

Argo (ship) returns to San Diego after exploration of Indian and Pacific Oceans

December 17, 1964

The Scripps Institution of Oceanography research ship Argo is scheduled to return to San Diego Wednesday, December 23, after an eight and a half month, 37,000 mile, scientific exploration of the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Argo sailed from San Diego harbor last April 8 on Dodo Expedition. The geological and geophysical expedition was titled after the large extinct bird about the size of a goose which formerly inhabited the island of Mauritius, one of the ship's ports of call.

The expedition is Argo's third contribution to the International Indian Ocean Expedition, 1960-65, the first having been Monsoon Expedition,, an exploratory voyage to the Indian Ocean in 1961. The second, Lusiad Expedition, was a 13-month scientific exploration of the Indian North Pacific, and South Atlantic Oceans begun in May, 1962.

The current expedition has been broken into 10 segments with specific problems studied in each. Some 34 scientists and technicians, most of them from Scripps, have taken part in studies in one or more of the 10 expedition legs.

During the expedition, studies have been made on the shape and structure of the ocean bottom, the distribution of sediments along the ocean floor, the principal ocean currents, the heat flow from the interior of the earth, and shipboard meteorological measurements.

The main work carried on in the area of the Indian Ocean was sediment coring and rock dredging, and bottom photography.

Argo, a 213-foot, steel-hulled converted rescue and salvage ship built by the Navy in 1944, is scheduled to stay at home barely a month before leaving again for the Eastern Pacific. She sails February 1 and will return March 31. She will spend April, May, and part of June in port, and then sail June 15 on a four-month expedition to the Bering Sea.