1986-87, is basically an effort to provide the Institution with appropriate and sufficient space to display the great art and history collections of Near and Far Eastern and African cultures. In the ensuing years, its programs will provide a window on the Mall for cultures now representing two-thirds of the world's population, spanning an area from Japan, through Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. The roots of these cultures run deep, and the contributions to man's development from these areas have been and will continue to be a pervasive force in the world. The Quadrangle and its programs will promote the long-run causes of international peace and understanding. While the content of the Institution's longer-range exhibition programs, as in the past, will focus on historical events important to the development of the nation, of man and his culture, and be based on the latest findings and interpretations of the international community of historians and scientific investigators, in general, exhibitions can be expected over time to take on more of an international flavor, reflecting the interdependence of nations in pursuing essentially common cultural and humanistic goals in a world of limited natural resources.

The Institution expects to apply continuing emphasis to its research programs, especially in areas where it has developed considerable expertise such as basic taxonomy and systematics, monitoring the effects of long-term environmental change, examining the basic components of matter, studying the universe, and expanding knowledge of animal behavior. Research endeavors expected to be more thoroughly cultivated and developed include archeometry, species conservation and propagation, and man-related disciplines. The rapid development of new techniques and fabrication of new instruments in the field of astrophysics now opens the possibility of constructing a telescope with double the collecting area now provided by twenty of the largest telescopes in the world. The New Technology



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The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

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