

Staff news

APRIL 1983



The new wing was formally opened with a reception hosted by the Managing Director. Among those attending were (bottom left, from left to right): A. Kafka, Dean of the Executive Board; W. Robichek, Advisor to the Managing Director; and C.F. Schwartz, Director of Adjustment Studies and Associate Director of the Research Department. The picture on the far right shows Mr. de Larosière with M.M. Moore, Fund Librarian.

A STRIKING SIMPLICITY OF LINE and sense of visual openness, due largely to soaring skylights, are among the dominant features of the glass-walled gallery connecting the Fund atrium and the new wing of the headquarters building. This impressive background was the setting for a small informal reception hosted by Managing Director J. de Larosière on April 21 on the occasion of the official opening of the addition, part of which is already occupied. The reception, essentially for members of the Executive Board and senior staff, was also attended by representatives of the architectural

firm and contractors who handled the construction of the new wing.

The gallery, which is reminiscent of a sun room or winter garden, carries through the architectural mood and decorative motifs of the main building: marble floors, lighting fixtures made of clusters of glass bell-jars attached to bronze sconces, a generous display of flowers and plants, benches of fine-grained teakwood, and a large double staircase flanked by fountains and small waterfalls. In felicitous contrast, the connecting gallery overlooks the gothic arches, leaded windows, and multi-hued stone walls and

slate roof of the adjacent Western Presbyterian Church, founded in 1854.

The third floor of the new wing houses the more ornate cloth-and-oak paneled Meeting Hall, which is partly cantilevered over 20th street. With a configuration owing much to the angled sound and interpretation booths, the Meeting Hall is not only handsome but eminently

THE HISTORY OF THE FUND covering the seven years 1972-78 is now nearing the final stages of preparation. A draft of Volume I (Narrative and Analysis) was recently sent to Executive Board and senior staff for comments, and the draft of Volume II (Narrative and Analysis, continued) should be ready for circulation within the next few months. Comments on these drafts will provide the basis for revisions to be incorporated into the final manuscript. Each of these volumes contains 500-600 single-spaced pages that detail those events that contributed to changes in the Fund's operations or in its role in the international monetary system. The Executive Board has already approved the contents of Volume III (Documents), and the Editorial Division of EXR is now in the process of preparing this material for publication.

The sequel is the result of more than five years of research and painstaking work by Fund Historian Margaret Garritsen de Vries, who also wrote the History for 1966-71 and a major part of the History for 1945-65. The latest Fund History covers a period marked by special turbulence in the foreign exchange markets--the seven years that followed the Smithsonian Agreement of December 1971.

The Fund History is commemorating two very important anniversaries in 1983. It was 20 years ago in April that a group composed of three senior staff members, including J. Keith Horsefield, began work on the first Fund History. Publication was planned for 1965, to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Fund. However, writing the book proved to be much more involved than expected, and the three-volume work was not published until 1969.

Mrs. de Vries was one of the three staff members in charge of writing the History. She had joined the Fund in

functional as well. The Hall has been designed to seat up to 500 people, but it can be divided into two smaller spaces through the use of a sliding partition. At the time of the reception, the Meeting Hall was already set up for its inaugural use--the April 24-29 meetings of the Group of 24 and of the Fund/ Bank Development Committee.



Mrs. de Vries is now in the process of finishing Volume II of the Fund History for 1972-78

1946 as an economist with the Research Department, was later promoted to Assistant Division Chief in what is now the Exchange and Trade Relations Department, and in 1957 became a Division Chief in the Asian Department--the Fund's first woman Division Chief. She left the Fund in 1958 to care for her two young children and worked as a Professor at The George Washington University. In April 1963 Mrs. de Vries returned to the Fund on a part-time flexible-hour basis to help write the first Fund History.

The publication of the first three volumes came at a time when the Fund was enjoying even greater success than in the past, especially owing to the creation of the SDR. Consequently, Mrs. de Vries proposed that a sequel be produced and she agreed to write it. By the early 1970s, new developments in the interna-

tional monetary system and in the Fund were taking place with such frequency that a decision was made to create a new permanent post that would be in charge of writing new sequels to the Fund History. May 1, 1983 commemorates the 10th anniversary of the creation of this post and also marks Mrs. de Vries' return to the Fund on a full-time basis as its Historian.

Although Mrs. de Vries has done most of the research (as well as the writing) for the latest sequel, she has had some help. Editorial Assistant Faye Olin, who joined Mrs. de Vries' office in 1975, is in charge of overseeing the production side and has helped with the preparation of statistical tables. Milton K. Chamberlain, of the Records Division, has supplied Mrs. de Vries with files and documents (as well as with innumerable facts) since 1970. Anne C.M. Salda, of the Joint Library, keeps Mrs. de Vries well informed about the publication of new books and articles that might be of use in her work. Mai Stuart has put many chapters of the two new volumes through the word processor and has set up the Lexitron work since 1978, while Louise Pike, who helped type the History for 1966-71, has been typing manuscripts, transcribing from dictaphone tapes, and helping with the Lexitron work.

The next stage for the History for 1972-78 will be to make revisions in light of the comments from Executive Directors and senior staff. The material will then be sent to the Editorial Division, which will edit the three volumes and prepare them for the printer. It is

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM was filled to capacity on March 24-25, as Executive Directors and invited observers gathered on the 12th floor to attend the IMF Conference on International Money, Credit, and the SDR.

The main goal of the Conference was to provide a forum in which different ideas about economic issues of relevance to the Fund could be discussed openly. It was hoped that these discussions would give participants and observers alike some new insights into the way modern academicians are adapting economic theory to reflect more closely real-world deve-



Mrs. de Vries and her assistant, Faye Olin, at work.

expected that the volumes will be published in the latter part of 1984.

The Fund is unique among international organizations in that it publishes sequels to its History on a regular basis. However, several other regional and international organizations are now working on, or considering writing about, their histories. Among the organizations that have contacted Mrs. de Vries for information about the Fund's experience with history-writing are the African Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Latin America, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations, UNICEF, and the World Bank.

lopments. The Conference was under the overall direction of William C. Hood, Economic Counsellor and Director of the Research Department.

Participants in the Conference included professors from highly respected universities in the United States and abroad, central bankers, and senior officials from private corporations and research organizations worldwide. Although space constraints limited the number of observers at the Conference, most staff members who requested permission to attend were accommodated. Observers included two well-known former members of the

staff--Frank A. Southard, Jr., former Deputy Managing Director, and Edward Bernstein, who was the first Director of the Research Department-- and Senior Consultant Sir Joseph Gold, who was specially invited to attend.

The Conference opened with an address by Managing Director J. de Larosiere. Topics discussed by the participants included (1) an evaluation of the present international financial system, (2) international liquidity and monetary control, (3) international balance of payments financing and adjustment, (4) the

Alexandre Kafka and J.J. Polak, and staff members C. David Finch, Director of the Exchange and Trade Relations Department, Walter O. Habermeier, Counsellor and Treasurer, Mr. Hood, and Rudolf R. Rhomberg, Deputy Director of the Research Department. The last session was devoted almost exclusively to a discussion by the Executive Directors and the participants of all eight topics reviewed during the Conference. Deputy Managing Director William B. Dale delivered the closing remarks.

The success of a conference such as



The Conference brought together a number of distinguished economists.

viability of creating a new world banking system and the manner in which such an arrangement would operate, (5) the role of an international reserve asset such as the SDR in the present system, (6) composite currency units and their use in the private markets, (7) the role of the SDR as a means of finance, and (8) international monetary cooperation. The Conference was divided into nine sessions, each of which included the presentation of a paper on one of the topics. This was followed by a discussion of each paper by preselected participants; all sessions concluded with an open-floor discussion. Each session was chaired by an Executive Director or senior Fund official. Chairmen included Mr. Dale, Executive Directors

this one is ultimately determined by the contribution it makes to economic theory and policy. However, the organizational aspects are just as important. The task of coordinating all organizational activities to ensure that the Conference went smoothly was in the hands of George M. von Furstenberg, who is also in charge of the seminar series sponsored by the Research Department. Alan Wright, of the Secretary's Department, was responsible for overseeing all arrangements involving the Executive Board, and Barbara Hughes saw to it that the registration process flowed efficiently.

The job of coordinating press relations and publicity was supervised by Charles Gardner and Hellmut Hartmann.

Charles Bielaski was in charge of seeing that all participants were comfortably housed at the Watergate, while Robert Noe was responsible for all financial matters. Ensuring that the physical arrangements for such a conference are ready on time can be a taxing job, but James Kaiser and Margaret Miller came through again. As always, food arrangements for official receptions were ably handled by Henry Langstadt and the food service staff. Martha Haldeman, secretary to Mr. von Furstenberg, went beyond the call of duty, while Mila Tuason and Eugene Williams were stand-out performers

ANY NEWCOMER TO WASHINGTON who thinks that the metropolitan area does not offer too many suitable leisure pursuits could learn much from talking with Cornelia (Corrie) Ernst, a translator in the Bureau of Language Services. Calling Mrs. Ernst an active person would be an understatement: if it were possible, she would manage to keep busy eight evenings a week. Mrs. Ernst espouses the philosophy that it enriches life to "get involved." So that is precisely what she has done.



Corrie Ernst enjoys a moment of relaxation following a performance of "Faust."

Born in the Netherlands, Mrs. Ernst came to the Washington in 1949 and worked at her country's embassy until 1963; she joined the Fund shortly thereafter. Her

in controlling access to the Board Room and setting it up for the sessions.

Feelings about the Conference were graciously summed up by Mr. Kafka, who spoke as Dean of the Board at the end of the panel discussion held during the last session. He thanked the presenters for their illuminating papers and recommended that their findings be studied further. Mr. Dale, who delivered the closing remarks, expressed the hope that the insights gained through the Conference will have positive implications for economic thinking both in the short term and in the longer term.

long residency in this city qualifies her, for all practical purposes, as a native Washingtonian. As such, she enjoys telling newcomers about the many rewarding opportunities that the nation's capital has to offer.

Mrs. Ernst is involved in many different activities. She has sung with the London Philharmonic Choir and, more recently, has appeared with the Swiss Folklore Group of Washington and with the National Lyric Opera Company. Her photograph appeared in the Washington Post late last year in connection with the Opera Company's rendition of "Faust." By the time the paper was published, however Mrs. Ernst was already starring in "I'm Herbert," a two-person play presented by the All Souls Players, a local theatre group. The pun-filled play tells the story of an aging couple who spend their time reminiscing about their previous (and numerous) spouses. She also attends international folk dancing and singing sessions several times a week, either simply for fun and exercise or for serious rehearsals for performances with the Swiss Embassy troupe.

Mrs. Ernst's artistic talents were in evidence during a one-week Coverdale Managerial Skills training course in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia. Staff members who were lucky enough to attend the same seminar as Mrs. Ernst remember fondly the relaxed and happy atmosphere she created for other members of the group by composing and singing a number of humorous songs. In addition, she was an inspiring cheerleader during an impromptu ping-pong tournament (which took

place outside seminar hours).

She also dedicates part of her free time to activities that are unrelated to the arts. Mrs. Ernst hikes with several area groups and works occasionally with the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. Members and nonmembers of the Club, in collaboration with the Park Service, meet one Saturday a month to build and maintain hiking trails in the greater Washington area. This activity gives participants the opportunity to contribute to the community, get plenty of exercise, and savor the outdoors.

All these activities would certainly be enough for most of us, but Mrs. Ernst is undoubtedly special. She spends some of her time at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church's Community Club, where she tutors inner-city teenagers. The youths are required to attend these lessons in order to participate in the various recreational activities offered by the Club, such as basketball games and an occasional weekend outing. According to Mrs. Ernst, the tutors not only contribute much to the students, but also learn a great deal from them. New tutors are always welcome.

As if all this were not enough, Mrs. Ernst is a member of the Washington Torch Club, whose main goal is to "unite professional persons in bonds of better understanding of each others' professions." Meetings are held at the Cosmos Club on the fourth Tuesday of each month, with a summer recess. The monthly meetings include a social hour, dinner, lecture, and discussions on civic, reli-

gious, philosophical, scientific, economic, artistic matters, as well as on other intellectual and cultural topics.

Staff members interested in obtaining additional information on any of these



Mrs. Ernst was a magnificent Muriel in "I am Herbert."

activities are welcome to contact Mrs. Ernst on extension 60932. Be prepared for a pleasant experience. (This article was contributed by Susan Jaquet.)

HOWARD GAMSER, Chairperson of the Fund's Grievance Committee, died on April 20, 1983 at the age of 64. A U.S. national, Mr. Gamser had served since August 1980 as the first Chairperson of the Grievance Committee.

In addition, he was a practicing attorney in Washington, D.C. as well as a lecturer in labor relations at Georgetown University. Mr. Gamser had also lectured on labor law at the London School of Economics and at Columbia University. He was a member of the National Academy of Arbitrators, Chairman of the

Federal and Foreign Services Impasses Panels, and a member of the Board of Directors of the American Arbitration Association. He was the author of a number of papers published in various professional journals.

Professor Frank Dugan, the Fund's Ombudsman, who had known Mr. Gamser for about 20 years, recalled that he was "a superb teacher and an excellent arbitrator, whose services in the important positions which he occupied will be sorely missed." He is survived by his wife, a son, and a daughter.

ART LOVERS GATHERED IN THE ATRIUM on April 12 for the Art Society's annual prize drawing. Fifteen prizes were awarded and winners had their pick from



Bahram Nowzad, wearing the hat that moments before had held the winning numbers.

a number of works selected by the Art Society Committee from the Franz Bader Gallery. Even those who did not win a prize did not go away unsatisfied: empa-



Prize winners show off their selections.

nadas, pates, and cheeses were abundantly available to ensure that not only artistic needs but physical ones as well were met. And, of course, there was wine aplenty.

The first prize in the regular prize drawing, which was conducted by Bahram Nowzad, President of the Art Society, was won by Olivia Carolin. Other winners in the regular drawing were Rudolf Rhomberg, Rosa Vera-Bunge, Peter Kohnert, John Hicklin, Donal Donovan, Horst Ungerer, Fernando Montenegro, Staffan Gorne, and

Inge Walker, in this order. Door prizes were won by Alice Masters and Denio Zara as well as by two guests. In addition, Parvaneh Khosropur won a print by Karma-kar as a special door prize.

TWENTY-YEAR STAFF. A. Gilo Muirragui, Bureau of Statistics, and Robert Effros, Legal Department, commemorated twenty years of service in March.

MARRIAGES. Prabhavathi Devi Job, of the Asian Department, married N.V. Wickramasinghe on March 6, and Gumersindo Oliveros, of the IMF Institute, married Concepcion de Montagut on March 17.

BABIES. A son, Richard Wilson, was born on January 12 to Barbara H. and Richard W. Jarvis; a daughter, Annalisa Janella, was born on February 2 to Josephine and Adriano Sarmiento; a daughter, Jessica Michelle, was born on February 27 to Mr. and Mrs. Willem G. L. Evers; a son, Pierre H. was born on March 6 to Mr. and Mrs. Patrick D. Peroz; and a son, Samir, was born on March 22 to Deborah and Abderrahmane Drissi.

RESIGNATIONS. Rita E. Simmons resigned

from the Fund in March.

RETIREMENTS. Robert C. Carter, of the Secretary's Department, and John S. Price, of the Administration Department, retired in March.

STAFF TRANSFERS. The following staff members transferred: in February, Ignacio Tanderziarz, from WHD to AFR; Van Can Thai, INST to FAD; Reinold Van Til, from EUR to FAD; Edward Walden, from TRE to BUR; and Lindsay Wolfe, from BUR to MED; in March, Anne Doize, from BUR to AFR; George Khatchadourian, from RES to BUR; Amalia Kriegsmann, from FAD to WHD; Alice McGann, from AFR to EUR; Elke Meldau-Womack, from AFR to RES; Michael Niebling, from MED to AFR; Sheila Odell, from FAD to INST; Gisele Rooz, from BLS to AFR; Carlos Sanson, from WHD to the Office in Geneva; and Richard Selby, from ETR to the position of Resident Representative in Haiti.

New Members of Fund Staff



Mr. Carlos Alfaro
Guatemala - FAD



Mr. Cyrille Briancon
France - BUR



Ms. Carol Greer
U.S.A. - ADM



Mr. Yun-qi Han
China - OED



Mr. Bernard J. Nivollet
France - EP



Mr. J.K. Orleans-Lindsay
Ghana - OED



Mrs. Therese Perlmutter
Egypt - INS



Mr. Robert St. John Porter
U.S.A. - CBD



Mr. Michael F. Rahill
USA - ADM



Mr. Tawfik Ramtoolah
Mauritius - OED



Ms. Marsha Rubin
U.S.A. - ETR



Mr. Christian Schiller
Germany - FAD



Miss Zeinabou Sekou
Niger - OED



Ms. Shahpassand Sheybani
Iran - EUR



Mr. Eric Sidgwick
France - CBD



Miss Divina Cruz Tenorio
Philippines - TRE



Mr. Martin Toro
Venezuela - OED



Mrs. Maria Teresa Tuason
Philippines - SEC



Mrs. Linda Unterholzner
U.K. - ETR



Mrs. Inger Walker
Norway - OED

A GROUP SHOW OF A FEW ARTISTS is being held from April 16 to July 16 in Adam's Rib Restaurant, 2100 Pennsylvania Ave.,

N.W. Among the artists is Anne de Font-nouvelle, who is exhibiting eight paintings. She is concurrently exhibiting at the State National Bank, in Bethesda, Md.

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