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At the close of the meeting Edwin R. Helwig of the University of Colorado succeeded to the presidency of the division. Aden B. Meinel of the University of Arizona was selected as president-elect, and Howard J. Dittmer of the University of New Mexico as a member of the Executive Committee. Marlowe G. Anderson, New Mexico State University, will continue as secretary-treasurer and council representative. The next annual meeting of the Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division will be held in Lubbock, Texas, 26–30 April 1964.

MARLOWE G. ANDERSON
New Mexico State University,
Albuquerque

Society for General Systems Research

One of the eight societies elected at the 129th AAAS annual meeting 30 December 1962, as an affiliate of the Association, was the Society for General Systems Research.

The principal aim of the society is to encourage the development of theoretical systems which are applicable to more than one of the traditional departments of knowledge. All sciences develop theoretical systems of concepts, relationships, and models. Many of these systems are isomorphic, but their similarity is undetected because of differences in terminology and of other barriers to communication among specialists. Furthermore, systems which have been well worked out can be of assistance in the development of others.

The major functions of general systems research are therefore: (i) to investigate the isomorphy of concepts, laws, and models in various fields, and to help in useful transfers from one field to another; (ii) to encourage the development of adequate theoretical models in the fields which lack them; (iii) to minimize the duplication of theoretical effort in different fields; and (iv) to promote the unity of science through improving communication among specialists.

The feeling that such a scientific society would fill an evident need crystallized at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, California. The response to the issuance of a manifesto in 1954 was extremely encouraging. Therefore, at the 1954 AAAS meeting in Berkeley, the Society for the Advancement of General Systems Theory was started.



Heredity and Development

By JOHN A. MOORE, Columbia University and Barnard College. Along with portions reprinted from Dr. Moore's distinguished text, *Principles of Zoology*, this book contains new chapters describing the latest developments in genetics and embryology. It is particularly valuable for use in the introductory biology course.

1963. 256 pp. 77 illus. paperbound \$1.95

Foundations of Thermodynamics

By PETER FONG, Utica College of Syracuse University. Departing from the approach used in conventional textbooks, Professor Fong expounds a new formulation that gives a physical insight to thermodynamics without the use of elaborate mathematics. Basic concepts are carefully defined, especially those which are pivotal in theory, such as the concept of reversible process.

1963. 104 pp. \$2.50

Genetics

By ROBERT C. KING, Northwestern University. Combining a sound classical viewpoint with the most modern research advances, this text provides a clear, thorough introduction to the elements of genetics. Cytology is discussed in considerable detail, and careful attention is focused on such topics as developmental genetics, population genetics, biochemical genetics, and evolution theory. Over 100 original drawings and extensive references are included.

1962. 362 pp. 120 illus. \$7.50

An Introduction to General and Comparative Endocrinology

By E. J. W. BARRINGTON, University of Nottingham. This precise, logical exposition of the fundamental principles of comparative endocrinology traces the development of hypotheses and explores the problem of their interpretation. Since the comparative treatment is founded on a clear presentation of the principles derived from mammalian studies, the book is of interest to physiologists and research workers as well as to zoologists.

1963. 412 pp. 156 illus. \$7.00

Oxford University Press
417 Fifth Ave., New York 10016

A founding and organizing committee was approved which consisted of Ludwig von Bertalanffy, K. E. Boulding, Ralph W. Gerard, and Anatol Rapoport. Annual meetings have been held thereafter in conjunction with Section L of the AAAS. In 1958, Jerzy Neyman and Elizabeth L. Scott read a paper at the annual meeting which was awarded the AAAS Newcomb Cleveland Prize.

The first *General Systems Yearbook* appeared in 1956 and contained both original contributions and reprints of useful articles from out-of-the-way sources. Succeeding issues of the yearbook have been received with enthusiasm by the scientific community, as indicated by the annual increase of citations in a variety of scholarly publications.

The name originally chosen occasionally gave the impression that a theory already existed and merely needed propagation. Therefore the name was changed in 1957 to the Society for General Systems Research. At the same time the first election of officers was conducted. Kenneth E. Boulding was named president; Ludwig von Bertalanffy, vice president; and Richard L. Meier, secretary-treasurer. Currently, Anatol Rapoport and Milton D. Rubin are the society's representatives on the AAAS Council.

Other officers, past and present, include Charles A. McClelland, Albert Shapero, and Gerald M. Weinberg. The current president is W. Ross Ashby, University of Illinois.

The membership is, as might be expected, a diverse assemblage of persons. They range from mathematicians, physical scientists, and engineers to psychologists and social scientists, but quite a few psychiatrists and medical researchers are also included. There is an interesting minority which cannot be adequately described even with a compound title. By mid-1963 the total membership was approximately 750, and the seventh yearbook had a distribution of over 1000 volumes.

GERALD M. WEINBERG

*I.B.M. Systems Research Institute,
New York, New York*

Forthcoming Events

October

5. **Paleontological Research Inst.**, Ithaca, N.Y. (K. Caster, Geology Dept., Univ. of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio)

7-10. **Instruments and Research Equipment**, symp. and exhibit, 13th annual,

27 SEPTEMBER 1963



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