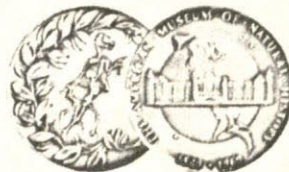


# The American Museum of Natural History

Central Park West at 79th Street New York, New York 10024 (212) 873-1300



CENTENNIAL YEAR -1969

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

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MANAGER OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

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DISTINGUISHED SCIENTISTS, ASTRONAUTS TO RECEIVE AWARDS.

AT CENTENNIAL DAY CELEBRATIONS OF THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Note to Editors : The presentations will take place at 10 PM in the Museum's Auditorium. Members of the Public Relations Office, located on the second floor off the Corner Gallery, will be available to assist reporters and photographers throughout the day and evening.

Five distinguished scientists and the crew of the Apollo 9 will be honored by The American Museum of Natural History on the occasion of its Centennial celebration to be held on Wednesday, April 9, 1969, at the Museum.

The presentation of a Gold Medal to each of the recipients will take place during the Awards Program, following a Centennial Banquet that will be attended by about 700 representatives of science, education, industry, the arts, government and public affairs.

The scientists who will receive "The American Museum of Natural History Gold Medal Award for Distinguished Achievement in Science" are : Theodosius Dobzhansky, eminent geneticist and philosopher who is Professor at The Rockefeller University, where he teaches population, genetics and evolution; Libbie Henrietta Hyman, Research Associate in the Department of Living Invertebrates at The American Museum of Natural History, who is world renowned for her definitive treatise, The Invertebrates; Ernst Mayr, ornithologist and author of the pioneering classic, Systematics and the Origin of Species, who is Director of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University; Margaret Mead, Curator of Ethnology in the Department of Anthropology at The American Museum of Natural History, whose field work, research, teaching and writings have placed her in the forefront of her discipline; and the renowned paleontologist and zoologist, explorer and historian, George Gaylord Simpson, currently Alexander Agassiz Professor of Vertebrate Paleontology at Harvard University and Professor of Geology at the University of Arizona. Dr. Dobzhansky will respond on behalf of the scientists.



The crew of the Apollo 9 spaceship, Colonel James A. McDivitt, Colonel David R. Scott and Mr. Russell L. Schweickart, will be awarded The American Museum of Natural History Gold Medal "For Leadership Among Men in the Search for Knowledge."

The citations honoring the five scientists will read as follows :

"THEODOSIUS DOBZHANSKY, primary theoretician of the genetics of evolution your gift of synthesizing knowledge and arriving at wisdom has given us new understanding of the nature of life and the identity of man. Innovative biologist, concerned philosopher, wise humanist, you have given research a new dimension and communicated the results of your inquiries with clarity and elegance, enriching the literature of science and philosophy. Your studies, conducted over half a century, have contributed greatly to our understanding of the mechanisms of inheritance, of population genetics, and of the evolutionary process. An exacting and peripatetic researcher, your intrepid peregrinations in pursuit of *Drosophila* have led you from Canada to Patagonia and from Australia to Northern Africa -- to the admiration and wonder of your associates. A dedicated teacher, you have given abundantly of yourself to your students and have formed warm relationships with your colleagues both at home in your own laboratories and around the world. The breadth of your vision and the depth of your belief in the social responsibilities of the scientist have led you to help guide your fellow man toward increased insight and enlightenment. In recognition of your outstanding contributions to scientific knowledge and to the improvement of human welfare, we take pride in conferring upon you The American Museum of Natural History Gold Medal Award for Distinguished Achievement in Science."

"LIBBIE HENRIETTA HYMAN, gifted zoologist conversant with life in a multiplicity of shapes and sizes, your careful studies, ranging from the biology of the amoeba to the anatomy of the shark, and your monumental compilations have contributed greatly to our understanding of lower and higher forms of life and markedly furthered the teaching of zoology. Your prodigious treatise, *The Invertebrates*, prepared with meticulous craftsmanship and exhaustive knowledge, is the definitive work in its field. You have done more than any other scientist to awaken interest in the invertebrates through your lucid descriptions of the creatures which comprise such a large portion of the animal kingdom and to which you have devoted so much time and thought. Your fruitful labors have been an inspiration to scholars both young and old. Through your great generosity of spirit you have helped young students to pursue their efforts, and your life work is a model of the intellectual heights to which man can attain. In recognition of your extraordinary competence, your dedicated perseverance, and the magnitude of your contribution to the scientific literature, the Museum which has been your professional home for three decades, takes great pleasure in conferring upon you The American Museum of Natural History Gold Medal for Distinguished Achievement in Science."

"ERNST MAYR, ornithologist, biographer, historian, philosopher, and leader in the fields of systematic and evolutionary biology, you have worked imaginatively to integrate the disciplines of science and to apply the unifying principle of evolution by natural selection to all biology. In your early twenties you had already shown so much promise as an ornithologist that you were invited to join expeditions to the wildest parts of little-known New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, and upon your return you soon became the world's leading authority on the rich and bizarre bird fauna of Australasia. Not to be held within the confines of any one discipline, however, you turned to the probing studies of avian evolution and species formation that led to your classic and pioneering book, *Systematics and the Origin of Species*. This treatise, and your subsequent writings, have helped mold our understanding of the evolutionary process and of life in all its diversity, and have firmly established systematics as an indispensable science. In recognition of your creativity in research and your manifold contributions to the history and philosophy of science, we take great pleasure in conferring upon you The American Museum of Natural History Gold Medal Award for Distinguished Achievement in Science."



"MARGARET MEAD, anthropologist and teacher, as the third generation of an exceptional family in which women have pioneered in assuming intellectual and social responsibility, you have made possible a network of intercommunication among people of different cultures, disciplines, and generations. Your journeys to the South Pacific over four decades have taught us much about both the cultures of primitive peoples and our own society. The deep insight with which you have interpreted your many field studies and the clarity with which you have communicated the results have contributed dynamically to the growth of your profession. Your candor, open mindedness, and inimitable style set you apart as a singularly exhilarating and provocative teacher, and your vast knowledge, sympathetic understanding, and personal warmth have made you a member of the family to many peoples of the world. First and fundamentally a human being, you are one of the rare ones who possess the certainty of being that requires no testing. All your efforts have placed emphasis upon the unity of man beyond all divisiveness and you point always to a common humanity among all men. The charge entrusted to you when you came to this Museum in 1926 was 'to interpret anthropology to the educated public.' In recognition of the brilliance with which you have fulfilled this charge, and of your distinguished scholarship and articulate leadership in planning for the betterment of human life, we take great pleasure in conferring upon you The American Museum of Natural History Gold Medal Award for Distinguished Achievement in Science."

"GEORGE GAYLORD SIMPSON, paleontologist and zoologist, imaginative explorer and historian of the temporal and spatial scope of life, yours has been a signal contribution to the discipline of vertebrate paleontology, to our understanding of the evolutionary process, and to the meaning of science and of life. You have searched for and found among the preserved remains of ancient life the direct evidence of both the unity of life and its incredible diversity. By probing deep into the ethical questions that bear on the future of human evolution and by applying the accumulated knowledge of life in the past to theoretical studies of evolutionary biology you have helped us to achieve an understanding of man's place in the cosmos. You have given emphasis to the ethic of knowledge and helped raise our hopes that man will exercise 'reason and responsible choice' in influencing his own future course for good. You have exemplified the high standards and goals you set for the progress of humanity, never reserving knowledge for your own advantage but participating fully in the interchange and dissemination of knowledge, the 'interthinking' that is, in your own words, 'as essential to cultural evolution as interbreeding is to organic evolution.' In recognition of your prodigious scholarship, your creative contributions to the philosophy and history of science, and of your singular exemplification of the high adventure of science we take pride in conferring upon you The American Museum of Natural History Gold Medal for Distinguished Achievement in Science."

(Photographs can be obtained by requesting them from the Public Relations Office of the Museum TR3-1300, ext. 311, 444 or 481.)

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