

PROGRAM
FOR THE
THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION
THE AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC
AFFILIATION, Inc.

AT
CALVIN COLLEGE
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN
SEPTEMBER 1, 2, and 3, 1948

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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.

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*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*

Tuesday, August 31, 1948

8:00 p. m. Annual Meeting of the Executive Council

Wednesday, September 1, 1948

7:30 a. m. **Devotional Period:** Leader, Prof. Paul DeKoning

8:00 a. m. **Breakfast**

9:00 a. m. **Registration**

9:30 a. m. **General Session:** Invocation

Word of Welcome by Prof. H. Schultze, President of Calvin College. Brief discussion of the program by Paul DeKoning Chairman of the Program Committee. Other remarks by Dr Edwin Monsma, Chairman of the Local Committee.

10:00 a. m. **Business Session:** President F. Alton Everest presiding.

Annual reports, review of Film activities, presentation of Symposium "Modern Science and Christian Faith."

12:30 m. **Lunch**

2:00 p. m. **Scientific Papers:** Dean Lorin G. Miller presiding.

1. "Christian View on the Development of Science"

Dr. Marion D. Barnes

2. "Meaning of Mathematics"

Dr. Harold H. Hartzler

3. "Antiquity of Hominoid Fossils"

Dr. Laurence J. Kulp

6:00 p. m. **Dinner**

8:00 p. m. **Public Lecture**

"Has Archeological Research Proved Solomon to be a Myth?"

Dr. Allan A. MacRae

Thursday, September 2, 1948

7:30 a. m. **Devotional Period:** Leader, Dr. Irving Cowperthwaite

8:00 a. m. **Breakfast**

9:00 a. m. **The Field of Medical Science:** Dr. J. S. Maxwell presiding

1. Guest Paper —

“The Eye as An Optical Instrument”

Dr. Frank Allen

2. Symposium —

a. “Was Moses the Father of Hygiene?”

b. “Could Leprosy Have Been Conquered?”

c. “Could Tuberculosis Have Been Conquered?”

12:30 m. **Lunch**

1:30 p. m. **Paper:** “A Physicist’s Glimpse of God”

Dr. Paul E. Bender

2:30 p. m. **The Subject of Evolution,** Dr. R. J. Voskuyl presiding

1. “Some Basic Presuppositions in Evolutionary Thinking”

Dr. Edwin Y. Monsma

2. “The Mechanisms of Evolution”

Dr. Russell Mixer

3. “The Scientifico-Logical Structure of the Theory of Evolution” (Guest Paper)

Dr. Bernard Ramm

6:00 p. m. **Dinner**

8:00 p. m. **Public Lecture**

“The Role of ASA in the Christian Testimony”

President F. Alton Everest

Following the lecture, the film “Voice of the Deep” will be shown through the courtesy of the Moody Institute of Science.

Friday, September 3, 1948

7:30 a. m. **Devotional Period:** Leader, Dr. Marion Barnes

8:00 a. m. **Breakfast**

9:00 a. m. **Guest Paper**

"Christian Treatment of the Mentally III"
Dr. M. Beukema

9:30 a. m. **Round Table Discussion**

Leader: President Everest

Subject: "What Shall be the Role of ASA in the
Study of Evolution?"

11:30 a. m. **Final Business Session and Adjournment**

12:30 p. m. **Lunch**

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Business Agenda

Matters to be considered during the business sessions:

Secretary-treasurer report of activity and present condition of ASA.

Report from the librarian and recommendations for the future.

Monograph series publications.

Tract publication committee report of progress and planning.

Report of the nominating committee for council member.

"Modern Science and Christian Faith," the symposium volume published by ASA.

Constitutional changes necessitated in the light of seven years of experience.

Film review activities.

Plans for the 1948 convention in Los Angeles.

Abstracts of some of the Papers

"Christian View on the Development of Science"

Marion Barnes, El Dorado, Arkansas.

A brief outline of the development of science will be presented with emphasis on the contribution made by application of the scientific method, the role of serendipity, and "hunches". A Christian interpretation of both the development and the achievements of science will be given. Some conclusions concerning the role of the Christian scientist in the world of science today will be drawn.

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"Antiquity of Hominoid Fossils"

J. Laurence Kulp, Lecturer in Geology and Chemistry, Columbia University, New York, N. Y.

One of the most critical problems confronting the student of historical apologetics is the length of time man, or man-like creatures, has lived on the earth. There is great ignorance in Christian circles regarding both the facts concerning these ancient hominoid fossils and the methods used in dating them.

The various effective techniques used in establishing Pleistocene (roughly the last 1,000,000 years) chronology will be described and evaluated. The geological evidence for the antiquity of certain important and representative hominoid fossils such as *Java Man, Peking Man, Heidelberg Man, etc., will be discussed. Upper and lower limits for the age of these remains will be indicated.

Considerable scientific evidence is presented that man-like creatures have been on the earth for at least many tens of thousands of years. This requires a reexamination of our interpretations of Genesis but is not disastrous to a strong conservative apologetic.

* Scientific names:

Pithecanthropus erectus

Sinanthropus Pekinensis

Homo Heidelbergensis

"Some Basic Presuppositions in Evolutionary Thinking"

Edwin Y. Monsma, Professor of Biology, Calvin College,
Grand Rapids, Michigan.

This paper mentions four presuppositions which are fundamental assumptions of evolutionists but which cannot be accepted by Christian men of science because they believe in the Bible as the inspired Word of God. Counterparts for these presuppositions are suggested. Certain questions with respect to the Christian interpretation of natural phenomena are raised. The paper aims to provoke discussion on a positive Christian approach to scientific problems, particularly those concerned with evolution.



"The Mechanisms of Evolution"

Russell L. Mixter, Professor of Zoology, Wheaton College.

Two changes in the hereditary determiners, mutations and chromosomal rearrangements, may be the source of the descent of some species from others.

These changes are assumed to be capable of producing the transitions between major groups of animals, such as from reptiles to birds. Hereditary studies are incapable of establishing this assumption.

Goldschmidt (University of California) emphasizes the weaknesses of those who believe the mutations are effective in producing macro-evolution, but the method advocated by Goldschmidt is in the minds of many geneticists . . . "a belief in miracles."

The hereditary alterations are not directed toward progressing structures. Scientists are at a loss to explain the origin of complex organs; the vertebrate eye appears fully formed in animals "as if from the brow of Zeus."

A belief in Creation is considered reasonable by some modern scholars.



"Christian Treatment of the Mentally Ill"

Dr. M. J. Beukema, Pine-Rest Sanitarium and Christian Psychopathic
Hospital, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

A paper presenting some of the values and some of the problems associated with Christian treatment of the mentally ill. An attempt is made to point out something of the difference in treatment when applied by a Christian psychiatrist as compared to that by a non-religious psychiatrist. An answer is also given to the frequently expressed opinion of many Christians that if only the patient is given sufficient spiritual encouragement and is set straight in his religious thinking that then he should get well.

Members of the Executive Council

F. ALTON EVEREST (1951)*, President
ALLAN A. MacRAE (1950), Vice-President
EDWIN Y. MONSMA (1948)
RUSSELL L. MIXTER (1949)
ROGER J. VOSKUYL (1952)

* Year of retirement from Council

Past Council Members

JOHN P. VAN HAITSMa (1942)
IRVING A. COWPERTHWAITe (1943)
RUSSELL D. STURGIS (1944)
PETER W. STONER (1945)
MARION D. BARNES (1947)

Convention Committees

Program Committee —

PAUL DeKONING, Chairman
PAUL BENDER
JOSEPH S. MAXWELL
FRANK CASSEL

Local Committee —

EDWIN Y. MONSMA, Chairman
MARTIN KARSTEN

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Information

The third annual convention of The American Scientific Affiliation will be held September 1, 2, and 3, 1948, on the campus of Calvin College, an educational institution of the Christian Reformed Church. It is located in the 1300 block Franklin Street in the southeast end of Grand Rapids, Mich.

Rooms will be available in a dormitory located on the campus at 701 Giddings Avenue. The charge will be \$1.00 per person per night, with sheets, blankets, and towels provided. Meals will be served in the same building at approximately \$1.75 per day. Reservations may be made with Prof. M. Karsten, Calvin College, Grand Rapids.
