

# A Report of the Cleveland Meeting December 26–30, 1950

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**T**ECHNICALLY, the 117th Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science opened the morning of Tuesday, December 26, 1950, with the beginning of registration and the holding of the first scientific session—on astronomy, arranged by Section D. A great deal of planning and preparation, by a great many people, in an impressive variety of occupations, had culminated in the unlocking of the doors of the Cleveland Public Auditorium.

At noon the largest and most diversified Annual Science Exposition the AAAS has ever held was opened. At 1:30 P.M. the first program of the Science Theatre began on schedule, and soon thereafter the sessions of several other sections, and the first part of an Association-sponsored symposium on Science and International Understanding, were called to order.

The final event of the five days was the evening address of the Academy Conference, "The Emperor's New Clothes, or *Prius Dementat*," given by Professor H. J. Fuller, who had been invited to repeat the address he had given as retiring president of the University of Illinois Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa.<sup>1</sup>

Between the first and last events there were 211 sessions, meal functions, and public lectures. There were no less than 27 symposia sponsored by the Association and its sections. Though the last four days were full, there were relatively few conflicts of programs in the same field—and when there were any, it was possible to go from one room to another in the same building.

Officially the 117th Meeting is over—but no great conclave of scientists in diverse fields of science can be without stimulating effects that will continue indefinitely. Though not as large as the exceptional, record-breaking New York meeting of 1949, the Sixth Cleveland Meeting was one of the best-balanced, and it afforded an opportunity for specialists in all the principal fields of science to meet in joint programs and to discuss informally those problems that all scientists have in common.

*Planning the meeting.* Those who attend the sessions of a large scientific meeting, unless they have shared the experience of making some of the arrangements, may not be in a position to appreciate the amount of planning and work that goes into the smooth functioning of all sessions. The cooperation and service of many individuals are utterly essential. The convention city is decided upon, usually several years in advance, and only after a preliminary survey indicates that the physical facilities are adequate and satisfactory. The decision to meet in Cleveland was made in the summer of 1949, after 2,500 sleeping rooms and all necessary public space in the hotels had been guaranteed. Early in February, all meeting rooms were checked for capacity, provisions for darkening, public address systems (if necessary), locations of electric outlets and switches, the number of obstructive pillars, and furnishings.

Very early in the spring, the secretary of each section

<sup>1</sup> This amusingly presented but thought-provoking classic was published in *THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY* for January 1951.

and society must estimate the probable number of sessions and the expected attendance at each. Soon afterward, headquarters hotels for related societies are decided upon, and meeting rooms assigned in as logical a manner as possible. At Cleveland, the Hollenden was the only feasible choice for the multiple sessions of the five zoological societies, and the Statler for the three science-teaching societies and related sections I and Q. Most of the sectional programs which, from prior experience, were expected to draw large audiences, were placed in the large meeting rooms of the Public Auditorium; the public lectures and other special sessions in the evening necessarily were divided up among the Auditorium and the hotels. With no hotel more than eight blocks from the Auditorium, the meeting, potentially, was a most convenient one. The extra cold weather, however, caused some inconvenience.

*Local committees.* The aid of key citizens of the community that has invited the Association to convene must also be enlisted early in the year, if the meeting is to be a success. In Cleveland, the AAAS and all who attended the meeting are indebted to an exceptional group of local committees under the active direction of General Chairman Charles J. Stilwell, president of the Warner & Swasey Company.

To Mr. Stilwell, to each of the following, and to all members of their committees, the Association expresses its grateful appreciation: The *vice chairmen*, T. Keith Glennan, president of Case Institute of Technology, and John S. Millis, president of Western Reserve University; Leslie E. Frye, director, Division of Visual Education, Cleveland Board of Education, *chairman*, Equipment and Projection Committee; James H. Rand III, president, J. H. Rand and Associates, *chairman*, Exposition Committee; Allen T. Perry, procurement manager, Harshaw Chemical Company, *chairman*, Finance Committee; David Dietz, science editor, Scripps-Howard Newspapers and the *Cleveland Press*, *chairman*, Publicity Committee; and Bruno Gebhard, director, Cleveland Health Museum, *chairman*, Tours and Entertainment Committee. These local committees contributed time, thought, and effort, and they worked together to an unusual degree. Their assistance was invaluable in making the 117th Meeting a memorable one.

*Attendance.* The attendance was lighter than had been expected, a condition especially regrettable in view of the excellence of the programs and the calibre of the record-breaking Annual Science Exposition. The meeting was better attended, actually, than was realized at the time—as the figures given here indicate. Attendance was conspicuously low on the first and second days. The principal factor was the severity of the weather, with its combination of snow and subzero temperatures. Trains from the East ran from three to six hours late; many flights from Eastern cities were cancelled; and snow-covered highways discouraged many of those who had expected to drive from points in Ohio and nearby states. The serious international situation, which has imposed new responsibilities

on many scientists, had its effect, and, besides, some of the biologists—e.g., the geneticists, botanists, and horticulturists—who usually meet with the AAAS, met under AIBS auspices in Columbus, Ohio, in September. This may have reduced attendance by 500 or more.

Registrations at Cleveland totaled 2,354, and every state was represented, with the sole exception of Nevada.<sup>2</sup> Particularly gratifying were the numbers from such distant areas as the Far West, the Gulf States, and New England. Complimentary admission tickets to the Exposition, supplied to local professional people upon request, totaled 3,690. Including additional hundreds who attended the large public lectures (there were about 1,800 in the Music Hall of the Auditorium at the National Geographic Lecture), at least 6,500–8,000 persons attended one or more events of the Association's 117th Meeting.

TABLE 1

DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTRANTS BY STATES

Ohio .....	787	Georgia .....	13
New York .....	232	Louisiana .....	12
Pennsylvania .....	159	Kentucky .....	11
Illinois .....	152	Rhode Island .....	10
Michigan .....	140	Oklahoma .....	9
Indiana .....	83	Delaware .....	8
Massachusetts .....	80	Florida .....	7
Maryland .....	79	South Dakota .....	6
Distr. of Columbia .....	64	Vermont .....	6
New Jersey .....	48	Mississippi .....	5
Wisconsin .....	41	South Carolina .....	5
Virginia .....	40	Washington .....	5
Tennessee .....	35	Alabama .....	4
Iowa .....	31	North Dakota .....	4
Minnesota .....	31	Montana .....	4
Texas .....	26	Oregon .....	4
Missouri .....	24	Wyoming .....	4
California .....	24	Arizona .....	3
Kansas .....	21	Arkansas .....	3
Connecticut .....	20	Colorado .....	3
North Carolina .....	19	Maine .....	3
Nebraska .....	15	New Mexico .....	3
New Hampshire .....	15	Idaho .....	1
West Virginia .....	14	Utah .....	1

Hawaii was represented by two registrants.

DISTRIBUTION OF FOREIGN REGISTRANTS BY COUNTRIES

Canada .....	32	Guatemala .....	1
Australia .....	1	Japan .....	1
Germany .....	1	Venezuela .....	1
Greece .....	1		

The subject fields of those who registered are not as readily analyzed as are their geographical data. Some listed as a field of interest a restricted research specialty, whereas others named two or more major sciences (in which case only the first was tabulated). The scientific fields of the 2,354 registrants are grouped in Table 2 under Sections A–X.

The complimentary admission tickets to the Annual Science Exposition were distributed only to those who requested them. In advance of the meeting, members of local societies of chemists, engineers, dentists, and other professional groups were invited to write in for tickets for themselves and the adult members of their families. Every physician in Ohio, for example, received this invitation. Just before the Exposition opened, in the press and on the radio, those interested in the Exposition were

<sup>2</sup> The data for previous Cleveland meetings are: September 1944 (wartime conditions) 1,035; December 1930, 2,635; December 1912, 870.

TABLE 2

REGISTRANTS' FIELDS OF INTEREST

A—Mathematics .....	48	H—Anthropology .....	20
B—Physics .....	153	I—Psychology .....	86
C—Chemistry .....	209	K—Social and Economic Sciences .....	40
D—Astronomy .....	13	L—History and Philosophy of Science .....	9
E—Geology and Geography .....	24	M—Engineering .....	58
Geography .....	78	N—Medical Sciences .....	
Geology .....	11	Bacteriology .....	17
Speleology .....	11	Dentistry .....	18
F—Zoological Sciences .....	25	Endocrinology .....	22
Embryology .....	14	Nutrition & Food .....	
Entomology .....	3	Technology .....	8
Herpetology .....	4	Pharmacy .....	28
Histology .....	127	Physiology .....	62
Parasitology .....	22	Radiobiology .....	26
Protozoology .....	295	Other Medicine .....	135
Zoology (all other divisions) .....	265	O—Agricultural Sciences .....	23
FG—Biological Sciences .....	265	Q—Education .....	126
Biology .....	15	X—Science in General .....	
Cytogenetics (including Cytology) .....	37	Nature study and conservation .....	27
Ecology .....	16	General, miscellaneous, or no field stated .....	223
Genetics .....	6		
Limnology and Oceanography .....	61		
G—Botanical Sciences .....			

invited to apply in person for complimentary tickets. Exhibitors were given tickets to distribute to their key customers or interested staff. Nearly 10,000 complimentary tickets were distributed, principally by mail. These required that the name, address, and field of interest of the user be filled in. Those presented and, therefore, the number who actually saw the Exposition totaled 3,690.

Their fields of interest follow:

General interest (includes wives and students) .....	1,304
Engineering and Technology .....	518
Physics (all fields) .....	492
Chemistry .....	373
Medicine .....	351
Science Teaching .....	176
Biology .....	156
Geology .....	92
Social Sciences .....	68
Astronomy .....	58
Psychology .....	38
Mathematics .....	36
History of Science .....	20
Anthropology .....	8
Total .....	3,690

**Registration.** Paid registrations, absolutely necessary to support the meeting, were analyzed in the preceding discussion of the attendance. It is believed that a large majority of those who attended the technical sessions of the participating societies paid the relatively low registration fee of \$2.00 for members of the AAAS, for spouses of registrants, and for bona fide students. All others paid \$3.00.

In return for his registration fee, each registrant received the 304-page General Program and a name badge, had his registration card posted in the Visible Directory of Registrants, was eligible for repeated admissions to the Annual Science Exposition and the Science Theatre, enjoyed refreshments at the Biologists' Smoker, and, finally, had the satisfaction of being a sustaining part of the Meeting.

*Advance registration.* Of the registrants, 831, or 35 per cent, were advance registrants who paid a premium of twenty-five cents to receive the General Program by first-class mail, well in advance of the meeting. Though the extra charge covered only part of the postage (39 cents plus 3 cents for badge plus handling), the Association strongly believes in advance registration, which has the advantages of being more convenient in the avoidance of congested registration desks and of providing the opportunity for unhurried and complete consultation of the Program beforehand. The Association, too, is spared some of the heavy clerical work at the meeting.

*Visible Directory of Registrants.* The Visible Directory of Registrants—a series of Kardex files, long familiar to those who have attended AAAS meetings in the past—occupied the entire stage of the Cleveland Public Auditorium. This year it was 50 per cent enlarged and subdivided by syllables. Thus, not only were the cards of the advance registrants in perfect order, but it was possible to file the names of the other registrants almost as completely. The Directory could be consulted as late as 11:00 P.M. and also when the Exposition was closed.

*Housing.* The experienced Housing Bureau of the Cleveland Convention and Visitors' Bureau, headed by Louise D. Perkins, handled housing reservations most capably. In general, the hotels were prompt in their confirmations and careful of their bookkeeping; exactly 1,600 people were placed; as always, there were others who made their own arrangements. A total of three complaints about charging above advertised rates came to the attention of this office; they were adjusted to the delegates' satisfaction.

*Press Service.* As in past years the Press Service was under the efficient direction of Sidney S. Negus. One hundred and sixty-six reporters covered the meeting either directly from the Association's Press Room at Hotel Statler or by means of abstracts or papers and/or complete manuscripts mailed before and during the convention. Thanks to the splendid cooperation of authors of papers and of section and society secretaries with the Association's Press Service, daily news stories appeared in all the principal newspapers of the country and in many abroad. Feature stories, not requiring close deadlines, have been published since the convention and will continue to appear for some time. Marilyn D. Eggers, in charge of radio and television, arranged 25 programs out of Cleveland—a record performance. David Dietz and members of his local committee on publicity helped greatly in making working conditions ideal for representatives of the press, radio, and television. The Association is deeply appreciative of the outstanding coverage of its annual meetings by members of the National Association of Science Writers and other representatives of the Fourth Estate.

*Tours.* Eleven tours to about twice as many academic and industrial laboratories and institutions were planned. Partly because of the inclement weather, but principally because the programs held the attention of those in attendance, there were no organized tours. There were, however, individuals who took advantage of the opportunity to visit these points of interest. They and the Association appreciate greatly the courtesies that were extended.

*AAAS Presidential Address and Reception.* By tradition, the Presidential Address of the American Association for the Advancement of Science is given by the Retiring President. It is the last important act that terminates his three years of service. On the evening of Thursday, December 28, in the Ballroom of the Hotel

Statler, Elvin C. Stakman, ninety-ninth president of the AAAS, delivered an address on "Science and Human Affairs" that will never be forgotten by the capacity audience that was present. Their attention was complete, and the hearty and sustained applause at the end constituted an ovation to an exceptional personality.

*The Academy Conference.* The Academy Conference is made up of officers and other interested members of the 38 state and city academies of science affiliated with the Association. The conference has long provided a common meeting ground for academy officers to discuss problems of mutual concern. In recent years the conference has expanded to include one or more sessions, a business meeting, a dinner, and an evening address. At the 117th Meeting, the Academy Conference inaugurated several constructive features. The exhibition of publications of the state academies in the Science Library; the preparation and distribution, at the conference, of special reports from the several academies; and the reorganization of the Academy Conference that makes provision for the Executive Committee, with a retiring president and president-elect, to give it continuity—all testify to the energy and vision of Boyd Harshbarger, president during 1950. On the morning of Saturday, December 30, Arthur Bevan spoke on the growth of the academies of science, and Boyd Harshbarger, in his presidential address, outlined "The Organization of the Academy Conference." The afternoon program, which had been arranged by Dael Wolfe, was a panel on the "Effect of Government Support of Scientific Research." Those who spoke were Eric A. Walker, L. R. Hafstad, and Detlev W. Bronk. The evening address by Professor H. J. Fuller has already been mentioned.

*Biologists' Smoker.* A meeting of the AAAS would be incomplete without a Biologists' Smoker, where everyone attending the meetings has an opportunity to see old friends and cultivate new ones. At the 117th Meeting, the smoker was cosponsored by the American Society of Zoologists and the Association. It was scheduled from 9:30 P.M. till midnight Friday, December 29, to avoid conflict with the dinners of the zoologists and science teachers, and the addresses of the Scientific Research Society of America and the United Chapters of the Phi Beta Kappa. It was held in the Main Exhibition Hall, under the arena, of the Public Auditorium, the only place in downtown Cleveland that would accommodate the nearly 2,500 who attended. Cigarettes, presented with the compliments of Philip Morris & Co., Ltd., Inc., and refreshments were all available in ample quantities. Carling's Ale and Coca Cola were generously donated by the Brewing Corporation of America and the Cleveland Coca-Cola Bottling Company, respectively. Four kinds of crackers and pretzels were the gift of the National Biscuit Company. On behalf of those who attended and enjoyed this hospitality, the American Association for the Advancement of Science expresses its grateful appreciation.

*The Science Theatre.* The AAAS Science Theatre, with its showing of the latest domestic and foreign scientific films, has become a permanent feature of the annual meeting. As in 1949, nearly 70 different films, illustrating a variety of subject fields, were arranged in 6 different four-hour programs. All programs but one were completely repeated. A majority of these 16-mm films, with sound, were shown on a special screen in the Little Theatre of the Auditorium. The running time of individual films ranged from 6 to 55 minutes but, by following the program, it was possible to plan to see a particular film.

*Annual Science Exposition.* The 1950 AAAS Annual Science Exposition literally filled the entire arena of the Cleveland Public Auditorium. With 105 exhibitors in 155 booths, it was the largest and most diversified exposition the 102-year-old Association has ever held. The leading publishers, instrument makers, manufacturers of microscopes, and others who have long furnished teaching scientists with their essential supplies this year were joined by an impressive group of industrial concerns—a number of them from Cleveland and northern Ohio.

The technical exhibits of this last group gave the scientists and other professional persons who attended an appreciation of some of their newest technological accomplishments. Notable among exhibits by institutions was the four-part display of the American Museum of Atomic Energy. The entire Annual Science Exposition was on a

scale impossible of attainment at any meeting of an individual society or group of societies in one field. Those who saw the Exposition—more than six thousand—were impressed not only by the exhibits and by their contacts with those in charge, but also by the atmosphere of dignity, attractiveness, and professional excellence.

It is gratifying that, by mid-January, so many of the exhibitors at Cleveland already have asked for space in the 1951 Exposition of Science and Industry in Philadelphia.<sup>3</sup> A list of the exhibitors at the Cleveland Meeting and a description of their exhibits appeared in *SCIENCE*, December 8, 1950.

<sup>3</sup> Exhibitors at Cleveland who reach a decision and who advise the writer by March 1 that they will participate at Philadelphia have preferred status for location and 10 per cent discount on booth rentals.

## Association Business

Howard A. Meyerhoff

*Administrative Secretary*

THE General Officers of the Association for 1951, all of whom are elected by the Council, were announced in the January 5, 1951, issue of *SCIENCE* (p. 3, advertising section).

### *The Administrative Officers*

Administrative Secretary: Howard A. Meyerhoff, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington 5, D. C.

Assistant Administrative Secretary: Raymond L. Taylor, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington 5, D. C.

Treasurer: William E. Wrather, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.

### *Secretaries of Sections:*

Mathematics (A): Raymond W. Brink, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Physics (B): F. S. Brackett, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

Chemistry (C): Edward F. Degering, 939 West Sunnyside, Chicago 40, Ill.

Astronomy (D): Frank K. Edmondson, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

Geology and Geography (E): Leland Horberg, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

Zoological Sciences (F): J. H. Bodine, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

Botanical Sciences (G): Stanley A. Cain, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Anthropology (H): Marian W. Smith, Columbia University, New York, New York.

Psychology (I): Delos D. Wickens, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

Social and Economic Sciences (K): Philip M. Hauser, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

History and Philosophy of Science (L): Raymond J. Seeger, Bureau of Ordnance, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

Engineering (M): Frank D. Carvin, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Illinois.

### *Médical Sciences (N):*

Subsection on Medicine (Nm): Gordon K. Moe, University of Syracuse, Syracuse, New York.

Subsection on Dentistry (Nd): Russell W. Bunting, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Subsection on Pharmacy (Np): Glenn L. Jenkins, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.

Agriculture (O): C. E. Millar, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan.

Education (Q): Dean A. Worcester, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska.

### *Officers of the Pacific Division*

President: Charles H. Danforth, Stanford University, California.

Secretary: R. C. Miller, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California.

### *Officers of the Southwestern Division*

President: C. W. Botkin, New Mexico A & M College, State College, New Mexico.

Secretary: Frank E. E. Germann, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado.

## AAAS Council

At the meetings of the Council held in Cleveland on December 27 and 29, in addition to the election of officers, the following business was transacted:

1. Kirtley F. Mather reported for the Committee on the Revision of the Constitution and Bylaws. Following exposition of the need for a new set of bylaws, and the committee's conclusion that there should be simultaneous revision of the constitution, Dr. Mather asked that the Council indicate by vote whether the committee may proceed with the revisions outlined. These revisions call for clearer definitions of the functions of the Council, the Executive Committee (to be renamed the Board of Directors), and the administrative staff. The Council voted to have the Committee proceed along the lines indicated.