

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

Board of Directors

THOMAS PARK, *Retiring President, Chairman*
PAUL M. GROSS, *President*
ALAN T. WATERMAN, *President Elect*
HARRISON BROWN DON K. PRICE
HENRY EYRING MINA REES
H. BENTLEY GLASS ALFRED S. ROMER
MARGARET MEAD WILLIAM W. RUBEY
PAUL A. SCHERER, *Treasurer*
DAEL WOLFLE, *Executive Officer*

Editorial Board

KONRAD B. KRAUSKOPF H. BURR STEINBACH
EDWIN M. LERNER WILLIAM L. STRAUS, JR.
PHILIP M. MORSE EDWARD L. TATUM

Editorial Staff

DAEL WOLFLE HANS NUSSBAUM
Publisher Business Manager

GRAHAM DUSHANE
Editor

JOSEPH TURNER ROBERT V. ORMES
Associate Editor Managing Editor
ELLEN E. MURPHY, *Assistant Editor*

NANCY TEIMOURIAN, *Assistant to the Editor*

News: HOWARD MARGOLIS, DANIEL S. GREENBERG, PATRICIA D. PADDOCK

Book Reviews: SARAH S. DEES

Editorial Assistants: NANCY S. HAMILTON, OLIVER W. HEATWOLE, EDGAR C. RICH, JOHN E. RINGLE, CECIL F. SWEENEY, CONRAD YUNG-KWAI

Staff Assistants: LILLIAN HSU, MARION Y. KLINE, KAY E. KROZELY

Advertising Staff

EARL J. SCHERAGO, *Director*
BERNICE SCHWARTZ, *Production Manager*

Sales: RICHARD L. CHARLES (New York, N.Y., PE 6-1858); C. RICHARD CALLIS (Old Bridge, N.J., CL 4-3680); HERBERT BURKLUND (Chicago, Ill., DE 7-4973); DILLENBECK-GALAVAN (Los Angeles, Calif., DU 5-3991)

SCIENCE, now combined with THE SCIENTIFIC MONTHLY, is published each Friday by the American Association for the Advancement of Science at National Publishing Company, Washington, D.C. SCIENCE is indexed in the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature*.

Editorial correspondence should be addressed to SCIENCE, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5, D.C. Manuscripts should be typed with double spacing and submitted in duplicate. The AAAS assumes no responsibility for the safety of manuscripts. Opinions expressed by authors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the AAAS or the institutions with which the authors are affiliated. For detailed suggestions on the preparation of manuscripts, see *Science* 125, 16 (4 Jan. 1957).

Advertising correspondence should be addressed to SCIENCE, Room 1740, 11 West 42 St., New York 36, N.Y.

Change of address notification should be sent to 1515 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington 5, D.C., 4 weeks in advance. Furnish an address label from a recent issue. Give both old and new addresses, including zone numbers.

Annual subscriptions: \$8.50; foreign postage, \$1.50; Canadian postage, 75¢. Single copies, 35¢. School year subscriptions: 9 months, \$7.00; 10 months, \$7.50. Cable address: Advancesci, Washington.

Copyright © 1962 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Science for the Public

On 21 April, with all the fanfare the city can command, Seattle will open the first world's fair to be held in the U.S. for 23 years. Scientists have a special interest, for science is given star billing with six and a half acres of popular scientific exhibits.

Early in 1958, officers of the Seattle World's Fair commission came to Washington to explore the possibility of scientific cooperation in planning for a fair that would emphasize the century ahead. Because their initial plans looked good, we invited them to return a few days later; the Parliament of Science that the AAAS held in 1958 gave an opportunity to let them meet representatives of scientific organizations and agencies of government, including several of the men who had planned the U.S. contributions to the scientific exhibits at the Brussels World's Fair of 1958. When the Seattle visitors asked if scientists would be willing to help plan a large, popular, science exhibit, the answer was *Yes*. The Brussels plans were not turning out as well as had been hoped, and the scientists were confident that much better popular exhibits could be designed. Thus a partnership was born. The National Academy of Sciences, the National Science Foundation, and the AAAS helped the fair commissioners to select a board of scientific advisers. That board was quickly appointed and soon at work in planning exhibits that they hoped would interest and inform several million visitors to the fair.

Now, many headaches later, the fair is about to open. The headaches came from a variety of sources. When Congress appropriated \$9 million for the U.S. Science Exhibit, managing responsibility was given to a newly created office in the Department of Commerce; it should have been assigned to an agency with scientific interests. The first board of advisers was replaced by another, but partially overlapping, group appointed by the Department of Commerce. The Commerce Department staff was completely replaced when the administration changed in January 1961. To fill gaps between appointments of a succession of science coordinators, the National Science Foundation, the Bureau of Standards, and the AAAS loaned staff members for periods of a few weeks to a few months. Not until the summer of 1961, when Athelstan Spilhaus became director, was there a scientist in charge.

Throughout the whole venture, many scientists have contributed their time and ideas with great generosity. Visitors to the fair will not know who was responsible for what they see, but science—in a generalized sense—will be hurt if the exhibits are poor, or will benefit if the exhibits are good. Many scientists have wanted to make certain that the exhibits are good, and have worked hard toward that end.

A major purpose of any world's fair is to attract dollars and visitors to the city in which it is held. The fair in Seattle is no exception, and so it will have something for everybody. Among the attractions, science will be prominently displayed and spectacularly housed. The exhibits might have profited from greater continuity of planning and less necessity of final rushing. But visitors to the fair should find them interesting, informative, and in some cases exciting presentations of scientific principles, methods, and problems—a magnificent effort to increase the public understanding of science.—D.W.