

pecuniary assistance to anyone who would undertake to work out thoroughly the development of the lobster? It is a good subject, but it would require some time—two years at least. I do not know that I can find a suitable person to do it, but I think I can.”

Apparently Putnam promised a “small sum,” not from the U.S. Fish Commission, however, but from the funds of the Massachusetts State Board of Fisheries and Game for which Putnam was a commissioner.

Whitman wrote to Putnam again on 26 June 1889, that “I have found a man who will undertake the lobster work. He will begin it and carry it along as far as possible. Now what will the ‘small sum’ be which you could give him? He is Prof. Bumpus of Olivet, Michigan, a fine young naturalist who takes hold of work most energetically and will undoubtedly do well. Give him all the encouragement you can.”

In 1891 Bumpus published his classic study on “The Embryology of the American Lobster” (*J. Morphol.* 5, 215) based upon his Ph.D. dissertation developed under the direction of Whitman at Clark University.

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Parkinsonia Rampant

As a student of Parkinsonia (*I*), I would like to point out the potential for a new outbreak of this dread disease—in the universities. Over the past 15 years there has been a vast growth in federal funds for university science. This in turn led to a growth in the number of administrators, comptrollers, clerks, and others to handle this money and obey the regulations of “those people” in Washington. Of course the overhead rate went up too; what else did you expect?

Now the tide of federal funds appears to be receding; can we expect that universities will do with fewer administrators and comptrollers? Will there be a drop in the overhead? I predict an epidemic of Parkinsonia that will “curl your hair.”

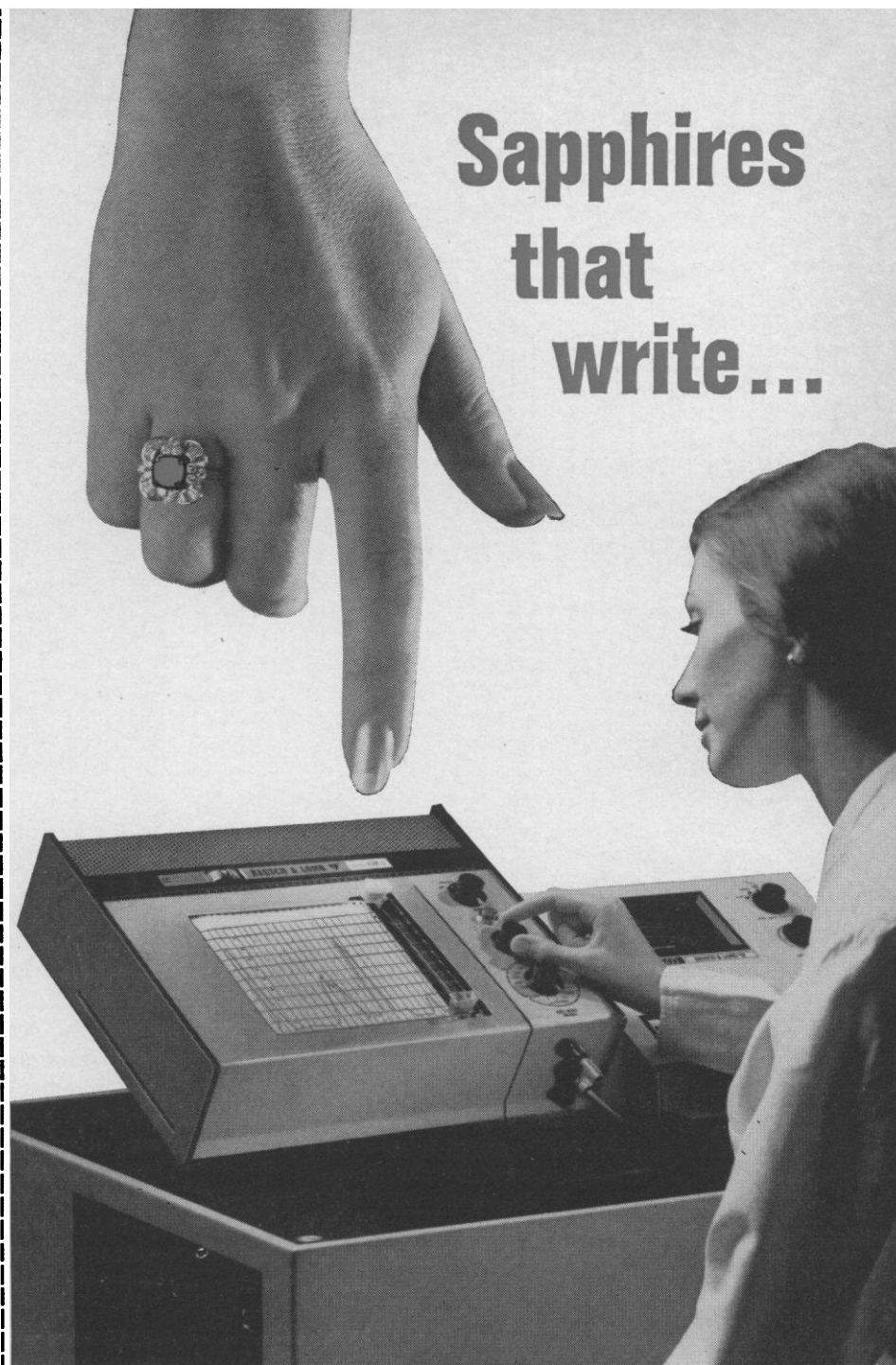
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Reference

1. C. N. Parkinson, *Parkinson's Law* (Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1957).

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