

# SMITHSONIAN

## CONTENIDO

VOLUMEN 41, No. 8, DECEMBER 2010

### FEATURES

- 36 **Mission Orangutan.**  
Biruté Mary Galdikas has devoted her life to saving the great ape. But the animal now faces its greatest threat yet.  
*Bill Brubaker.*  
Photographs by *Anup Sham and Fiona Rogers.*
- 46 **Searching for Buddha.**  
An Afghan archaeologist insists a third giant statue lies near the cliffs where the Bamiyan Buddhas once stood.  
*Joshua Hammer.*  
Photographs by *Alex Masi.*
- 54 **Dinosaurs' Living Descendants.**  
Extraordinary fossils found in China show once and for all that birds evolved from dinosaurs.  
*Richard Stone.*  
Illustrations by *Stefen Chow.*
- 64 **The Gift.**  
Seventy-five years later, the writer discovered an astonishing secret about his grandfather's yuletide generosity during the Great Depression.  
*Ted Gup.*
- 70 **Marvel Arch.**  
A photographer chronicles the construction of the Hoover Dam's breathtaking new bypass.  
*Jamey Stilling.*  
Text by *T. A. Frail.*
- 74 **Under the Spell of San Miguel de Allende.**  
Ever since American Stirling Dickinson arrived there in 1937, the Mexican town has been a magnet for artists and U.S. expatriates.  
*Jonathan Kandell.*  
Photographs *Ann Summa.*
- 84 **Picturing Tomorrow.**  
Bad weather is on the horizon in artist Alexis Rockman's eerie yet riveting paintings.  
*Cathleen McGuigan.*

## DEPARTMENTS

- 4 **From the Editor.**  
Glorious Quests.
- 8 **Letters.**  
“Winner Take All”
- 10 **Indelible Images.**  
ALL SHOOK UP.  
Elvis and Nixon shake for the camera.  
December 21, 1970.  
*Peter Carlson.*
- 13 **Wild Things.**  
SHRIM PACK A PUNCH.
- 16 **Your Smithsonian.com**  
PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA.
- 18 **Digs.**  
FATE OF THE CAVE BEAR.  
What caused the demise of one of Europe’s great beasts?  
*Andrew Curry.*
- 25 **Around the Mall.**  
Crocheted Coral Reef.  
26 **From the Castle.**  
Up With Science.  
30 **The Object at Hand.**  
Christmas Dollhouse.  
31 **Q&A** *Tim Gunn.*  
32 **What’s Up.**  
Carved Jade.
- 34 **This Month in History.**  
The Great Fire of New York.
- 88 **Presence of Mind.**  
REHABILITATING CLEOPATRA.  
The Egyptian queen was more than just a seductress.  
*Stacy Schiff.*
- 108 **The Last Page.**  
Daughter Knows Best.

## ON THE COVER

A young adult male orangutan named Gary visits Camp Leakey. In Borneo.  
Photograph by *Anup Shah and Fiona Rogers.*  
Inset: *Goran Tomasevic / Reuters / Corbis.*