

Adams believes the Smithsonian is in a unique position to formulate an overall vision and stimulate work where there are gaps—operations which “in another world one might have imagined Unesco doing.”

“The Smithsonian by its nature is geared for the long term,” observes Adams, and should be doing long-term things everyone else is too busy or strapped to do. One such project, in which the Museum of Natural History would like to assume leadership, is a biological survey of the entire United States. “There are almost no thorough surveys,” says Adams.

One of Adams’ long-term goals in the international realm is the establishment of a “museum of the Americas” at the Smithsonian. He professes himself to be concerned about “the lack of any full recognition [among Americans] of hemispheric partnership” and the multiethnic nature of the United States. He hopes the 1992 celebration of the Columbus quinquacentennial will bring the New World more into the American consciousness, but he warns that it is a “very charged issue.” According to Adams, the prevailing view is that we will be celebrating the discovery of the New World. But an alternate view, pressed by the indigenismo movement in Latin America, perceives the anniversary as one of the invasion of the Americas. Accommodating these perspectives, celebrating the pluralistic nature of the hemisphere, and giving due glory to the roles of Italy and Spain, will require some finesse. If things are properly handled, says Adams, out of it all “might come a larger role in Washington for the New World.”

Adams, who has a strong sociological streak, also wants the Smithsonian to play a role in interpreting the information revolution. His earliest new museum priority is a Museum of the Information Age. We have a responsibility, he says, to explore the broad impacts on culture—including perception (the perception of time, for example), learning, cognition, and decision-making, and how people and institutions organize themselves—wrought by the technology revolution. He sees the museum’s exhibits covering everything from “philosophy and linguistics to banking and information retrieval systems.” The first step will be a major exhibit on the subject at the National Museum of American History.

Of all the ideas and plans jostling for attention in Adams’ head, the one that causes him to wax particularly enthusiastic has to do with harnessing the intel-



*The castle on the Mall.*

lectual energy that abounds in the Washington, D.C., area. “There are a hell of a lot of bright folks around here,” says Adams. “I’ve been thinking about that, but I haven’t quite figured out what to do.” He is much impressed, for example, with the abundance of highly trained social scientists “embedded” in the federal bureaucracy. There are people at all levels “who know how the decision-making process works. . . . We can say more things about how the system works than was ever possible before.” Yet, there is “sort of a wall between empirical

social science and government,” which prevents this knowledge from being spread and used. We know “a fair amount on the nature of American society, but really very little on how institutions work,” says Adams. Academic disciplines are slow to recognize the importance of this knowledge, and little of it makes its way into academic journals.

Adams believes that the main obstacle to this kind of institutional analysis is not the lack of funding sources, but the “lack of a few role models,” who could turn out a few papers and “begin to set a direction.”

Adams has prepared a full agenda for himself. He is hoping for a \$12-million increase in the \$312-million budget of the Smithsonian next year but he recognizes that “horizons are clearly more constrained for the foreseeable future. There are going to be very tough questions of priority that have to be resolved here in this office.”—CONSTANCE HOLDEN

## IOM Elects New Members

The Institute of Medicine has elected 29 new active members and five new senior members. This brings the total active membership to 461 and the total senior membership to 213. The new active members are as follows:

**S. James Adelstein**, dean for academic programs, Harvard Medical School; **D. Bernard Amos**, microbiology and immunology, Duke University Medical Center; **David Axelrod**, commissioner of health, New York State Department of Health; **Kathryn E. Barnard**, parent and child nursing, University of Washington, Seattle; **Stanley Baum**, radiology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine; **Roscoe O. Brady**, developmental and metabolic neurology branch, National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke; **Gert H. Brieger**, Institute of the History of Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; **Vincent T. DeVita, Jr.**, director, National Cancer Institute; **John W. Eckstein**, internal medicine, University of Iowa College of Medicine; **Willard Gaylin**, president, Institute of Society, Ethics, and the Life Sciences.

**John P. Geyman**, family medicine, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle; **Frederick K. Goodwin**, intramural research, National Institute of Mental Health; **Thomas F. Hornbein**, anesthesiology, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle; **Robert B. Jaffe**, obstetrics, gynecology, and reproductive sciences, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco; **William N. Kelley**, internal medicine, University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor; **Richard J. Kitz**, anesthetist-in-chief, Massachusetts General Hospital; **Donald A. B. Lindberg**, director, National Library of Medicine;

**Harald Loe**, director, National Institute of Dental Research; **Harold S. Luft**, Institute for Health Policy Studies, University of California School of Medicine, San Francisco; **James O. Mason**, director, Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta.

**W. Eugene Mayberry**, laboratory medicine, Mayo Medical School, Rochester, Minn.; **Beverlee A. Myers**, School of Public Health, University of California, Los Angeles; **Elena O. Nightingale**, child development center, Georgetown Medical Center, Washington, D.C.; **Fred Plum**, neurology, Cornell University Medical College; **Janet D. Rowley**, medicine, Pritzker School of Medicine, University of Chicago; **Francis H. Ruddle**, biology, Yale University; **Walter O. Spitzer**, epidemiology and biostatistics, McGill University, Montreal; **Joseph W. St. Geme, Jr.**, dean, School of Medicine, University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Denver; **Bruce C. Vladeck**, president, United Hospital Fund of New York.

The new senior members are:

**Stefan S. Fajans**, internal medicine, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor; **Frank Falkner**, social and administrative health sciences, University of California, Berkeley; **Bernard Fisher**, surgery, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine; **Jerome Gross**, medicine, Harvard Medical School; **George G. Reader**, public health, Cornell University Medical College.