

International Society for the Study of Time

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APERIODIC NEWSLETTER No. 3.

It was a year ago that Aperiodic Newsletter No.2 was issued. These twelve months have witnessed the publication of our second Proceedings, consolidation of the organization of our Society, and the preparation of our third conference. Here are the details.

Publication of The Study of Time II

The proceedings of our conference in Japan were published in September 1975. In contents, the volume is as impressive and substantial as the first one; in appearance it is certainly as pleasing as Time I; its length is about the same; but unlike Time I, Time II contains some seventy photographs and ten drawings. Contributors should have received their complimentary copies by now. Springer Verlag informs me that contributors may purchase further copies at 33% discount. The publication of Time II was somewhat delayed. For ime III we plan to eliminate the major causes of delay.

Society Matters

On May 31, 1975 the Council Pro Tempore, created according to the terms of our Constitution and called together by the President, met in Williamstown, Massachusetts. A copy of the minutes is available to members upon request to the Secretary.

An application for tax exempt status as a non-profit educational organization has been filed with the Internal Revenue Service in Washington. If granted, this will enable us to use privileged postage rates (for the U.S.A. only) and will make membership payments deductible contributions for American citizens.

On September 26, 1975 a proposal for partial support of our third conference was filed with the National Science Foundation (No. SOC-7604570-000). If granted in its entirety it will cover the expenses of organizing and conducting the meeting as well as transportation for the officers. We have also been trying to obtain funds from other sources for other peoples' travel, but so far without success.

Third Conference

An updated program is enclosed.

I have received almost fifty suggestions from Members, putting forth the names of scholars and scientists who might be valuable participants. Some of them are now on the program either as Speakers, or as Discussants, some have been invited as Observers. Unfortunately, it was impractical to accomodate all those recommended. I hope that those concerned will understand the opposing pressures under which one operates when organizing a meeting that should be excellent as well as manageably small.

By now, all Speakers should have heard from their respective Discussants; they have been requested to correspond with the Speakers directly.

The lengths of papers delivered to the Editors should be close to 6,500 words. The

available speaking time is 40 minutes; the time for discussion is 20 minutes. If the 40 minutes appears to the Speaker insufficient for the reading of the complete paper, it is suggested that an abbreviated version be prepared for verbal delivery.

If those planning to attend have not yet returned their preliminary questionnaires on transportation and room and board to the Connecticut Education Extension, Inc., please do so now. Some time early in February a final questionnaire will be sent out, based on the preliminary statement of participants, offering the least expensive transportation and room and board prices available, corresponding to the individual requests.

The location of Alpbach in the Tyrolean Alps is particularly lovely; the scenery is beautiful, walks beckoning. Families are invited and welcome.

In Aperiodic Newsletter No. 2, an invitation was extended to all Members to come and attend, if not a Speaker or Discussant, as a Member at large. If you are not on the program and are a Member, and have not yet indicated your plan to join us, you are most welcome to do it now.

Following the survey conducted by Dr. North in 1973, and some ideas discussed at the Council meeting, our third conference can boast of a few novel features. All of them are experimental, subject to test and general approval.

◦ Most noticeable is the ten day length of the conference. This arrangement was urged upon us by some who grew weary sitting morning, afternoon, and sometimes in the evening as well, at Oberwelfach and Lake Yamanaka while the beauties of nature waited outside. Considering our firm policy of consecutive papers only, the expectation that a few papers will have to be rejected, and the need to allow for one complete hour for each paper, the need for some rest, a business meeting, opening and closing ceremonies, and one social occasion, the length of the conference is a matter of simple arithmetic.

◦ By the time of the conference, one Discussant will have been assigned to each Speaker. Selection took into account the Discussant's preferences. Discussants selected from outside the Speaker's discipline were generally favored.

◦ We intend to hold an exhibit to display works by participants. Please mail to Alpbach, if you wish, one copy each of your books that pertain to the study of time, and bring along reprints of pertinent papers.

◦ There is great need to emphasize the inter-(rather than simply multi-) disciplinary nature of our conference. We plan to have "idiot tables" set up at meal times for information on specialized concepts for those outside the field.

◦ Otherwise, eating arrangements will be by random selection, as in Oberwelfach.


The Study of Time III

So as to secure papers of high quality and also make the proceedings available without undue delay, the Council in its May meeting accepted the recommendations of the Editors of Time II as follows:

- (1) Papers must be received in acceptable literary English.
- (2) The Editors will seek the assistance of expert participants in editing some of the papers.
- (3) Papers recommended for rejection will be referred to at least two outside reviewers.
- (4) Speakers will be encouraged to try and strike a balance between technical expertise and "popular" presentation. The reader is to be envisaged as a sophisticated intellectual, but not in one's own specialty.
- (5) Deadlines for the receipt of papers will be strictly kept.
- (6) Since it is hoped that successive conferences will build on one another, contributors will be encouraged to consult earlier proceedings and refer to prior papers, if this appears useful.

It is felt that the meeting, and its proceedings, will be a success to the extent that they are professionally competent, yet not broken into a mosaic of distinct parochialisms. The thoughts are urged upon the Speakers and Discussants as they prepare their contributions.

Please keep me posted about your work as it relates to the study of time.


J. T. Fraser
Founder and Secretary