

"Science is the pursuit of the unknown"

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SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF THE UNEXPLAINED

INCORPORATING

THE IVAN T. SANDERSON FOUNDATION

... For the collection, evaluation, and dissemination of
information on new discoveries in the natural sciences

THE IVAN T. SANDERSON FOUNDATION

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

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Research Center

R.D., Columbia, New Jersey 07832
Telephone: (201) 496-3866
Overseas Cables: ITSUS, USA

Business Office

325 West 45th Street, N. Y., N. Y. 10036
Telephone: (212) 246-1387

Officers: Oliver G. Swan
Ivan T. Sanderson
Edgar O. Schoenenberger
Alma V. Sanderson
Edna L. Currie
Peter Kamitchis
John A. Keel
Jack A. Ullrich
Desmond P. Slattery
Hans Stefan Santesson
Joseph P. Ruffner
Walter J. McGraw
Andrew N. Guthrie
Michael R. Freedman

- President and Chairman of the Board
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EDITORIAL

You've been wondering what's happened to us? This Newsletter, sent only to members, is our way of reporting to you now on what's been happening, what we've accomplished, and what we plan to do in the immediate future!

This Newsletter is obviously not intended to take the place of the quarterly publication, *Pursuit*, the first issue of which we had hoped to have out by now. We had at first, as you know, planned a rather modest publication, at least to start with, but your Board, who are almost to a man connected with publishing in one way or the other, felt that this quarterly, representing as it would our collective thinking, must be made effective enough to interest schools, libraries, and other institutions. We feel that a sufficient circulation can be assured, after the initial period, to cover the cost of a high quality publication which would have sufficient space for both articles and special features, in addition to serving as a forum for you, our members.

Costing and design on this project are proceeding, but it's been obvious for weeks now that we will not be able to get the first issue out on the date planned. Several factors have had to be taken into account. The organizational period became greatly prolonged, due to the extraordinarily ponderous legal procedures called for (as we found out, to our dismay) in setting up a non-profit organization, and notably in setting up the Trust. The time taken in pursuing these essential matters, apart from the normal demands on what remain of the one-time nine lives of our Director, has slowed everything down. In addition to which there is the problem that, despite the generous sponsorship and support of many of you, the funds available for publication are still not sufficient for what has been proposed.

Hence this Newsletter to you, our Members, to keep you informed – in this way – of our activities!

H.S.S.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

May I, to begin with, welcome all of you who are Charter Members of this Foundation, and thank you for your patience and understanding – patience and understanding because you are, all of you, friends of ours who share our interests and our belief in the need for the Ivan T. Sanderson Foundation! So may I clear up one matter?

The formalities involved in setting up an organization such as ours proved to be so complicated and long drawn out that our informational brochure almost became obsolete before we could mail it out. Charter Membership was originally conceived of as terminating at the end of 1966 but our thinking on this, as Desmond Slattery will tell you below, has changed. Our Treasurer asks me to point out that your initial “annual” subscription, if made in 1966, runs through to the end of 1967.

The Trust that the Sandersons have set up for the Foundation is composed of members scattered all over the country, while the Scientific Advisory Board’s members are scattered (and I do not exaggerate, I assure you!) all over the world! The formalities entailed in the organization of both these Boards and of other details, have been handled by our Director almost single-handed. (I have known Ivan Sanderson for many years, but I have come to have a new understanding of him, and gained a somewhat awe-struck respect for his grasp of detail and his organizational know-how in all this.)

Our Library is being catalogued; plans for new buildings have been drawn up; and a tremendous workload is being coped with by our limited Volunteer staff. But – and this is what has slowed us up – just to obtain permission to complete a machine-shop and storage building on our – the Foundation’s – land, took over three months of formalities!

All these “facts of life” (forecasting, no doubt, not only 1984 but 2084) have been an eye-opener to me. Those of you who live in this area will understand what we have had to cope with! Those of you who are abroad, like one friend who is on a two year expedition to what a mutual friend calls “the most disturbed part of Africa” (is there one that isn’t?), will, I am certain, also understand and continue to work with us to build The Ivan T. Sanderson Foundation!

Oliver G. Swan

A NOTE FROM OUR PR MAN

Since assuming my position recently with the ITS Foundation, I have made a complete check of the membership files and related correspondence: and I have come to some conclusions.

First, the date for closing Charter-Membership was prematurely anticipated. Many members have suggested persons to be contacted having similar interests as ours, but time did not allow this, due either to more pressing matters, and/or to the difficulty of reaching people in such far-flung places. Therefore, I have suggested (and our Board has concurred in this) that Charter Membership should be kept open until the initial objective – i.e. the construction of the new Library Building – is an accomplished fact. – – – In view of this, it is my further suggestion that the designing and printing of Scrolls, Membership Cards, and such, be held up for the time being, and until such time as a more definite closing date for the build-schedule can be forecast.

Second, it has transpired that several Charter Members would like to organize local “Chapters” in certain key cities, where a program of activities could be established – such as regularly scheduled meetings, either for mere discussion or as formal seminars: to evolve collective endeavours in specific fields of mutual interest: and as regional organizations for fund-raising activities. It is my suggestion that these objectives be approached through normal channels, such as parties, benefits, dances and so forth.

Funds accumulated from such activities could be used by the local Chapter for rentals and payments to visiting speakers arranged by the Foundation. Ivan Sanderson would make himself available for such

visits in conjunction with local enthusiasts, or experts from elsewhere specializing in the particular matter on the agenda.

Consequently – and if these suggestions of mine find favor with the present Charter Membership – it would follow that those most interested should go to work and undertake the organizational details involved in forming such Chapters and bring this overall effort to the attention of their friends and all other interested parties. The central office of the Foundation will supply brochures and other literature to help expedite any such efforts.

It is my belief that the minimum membership for such a Chapter should be a dozen, while the maximum ought to be about fifty, beyond which point long experience has proved to me any such group loses its initial objective and becomes just an impersonal debating society.

I am anxious to hear from as many of you – Charter Members – as possible as to your reaction to these proposals, and I welcome any suggestions which might assist me in my efforts and help me “get this show on the road.”

Desmond Slattery



AN ELABORATION OF INTERESTS

The membership of our organization has a very wide range of interests: covering, in fact, just about every facet of accumulated knowledge and most aspects of novel inquiry. The majority of our members, moreover, appear to be so catholic in their interests as to warrant the title of “universalists.” In other words, ours is an organization for the pooling of interests – be they professional or amateur, business or hobby. In fact, it is, as explained in our brochure, basically a data-collection center. However, the principal objective of what we call **Collection** is not just the mere acquisition of data and the accumulation of a library (which may be regarded as “static”). Rather, it is a dynamic enterprise, especially devised to facilitate an active interchange of ideas and facilities between members. Thus, it is actually the secondary interests of respondents that are given first attention.

As an example: while two geomorphologists will naturally correspond through a geomorphological society, one who happens to be an orchid-grower may not know that his only peer in this field is an insurance broker, holding degrees in chemistry, and living in another country. Putting two “specialists” of this nature and caliber in touch with each other is actually our most fundamental objective.

Our Evaluation of material is a filtering process, whereby, with advice from our Scientific Advisory Panel, the validity of the data received is assessed. In doing this, however, our organization has adopted a somewhat novel, and in some respects unique, attitude. While everything is assessed on what is commonly called “a scientific basis,” the parameters of the data so processed is much wider than is normally accepted for such consideration. It is our credo that “Science is the pursuit of the Unknown” and it is, therefore, the frontiers and borderlands of both recorded facts and of novel inquiry that are of primary interest to us. This should not, however, in any way be read to mean that we are not equally interested in any and all facts that are established. And to this end the Foundation maintains an as up-to-date as possible reference library in all fields of scientific endeavor.

Many new theories, as well as actual discoveries, are often regrettably ignored, either because of their unusual or “startling” aspects, or because of some apparent illogicality in their presentation. Likewise, a large number of both are never given proper consideration by specialists, on the grounds that, they were either propagated by specialists in other fields or were propounded by so-called (and usually scathingly) “amateurs.” Over the years, we have not infrequently found that sincere investigation of such discoveries, and a proper reading of such theories, by unbiased specialists in the field concerned, has brought to light extremely valuable information and/or ideas that would otherwise have been totally ignored. Nonetheless, our evaluation is based upon certain rather firm rules. This, first, involves their classification as either: –

- A. ESTABLISHED facts or theories that are 'generally' accepted as being explained.
- B. ACCEPTED facts that are not as yet 'explained,' and theories that are not yet completely accepted, but which do not conflict with established understanding.
- C. REPORTED facts and observations that can not be denied, but which are currently inexplicable, or which appear illogical, (i.e., the para-normal, but factual, phenomena).
- D. ALLEGED events, and theoretical explanations of same, and general hypotheses that are not as yet accepted, (i.e., the quasi-normal phenomena, such as para-psychology).
- E. OTHER: The purely mental exercises, such as ontology, religion, ethics, aesthetics, the mystical, occult, etc. Data in these fields is relayed to an affiliated organization, on a reciprocal basis, as we do not handle these departments of enquiry.

The second phase of our evaluation is to eliminate any items founded on obvious misinformation, and/or any demonstrably misinformed theorizing or erroneous reporting. This includes manifest hoaxes, deliberate frauds, outright mendacity, and just plain 'stupidity'! However, to avoid any denigration of any item just because it apparently displays one or more of these aspects, as thorough an investigation as possible is prosecuted. This we consider to be of the greatest importance, as a matter of policy, because experience has shown that, even in some cases of deliberate hoax, most valuable corollary data may be brought to light.

Our objectives in the Dissemination of the information received, and thus evaluated, are quite varied, and are as follows: –

- (1) INFORMATION, gathered from whatever sources, is made available to Members who apply for it specifically – by word of mouth, in writing, or on tape or film, if available
- (2) Similarly, PERSONAL CONTACTS are, as far as possible, arranged on behalf of such members who specifically apply, with any persons or institutions who might be able to aid them in their work or projected enterprises.
- (3) All ASSISTANCE possible is given members in organizing projects – such as expeditions abroad and field trips in this country. This includes basic prior research, the design and building (physical) of equipment, fund-raising, arrangements for transportation and overseas facilities, official diplomatic relations; and press, publicity, promotional, and other local 'relations.'
- (4) Foundation PUBLICATIONS include: (a) An incidental Newsletter, now issued on an irregular schedule, but serially numbered and dated. This is for the information of Members only, and covers current activities and objectives.

(b) A quarterly journal, to be entitled Pursuit (circa 32 pages to start with), containing a minimum of four lead articles, editorials, reviews, and a correspondents' forum. And, (c) The Newspaper THE ANIMAL WORLD, also (circa 32 pages), giving topical news (monthly) of all aspects of public, commercial, and scientific interest in zoology. This is designed as an educational forum, and is primarily for young people.

- (5) LECTURES, Seminars and Radio and Television exposures by members under authorization of the Foundation. (The business aspects of these activities are arranged individually with the Director, and then handled professionally by an Agency.)
- (6) FILMS: The Foundation owns a number of films and film-strips of items of interest to it. However, it also offers to handle footage made by members, both in the technical and production fields, and in distribution and sales. (Being a scientific and educational organization, we do not, of course, offer to disseminate any material commercially.)

So, finally, to answer the question that we are most often asked – to wit: “Just what are your interests?” This may perhaps best be answered by the purely taxonomic classification of knowledge herewith reproduced.

The classification of knowledge has exercised men's minds for millenia. Today it is of special concern and it falls into the bailiwick of what is called Library Science – which is to say the Data-Collection expertise. Herein, the computers have come to the aid of our previously most laborious and rather 'primitive' cataloguing methods. All these old methods have “broken-down” under the strain of the flood of new knowledge but, at the same time, the computers have elaborated the basic taxonomic structure to such a point of complexity that nobody, other than a specialist, can understand it. Therefore, we have gone back to a simplification of the whole business, covering all fields of knowledge. This, we have found is best expressed as follows:

- I. MATHEMATICS – The Structure and Behaviour of Mensuration. Number, Quantity, Probability, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, Topology, the Theory of Games, and such related matters of calculation.
- II. COSMOLOGY – The Structure and Behaviour of Existence. Ontology, Metaphysics (classical), Space, Time, Locus, and such items of Coincidence.
- III. CHEMIPHYSICS – The Structure and Behaviour of Matter. Nucleonics, Chemistry, Physics (classical), Electrics, Electromagnetics, Magnetics, Mechanics, and related technologies such as Engineering, etc.
- IV. ASTRONOMY – The Structure and Behaviour of Gross Bodies. The Universe(s), Galactics, Stellar and Solar Astronomy, Planetology, Selenology, Meteoritics, Astrophysics, etc.

- V. GEOLOGY – The Structure and Behaviour of the Earth. This includes everything connected with the Earth Sciences – Atmosphere, Hydrosphere, and Lithosphere – plus the sublithic core. Thus: meteorology, hydrology, glaciology, oceanology, geophysics and geomorphology, geology (classical), volcanology, seismology, petrology, mineralogy, etc. Also – geography, geodesy, mapping, dating, etc.
- VI. BIOLOGY – The Structure and Behaviour of Animate Entities. These are the Life-Sciences (apart from mental expressions; including the Exobiology, as well as the life indigenous to this planet. It covers all life-forms, from the non-material to man; and embraces Protogeanology, Botany, and Zoology; Histology, Physiology, and Anatomy, and human Physical Anthropology (i.e., man, physically, as an animal).
- VII. ANTHROPOLOGY – The Structure and Behaviour of Manufacture. Archaeology, Pre-history, History, Ethnology, Sociology, Folklore (not Mythology), Philology, Economics and the Arts, Architecture, Agronomy, and other useful arts, and their related technologies.
- VIII. MENTALOGY – The Structure and Behaviour of Intellect. Logic, Ethics, Aesthetics, Mythology and Religion; Psychology, Mysticism, and the Occult; Comparative Intelligence, etc.

Given this simplified framework, there is nothing that lacks a place. For practical purposes and use in our work, the key words are, of course, "Structure and Behaviour," and it is of first importance to ask oneself just what particular aspect of any item is of concern (to us) at the time. Thus, for example, in considering a "fall" of an unknown species of fish from a clear sky, is it the type of fish (zoological), the weather (geological), or the method of arrival of the fish (chemiphysical) that is of first concern? Obviously, it is the latter, since the weather is, in this case, purely negative, while the identification of the fish (specifically) is a purely secondary zoological matter. The event is the important aspect of the record; and this is a physical matter – i.e., it is concerned with the behaviour of matter.

While all topics included in the above chart are of interest to us – though often more so to individual members than to the organization as a whole – it is the three segments of Geology, Biology, and Anthropology – in which we are most particularly interested. It should be noted that Physical Anthropology – which is to say Man as a mammalian species, per se, and 'physically' – is a purely biological matter. On the other hand, all Man's "works" fall into the field of his endeavour of "manufacture." For this reason we maintain a library pertaining to these cultural (or "hardware") aspects of man's endeavour.

Ivan T. Sanderson

REPORT ON THE LIBRARY

At the present stage of our development, the single most important activity of the organization is the Library. This includes not only books but the Map collection, Bound Periodicals, Pamphlets and Separates, and Picture and Information Files. Work in and on the library is currently both bibliographic and purely mechanical and both these activities have to be carried on simultaneously. Also, they have been laid out on a short-term and long-term program.

I. The Short-term Program.

This has already been under way since the beginning of the year. It has entailed, first sorting and re-classifying all the material and the rebuilding of all shelving and filing facilities; second, the cataloguing of books and the transfer of loose material in files to ring binders. About three quarters (1500) of the hard-back books have been stamped, numbered, and entered in a standard library catalog, and also on two cards – by author, and by subject. So far, 40 Binders have been completed but this represents the contents of only one out of ten filing cabinets. The periodicals, separates, and maps have not yet been tackled. It is hoped that the Director's personal assistant may be able to devote part time to this work starting in June when the professional Librarian who has been cataloguing the books will have to be laid-off unless the special Fund set up by five of the Board Members is augmented. (We are indebted to Edna L. Currie, Hans Stefan Santesson, and Oliver G. Swan for initially endowing this small fund). The work has been undertaken by Mrs. Virginia Garety, and William S. Gibbs.

II. The Long-Term Program.

This has entailed the drawing of plans for a two-story, 60-ft by 30-ft. fire-resistant building containing a fire-proof room for storage of the more valuable material. This building will also contain all facilities, a photo laboratory and processing room, three one-and-a-half-room suites for visiting members, reading rooms, offices, experimental kitchen, and large stock-room. Exact cost estimates are currently being worked out between our Deputy Director – who is himself in the construction business – and the various contractors. All furnishings have been priced, and the service companies have submitted estimates. More exact details will be reported in a later newsletter. Institutional money will primarily be sought to finance this project, and a proper professional fund-raising campaign launched when plans and estimates are completed, and a Presentation and a Model are on hand.



The Foundation is authorized to contract with individuals, and industrial, scientific, and other institutions to undertake specific projects. If requested by Sponsors, special provisions may be made for representation on the Scientific Advisory Board for the duration of the contract. Certain facilities and services are available to all members through correspondence, or by pre-arranged visit to the research center. Nominal charges are made to cover the costs of retrieval, copying, and dispatch of material. Non-members may obtain such services only under specific contracts, negotiated on an individual basis. All communications with the Foundation must be made in writing. Purely business correspondence should be addressed to the Business office. All requests and applications should be as specific as possible.