

REPORT OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PHONETIC SCIENCES

The Second General Meeting of ISPhS took place in Montreal in August, 1971. The by-laws were approved after further amendments to the draft which had been sent to the members prior to the congress (Circular Letter 13, Exclusive). It was decided to pass over the text to our members D. Graham Stuart, U.S.A. and H. Pilch, German Federal Republic, in order for formal and language corrections to be made. The Board intends to distribute to all recipients of our Circular Letters the final wording of the by-laws together with C.L. 15, to be issued in May, 1972.

After the Board of ISPhS had been re-elected, it was decided to consider a change in 1975, at the elections, in order to bring about a different geographical distribution of the members of the Board and of the officers of the executive body.

The General Meeting elected Professor Dr. Eberhard Zwirner, German Federal Republic, as Honorary President of ISPhS. Eberhard Zwirner is the founder both of ISPhS and of the review *Phonetica*.

Professor Alexandre Rosetti, Romania, was elected Vice-President in place of Eberhard Zwirner.

In accordance with the amended by-laws, the General Meeting elected an auditor. Dr. Jens-Peter Köster, German Federal Republic, was entrusted with the task.

ISPhS still finds itself hampered by existing currency regulations, and the Board regrets that the Unesco Coupon System has not been of much use so far. Though we do not give up the hope of deriving profit from the aid offered by Unesco, we have made efforts to establish a center in Czechoslovakia, where membership fees from a series of countries can be sent, and from where, instead of money, services such as the printing of by-laws, membership cards, and other necessary matters, can be provided. The practical sides of such an arrangement were reported.

The publishers of the review *Phonetica* have submitted a draft for an agreement with ISPhS concerning the function of *Phonetica* as the official organ of ISPhS. It was reported to the General Meeting that H. Pilch had been given the task of concluding the negotiations, using the draft mentioned as a minimum to be achieved. Mr. Pilch is one of the chief editors of *Phonetica*, and a member of ISPhS, but does not, of course, in any way represent the interests of the publishers.

The membership fee for the next period (1972 through 1975) was fixed at US \$ 3.00 per year for regular (personal) members, and at US \$ 5.00 per year for affiliated members (societies, institutes, libraries, etc.).

Martin Kloster-Jensen
Secretary of the ISPhS

REPORT OF THE INFORMAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ASSOCIATION

Dr. S.K. Chatterji, President of the IPA, opened the meeting. Some 35-40 persons were present.

Reporting on behalf of Prof. A.C. Gimson (Secretary and Treasurer), Dr. J.C. Wells announced that, following the changes in the Journal (formerly *Le Maître phonétique* in phonetic transcription, now *Journal of the International Phonetic Association* in orthography), the membership stood at around 600. Few had resigned because of the change. A list of members would be published in 1972. It was desirable to increase the membership in order to make the journal more securely viable, particularly in view of a recent 15% increase in printing costs. As soon as the financial position was stable it was hoped to revise and re-issue the *Principles* booklet. It was envisaged that the alphabet would remain as at present, possibly with certain additions; but the texts accompanying the transcriptions in the *Principles* should be modified so as to furnish both phonetic and phonological details of the language concerned. Finally, the Council and Officers of the Association were now due for re-election; a circular would shortly be sent out to the Council and, in due course, to the membership.

Dr. P. Ladefoged expressed a hope that the Association would shortly be reorganised on more democratic lines. As an organization held together until recently by the force of one man's personality and strength of character (that of Daniel Jones), the Association was now, since his death, in danger of decline and ineffectiveness.

Prof. M. Onishi then presented a Memorandum (text attached), in which he called for the holding of regular international conferences or general assemblies of members of the Association, to discuss a whole range of topics within the field of phonetics.

Prof. J.B. Rudnyćkyj welcomed the idea of such meetings, but felt that they

should be held irregularly, whenever proposed by an initiator, to discuss individual problems one at a time. He also queried certain of the terms used by Prof. Onishi in section V of his memorandum.

Dr. H.M. Truby protested that the ever-increasing number of conferences and congresses was becoming unmanageable. Could the correspondence columns of the *m.f.* not be used instead? A report should be commissioned on a given subject, then printed and circulated; the membership should be allowed one year in which to answer; and the Council, or some appropriate committee, could then reach a conclusion.

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting.

Minuted by John C. Wells
Deputy Secretary
International Phonetic Association

Please see in this volume, the report of the Free Discussion on "Problems of the Alphabet of the International Phonetic Association", pp. 1223-1225.

MEMORANDUM PRESENTED TO THE I.P.A. BY DR. MASAO ONISHI

I. The International Phonetic Association was founded by Paul Passy in 1886, presumably the first academic organization in the world, the original and direct object of which was principally the study of nature of language and rationalization of teaching method. It is needless to say that, in accordance with the advancement of science, the Association well cooperated with its adjoining sciences, such as phonophysics, phono-physiology, etc., but its proper function is unchangeable; namely, phonetics is "the science of speech, or speechology".

II. The word "Pronunciation" has sometimes been misused as if it were an alternative term of "Phonetics." That, however, must represent only a part of this science, because lips, tongue, or vocal cords do not act by themselves. There must be a subject to put them in action, which lies in the brain and lives as a life itself. Therefore, utterance and thinking, in coordination with each other, conform to speech behavior, which may be respectively named inner language and outer language — "image" and "phenomena". Thus, phonetics *per se* covers those two big areas as its component essences.

III. The principle of phonetics itself is humanistic, or anthropological, just as that of language is. For each individual life, it is an acquired, social, conventional, and also cultural thing. Accordingly, in speech conventional meaning related to conventional form in a certain linguistic society is the most important, not the natural sounds, such as thundering, raining, machine noise, birds' singing, animals' crying, etc.

IV. Phonetics is linguistic, but may be or must be differentiated from language study

in general. For, the former is the "science of speech action", while the latter is the "science of linguistic code"; in other words, the former is dynamic, behavioristic, while the latter is static, chronological or visual.

V. As regards the promotion of Phonetics proper, there being many problems, it will be necessary to hold an International Conference on Phonetics or General Assembly of Members, at least, once in three or four years to discuss:

- A) Unification of Phonetic Terminology
- B) Notation System for Sounds and Tones
- C) Sound Image against Sound Behavior
- D) Sounds and Significance
- E) Tones and Significance
- F) Phono-Grammatica
- G) Phono-Stylistics
- H) Theory of Phonetic Changes
- I) Phone as Perception Unit
- J) Speech Effect as Communication
- K) Speech Pathology and Pedophonetics
- L) Speech Craft and Applied Phonetics
- M) Audio and Visual Symbolism
- N) Individuality and Voice Pattern
- O) Comparative Research on Particular Languages
- P) Direct Method against Bilingualism
- Q) etc., etc.

NB:

1) The late Prof. Daniel Jones discussed with me at his house on 22 Sep., 1967, when he heartily wished to have a proper Gathering of IPA in future. Some days before it, in answer to my question, he had written to me as follows: "I am not an organiser of the Int. Congress of Phonetic Sciences, and I don't think Prof. Gimson thinks it possible to amalgamate that Congress with the I.P.A."

2) To my proposal to have the "International Congress of IPA" on November, 1969, many reactions reached me. Above all, Prof. S.K. Chatterji, President of IPA after D. Jones, wrote to me as follows: "I fully agree with your proposal to hold a general meeting of the Members of the IPA, which may be called an International Conference on Phonetics".

3) Dr. D.C. Laycock (Australian Univ.): "I think Prof. Onishi's initiative is useful because it might be a step towards making IPA and its journal a more demonstrable responsive sounding-board for the common concerns of phonetics".

4) Prof. Teanette Marries (Univ. of Wisconsin): "I feel that meetings of the International Phonetic Association would be best held at the same place and either immediately preceding or following the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, since so much of our membership and fields of interest overlap".

The papers prepared by Soviet phoneticians, that have not been able to come and read them at the VIIth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, have been published by the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. (See reference below).

Les communications préparées par les phonéticiens soviétiques, qui n'ont pas pu participer au VIIe Congrès international des sciences phonétique, ont été publiées par l'Académie des Sciences de l'U.R.S.S. (cf. la référence ci-dessous).

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ТЕЗИСЫ ДОКЛАДОВ
советских лингвистов
на VII Международном конгрессе
фонетических наук (Монреаль, 1971 г.)

А К А Д Е М И Я Н А У К С С С Р
ОТДЕЛЕНИЕ ЛИТЕРАТУРЫ И ЯЗЫКА
КОМИССИЯ ПО ФОНОЛОГИИ И ФОНЕТИКЕ

М о с к в а — 1971