

Preface to the 1983 *Wave Length* book

In the course of a long association with the Federation and its Journal I have accumulated a considerable bulk of publications and correspondence. Since retirement I have had leisure — surprisingly little — to put them in some sort of order and remove the purely trivial. On a number of occasions, from 1968 onwards, the Executive Committee has discussed the possibility of forming an archive of the Federation, of which my material could form at least the skeleton; while the idea has always found favour the problems of where to keep it, at what cost and by whom maintained have so far prevented its realization.

However, at the request of the Executive Committee, I have made use of the material in two ways: first, a collection of those reports and Statutes, at present current, that have been published in the Journal, together with the unpublished report of the Magnus Committee; this appeared in 1983 as “*Recommendations for the Practice of Clinical Neurophysiology*” in the *Supplement* series. Secondly, the present book; the first International Meeting in 1947 was in London and it seemed particularly appropriate that the book should be ready for the return to London in 1985. This period of 38 years is perhaps the “Wave Length” of the title, the first cycle of the Federation; certainly it is the period of my own association with it.

My sources for the initial meeting are partly memory but largely an almost complete typescript put together by Geoffrey Parr, the secretary of the EEG Society at that time, and never published. Material for the next few years is scanty as it had not yet become customary to publish regular reports in the Journal and I only began to get all the correspondence on becoming Treasurer in 1957. After that the major sources are the published reports and editorials from the Journal (these are listed in Appendix 4), amplified by the correspondence of the Executive Committee and Editorial Board.

Some gaps in the early record have been filled from the files of Herbert Jasper and, particularly, of Mary Brazier, and nearly all the pictures come from the San Diego Congress of 1969, provided by Bob Ellingson. For all these I am most grateful.

Most of this material could have been available to several others and this history might have been put together by an American or a Frenchman; no doubt it would then have been to some extent a different story. This one is necessarily somewhat personal and Anglocentric and if some events and personalities have not received their due, I can only apologize and disclaim any intentional slight. This is not to say that there have been no omissions; brevity has demanded them and prudence has sometimes counselled that the more colourful correspondence was best forgotten.

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