

"but let Time's news  
Be known when 'tis  
brought forth"

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# Time's News

An  
Aperiodic  
Newsletter

January, 1987

*International Society for the Study of Time*

No. 14

All correspondence to:

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Newsletter Editor  
P. O. Box 429  
Amherst, MA 01004

### From the Editor

Assuming Susan Schwarze's mantle as editor of the Society's newsletter, my first impulse is one of gratitude for her services, but also sympathy for her having borne up under the inherent diffuseness of the role. My hope is to provide some greater definition of that role, as did she.

I'm in book publishing and, from my decade of experience in a professional editorial position, I'm convinced the often self-effacing stance of an editor is an emergent from having to cope almost daily with the question of how one can address a non-receptive and perhaps non-existent public? Assuming the editorship of the Society's newsletter presents a remarkably different task—of addressing a receptive and decidedly existent public in a constructive way.

But I do not feel I'm a stranger to the Society. I have exchanged correspondence with many of you over the years and that discussion has taught me much and made me feel at home. With this in mind, I am hoping that a slightly changed format for the newsletter will help bring this same experience to others. It is my hope that these changes will provide a still additional impetus to engage in those forms of discourse which knit together and add shape to a group of concerned scholars. A small number of new columns are proposed here, all of which I hope members will find stimulating and useful. Your active participation in all is enthusiastically invited.

Our new logo comes from The Winter's Tale and was suggested by the Founder and Secretary of the Society. It seems most appropriate for a publication in which we announce some of the newest scenes in the study of time.

### The President's Column

In American political life, it has become a tradition for the president to report annually to Congress on the "state of the union" (which, also by tradition, is almost always perceived as being "good"). In my first

communication to the ISST membership, I wish to present a similar view of the state of the Society—as I see it—together with some pleasant reflections on our 1986 conference and some thoughts on current problems of the Society and what we ought to be doing about them.

The first order of business is to thank a number of persons who have given much of their time and energy to the Society during the last three years: outgoing President John Michon, now enjoying a well-earned sabbatical year at Carnegie-Mellon University; J. T. Fraser, whose ceaseless attention to the Society's planning and communication is known to every member; Mark Aultman, who has proved himself an able steward of our meager finances; Sam Macey, who continues to oversee our membership procedures with grace and efficiency; and also retiring Council members Hans Agren, Kenneth Denbigh, Frank Haber, and Masanao Toda. The name of our late and beloved friend and colleague Nathaniel Lawrence is also missing from the new Council roster; he has been, and will be, missed in so many ways.

As I reflect on last summer's conference, it seems to me that it may have been the most successful of the four conferences I have attended since joining the Society. Three of the reasons have names—Gordon Bevans, whose organizational skill and tireless attention to detail are completely beyond description, and Ariane and Jos, our two conference stewards from the University of Groningen. Previous conferences have been organized in a less formal manner, and the success of this year's meeting was in large measure due to the skill of our secretariat. It suggests a moral for future meetings. The amenities of Dartington Hall should also be recognized: our conferences have been and (as long as I have any say in the matter) will be at interesting and attractive sites, but this summer was something quite special. We knew we could expect a lovely and atmospheric setting (although we little realized we would find ourselves in the midst of an outdoor production of Hamlet, with Polonius as one's neighbor at the local pub!), good food, and comfortable meeting facilities at Dartington Hall—what we did not expect was the extraordinary flexibility, thoughtfulness, and personal service of the Dartington Hall staff, and particularly Rob Jones. The conference also demonstrated, once again, the value of a central theme, in this case "Time and Mind;" it seems to me that most of the papers managed to address this theme directly and, as a result, the conference achieved a high degree of unity. My final memory is Professor



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Gerald Whitrow's eloquent banquet address, which demonstrated so professionally and so convincingly the premise on which the ISST was founded, namely, that substantive issues can be presented in a manner which renders them accessible across those invisible but formidable boundaries that separate our individual scholarly disciplines.

Turning now to the state of the Society, it seems to me that we can look to the future with considerable confidence: we are healthy—our membership continues to grow, our financial resources are modest but stable, we enjoy the services of a dedicated and experienced group of officers, future planning is well advanced, and—most of all—we continue to add to our record of prestigious publications. But, at the same time, I see cause for concern in at least five areas.

(1) Ours is, at times, an uneasy coexistence of disciplines. One word binds us together and, as a consequence, it is easy to feel frustration with the diversity of contexts for this word and the lack of a common vocabulary, set of working assumptions, and agenda. Perhaps this is among the reasons why (2) we do not hold our membership as well as I would like. All societies are like living organisms, but I have the distinct impression (and I hope I am wrong) that our "dropout rate" is higher than it should be. Perhaps it is an inevitable result of the elusive nature of our common quest, perhaps it is a consequence of a membership spread across the world, and perhaps (a heartening thought!) it suggests that research into the nature and problems of time is gradually becoming more acceptable to the major professional societies within single disciplines.

(3) I also have the impression that the Society is still not as visible as it ought to be. I am constantly amazed when I discover, as I do very often, that many scholars with an intense interest in, and a continuing program of research into, issues of temporality have yet to discover our publications! There is a moral here for all of us: if your institution does not have The Study of Time volumes on the shelves, ask your librarian to order them while they remain in print; if you have any connection with a scholarly journal, see if they would be willing to review the series of relevant articles from The Study of Time. It is also frustrating at times (4) to see that some major scholars see no advantage in joining the ISST, unless, perhaps, we are willing to tailor our activities to their special needs: it is our responsibility to convince such persons that they have something to gain from the special type of forum the ISST provides. Realism suggests that people do not join a society merely to give—they must be persuaded that they can gain something for their own work.

And finally (5) we continue to be dependent on the

time and energy of one person, J. T. Fraser. Twenty years from now, when the then-president writes a column similar to the present one, we all hope that Dr. Fraser will continue to devote his life to the Society's business, but realistically we must begin to plan for a different mode and scale of operation after his retirement. And this brings me to goals.

At some point within the next few years, perhaps as early as our next conference, we must begin planning seriously for a revised secretariat—one which will surely require a level of expense for which the Society is not now prepared. Our operations currently feature more of a division of labor than formerly, but this is no more than a step in the right direction. Dr. Fraser will surely maintain his involvement with the Society, and I personally hope he can be persuaded to serve indefinitely as our Secretary, but—if and when he decides to step down from this office—we will face a challenge we have not faced before. I hope we can begin to think about this contingency, build up our financial reserves in anticipation of future expenses, and plan for a smooth transition of responsibilities when the time comes.

A second goal that has been proposed is for the Society to register officially within a particular country, to make it easier for members to obtain support for their travel to conferences. This suggestion was rejected by the Council last July, because (1) we received advice from our legal counsel that, at this time, the disadvantages outweighed the potential advantages, and—more convincing to me—(2) that our studies showed that registration requirements differed greatly from one country to another and, consequently, that the advantages would not be available to more than a few members. But, as far as I am concerned, I do not regard the general question of registration as a dead issue; I am ready to support it as soon as it can be shown that its merits outweigh its demerits, and the question will continue to be studied.

Our third and major goal is, as it has been, to maintain a steady record of excellence in publication. The Study of Time 5 (University of Massachusetts Press) is now available, and preparations for volume 6 are under way. I urge members to acquire back issues of The Study of Time while they are still available; once they go out of print you will have lost your opportunity to acquire the history of the Society.

A fourth goal is to develop our membership base while maintaining quality. The Council has decided (wisely, in my opinion) to maintain our policy of requiring an advanced degree and a record of research and scholarly publication as qualifications for membership. Last summer's decision to merge the two categories of Members and Corresponding members has suggested, to



some, that we need to reinforce membership requirements to keep the quality high and merit the respect of the scholarly community; there is some sentiment for a provision requiring sponsorship by two current members of the Society, but for now the matter remains under discussion. But I would like to emphasize this point: developing our membership in a responsible way is the obligation of each member, and I hope you will encourage your talented colleagues to consider the benefits of ISST membership.

As always happens at conferences, certain ideas seem to be "in the air!" Two such ideas seemed to be floating at Dartington Hall last July: (1) that the next conference, for the first time, should be held somewhere in North America, and (2) that a possible theme might be "Time and the Arts." Much as I would like to see such a theme, because of my own field (music), I am recommending against it, on the grounds that what we need at this time is a broadening, not a focusing, of the Society's efforts. In my opinion, the next conference, while it may include a significant number of papers addressing problems of time in the arts and humanities, should be an occasion for taking stock of what has been accomplished during the Society's first twenty years—in all fields of interest to our members. On the other hand, it seems clear to me that a North American conference is certainly overdue, and—depending on the prevailing currency values—might be a distinct advantage for a large number of our members. All these decisions, of course, must await the responses to the excellent questionnaire prepared by Jack Weihaupt and his committee, to which I hope you have already responded. If not, I urge you to complete and return this questionnaire as soon as possible and, if you have any other concerns or suggestions, please write to me at the address shown on our letterhead.

My only other exhortation is addressed to our many new members. If at all possible, start planning now to attend our next conference, which will probably be in 1989. You will not get a proper sense of the flavor, the enormous energy, and the congenial fellowship of the Society until you come to one of our international conferences. We always need your support, your dues, your research and publication, and your advice—but, most of all, we need your presence. There is no other society quite like the ISST, and I know of no other society capable of making the collective contribution that we can make: think about how your own work can benefit from the perspective of other disciplines, and how you can communicate your own work more widely and more effectively. How can you help us? How can we help you?

Lewis Rowell  
Indiana University

### The Founder's Column

This summer at Land's End I thought of the expanding intellectual horizons of ISST, now that the Society left its childhood and entered adolescence. My thoughts found pleasing company in the image of the sea which, beyond its geographical horizon, reached for the New World. This play of reflections brought to mind certain parallels between the practice of medicine in New England—on the other side of the water three thousand miles west by southwest—and the interdisciplinary study of time

During the last fifty years the general practice of medicine in America declined rapidly. At some places it has vanished altogether, having been replaced by the work of specialized physicians. But the need for family doctors persisted and for that reason, first in Maine, Vermont and Massachusetts then elsewhere, general practice was reborn under the name, family practice.

Family practice in medicine is now defined by the Accreditation Committee of Graduate Medicine as "a comprehensive specialty."

The historical advances of science and industry brought with them the need for specialization. During the last fifty years, however, that need ceased to be a mere necessity for a division of labor. It has acquired, instead, a dimension of moral imperative and hence a mandatory way of life for all professions and occupations.

But the need for having integrated views of matter, life, mind, and society persisted and if anything, because of the fragmentation of contemporary knowledge, it has greatly increased.

The interdisciplinary study of time is a suitable framework for such an integrative enterprise and, when so considered, it is also a "comprehensive specialty." ISST mastered the skill necessary for conducting a profitable conference on this family practice in the world of the intellect. Specifically, at the Dartington Hall conference we succeeded in creating—and maintaining—an intellectual climate for a free, critical exchange of views among specialists who hold different assumptions about the nature of reality in general and the nature of time, in particular.

Our guiding principle, one to which we have not always been true but that has never been out of the mind of our successive office-holders, has been this: to constitute a group of men and women with established professional identities, who also possessed high degrees of literacy beyond their fields of primary concern. That this is a realistic undertaking was illustrated by the excellence of many of the papers, by the spirited and well-informed exchanges that followed



their presentations, and by the vibrant atmosphere of the meeting in general.

With the gifts and energy of a maturing adolescent, we began to test—as I see it—the techniques and the boundaries of validity of the interdisciplinary study of time. By the metaphor of a helix, we seem to be ready to return to the many-sided programming of the first conference, but at a much higher level of sophistication. Instead of a beginner's luck, we may now depend on an acquired know-how.

As a place of meeting Dartington Hall offered a great deal of weathered dignity; Gargonza had history, charm and grace; Alpbach had its inspiring vistas, Oberwolfach the atmosphere of accomplished professionals. Taken together with Lake Yamanaka, these places of our past meetings represent a taste for beauty, seriousness, and distinctness. I hope that ISST will be able to continue holding its conferences at these or similar venues: away from college campuses, commercialized conference centers, motels, Disneylands, big-city hotels and the watering holes of the business world.

J. T. Fraser

#### The Secretary's Report

All papers read at the Dartington Hall conference have been received, albeit a few of them rather late. Target date for the publication of Time and Mind: The Study of Time VI, comprising selected papers from last year's meeting, is mid-1988.

The Evaluation Committee chaired by Professor John G. Weihaup has prepared and mailed a Questionnaire to each member in good standing. Your detailed, constructive critical responses will be summarized by the Committee and reported to the Council for its guidance in planning the next conference. Completed questionnaires are due to be returned by January 15, 1987.

Changes in our Constitution, approved at the business meeting of our sixth conference provide that:

the Council may permit professional societies dedicated to the study of time in a specialized intellectual discipline to become affiliated with the Society upon such terms as the Council may deem best, subject to the provision of Article II of the Bylaws concerning the interdisciplinary character of the Society's conferences.

One application has been received thus far. It is from the Project on Time and Organization, (PTO), founded in 1985 by Professors Allen C. Bluedorn and

Robert B. Denhardt at the School of Business and Public Administration, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211.

The purpose of PTO is to promote the study of the dynamics of organization—such as organizational rhythms, modes of information processing and planning, and new temporal technologies—and disseminate the results of its research. Thus far it has sponsored lectures, conducted a symposium, established a working paper series and has a number of proposals on the combined topics of time and organization pending. PTO has fifty members, from the U.S.A. and five other countries.

Group affiliation with ISST is a new type of undertaking., How best to serve the interest of such groups is something the Council will have to explore on a case to case basis. If you are a member of a professional society dedicated to the study of time in a specialized intellectual discipline, and if the group would be interested in becoming an ISST affiliate, then ask an officer of the group to contact the Secretary, ISST.

Changes in the Constitution also eliminated Corresponding Membership. Accordingly, our membership application form was redesigned. A copy of the new form and a copy of our new circular about the Society are enclosed with this newsletter. Please pass them on to associates and friends interested in applying for ISST membership.

The Treasurer's yearly report will be mailed, during the second half of January, 1987, to all members in good standing. The same communication will carry a bill for dues to all members who have not prepared it for the calendar year 1987.

J. T. Fraser

#### From the Regional Correspondents

This new column will rely upon the reporting of events, conferences, and other time-related activities by a number of regional correspondents. With their kind agreement, four correspondents have been appointed to date:

##### Western Europe

Professor Henri Barreau  
Fondements des Sciences  
3, rue de l'Universite  
67084 Strasbourg CEDEX  
France



Poland

Dr. Michael Heller  
Ul. Postancow Warszawy 13/93  
PL-33110 Tarnow, Poland

China

Professor Qiu Renzong  
80 Xinkai Lu, Dondan  
Beijing, China

South Africa

Dr. Robert Thornton  
Department of Social Anthropology  
University of Capetown  
Rondesbosch, Cape 7700  
Republic of South Africa

More appointments will follow

Professor Barreau reports that an international conference titled "Time and Identity" was held at the Universita Degli Studi di Parma in April, 1986. It has also been learned that an international conference titled "Time and Man" was held at the Universita Degli Studi di Firenze in November, 1986. Information on either conference is available from the editor of Time's News upon request.

Report from the Membership Chairman

I am pleased to report that as of November 2986, I have on record a total of 192 members. The Membership includes at least one person from each of the following thirty-one countries: Algiers, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Child, China, Denmark, Finland, France, West Germany, Greece, Holland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, and the USSR, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

I am also happy to say that a new application blank and write up have now been prepraed for sending to prospective members. The forms have been redrafted to reflect the Constitutional changes made recently, and to convey more information on ISST's activities.

Samuel L. Macey  
Professor of English  
University of Victoria

Books and Publications

While notable publications have been listed in the newsletter in the past, one purpose of this new column will be to bring works to the attention of members which other members feel are of some special interdisciplinary importance. It is my hope that members of the Society will forward to me listings of such publications with a brief sentence or two as to their potential utility to others—very much short of a review or even adequate description—the aim is for what used to be called "apercus."

Another purpose of the column will be to provide information concerning forthcoming publications and other publishing information. Two listings which have been made available to me include the forthcoming volumes:

Jeremy Rifkin, Time Wars: The Primary Conflict in Human History, (Holt: 1987), and

Michael Dunlop Young, The Metronomic Society: Notes on Cyclical and Linear Time, (Harvard U. P., date unknown).

John E. Smith's "Time and Qualitative Time," Review of Metaphysics, 40 (September, 1986), pp. 3-16 interestingly attempts to "rehabilitate . . . the kairos aspect of time and to show its philosophical importance." The author also cites James L. Kinneavy's "Kairos: A Neglected Concept in Classical Rhetoric" in Rhetoric and Praxis: The Contribution of Classical Rhetoric to Practical Reasoning. Jean Dietz Moss, ed. (The Catholic University of America Press, 1986).

Book Discounts: A number of discounts on books are available to ISST members only. The Study of Time II, III, and IV are all available from Springer-Verlag. Write to:

Springer-Verlag New York, Inc.  
attn: G. Kiely S496  
175 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10010

Volume II (ISST price: \$34.80), III (ISST price: \$32.50), IV (ISST price: \$40.50).

The University of Massachusetts Press lists the following as available to ISST members at 20% discount:

J. T. Fraser, et al., eds., Time, Science, and Society in China and the West: The Study of Time V, (ISST price: \$28), J. T. Fraser, The Genesis and



Evolution of Time: A Critique of Interpretation in Physics, (ISST price: \$16), J. T. Fraser, The Voices of Time, 2nd ed., (ISST price: \$12.75), Bertrand Helm, Time and Reality in American Philosophy, (ISST price: \$22), David Park, The Image of Eternity: Roots of Time in the Physical World, (ISST price: \$11.60), Lewis Rowell, Thinking about Music, (ISST price: Hb.: \$20, Pb.: \$8). Add \$1.50 per order for shipping and handling.

### Notes, Insights, and Letters to the Editor

In the economist Donald McCloskey's words, "the mutual persuasion known as knowledge in history or in economics, as in physics or literature, is a social event, like a coronation or a day in the wheat pit." It is hoped that the addition of this column in the newsletter will be seen as an opportunity to engage in mutual persuasion or acknowledge agreements and differences by providing still another forum to develop topics or areas in new ways or new directions.

While the Editor will be receptive to discussion of any type related to time study, I especially invite stimulating, brief explorations of inter-specialty topics. Intellectual convergences are essential to the reduction of fragmentation while building on the strength of specialization. I thus see this column as a call for suggestions for issues and themes for discussion, calls for aid in research or for information relevant to specific problems, the provision of information concerning works of potential importance to those who work in other fields, such as known pitfalls of research in particular directions. Here, too, members can inform the Society of that which is "noteworthy:" new appointments and efforts by members of the Society, notices of funded projects, or research which seems especially promising. One might also make calls for resolutions. At times, the Editor will request brief reflections on particular issues from selected individuals.

Submission of materials: Letters and other materials, when received, will be reviewed in the ordinary ruthless way in which an editor must work. It is hoped, of course, that the writer will ruthlessly edit his or her own materials, in order that I may concentrate on the tender, loving aspects of the role. Letters will be selected carefully and comments will not be taken lightly, though light comments are also welcome. All materials, however, will be edited when necessary, with the ancient canons of decent exposition in mind:

simplicity, lucidity, brevity, warmth. Any communications will be included in Time's News at the Editor's discretion.

The following formal announcement is from the latest applicant for affiliation with the Society:

The Project on Time and Organization was begun in July, 1985 by Allen C. Bluedorn and Robert B. Denhardt who serve as its co-directors. The Project is a series of activities designed to promote research on the temporal aspects of organizations and to facilitate the dissemination and utilization of organizationally relevant temporal knowledge. A major activity of the Project is the establishment and coordination of a network of scholars interested in the temporal aspects of organizations. Anyone interested in joining the Network of the Project on Time and Organization should send their name, address, phone number, and a brief description of their specific temporal interests to: Allen Bluedorn, The Project on Time and Organization, 225 Middlebush Hall, University of Missouri-Columbia, Columbia, Missouri 65211 (Phone: 314-882-3089).

A Musing from the Editor: A key word being bandied about in a variety of contemporary academic fields is "rhetoric." One hears such phrases as "the rhetoric of economics," or "the rhetoric of science." It is a crucial concern for those of us who are students of time. This becomes especially evident when ideas of time are actually incorporated into the very texture of a field of endeavor, when they become "constitutive," in short when they cease to be ideas in the ordinary sense of concepts and become symbols, or even myths.

And rhetoric is a crucial concern when we engage in the art of persuasion appropriate to interdisciplinary questions. Unlike the past, few scholars today view themselves as intellectuals, a faded title, once appropriate to those who crossed disciplinary boundaries, and which expressed a once cohesive, widely acknowledged heritage either within or across cultures. The relentless pulverization and endless categorization of knowledge accompanying the growth of specialization and bureaucratization raises the fundamental problem of the reintegration of knowledge. Rhetoric—the paying of attention to one's audience—the study of all the ways of accomplishing things with language—seems fundamental to students of time in any discipline.





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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
TELEPHONE (604) 721-7236  
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Dear Colleague:

The International Society for the Study of Time, founded in 1966, is a professional organization of scientists and humanists interested in probing the dimensions of the idea and experience of time and the role it plays in the intellectual and emotive affairs of man. The chief aims of the Society are (1) to encourage the study of time in all its aspects, and (2) to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas among its members.

These tasks have been pursued primarily through the organization of conferences and the publication of selected papers from these conferences. The Society's multidisciplinary, international conferences have provided a unique stimulus to its members. The Society also publishes a Newsletter, and plans are being made for the publication of a journal.

Our constitution, a copy of which may be found in The Study of Time 5, specifies that "there shall be no conference of the Society devoted to discussion within a single intellectual discipline." However, it has been found useful to focus upon certain integrative themes that can be addressed from the viewpoints of the many disciplines represented in our membership. The dates, locations, and publications resulting from these conferences are as follows:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| First Conference: Oberwolfach, West Germany, 1969                            | <u>The Study of Time 1</u> (New York & Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1972)   |
| Second Conference: Lake Yamanaka, Japan, 1973                                | <u>The Study of Time 2</u> (New York & Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1975)   |
| Third Conference: Alpbach, Austria, 1976                                     | <u>The Study of Time 3</u> (New York & Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1978)   |
| Fourth Conference: Alpbach, Austria, 1979<br>Theme: "Beginnings and Endings" | <u>The Study of Time 4</u> (New York & Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1981)   |
| Fifth Conference: Castello di Gargonza, Arezzo, Italy, 1983                  | <u>Time, Science, and Society in China and the West: The Study of Time 5</u> (Amherst: The University of Massachusetts Press, 1986) |
| Sixth Conference: Dartington Hall College, Totnes, Devon, England, 1986      | <u>Time and Mind: The Study of Time 6</u> (Amherst: The University of Massachusetts Press, In preparation)                          |

Our seventh conference is tentatively scheduled for the summer of 1989.

Requirements for membership include evidence of professional standing and/or a record of accomplishment in research and publication, to the end that membership is likely to be of benefit both to the potential member and to the Society. These normally include a doctoral degree earned at an accredited institution of higher learning and refereed scholarly publications. Membership dues are \$25 per year, payable only after an application has been approved by the Membership Committee.

Very truly yours,

Samuel L. Macey, Professor of English  
Membership Chairman of ISST

