

JULY 6, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. J. Res. 196 -- Honoring James Smithson. This bill expresses to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, the appreciation of the people of the United States for the bequest of James Smithson, which was used to establish the Smithsonian Institution.

The Smithsonian Institution is the legacy of James Smithson, a wealthy 19th Century English scientist who willed his fortune, equivalent to \$500,000, to the United States "to found in Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men."

The Congress accepted the bequest in 1836 and approved legislation ten years later to establish the Institution and create a Board of Regents to govern it.

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