American Guide Exhibition Scheduled.

A preview of the material to be included in the American Guide and the approximately 150 state, city, and sectional guides being prepared by the Federal Writers' Projects of the Works Progress Administration will be held in Washington, at the National Museum of the Smithsonian Institution, beginning September 17th and running until October 8th.

The exhibition will include photographs, sketches, and paintings of points of interest throughout the country; maps, both historic and modern; photostats of documents of historical interest; and extracts of important Guide articles.

Exhibits have been selected from the mass of information and illustrative material assembled by the nearly 6,000 workers of the Federal Writers' Projects, most of whom have been given Guide assignments during at least part of their time with the projects.

Viewing the displays, the public will have an opportunity to study the type of material which will be available in the finished Guides--tours mapped, new points of historical interest noted, latest information on every part of the country made available.
Already local guide pamphlets have appeared in New York City, Arkansas, Minnesota, Idaho, Michigan, and Ohio, and others will be off the presses before the exhibition closes. The District of Columbia Guide, the only local guide which will be published by the Federal Government itself, will go to press shortly after the exhibition ends. Funds for publication of other local guides are being provided by public bodies in those areas.

The Guide is the major work of the Federal Writers’ Projects, a unit of the Works Progress Administration art, music, theatre, and writing program which functions under the Division of Women’s and Professional Projects, headed by Ellen S. Woodward, Assistant Administrator.

Since the beginning of the year, writers and persons of related talents, most of them from the relief rolls, have been at work on the Guide and other Writers’ Projects. By July most of the Guide material had been collected in the field and had been formed into tentative state guides. From this material, now being edited, rewritten, and published in some states and localities, the six-volume American Guide will be formed by further condensation and rewriting in Washington.

The American Guide will be published by the Federal Government, each of its six volumes covering a geographical region of the country, such as the New England area. The first volume of this final product of the Guide program will go to press early this winter, with the other volumes following at approximately one month intervals.

Some 12,000 volunteers—governors, mayors, college presidents, historians, editors, architects, transportation and hotel officials—have cooperated with the paid writers in collecting and preparing material for articles. Some have themselves written articles requiring special technical knowledge.
Several national organizations have appointed State representatives to cooperate with the Federal Writers Projects' workers. These are:

American Institute of Architects,

Association of American Railroads,

National Business Traffic Association with the National Association of Motor Bus Operators and the

American Hotel Association

Similar cooperation has been extended through the memberships of other organizations without the appointment of regular State representatives. These are:

American Automobile Association,

American Steamship Owners' Association, and the

Air Transport Association of America.

Most of these organizations will have representatives at the Federal Writers Projects' exhibition.