



Smithsonian Institution

Smithsonian Institution Archives

Proceedings of the Board of Regents Meeting held on May 6, 1985

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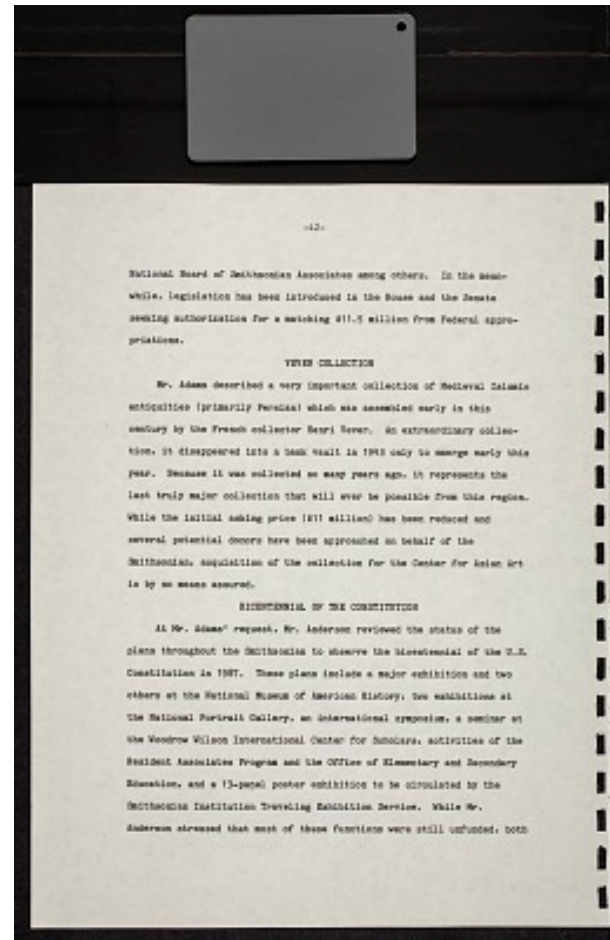
National Board of Smithsonian Associates among others. In the meanwhile, legislation has been introduced in the House and the Senate seeking authorization for a matching \$11.5 million from Federal appropriations.

VEVER COLLECTION

Mr. Adams described a very important collection of Medieval Islamic antiquities (primarily Persian) which was assembled early in this century by the French collector Henri Vever. An extraordinary collection, it disappeared into a bank vault in 1943 only to emerge early this year. Because it was collected so many years ago, it represents the last truly major collection that will ever be possible from this region. While the initial asking price (\$11 million) has been reduced and several potential donors have been approached on behalf of the Smithsonian, acquisition of the collection for the Center for Asian Art is by no means assured.

BICENTENNIAL OF THE CONSTITUTION

At Mr. Adams' request, Mr. Anderson reviewed the status of the plans throughout the Smithsonian to observe the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution in 1987. These plans include a major exhibition and two others at the National Museum of American History, two exhibitions at the National Portrait Gallery, an international symposium, a seminar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, activities of the Resident Associates Program and the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, and a 13-panel poster exhibition to be circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. While Mr. Anderson stressed that most of these functions were still unfunded, both



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