

AAAS Annual Meeting 25–30 May 1986

Meeting activities are scheduled in three downtown Philadelphia hotels: The **Franklin Plaza** (2 Franklin Plaza), the headquarters hotel, will house the AAAS Science and Technology Exhibition; resource rooms for members, minority scientists, and disabled registrants; the newsroom; some symposia and the evening public lectures. In the **Bellevue-Stratford** (Broad Street at Walnut), there will be symposia, the midday public lectures, contributed paper poster and slide sessions, and the Science Film Festival. In the **Hershey Philadelphia** (Broad Street at Locust), there will be symposia, workshops, and special midday sessions on important topics. Free shuttle buses operating between the hotels will be available to registrants.

The following discounted room rates are available only to those who use official AAAS housing forms (see below):

Hotel	Single	Double
Franklin Plaza	\$69	\$79
Bellevue-Stratford	\$67	\$77
Hershey	\$69	\$79

Those who register in advance for the Meeting save 15%–20% on registration fees:

Category	Advance	On-site
Member	\$50	\$60
Nonmember	\$65	\$75
Student	\$25	\$30
Retired	\$25	\$30
H.S. teacher	\$25	\$30
Spouse	\$25	\$30

Official housing and registration forms and more details about the program and other Meeting events will appear in these issues of *Science*:

- 14 Feb.: Preliminary Program I; registration/housing forms
- 28 Feb.: Preliminary Program II; registration/housing forms
- 14 Mar.: Tours: description and ticket order forms
- 28 Mar.: Preconvention Program: schedules for all events; registration/housing forms
- 11 Apr.: Last-minute information; registration/housing forms

Housing and registration forms may also be obtained from the AAAS Meetings Office at the AAAS address, or call 202/326-6450.

AAAS Meeting

Philadelphia: Where It All Began

As we move toward the close of our Bicentennial “decade,” which began in 1976 with the commemoration of our Declaration of Independence and will end with our celebration of the U.S. Constitution in 1987, we have all become more aware of the pivotal role Philadelphia played in the founding of this nation. As the central metropolis of the original 13 colonies, it was the seat of the Continental Congress and the place of deliberation for our initial steps toward nationhood. We have much to be proud of in these documents on which we established a free nation and in the wisdom and foresight of our founders who deliberated two centuries ago in the city of brotherly love, William Penn’s “Greene Countrie Towne” of Philadelphia. We have much to be proud of and much vigilance to exercise in keeping our heritage of freedom in the face of the continued attacks made on it, often for the most high sounding reasons.

What is less publicized is the central role Philadelphia played in the founding of American science, beginning before the founding of our nation and continuing into the following century. The catalyst for this development was, of course, the redoubtable Benjamin Franklin, who came to Philadelphia as a 17-year-old printer’s apprentice in 1723, became a major publisher (*Pennsylvania Gazette* and *Poor Richard’s Almanack*), author (*Autobiography*), scientist (proof that lightning was electricity, theory of electricity), inventor (lightning rod, bifocals, Franklin stove, glass harmonica), and statesman (Continental Congress, Constitutional Convention, ambassador to France). It was Franklin who took the idea of our fourth university (Pennsylvania) and made it a reality, established the first library association (a model for the Library of Congress), the first learned society (the American Philosophical Society), and even the first efficient postal system for the colonies!

From this cradle of our nation, and of American science, came the first general scientific society, the Association of American Geologists and Naturalists (and its precursor, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia). It was at the ninth meeting of the Association, 20 September 1848, at the Academy’s hall in Philadelphia, that its president, William B. Rogers (later the first president of MIT), turned over the gavel to William C. Redfield (a meteorologist from Connecticut), dissolving the AAGN and forming the new American Association for the Advancement of Science. It was the first AAAS meeting. We had 461 members, each paying an annual dues of \$1 (raised to \$2 in 1851, probably to pay the princely salary—\$300 per annum—of the newly appointed Permanent Secretary, Spencer F. Baird, Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution).

Ah, nostalgia! We have returned to Philadelphia many times since 1848, and we return again this year, to a vital center of American science, home of great universities, thriving museums, a center for music and the arts, publishing institutions, and research in all fields. This wealth will again be at your disposal when we come together for the 1986 AAAS Annual Meeting (25–30 May) in Philadelphia. Sessions will feature the latest in biomedical research (cell biology, oncology), materials science and engineering, space research and engineering, astronomy, anthropology (this is the centennial year of the University Museum), policy issues in medicine, food, arms control, scientific freedom, international trade, and a host of others. Scientific leaders will present invited lectures in many fields. There will be tours of the old and of the new in science in Philadelphia, a festival of important science films, an exciting science and technology exhibition, and much pomp and ceremony as AAAS returns to its origins. We will see how far we have come and the new directions in which we are going in our vast enterprise of science.

Come and join us in this first capital of our country; renew your roots and broaden your horizons in all of the facets of science in our annual smorgasbord featuring the best and the choicest. Make your plans now; Philadelphia is but a short trip from all of the population centers of the east, and its airport connects with centers around the world. We have reserved discount rooms for you in some of the city’s best hotels and prepared a program second to none. We will be telling you more in future issues of *Science*.—ARTHUR HERSCHMAN