

*International Society for the Study of Time**Aperiodic Newsletter*

September, 1982

No. 9

FROM THE EDITOR

While we are all awaiting the details coming shortly in the next newsletter of our 1983 conference in Castello di Gargonza, I want to call your attention to a new column, debuting in this issue, called "Profile". It is most fitting that an organization such as ISST - with its international membership, accomplished in a wide range of disciplines - take time to note the achievements of its outstanding members. Items like Profile help to remind us of the interdisciplinary philosophy of our organization and keep us acquainted with one another. This issue we begin with a profile of George Rochberg, American composer.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What follows must be, at the present date, an interim report. The next Newsletter, scheduled for publication in February, will be prepared after the meeting of our Council has been held in October at Williamstown. At that later date we can supply information from our Treasurer and our Membership Chairman and also from our Founder and Secretary who will provide a full set of directions about our 1983 conference in Italy.

Meanwhile I venture a preliminary comment about the boldly conceived overall topic of our conference and how it seems to have been greeted with enthusiasm by everyone who has heard of it, both in China and in the West. Our Society has always sought to embody an interdisciplinary approach to our subject, but this 1983 conference extends the quality of interdisciplinary study to a new dimension.

It has been heartwarming to find how our colleagues in China have responded to our proposal with enthusiasm as was demonstrated in its having been endorsed by two learned academies in China, one representing the Natural Sciences (Academica Sinica) and the other representing the Social Sciences (The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences).

It will be evident how the topic has attraction for various components of our scattered constituency in the West, as for example for those of our members whose principal interest is in time and the humanities. In that humanist-oriented connection I was interested in the comments of a reviewer in the London Times Literary Supplement

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(July 10, 1981) who noted how Chinese life and attitudes have been affected by a keen sense of time past--very different from the view of the past in the West today--or certainly in America at least. As he writes:

"Can any country compare with China in the widespread literacy of its constant historical references? The past is ever present in the Chinese mind."

George Ford

THE FOUNDER'S COLUMN

Reasons for selecting Time, Science, and Society in China and the West as the major theme of the 1983 conference have already been given in Aperiodic Newsletters six, seven and eight.

Practical preparations began with a letter to Senator Abraham Ribicoff of Connecticut, asking him for a copy of the agreement for cooperation in science and technology between the American and the Chinese governments, signed by President Jimmy Carter and Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping in January, 1980.

This document led us to several organizations concerned with scholarly exchanges between the United States and China. Our horizons were further widened by consulting a CIA Research Report on Chinese educational and scientific organizations that was advertised for sale in Science News and by reading the publications of the Committee on Scholarly Communication with the People's Republic of China. The groundwork was completed by conferences with Dr. Joseph Needham, FRS, in Cambridge and Professor Sivin in Philadelphia.

Many places around the world were considered for the possible location of the meeting, including the People's Republic itself. For many reasons Castello di Gargonza, a contact established by Professor Albert Mayr, appeared to us as by far the best choice.

Castello di Gargonza is a completely rebuilt medieval hilltop village among the Tuscan hills with an elevation of 500 meters above sea level in the middle of a vast wooded area. It commands a splendid view of the Val di Chiana and, on clear days, the frontiers of Umbria. It is an ideal place for what has been called cultural tourism.

The restoration was planned, conducted and completed under the direction of Dott. Roberto Guicciardini. One of his ancestors, Francesco Guicciardini was the author of the monumental Storia d'Italia, written in the early sixteenth century.

Six-hundred and seventy-nine years before our scheduled conference a Ghibellini exile named Dante Alighieri participated in Gargonza at an assembly of his party. But the facilities have changed since then.

J. T. Fraser

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REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

The date of our fifth conference is July 3-9, 1983. Its place: Castello di Gargonza, Monte San Savino, Arezzo, Italy.

Official invitation to all Members and Corresponding Members in good standing, transportation and reservation details and other relevant information will appear in Aperiodic Newsletter No. 10.

The Council of the Society will meet on October 10 to consider the recommendations of the Conference Committee.

Preferences are given to papers which are (1) professionally mature and complete in themselves, (2) relevant to the general -- though not necessarily to the specific -- topic of the conference and (3) likely to combine with the other papers to yield a coherent and profitable program for the conference and lead to a substantial record, The Study of Time V.

Using these criteria, it will be necessary to select about twenty-five papers from the thirty-six proposed.

PROFILE

Newer members of the Society may not have realized that the distinguished American composer George Rochberg has been a member of the I.S.S.T. since the 1973 Conference in Japan. His opera THE CONFIDENCE MAN (with libretto by his wife Gene) received its world premiere at the Santa Fe Opera this summer. To give a brief overview of his accomplishments, one turns first to a recent catalog that lists 17 fellowships, 3 honorary doctorates, 6 major awards and prizes, 30 commissioned works over the period 1956 - 1983, some 28 major compositions for various large ensembles, 24 chamber works (including his seven quartets, of which numbers 4, 5 & 6--the "Concord Quartets"--are scheduled for 1982 release on RCA), numerous solo pieces, and a total of 31 recordings. These statistics are impressive, but they still fail to convey either the scope or flavor of Rochberg's contributions. I.S.S.T. members, for example, will be particularly interested in his three published articles dealing with time in music: "Duration in Music," in The Modern Composer and His World (University of Toronto Press, 1961), pp. 56-64; "The New Image of Music," Perspectives of New Music 2 (1963): 1-10; and "The Structure of Time in Music," in The Study of Time II (Springer-Verlag, 1975), pp. 136-149. Since 1948 he has taught in Philadelphia and is currently Annenberg Professor of Humanities at the University of Pennsylvania. Listening to his many and attractive compositions is the only way to get a sense of Rochberg's distinctive style and compositional personality. I can only add a summary comment that reflects my long admiration: Rochberg's artistic integrity and deep convictions have given him the courage to break away from the various schools, isms, and in-groups that have dominated the musical scene for much of this century; as a result he has evolved a strongly personal idiom that is at once an affirmation of, and a rapprochement with, our musical past.

Lewis Rowell

BOOKS, ARTICLES, LECTURES, SYMPOSIA

A REPORT ON MEMBERS' AND CORRESPONDING MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

The purpose of this column is to inform the membership about time-related activities of Members and Corresponding Members.

The present list brings the number of citations published in these Newsletters to about 350.

Please send all material, carefully edited, to the Secretary. Deadline for the next issue is January 15, 1983.

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- "Time and Nonverbal Communication," Journal of Popular Culture, 8, 1979, pp. 658-66.
- "Silence, Mind-Time Relativity, and Interpersonal Communication," Third Conf., International Society for the Study of Time, Alpbach, Austria, July 1-10, 1976.
- "Chronemics: The Study of Time in Human Interaction (with a Glossary of Chronemic Terminology)," Communication: Journal of the Communication Association of the Pacific, University of Hawaii, 6, 1977, 1-30.
- "Chronemics: Time and Organizational Communication," Communication: Journal of the Communication Association of the Pacific, University of Hawaii, 7, 1979, 81-97.
- "Personal Time: Hello-Goodbye-Inbetween," Fourth Conf. of the International Society for the Study of Time, Alpbach, Austria, July 1-10, 1979.
- "Silencing and Stilling Process: The Creative and Temporal Basis of Signs," in Proceedings of the Second Congress of the International Association for Semiotic Studies, University of Vienna, July 2-6, 1979.
- "The Time Dimension in Intercultural Communication," Communication Yearbook 3 Dan Nimmo, ed. (New Brunswick, N.J.: Transaction Books), 1979. Also published in: Communication: J. of the Commun. Asso. of the Pacific, U. of Hawaii, 8:1, 1980 pp. 169-81. This paper was reprinted in: L. Samovar, T. Porter, and C. Nemi Jain eds., Intercultural Communication: A Reader, 3rd, Ed., (New York: Wadsworth, 1981). pp. 290-300.

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"The Temporal Assumptions of Scientific Thought and Method" Lecture, (Univ. of Guam Marine Laboratory faculty and students), 1981.

"How Americans Use Silence and Silences to Communicate," Communication Asso. of the Pacific-Japan Conf., Tokyo, June, 1982.

"Psycholinguistic Time: A First Approximation," XIII International Congress of Linguists, Tokyo, Aug., 1982.

"The Relationship Between Time and History," position paper, (UN Univ. sponsored seminar), Philosophical Institute, Freie Universitat Berlin, July, 1982.

The Temporal Transformation of the World: Cultural Time and Tempos in Transition (Tokyo: United Nations University), 1982, (in press).

J. T. Fraser

The Genesis and Evolution of Time -- A Critique of Interpretation in Physics, Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press and Brighton: Harvester Press, 1982. 205 pages.

Michael Heller

The Science of Space-time, Tucson: Pachart, 1981. 255 pages.
Encountering the Universe, Tucson: Pachart, 1981.
Questions to the Universe, Tucson: Pachart, forthcoming.

L. Nathan Oaklander

"Does the Russellian Theory of Time Entail Fatalism?" read at the American Philosophical Association, Milwaukee, 1981, and the Royal Institute of Philosophy Conference on Space, Time and Causality, Keele, U.K., 1981.

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"Time and Becoming: A Limited Defense of a Russellian Theory of Time," read at the Seventh International Ludwig Wittgenstein Symposium, Kirchberg am Wechsel, Austria, 1982.

Waldemar Voise

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