

Argo (ship) sails May 15 on Lusiad Expedition

May 11, 1962

The research ship Argo of the University of California's Scripps Institution of Oceanography sails from the Broadway pier at noon, Tuesday, May 15, on a 13-month scientific exploration of the Indian, north Pacific, and south Atlantic Oceans.

Her first port of call will be Manila, on June 23. She will arrive in Singapore, June 23; Zanzibar, July 24; Colombo, Ceylon, August 25; Cochin, India, September 25; Port Louis, Mauritius, October 26; Fremantle, Australia, November 29; Port Darwin, Australia, December 23; Djakarta, Indonesia, January 14, 1963; Visakhapatnam, India, February 1-1; Zanzibar, May 15; Capetown, South Africa, June 1; Trinidad, July 4; Panama, July 10; and will return to San Diego late in July 1963.

The voyage is known as Lusiad Expedition. It is named after the epic Lusiads of Luis de Camoens, Portuguese poet of the 16th century, whose poem celebrates the exploits of Vasco de Gama, Portuguese discoverer of the sea route to India.

Lusiad Expedition is the Scripps Institution's second contribution to the International Indian Ocean Expedition, 1960-65, the first having been an exploratory voyage of the Argo to the Indian Ocean last year, Monsoon Expedition.

The Indian Ocean Expedition will see 25 ships from 15 nations engaged in oceanographic studies in the Indian Ocean during the next few years. In June Scripps' ship Horizon sails for the Indian Ocean via the Mediterranean to join Argo in two-ship studies., returning early in February 1963, via the Pacific.

Argo will sail about 77,500 miles during the expedition. Between 40 and 60 scientists will participate in various parts of it.

Support for the Expedition is being received from the Office of Naval Research and the National Science Foundation. Six months of Argo's time in the Indian Ocean will be spent on a study of the equatorial current systems, with cooperation of the Narragansett Marine Laboratory of the University of Rhode Island. Most of the remainder of the period will be devoted to geological-geophysical exploration of the central and eastern portions of the Indian Ocean.