

Association Affairs

Los Angeles Meeting of the Pacific Division, AAAS

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The 32nd annual meeting of the Pacific Division was held at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, June 18–23. Eighteen associated and affiliated societies participated in the sessions, at which more than 400 scientific papers were presented. The total registered attendance was 1,088.

This was the division's third Los Angeles meeting, and the second to be held at the University of Southern California, the previous occasion being in 1923. To those who had the pleasure of attending these two meetings on the same campus 28 years apart, it was a gratifying experience to note the growth and progress made in the interim both by the Pacific Division and by the host institution.

The university is exceptionally well equipped to entertain such a scientific gathering. Registration was carried on out-of-doors in the School of Architecture's inner courtyard, which also served admirably as a place for friends to meet and for informal discussions. It was surrounded by rooms in which scientific books, instruments, and other exhibits were displayed.

The fine new University Commons was conveniently at hand, serving excellent meals and providing dining rooms for the luncheons and dinners of various societies. The near-by Town and Gown Club afforded an attractive setting for the Monday afternoon tea, at which Fred D. Fagg, Jr., president of the University of Southern California, and Mrs. Fagg, received members and guests of the division and associated societies. Comfortable, attractively modern, and well-equipped lecture rooms were available for the scientific sessions.

On June 19, 20, and 21 there were evening addresses by outstanding authorities in their respective fields as follows: Ruy Finch, of the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, on "Mauna Loa in Eruption;" Charles H. Danforth, professor of anatomy, Stanford University, and president of the Pacific Division, on "The Significance of Human Anatomical Variations;" and Harold C. Urey, University of Chicago, on "The Temperatures of the Oceans Sixty Million Years Ago."

The Divisional Symposium, held Tuesday morning, was on "Oceanographic Exploration in the Pacific." The following papers were presented: "Geological and Geophysical Exploration of the Pacific," by Roger Revelle, Scripps Institution of Oceanography; "Oceanographic Exploration in the Arctic," by John P. Tully, Pacific Oceanographic Group, Nanaimo, B. C.; "Exploration of the Coral Atolls," by Harry S. Ladd, U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C.; "Oceanographic Exploration of the Fisheries," by

Milner B. Schaefer, Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, Scripps Institution.

Another event of general interest was the symposium on "Air Pollution and Plant Life," which was a joint session of the American Society for Horticultural Science, Western Section; American Society of Plant Physiologists, Western Section; Botanical Society of America, Pacific Division; Western Society of Naturalists; and Western Society of Soil Science. Papers were presented by: A. J. Haagen-Smit and Helen Garman, of the California Institute of Technology; O. C. Compton, of Oregon State College; and Alden S. Crafts and E. E. Wilson, of the University of California, Davis.

All the symposia, in fact, dealt with topics of unusual interest, as indicated by the following examples: "Meteorological Physics" (American Meteorological Society); "The Role of Ecology in Solving Water Pollution Control Problems" (Ecological Society of America, Western Section); "Physiological Genetics of Higher Plants" (joint session of American Society for Horticultural Science, American Society of Plant Physiologists, Botanical Society of America, and Western Society of Naturalists). The American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, Pacific Section, held two symposia, one on "Biological Aspects . . .," the other on "Inorganic Aspects of the Marine Environment." At a symposium entitled "The Part Played by Society Members in International Soil Science," the Western Society of Soil Science heard reports of soil survey and land reclamation work in Belgium, Holland, Greece, Turkey, and Bolivia.

Registrants did not spend all their time listening to and discussing scientific papers. There were special demonstrations, field trips, and excursions. Among points of interest visited were the Griffith Observatory and Planetarium, the Los Angeles County Museum, the Rancho La Brea Tar Pits, the California Institute of Technology, the Palomar Observatory, and the Citrus Experiment Station of the University of California at Riverside.

Exhibits of wide and varied interest were set up by the U. S. Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles County Flood Control District, Department of Meteorology, UCLA, North American Weather Consultants, Ninth Weather Squadron of March Air Force Base, Southern California Marine Borer Council, American Nature Study Society, Allan Hancock Foundation Library, Society of Systematic Zoology, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Junior Herpetological Society, Los Angeles County Schools, Los Angeles County Air Pollution Control District, and Los Angeles City Schools, Department of Elementary Agriculture and Nature Study. In addition, 28 exhibits of books, instruments, and laboratory equipment were presented by commercial firms.

Deserving of special mention was the schedule of

women's activities, which included a reception and a mixer for registrants and their families, and special tours of Los Angeles, Pasadena, Deauville Beach, television and radio centers, and other points of interest.

Local arrangements were under the supervision of John W. Mehl, professor of bacteriology in USC, who was assisted by a large general committee and nine subcommittees. For the hard work of these representatives of the host institution, the Pacific Division expresses its deep appreciation of the excellent facilities and services provided.

At the meeting of the council of the division on June 20, action was taken to revise the constitution to bring it into greater conformity with that of the national organization, by providing for a president-elect, a president, and a retiring president.

H. A. Spoehr, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Stanford University, was elected president, and C. D. Shane, director of the Lick Observatory, president-elect. James E. Knott, of the University of California at Davis, and Ivan Pratt, of Oregon State College, were elected to membership on the Executive Committee; and George Zentmeyer, of the University of California at Riverside, and K. O. Emery, of the University of Southern California, were elected members-at-large of the Divisional Council.

After discussion of suitable dates, it was agreed that the next annual meeting of the division will be held in Corvallis, Oregon, June 16-21, 1952, at the invitation of Oregon State College.

On motion, by unanimous vote of the council, the Society for Systematic Zoology was declared an affiliated society of the Pacific Division.

The council discussed the geographical boundaries of the Pacific Division, which under its constitution includes the states of California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington; the territories of Alaska and Hawaii; and the province of British Columbia. It was pointed out that members in Alaska desire an Alaska Division, that some members in Montana wish to have that state included in the territory of the Pacific Division, and that there is some overlapping of interest of associated societies of the Pacific and the Southwest divisions. Howard A. Meyerhoff, AAAS administrative secretary, who, with Raymond L. Taylor, assistant administrative secretary, was present at the meeting, was asked to take these matters up through the regular channels to obtain appropriate action at the national level.

Dr. Meyerhoff stated that the national Executive Committee had under consideration the possibility of holding the annual meeting of the AAAS in San Francisco in December 1954. After discussion, it was voted that the proposal for a national meeting in the West in December 1954 be heartily approved.

Societies participating in the Los Angeles meeting were:

American Meteorological Society; American Nature Study Society, Pacific Division; American Phytopatho-

logical Society, Pacific Division; American Society for Horticultural Science, Western Section; American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Western Division; American Society of Limnology and Oceanography; American Society of Plant Physiologists, Western Section; Association of Pacific Coast Geographers; Astronomical Society of the Pacific; Botanical Society of America, Pacific Division; Ecological Society of America, Western Section; Herpetologists League; Meteorological Society; Pacific Southwest Association of Chemistry Teachers; Society of American Bacteriologists, Southern California Branch and Northern California-Hawaiian Branch; Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, Pacific Coast Section and Southern California Section; Western Society of Naturalists; Western Society of Soil Science.

Attendance included 1,088 registered members and guests. Though predominantly a divisional meeting, there were delegates from all regions of the continental U. S., and all continents were represented, as indicated by the following tabulation:

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTRANTS*

Arizona	26	Montana	6
Arkansas	1	Nebraska	1
California	856	Nevada	5
Colorado	11	New Mexico	7
Connecticut	2	New York	4
District of Columbia	6	North Carolina	2
Florida	2	North Dakota	3
Idaho	2	Ohio	1
Illinois	8	Oklahoma	1
Indiana	1	Oregon	27
Kansas	1	Pennsylvania	2
Louisiana	1	Rhode Island	1
Maryland	5	Texas	3
Massachusetts	4	Utah	25
Michigan	2	Virginia	1
Mississippi	1	Washington	35
Missouri	3	Wyoming	3
Total, continental United States		1,059	
Argentina	1	England	3
Australia	2	Hawaii	8
British Columbia	9	Philippines	1
Denmark	1	Puerto Rico	1
Egypt	2	Union of South Africa	1
Total, foreign or overseas		29	
		Grand total	1,088

* Bold-face type indicates registration from the Pacific Division, which totaled 959, or 88%.

It is impressive to note that this divisional meeting, held near the southwest corner of its territory, attracted an attendance of 109 from 27 states outside the Pacific Division and from the District of Columbia. This is exactly the same number of states outside the division's territory represented at the 1950 Salt Lake City meeting. There were 266 registrants from Los Angeles, many from the host institution, USC, and from UCLA. There were registrants from 129 other communities throughout California, including Davis with 67, Berkeley and Riverside each with 58, Pasadena 48, and La Jolla and Stanford-Palo Alto each with 27 registrants. The number from Hawaii and other overseas points was particularly gratifying.