

COLLECTIONS HIGHLIGHTS

Inspiring Generations Through Knowledge and Discovery

The Smithsonian's collections reflect the depth and diversity found in the Institution's mission, vision, and values. The following pages highlight exciting additions to the science collections, as well as a look at the Smithsonian's collection of historic, artistic, and cultural artifacts related to the sinking of the Titanic.

Maned Wolf Pups Born January 5

The Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Front Royal, Virginia (SCBI-FR), celebrated the new year with the birth of four maned wolf pups on January 5.

This is the first litter born at SCBI-FR in two years, and will play an important role in helping researchers maintain a viable, self-sustaining population under human care.

"Every pup born here helps us understand more about the biology of this incredible species," said Nucharin Songsasen, a SCBI research biologist. "SCBI has a long history with the maned wolf, both in terms of studying the biology and maintaining the genetic diversity of individuals living under human care, as well as in conserving the animals in the wild."



On Facebook, voters named the female Bella with 281 votes, and the male Rocko with 699 votes. Donors named the other two wolf pups Hope and Peak.

The four pups were born to Salina, an eight-year-old female, and Nopal, a four-year-old male that, like the pups, also was born at SCBI-FR.



Smithsonian Libraries Acquires Bonsai Art & Nature

Dr. Jonathan Singer has donated to Smithsonian Libraries a unique, over-sized portfolio version of his book *Bonsai: Art & Nature* (New York: Abbeville Press, 2012). With unprecedented access to public and private collections in Japan and the U.S., Dr. Singer combined his interest in botany and horticulture with his technical and aesthetic expertise to produce stunning photographs of some of the most extraordinary bonsai in the world. Printed by a chromogenic process, the images have a three-dimensional appearance that accentuates both the beauty and the usefulness of this specialized subject.



Launched aboard the space shuttle Discovery and returned 15 months later, this 12-inch action figure Buzz Lightyear is the longest-serving toy in space.

NASM Receives Buzz Lightyear Flown In Space

Space-ranger Buzz Lightyear, of *Toy Story* fame, became part of the National Air and Space Museum’s popular culture collection in March 2012. Disney Parks partnered with NASA to send Buzz Lightyear to the International Space Station. Interactive games, educational worksheets, and special messages were created to encourage students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The action figure will go on display in the museum’s “Moving Beyond Earth” gallery in the summer.

“We are pleased to welcome Buzz Lightyear into the National Collection; very soon space shuttle *Discovery*—his ride to space—will join him,” said General Jack Dailey, director of the museum. “We feel that Buzz Lightyear’s popularity with young people will make him an important addition to our educational mission and a valuable asset in achieving STEM educational goals.”



Titanoboa was discovered by a team of scientists working in one of the world’s largest open-pit coal mines at Cerrejón in La Guajira, Colombia.

Replica of Titanoboa on View

At 48 feet long and weighing an estimated one-and-a-half tons, a realistic replica of the world’s largest snake is on exhibit at the National Museum of Natural History until January 2013. Scientists believe that a colossal snake related to modern boa constrictors thrived in a hot tropical climate some sixty million years ago, in the era after the mass extinction of the dinosaurs.

The exhibition includes the snake replica and two vertebra casts made

from the original fossils of a 17-foot-long modern green anaconda and the vertebra from Titanoboa, as the giant snake is called. Videos tell the story of this amazing scientific discovery with scenes from the Smithsonian Channel’s two-hour special *Titanoboa: Monster Snake*, which premiered on April 1, 2012.

The life-size replica of Titanoboa was revealed to the public for the first time on March 22 in New York City’s Grand Central Terminal.

Hokusai’s Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji

Hokusai: Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji is on view at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery from March 24 through June 17, 2012. The exhibition highlights the acclaimed woodblock print series by Japan’s most famous artist, Katsushika Hokusai (1760–1849).

Detail, Under the Wave off Kanagawa, by Hokusai.



SONG 1 Transforms Hirshhorn

For nearly eight weeks this spring, internationally renowned artist Doug Aitken is illuminating the entire facade of the Hirshhorn's iconic round building, transforming it into "liquid architecture" and an urban soundscape. Using 11 high-definition video projectors, Aitken seamlessly blends imagery to envelop the museum's exterior, creating a work that redefines cinematic space. A bold commission that will enter the Hirshhorn's permanent collection and enliven its public space, *SONG 1* allows visitors to the National Mall a chance to witness the first-ever work on a 360-degree convex-screen cinema.



SONG 1 mesmerizes from sunset to midnight.

Smithsonian Celebrates the Acquisition of Space Shuttle Discovery

The National Air and Space Museum is planning a festival of activities — *Welcome Discovery* — to celebrate the acquisition of the Space Shuttle *Discovery*. The festival will begin when the orbiter arrives in the Washington, D.C., area on April 17 and will feature four days of space-related activities, including performances, appearances by space pioneers, films, and displays at the shuttle's new home, the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia.

Activities at the Center will kick off on April 19 when *Discovery* will be officially transferred from NASA to the Smithsonian in an outdoor ceremony open to the public. The *Welcome Discovery* festival is presented in cooperation with NASA.



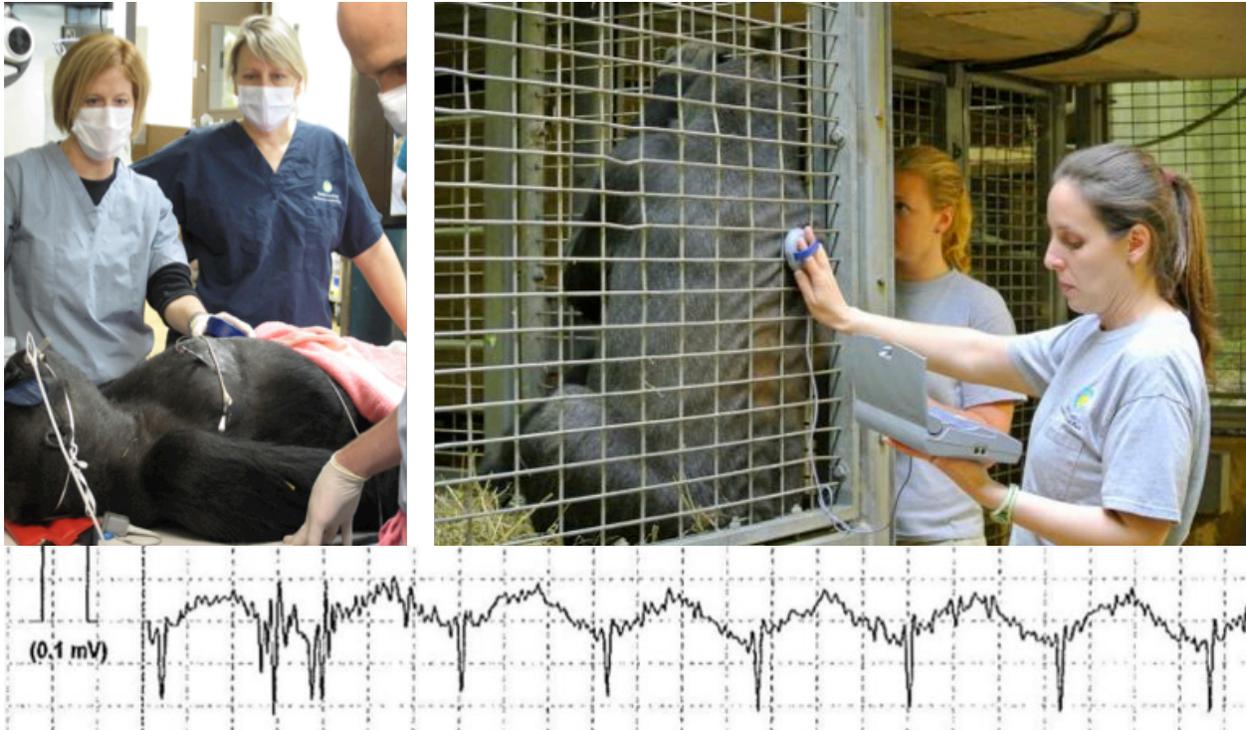
Discovery's final crew, the six astronauts who flew the STS-133 mission in March 2011, bid their spacecraft farewell. From left to right: mission specialists Nicole Stott, Michael Barratt, Steve Bowen and Alvin Drew, pilot Eric Bow and commander Steven Lindsey. Photo courtesy of collectSPACE.

Collectors Group Sponsors Spectacular Demantoid Gemstone Acquisition



Gems larger than a few carats are extremely rare.

The National Museum of Natural History accepted a generous gift of a spectacular demantoid gemstone. The beautiful cushion-cut gemstone weighs 11.24 carats and displays the very rare and highly prized intense emerald green color. This gemstone was recently discovered in the central Ural Mountains near Ekaterinburg, Russia, and is one of the largest and finest faceted demantoids in existence. Demantoid gemstones have been found in Italy, Iran, and Namibia, but the Russian material continues to be the standard by which the gem is judged. This new addition to the collection is one of the largest and finest demantoids in existence, and came as the result of the creation of the new Smithsonian Gemstone Collectors group, whose philanthropic role is to support the acquisition of major gemstones, gem-quality crystals, and minerals by the museum.



Technology for Collections Care: Protecting Male Gorillas against Cardiac Disease

Cardiac disease is the leading cause of death in adult male gorillas in captivity, and the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park (NZN) has taken a lead role in investigating this disease. In conjunction with the Great Ape Health Project, the NZN animal health team implanted an ILR (Implantable Loop Recorder) under the skin of two clinically healthy, sub-adult male gorillas, Kwame and Kojo. An ILR is a small, thumb drive-sized programmable device that is the size of a that can be utilized to continuously record EKG data. This study has many goals: to monitor the heart health of two gorillas that have a high likelihood of developing cardiac disease; to investigate normal cardiac rates and rhythms in fully awake male gorillas; to identify electrocardiogram (EKG) changes prior to the development of clinical signs of cardiac disease; to initiate medical treatment at an earlier stage; and to apply the knowledge gained to saving the entire species.

By using this latest technology while these valuable animals are still young and healthy, scientists can establish normal rate and rhythms in fully awake gorillas. Once normal data is collected and analyzed, even minute changes in the electrical impulses of the heart can be identified, and appropriate treatments initiated at a much earlier stage. This information will improve not only the Zoo's ability to care for its gorillas, but the care of captive gorilla populations as a whole. Of special note is the skilled care by Kwame and Kojo's caretakers, who quickly trained both Kojo and Kwame to present their ILRs to the keepers. It is the first time that data from gorillas can be downloaded wirelessly without the need for anesthesia — an incredible breakthrough on several fronts.

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Sinking of the RMS Titanic: Objects in the Smithsonian's Collections

The *RMS Titanic* struck a North Atlantic iceberg at 11:40 p.m. on the evening of April 14, 1912, and slipped below the waves at 2:20 a.m. on April 15. When the Cunard Liner *RMS Carpathia* arrived at the scene about two hours later, only a few lifeboats of survivors were found in the 28F degree water.

The Smithsonian collections hold many important — and poignant — objects both from and related to the *Titanic*. Several have been featured in recent articles and talks, and others are included in the National Postal Museum's commemorative exhibition *Fire and Ice: Hindenburg and Titanic*. Some of the many *Titanic*-related objects in the Smithsonian collections are highlighted on the following pages.

National Postal Museum

The National Postal Museum opened *Fire and Ice: Hindenburg and Titanic* on March 22, 2012, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the *Hindenburg* disaster and the 100th anniversary of the *Titanic's* sinking. The *Hindenburg* was the largest flying post office ever, and the *RMS Titanic—Royal Mail Ship Titanic*—was the largest floating post office of its day. The Postal Museum exhibition notes the many similarities between the two disasters and features many extraordinary artifacts, including a rare piece of mail sent from the *Titanic*.



Sea Post Clerk Oscar S. Woody's Set of Keys

*These three keys and 24-inch chain were recovered from the body of American Sea Post Clerk Oscar Scott Woody, one of the *Titanic's* five postal clerks. The keys were returned to Woody's widow along with his other personal effects. The Eagle Lock Company manufactured the largest of the three keys, which was used to open a mailbag lock.*



Sea Post Clerk John Starr March's Pocket Watch

*This pocket watch with an engraved gold-plated case was found on the body of John Starr March (1861–1912), an American sea post clerk assigned to the *Titanic*. The watch's hands point to 1:27, probably having stopped on the morning of April 15, 1912, as the ocean liner sank in the North Atlantic. Eyewitnesses stated that the ship's postal clerks worked to rescue the mail as the ship was going down. None of the five postal clerks survived the disaster, including March; two other American clerks, Oscar Scott Woody and William Logan Gwinn; and two British postal clerks James Bertram Williamson and John Richard Jago Smith. March's body was recovered, and his effects, including this watch, were returned to his two daughters.*

National Museum of American History

The National Museum of American History holds one of the most important Smithsonian artifacts related to the *Titanic*: Bernice Palmer's Kodak Brownie camera.

Sometime around her 17th birthday, Canadian Bernice Ellis



received a Kodak Brownie box camera, either for Christmas 1911 or for her birthday on January 10, 1912. In early April, she and her mother boarded the Cunard liner *Carpathia* in New York for a Mediterranean cruise. *Carpathia* had scarcely cleared New York when it received a distress call from the White Star liner *Titanic* on April 14, 1912. It raced to the scene of the sinking and managed to rescue over 700 survivors from the icy North Atlantic. With her new camera, Bernie took pictures of the iceberg that sliced open the *Titanic*'s hull, as well as snapshots of some of the *Titanic* survivors.

Unaware of the high value of her pictures, Bernice sold the publication rights to

Underwood & Underwood for just \$10 and a promise to develop, print, and return her pictures after use. Her father was extremely upset when he learned that she had virtually given away exclusive pictures of *Titanic* survivors and the iceberg that sank the famous ocean liner. Eventually, Underwood & Underwood returned the camera, negatives, and prints to Bernice, and, in 1986, she donated her camera, the pictures, the Underwood contract, contemporary newspaper articles, and her remarkable story to the Smithsonian.

To the left is Bernice Ellis's Brownie camera; below is her photograph of the iceberg the *Titanic* struck. She wrote the following on the back of the photograph:

Titanic struck a North Atlantic iceberg at 11:40 PM in the evening of 14 April 1912 at a speed of 20.5 knots (23.6 MPH). The berg scraped along the starboard or right side of the hull below the waterline, slicing open the hull between five of the adjacent watertight compartments. If only one or two of the compartments had been opened, Titanic might have stayed afloat, but when so many were sliced open, the watertight integrity of the entire forward section of the hull was fatally breached. Titanic slipped below the waves at 2:20 AM on 15 April. The Cunard Liner RMS Carpathia arrived at the scene around two hours after Titanic sank, finding only a few lifeboats and no survivors in the 28F degree water. Bernice Palmer took this picture of the iceberg identified as the one which sank Titanic, almost certainly identified by the survivors who climbed aboard Titanic. The large iceberg is surrounded by smaller ice floes, indicating how far north in the Atlantic Ocean the tragedy struck.



Smithsonian American Art Museum

The collections of the Smithsonian American Art Museum hold several objects of significance with regard to the sinking of the *Titanic*, including one painting recently acquired by the museum: a painting by Francis "Frank" Millet, who died in the *Titanic* disaster.

During the January 22, 1908, meeting of the Board of Regents, Secretary Walcott recommended to the Board that they establish an advisory committee for the new National Gallery of Art (now the Smithsonian American Art Museum). The committee met for the first time on April 16, 1908, and artist Frank Millet was selected to serve as chairman.

Among the business items addressed during the meeting was the disposition of the monumental sculpture of George Washington by Horatio Greenough, which the members recommended be relocated from the east lawn of the Capitol building to the Smithsonian "until it shall find a place in the National Gallery of



Francis D. Millet (1846-1912), Room Interior with Winding Staircase, oil on board, gift of the James F. Dicke Family

Art where it properly belongs." The sculpture now resides in the National Museum of American History.

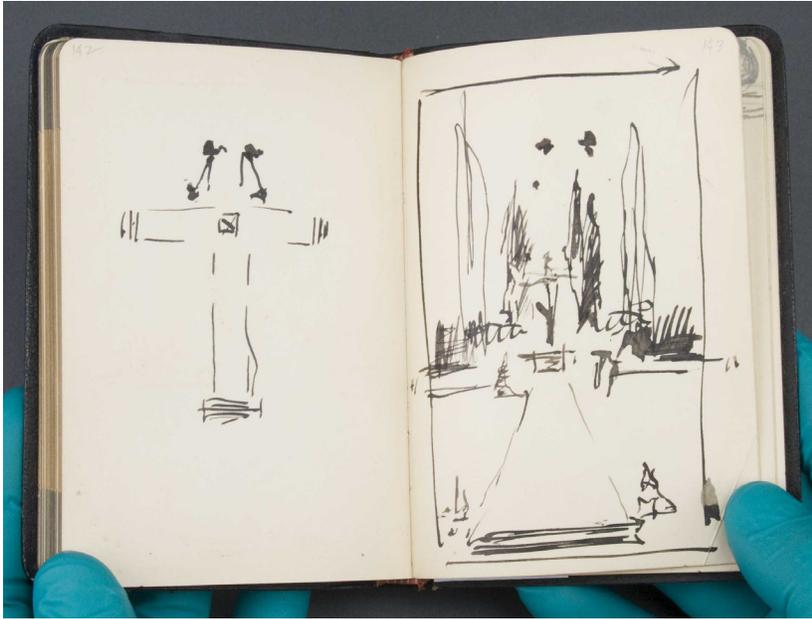
The meeting also was notable in that the Committee

went with the Secretary to the White House to call on President (and former Regent) Theodore Roosevelt.

The museum also owns a folk art piece about the sinking of the *Titanic*. Created by an unknown artist sometime after 1912, the work reflects the impact of the disaster on the psyches of people, including artists, around the globe.



Artist unknown, Sinking of the Titanic, after 1912, oil on glass with mother-of-pearl collage, gift of Herbert Waide Hemphill Jr. and museum purchase made possible by Ralph Cross Johnson



Archives of American Art

The Archives of American Art also hold objects related to the *Titanic*. Among its over 15 million original materials is a letter of condolence from author Henry James to the widow of artist Francis Davis Millet, who perished on the *Titanic*. As previously noted, Millet was the chair of the first advisory board of what later became the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Also in the Archives are the papers of artist Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney. Her designs for the *Titanic* memorial in Washington, D.C., are in the collection. This sculpture, currently located on the Washington waterfront, was dedicated by the women of America to honor the men who lost their lives on the *Titanic*. Above are two of Whitney's sketches for the *Titanic* memorial.