

PROGRAM

For The

First Nationwide Convention

**THE AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC  
AFFILIATION**

of

Wheaton College

Wheaton, Illinois

August 28, 29, and 30, 1946



A group of Christian scientific men devoting themselves to the task of reviewing, preparing, and distributing information on the authenticity, historicity, and scientific aspects of the Holy Scriptures in order that the faith of many in Jesus Christ may be firmly established.



*That they may see  
and know,  
and consider,  
and understand together  
that the hand of the Lord hath done this,  
and the Holy one of Israel hath created it.—Isaiah 41:20.*

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**Members of the Executive Council**

- F. Alton Everest (1946)\*, *President*  
 Allan A. MacRae (1950), *Vice-President*  
 Marion D. Barnes (1947), *Secretary-Treasurer*  
 Edwin Y. Monsma (1948)  
 Russell L. Mixter (1949)

**Past Council Members**

- John P. Van Haitisma (1942)  
 Irving A. Cowperthwaite (1943)  
 Russell D. Sturgis (1944)  
 Peter W. Stoner (1945)

**Convention Committees**

- Russell L. Mixter, *General Chairman*  
 Hawley O. Taylor, *Local Committee*  
 Clarence L. Nystrom, *Local Committee*  
 F. Alton Everest, *Program Committee*  
 Edwin Y. Monsma, *Program Committee*  
 William J. Tinkle, *Program Committee*

(\* Denotes year of retirement from the council)

**Convention Details**

**Transportation:**

Wheaton may be reached from Chicago by a 50-minute ride on the Chicago, Aurora, and Elgin R. R., trains leaving Chicago at 30-minute intervals. The fare is 60c.

**Housing:**

Rooms are available at \$1.00 per night. Sheets, towels, and blankets are provided. Prices of meals vary from approximately 40c to 75c. Accommodations are available for wives, also.

**Reservations:**

It is very desirable that room reservations be made in advance. These may be made by writing to Mrs. Ethel B. Patterson, Wheaton College.

**Registration:**

Admission to the daytime sessions of the convention is contingent upon registration. A fee of \$1.00 will be payable at the time of registration.

**Non-Members:**

Those who are not members of the ASA, but who are interested in its work, are cordially invited to attend the sessions after they have registered properly.

**Participation in absentia:**

Those members unable to attend are invited to submit papers to be read, discussions pertaining to the abstracts contained in this program, or communications on any matter of ASA program or policy. These will be presented and considered at the appropriate time. Any such material should be sent to the convention chairman, Dr. Russell L. Mixter, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, immediately.

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**Wednesday, August 28, 1946**

- 7:30 a.m. **Devotional Period:** Leader, Prof. Paul De Koning
- 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast**
- 9:00 a.m. **General Session:** Opening of the convention. Discussion of the program by Dr. Russell L. Mixter, Convention Chairman
- 10:30 a.m. **Papers:** Dr. Edwin Y. Monsma presiding
- "Alleged Confirmations of Scripture That Have not Stood the Test—A Word of Caution"  
Prof. R. Laird Harris
- "The Longevity of The Antedeluvians"  
Dr. Brian P. Sutherland
- "Our Need of the Facts"  
Dr. Walter L. Wilson
- Discussion following each paper
- 1:15 p.m. **Lunch**
- 2:30 p.m. **Round Table Discussion Period**  
Topic: "The Value of the Argument From Design and Purpose in Nature."  
Leader: Dr. Brian P. Sutherland
- 4:00 p.m. **Papers:** Prof. E. N. Gathercoal presiding
- "The Limits of Selection"  
Dr. William J. Tinkle
- "Unsolved Problems of Evolution"  
Prof. Paul E. Parker
- "The Kind of Genesis and the Kind of Geology"  
Dr. Russell L. Mixter
- 5:30 p.m. **Dinner**
- 8:00 p.m. **Evening Meeting** (illustrated, open to the public)
- "The Plagues of Egypt in the Light of Archaeology"  
Dr. Paul R. Bauman
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**Thursday, August 29, 1946**

- 7:30 a.m. **Devotional Period:** Leader, Dr. Irving A. Cowperthwaite
- 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast**
- 9:00 a.m. **Business Session:** Discussion of the problems and policies of the Affiliation.
- 11:30 a.m. **Film Review:** Viewing of the film, "The God of Creation," which bears the approval of the Affiliation.
- 1:15 p.m. **Lunch**
- 2:30 p.m. **Round Table Discussion Period**  
Topic: "The Extent of Changes of Species Since Creation"  
Leader: Dr. William J. Tinkle
- 4:00 p.m. **Papers:** Dr. Marion D. Barnes presiding  
"Epistemological Assumptions of Scientists"  
Dr. Cornelius Van Til (Guest Paper)  
"The Bible as a Guide in Scientific Research"  
Mr. F. Alton Everest  
"The Egyptian Use of Straw in Brickmaking"  
Dr. Irving A. Cowperthwaite  
Discussion following each paper
- 5:30 p.m. **Dinner**
- 8:00 p.m. **Evening Lecture** (Open to the public)  
"Bible Archaeology"  
Dr. Allan A. MacRae
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**Friday, August 30, 1946**

- 7:30 a.m. **Devotional Period:** Leader, Dr. Walter L. Wilson
- 8:00 a.m. **Breakfast**
- 9:00 a.m. **Papers:** Dr. Hawley O. Taylor presiding
- "A God-Centered Science Course for Seniors"  
Dr. H. Harold Hartzler
- "Genesis 1:1"  
Prof. E. N. Gathercoal
- "Bible Chemistry"  
Dr. John R. Chappell
- Discussion following each paper
- 1:15 p.m. **Lunch**
- 2:30 p.m. **Business Session:** Discussion of the problems and policies of the Affiliation.
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### Agenda

1. Publication program
    - Popular abridgement of "Science Symposium" for High School Students and lay public?
    - Tract of testimonies of scientists?
    - Technical monograph series to reach specialist?
    - Should ASA publish a journal? Quarterly?
    - More frequent newsletters?
    - Science textbooks written from creationist view?
  2. "The Science Symposium" (Handbook)
    - Secular or evangelical publishing house?
    - Financing, if guaranteed edition required?
    - Plans for distribution among students?
  3. Library program
    - Means of acquiring volumes?
    - Reviews of every book on the list?
    - Mechanics of circulation of books for reading?
  4. Financing the ASA activities?
  5. Constitution
    - Provisions for resignation from membership?
    - Should annual meeting be mandatory?
  6. Membership
    - Reconsider entrance requirements?
    - Distribution of members; scientific fields, geographically?
    - Inactive members and reasons?
    - Growth trends?
  7. Regional organizations: discussion groups?
  8. Reviewing
    - Pre-publication reviews of manuscripts?
    - Review of Christian films of scientific nature?
    - Wording of approval: "Approve" vs. "Recommend"?
  9. Nomination of new council member for 1947.
  10. Speakers bureau of ASA lecturers: travelling panel?
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**ABSTRACTS**

“Alleged Confirmations of Scripture that Have Not Stood the Test—A Word of Caution”

R. Laird Harris, Assistant Professor of Old Testament Faith Theological Seminary, Wilmington, Delaware.

It is our desire as men with confidence in both Scripture and true science to show the harmony between the two and show how Scripture has been confirmed. Some examples can be given of what seem surely to be false confirmations. Among them we shall discuss Sir Leonard Woolley's "Flood Deposit" from Ur of the Chaldees, the alleged astronomical proof of Joshua's long day, the account printed in the papers this spring of an alleged eyewitness account of the crucifixion of Christ, described as "a bitter and moving lamentation." A brief analysis will be given of the reasons why these should not have been advanced as confirmations. These points may be useful as guides to us in our desire to advance confirmations of Scripture that will stand the test.

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“The Longevity of the Antedeluvians”

B. P. Sutherland, Superintendent of Experimental Research, Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co., Trail, B. C.

The ages of the early patriarchs at maturity and at death are seen to decrease sharply after the flood. Recent work on nucleonics shows that many animals age relatively quickly under the influence of radiations. Possible changes in radiations at the earth's surface which may have occurred at the time of the flood may have been at least a contributing cause in connection with this problem.

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“The Limits of Selection”

William J. Tinkle, Chairman of Science Division, Taylor University, Upland, Indiana.

Charles Darwin considered selection a very important process in building the organic world, as evinced by his famous title, "On the Origin of Species by Natural Selection." Weismann also considered selection to be well nigh all-powerful. But we now know that if it is continued long, the plants or animals involved become a pure line, after which selection is not effective. Facts gleaned from different sources show that the tomato, strawberry, hog, maize, and regal lily have been obtained by importation, aided in some cases by crossing, selection playing a minor role. Selection by man is most effective following crossing or in a species in which the process has not been used before. To consider evolution by selection as an alternative to creation is not justified by the facts.

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“Unsolved Problems of Evolution”

Paul E. Parker, Associate Professor of Biology, Marion College, Marion, Indiana.

What is missing in the **trunk** of the ancestral tree of man's evolutionary ascent? This search calls attention to the fact that in every animal phylum there is almost a total lack of living or fossil ancestors to the next more complex phylum. The second problem is to trace the supposed developmental stages of certain important body structures or organs, as bones, lungs, or reproductive organs through their supposed ascent to their complex present. This investigation discovers that there is a complete lack of cooperative or chronological ascent, that as some organs advance, others have apparently gone backwards in the same animal, thus leaving us no ancestral animal to represent a definite stage of complete advancement. Classic examples are the urodel mud-puppy and the elasmobranchi dog fish shark. Conclusion: The evolutionary tree has multiplied thousands of "missing links", not just a few. Also, the evolutionary ascent pattern is strongly opposed to itself.

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“Epistemological Assumptions of Scientists”

Cornelius Van Til, Professor of Apologetics, Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa.

This paper will deal briefly with some of the metaphysical and epistemological presuppositions that are taken for granted by outstanding scientists in our day. It will seek to show that under the color of a neutral methodology men are in fact taking for granted as true a wholly anti-Christian and anti-theistic life and world view. It will also aim to suggest how a truly scientific methodology in science will need to be based on specifically Christian-theistic presuppositions in metaphysics and epistemology.

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**ABSTRACTS (Continued)**
**"The Kind of Genesis and the Kind of Geology"**

Russell L. Mixer, Professor of Zoology, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois.

In the book, "Tempo and Mode in Evolution", by Simpson, there is emphasis upon the gaps in the geological record. These gaps may be taken as the breaks between the kinds of genesis. The geological strata are accepted as interpreted by the geologists and development within a kind correlated with evolution within an order, such as the evolution of the horse. This is presented merely as a tentative conclusion.

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**"The Bible as a Guide in Scientific Research"**

F. Alton Everest, Associate Director, Moody Institute of Science, West Los Angeles, Calif.

This paper is a plea for realism in the application of biblical records to scientific research. Christian men of science who believe the Bible to be a true account have access to data on natural phenomena which the unbelieving scientist does not have. Examples from astronomy, archaeology, meteorology, medicine, etc., are given which show that the Bible contains hints which far preceded scientific discoveries in the past. Extrapolation of this method to assist in pushing out the frontiers of scientific knowledge is proposed. Specific examples of biblical passages are cited which may have possible scientific significance in the future. It is felt that positive contributions of this type by Christian men of science will do much toward making the Word known in intellectual fields now largely agnostic and unreached.

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**"The Egyptian Use of Straw in Brickmaking"**

Irving A. Cowperthwaite, Chief Engineer, Thompson Wire Company, Milton, Mass.

A great contribution to modern clay-working is Acheson's discovery at the beginning of the century that the organic material (gallo-tannic acid) added to clay greatly improves its workability and firing characteristics. His comments on the Egyptian use of straw for brick include his belief that it was not as a mechanical binder, but that extracts of the straw was used. This would explain the Hebrews' successful substitution of stubble for straw. Apparently modern science has merely rediscovered this ancient process.

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**"A God-Centered Science Course For Seniors"**

H. Harold Hartzler, Professor of Mathematics, Goshen College, Goshen, Indiana.

A course for science majors is proposed, covering the physical and biological fields, to be divided as follows: macrocosm, microcosm, biocosm. First to be discussed will be the universe as a whole emphasizing God's relation to its vastness. Second, the interior of the atom will be considered, stressing God's interest in the minute aspects of His creation. Third, the subject of life will be discussed and God's part in its creation and preservation stressed. The aim is to give science majors a unified view of the universe, keeping God constantly in the foreground. It is proposed that several instructors collaborate in teaching the course, all of whom agree as to aim and objectives. It is hoped that such a course will become a reality in the curricula of a number of Christian colleges.

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**"Genesis 1:1"**

E. N. Gathercoal, Emeritus Professor of Pharmacognosy, University of Illinois, Chicago, Ill.

This is a discussion of Genesis 1:1 in the light of recent discoveries in physics; the time, the manner, and the accomplishment of God as expressed in this verse and supported by other passages of Scripture; the primary source of power as indicated in the Bible. Does this first verse of Genesis have a direct bearing on the remainder of this first chapter of Genesis? Will the evidence of power or energy inherent in matter (mass) tend to weaken or destroy "modernism" in the Christian church?

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**Round Table Discussion, "The Value of the Argument From Design and Purpose in Nature."**

I. The use of the argument and the conclusions derived as found in the Bible.

II. Historical review

Early writers up to Paley

Effects of Darwinism and related theories

Recent ideas

III. Typical examples from modern science

Inanimate nature; cosmogony, geology, chemistry, etc.

Animate nature; vegetable and animal life

IV. The problem of imperfection

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