

Chapter 6

1965–1969

President: A. Rémond

Meetings of the Executive Committee and Editorial Board had always been kept to a minimum because of the cost, since they invariably entailed at least one double Atlantic crossing, usually more. So far as possible they were arranged in association with meetings for which at least one of the members would receive travel expenses from other sources. In fact, this principle continues to be followed and has often reduced the expenses of meeting to a surprisingly small figure.

The new President, Antoine Rémond (Fig. 6.1), was in the fortunate position, as a result of working for an international airline, of being able to travel anywhere at a small fraction of the normal cost, which he did very often. Thus he was able to hold relatively frequent partial meetings of the Executive Committee, and later of the Organizing Committee of the Congress, on either side of the Atlantic; at these, useful discussions took place, though final decisions were still usually taken by postal vote.

The new post of Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee had been approved by the General Assembly and it seemed desirable that it should be filled as soon as possible. Accordingly, the Bye-Law “Executive Committee 3” was invoked, which gives the Executive Committee powers to appoint, subject to confirmation by the Council, a member to fill a gap in its members until the end of the Fiscal Period. Michael Saunders of Winnipeg (Fig. 6.2), who had worked hard as a member of the Rules Committee, was chosen and duly confirmed by the postal vote of the Council.

The early appointment of a permanent (for the Fiscal Period) Rules Committee was now statutory. Saunders, with valuable previous experience, was appointed chairman. Much time was spent and a huge correspondence was generated throughout the period to clarify numerous minor points in the Rules.

About a year after the Vienna Congress the Organizing Committee for the next congress, now defined by Statute, began to take shape; from the hosts, the American EEG Society, Herbert Jasper was elected President, Richard Walter Secretary and Robert Ellingson Treasurer. Ed Lambert represented EMG affairs and the American Association of EMG and Electrodiagnosis. These were widely scattered and all far away from San Diego; it fell to Dick Walter, by no means a “local”, to make all the plans for the physical organization of the Congress, which he did with great success, assisted by Laverne Johnson, far exceeding his role of Chairman for Local Arrangements. An early decision was to hold the Congress in San Diego in the week before the Neurological Congress in New York — the same country to be sure, but almost as far apart as they could be. The actual site of the Congress was to be the El Cortez Hotel (Fig. 6.3), which rapidly came to be called in the OCIC El Cortex Hotel. In fact the hotel later agreed to this change of title for the duration of the Congress.

San Diego is the main base of the U.S. Pacific fleet and for a while there were grave doubts whether visitors from the Iron Curtain countries



Fig. 6.1.

- Antoine Rémond (right), President 1965–1969, Editor-in-Chief of the “Handbook of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology”.
- Frédéric Bremer (left), distinguished Belgian neurologist and neurophysiologist. Founder of the Belgian EEG Society and President of the Fourth International EEG Congress, Brussels 1957.



Fig. 6.2. Michael Saunders of Winnipeg. First Federation Member-at-Large (1966–1969) and Chairman of the first statutory Rules Committee. He drafted the Rules of Order for the General Assembly and Council.

would be granted visas — specifically, a reputable European scientist had been refused permission to take up a study grant to work in a San Diego laboratory. Finally, however, the difficulties were overcome and a dozen scientists from the communist countries of Europe attended. A curious sidelight on this problem will be mentioned later.

The program of the Congress was as usual in the hands of the committee led by the President, Tony Rémond. He initiated an enquiry among all interested parties as to preferred topics and methods of presentation. The same had been done before but never so elaborately; all the information was entered in a computer as it became available. Gradually the idea developed of linking the Congress program with the subsequent production of a Handbook of EEG and Clinical Neurophysiology, with some of the characteristics of the old “Fiseeg” project. For example, all the members of a Round Table at the Congress would subsequently write a section of the Handbook on the same topic, without attribution of its separate parts to individual authors. Since the Handbook would have to be all-embracing, its conjunction with the Congress added considerably to the complexity of planning the program of the latter.

All this activity, and much else, emanated from the office of Tony Rémond in La Salpêtrière,

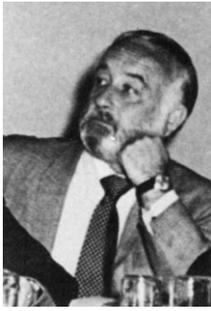


Fig. 6.3. Peter Kellaway of Houston, Texas. American Editor of the Journal 1969–1971.

Paris. Visiting him there one day in December 1968, Storm van Leeuwen and Cobb were horrified to see the state of mental exhaustion to which he had driven himself. So apprehensive were they for his health and the development of the Congress program that they called Mary Brazier in Los Angeles. She gallantly dropped everything and was in Paris within 2 days. There it was arranged that she, as the statutory deputy of the President, should take on his duties temporarily. The problems of the Congress program and, less urgently, the Handbook could be solved through a fortunate coincidence. All arrangements for the program were in the mind and files of Rémond's most competent assistant Gillian Dunkley, who had previously held a responsible post in the laboratory of Cobb in the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases in London; it was a relatively easy matter, therefore, to transfer her and the files to London, and for Cobb to guide her activities. These rescue operations were successful in that the program was completed and Rémond was able to resume his duties before long.

The Statutes allowed much freedom in the way in which elections of the officers could be conducted. The chairman of the Nomination Committee, Mary Brazier, decided to conduct the election of the President first, the rest subsequently, with the hope of avoiding some of the past difficulties. Cosimo Ajmone Marsan of Bethesda was elected President and consequently resigned as

American Editor of the Journal. Later Robert J. Ellingson of Omaha, who was demonstrating his abilities most strikingly in the organizing of the Congress, was elected Secretary. The Treasurer was R. Hess of Zurich, the Chairman of the EMG Commission Fritz Buchthal of Copenhagen and the Member-at-Large, David Ingvar of Lund. The Past President, Rémond, and the Managing Editor of the Journal completed the Executive Committee for the following Fiscal Period.

During the Fiscal Period five new societies were admitted to membership, those of Turkey, Iran, Argentina, Uruguay and Mexico; shortly before the Congress a sixth was added, the American Association of Electromyography and Electrodiagnosis, bringing the total to 35. This last was made possible by a change in the Bye-Laws permitting the membership of two societies from the same country "provided that its (the second society's) main sphere of interest differs from that of the first".

This reflected the increasing acceptance that the Federation should have wider interests than in EEG alone. In June 1967 it sponsored an International EMG Congress in Glasgow and abstracts of the papers were later published in the Journal (1968, 25: 393). The Journal also contained committee reports on the "Terminology of EMG" (1969, 26: 224) and on "EMG apparatus" (1970, 28: 399).

1. The EEG Journal

The first and all subsequent issues of the Journal up to 1964 contained an Index of Literature compiled by Chuck Henry; after that they became bi-monthly. At the end of 1965 Henry indicated that he had had enough, as well he might after 16 years. Fortunately a new method of presentation was already under discussion and, after a short interval, the Index resumed as a quarterly 16-page loose leaf insert to the Journal, derived from the computer store of the Brain Information Service (BIS) of the University of California, Los Angeles, which, supported by the National Institutes of Health, provided the classified print-outs free.

Henry had also stated his wish to give up the editing of book reviews; in the hope of casting the net more widely this task was divided between a European and an American Editor, Helmuth Petsche and John Hughes, respectively, who started the work in 1967 and have conscientiously continued for 20 years. The possibility of using the Journal to speak more directly to its readers about Federation affairs had been frequently discussed and indeed it had become the practice to publish committee reports and the proceedings of the General Assembly. However, it was felt that any further extension would be an improper use of a scientific journal and, in any case, the production delay of about 5–6 months would remove any sense of immediacy. Accordingly, Rémond conceived the idea of a periodical news bulletin, which would serve to spread news and views throughout the neurophysiological world. Strictly it had nothing to do with the Journal except to complement it and was entirely the product of the President and his personal staff, but it did have the support of the Executive Committee and a grant for the first year's operation. Four numbers of "Trace" appeared in 1967 at a cost of about \$4000, twice the Federation's grant. In 1968 there were six numbers but the cost was prohibitive, despite an increased grant, and the project had to be abandoned, to widespread regret.

In 1968 the Journal reached its peak of distribution, at 3400, and in 1969 increased its pages to 1400. A new contract for this number of pages included provision for a special extra issue containing the abstracts of the free communications to the Congress; everyone attending got a copy in his Congress wallet and it also had the normal Journal distribution. This scheme was most successful and it has been repeated, with minor variations, for all subsequent congresses.

Following his election as President, Cosimo Ajmone Marsan retired from the post of American Editor in July 1969, bringing to a much regretted end the 8-year collaboration with Cobb. Though differing amicably on many points, on one thing they were completely agreed, that the Journal

should be as free of literal and typographical errors as possible; in this they had the staunch support of the desk editor at Elsevier, Miss Bastiaans; the text has probably never been as "perfect" as at this time.

It is no easy matter to find someone with the right qualifications to take on the time-consuming task of editing the Journal and we were fortunate to persuade, without undue pressure, Peter Kellaway of Houston, Texas (Fig. 6.3), to accept.

Although the new contract had increased the price of the Journal to \$25, by the end of the Fiscal period it was becoming clear that inflation and tightening purse-strings everywhere were soon going to present the Journal, and hence the Federation, with a financial problem, which could only result in a further increase in price.

2. The Seventh International Congress, San Diego

The Congress, from September 13 to 19, 1969, took place in the excellent conference rooms of the transiently renamed El Cortez Hotel (Fig. 6.4). It had been realized that it was the 40th anniversary of the publication of Berger's first paper on the EEG and also of the Adrian and Bronk paper on the use of coaxial needles to study motor unit activity; hence the Congress theme was declared to be "Appraisal and Perspective after Forty Years of the Functional Exploration of the Nervous System". All those who registered were presented with an English translation by Pierre Gloor of Montreal of the 14 main EEG papers of Berger, beautifully produced by Elsevier as *Supplement 28* of the Journal. The Canadian EEG Society contributed substantially to the cost of its preparation.

In the same dedicatory vein the Congress opened, under the presidency of Herbert Jasper, with a session on the "Evolution of Clinical Neurophysiology since Hans Berger". Lord Adrian spoke on the ambiguously titled "Discovery of Berger", Gloor on "The work of Hans Berger", Cobb on "The past 40 years of EEG" and Grey Walter, optimistically, on "The future



Fig. 6.4. The opening session of the San Diego Congress (1969). From left to right:

- Speaking at the lectern on “The Past 40 Years of EEG”: W.A. Cobb.
- At the table: Herbert H. Jasper, E.D. Adrian (Guest of Honour), Pierre Gloor, W. Grey Walter.
- The lecture is labelled with the usual hotel name El Cortez, though the hotel agreed to change its name to El Cortex for the week of the congress.

of EEG”. In conformity with the Handbook project a large part of the Congress was taken up by a series of 13 Round Table discussions, more didactic than was usual, in which about eight speakers each dealt with one topic within a theme. A very successful innovation was the daily presentation on closed circuit television of live demonstrations of interesting observations or new techniques.

At the General Assembly it was agreed to support the Handbook project, on which a great deal of preliminary work, though no writing, had been done. Two changes in the Statutes were made, one of these defining more explicitly the composition of the Organizing Committee of Congresses. This arose largely because the organization was becoming big business (nearly 1100 members registered), involving expenses far outside the normal for the host society or the Federation. This Congress was greatly aided by a grant from the National Institutes of Health of about \$42,000; nothing on this scale had been found before though every Congress had had some

assistance from governmental or other official bodies; nor would it happen again, for the effects of inflation were beginning to be felt everywhere.

For entertainment San Diego has much to offer, not least the famous Zoo and Sea World, but the hosts excelled in providing a party of some kind every night. Toward the end of the evening at one of these, an open air buffet, someone said “Would you like to see the Naval Base?” This was a startling proposal in view of the secrecy in which it had appeared to be cloaked. In addition to our American driver the party finally consisted of nationals from four countries in Eastern Europe. At the gate of the Base a sentry looked briefly at the car and raised the barrier. We drove around for perhaps half an hour, seeing various ships, the crew of an aircraft carrier watching a film show, planes landing on the airstrip. When we left, the gate was again opened without any question. The explanation of this lack of the expected rigid security was that our driver had been in the naval reserve some long time before — and had never removed the pass from his car.