

**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
FOR PHILOSOPHY
AND HUMANISTIC STUDIES**

Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines

**BULLETIN
1951-1952-1953**

C.I.P.S.H.

PUBLISHED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF UNESCO

UNESCO HOUSE

19, AVENUE KLÉBER - PARIS XVI'

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**THREE YEARS
ACTIVITIES**

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The I.C.P.H.S. completed its fifth year of existence in the month of January 1954.

Two Bulletins, devoted to 1949 and to 1950, retraced the work achieved in the course of its first two years of activity. Moreover, when the second general Assembly of the I.C.P.H.S. was held in Paris from 22-25 February, 1952, a report from the Secretary-General explained the different stages in the Council's development since its creation.

The present Bulletin - containing like its predecessors a report on the Council's own activities and the reports summarizing the work of member organizations - continues the two Bulletins already issued and reviews the Council's principal undertakings since the publication of the 1950 Bulletin : it is therefore devoted to the three years 1951, 1952, 1953.

INTRODUCTION

Results obtained and projects for the future

The I.C.P.H.S. was founded in January 1949 under UNESCO's auspices with a view to :

- a) ensuring permanent liaison between member bodies; assisting the grouping, by affinities, within the Council, of non governmental international organizations;
- b) encouraging the formation of international organizations in the fields where none are in existence;
- c) recommending and coordinating the diffusion of studies relating to work published or undertaken in the domain of philosophy, humanistic studies and connected subjects, as well as all other facts that could properly serve research;
- d) stimulating international meetings (congresses, symposia, or committees of experts); facilitating mutual understanding among peoples and the knowledge of Man by assisting the widest international co-operation in the domain of philosophy and humanistic studies.

Since the Council's foundation in 1949 the number of organizations belonging to the I.C.P.H.S. rose from six to twelve. These twelve international organizations are the following : the International Academic Union (U.A.I.), the International Federation of Philosophical Societies (F.I.S.P.), the International Committee for Historical Studies (C.I.S.H.), the Permanent International Committee of Linguists (C.I.P.L.), the International Federation of Associations for Classical Studies (F.I.E.C.), the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Studies (U.I.S.A.E.), the International Commission on Folk Arts and Folklore (C.I.A.P.), the International Committee on the History of Art (C.I.H.A.), the International Association for the Study of the History of Religions (I.A.S.H.R.), the International Federation for Modern Languages and Literatures (F.I.L.L.M.), the International Union of Orientalists (U.I.O.), the International Society for Musicology (S.I.M.).

Thus, nearly all the disciplines forming the vast domain of the Humanities are now represented within the Council. On this point of the programme set for the I.C.P.H.S. the work has therefore been achieved with complete success.

The Council's continual growth has not been attained without at the same time bringing in its train a certain number of disadvantages that should be underlined at the outset. The increasing number of organizations admitted to the Council involves administrative problems which, it can be said, make themselves felt more severely from one month to the next. In fact, the joining of new bodies bears no sense, if more and more congresses, publications, contacts are not thus made possible and numerous. The I.C.P.H.S.'s aim is to stand as a body in which all the parts work in perfect accord and whose achievements represent the fruits of a real co-operation between the different disciplines. It is certainly not among the Council's intentions to become an excessively cen-

tralized organization desirous of taking in hand all the activities of its members, but it desires that whilst each shall continue to work in its own domain the different organizations shall exchange as much information as possible and take the greatest possible account of work carried out and results attained in all the branches of humanistic studies. Such a conception, which intrinsically renders the most precious services to the organizations themselves, calls by all evidence for a minimum of administrative structure. This structure is relatively infinitely less developed than the Council itself. From its beginnings the I.C.P.H.S. had tried as much as possible to limit the administrative arrangements to the benefit of scientific work. It has pursued its efforts in this direction and in the same spirit, whilst proceeding with the necessary adjustments with the greatest caution.

Apart from the Council's secretariat, which maintains correspondence with the member organizations to assure the exchange of scientific and administrative news, the Council's organs are the General Assembly, the Standing Committee and the Bureau. (1) As will be seen later, these bodies met regularly from 1951 to 1954. Two commissions : those for Congresses and Bibliographies gather the representatives of different organizations to study the complex problems arising from time to time in these two fields. The establishment of a calendar of the different congresses, avoiding meetings on troublesome dates, and grouping congresses as harmoniously as possible, the desirability of ensuring a satisfactory geographical distribution and of contributing to the expenses of travelling and preparing for a certain number of meetings, pose problems that cannot be neglected. In the field of Bibliographies the problem of avoiding duplication between different publications or inversely of filling gaps, distribution questions, and the need for establishing contacts in sufficiently large numbers to obtain information in the varied specialities on publications from the world over, equally involve regular and vigilant enquiries.

This co-operation between the different unions belonging to the Council ought even to go beyond the framework of the I.C.P.H.S. itself. The Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies has always shown its desire to effect as close a collaboration as possible with the other international learned organizations and especially with the International Council of Scientific Unions (I.C.S.U.), the Council of International Medical Science Associations (C.I.O.M.S.), the International Council of Social Studies (I.C.S.S.), the International Music Council (C.I.M.) etc... It declared itself in favour of holding combined meetings where scholars from different disciplines could meet. It considered the arrangement of several meetings of this type and especially a symposium grouping representatives from the I.C.S.U., the I.C.S.S., the I.C.P.H.S. and, if possible, the C.I.O.M.S. to study the problems raised by the notion of organization and the individual in biology, physics and sociology. The arrangement of this colloquy was delayed for different reasons, but the idea has not been abandoned and the I.C.P.H.S. hopes that it will be possible to hold it in the years to come.

Concerned to encourage learned collaboration on the level of its member organizations at first, on the level of the great international learned councils subsequently, the I.C.P.H.S. was especially anxious to collaborate in the first place with UNESCO itself. In carrying out the resolution voted by the General Conference, the Council accomplished a certain number of tasks reviewed in later chapters of this Bulletin. The enquiry into the origins of National Socialism, the analysis of the concept of Liberty, the enquiry into the concept of Law, have been brought to fruition by the Council, which also took part in instigating the cultural and scientific History of Humanity; it is, moreover, represented at the present time by an official observer on the Commission responsible for editing this History. (2).

(1) A reform of the Council's administrative organization is in view for 1955.

(2) The I.C.P.H.S. was also represented on the expert committee of scholars on Law which met at UNESCO House from 7-10 December, 1953.

More recently, UNESCO approached the Council to seek its support for two equally important undertakings : the establishment of the list of works to figure in the UNESCO translation programme and the enquiry into expanding the teaching of the humanities.

The measures taken by the Council to meet the first of these wishes expressed by UNESCO appear later (pages 24). The committee of experts convened by the I.C.P.H.S. was able to furnish UNESCO with valuable guidance enabling it to rely on the competence and authority of the most eminent specialists and thus to avoid all risk of making an arbitrary choice in the volumes for translation.

Of the enquiry into the teaching of the Humanities there will be no mention in the main part of this Bulletin. This concerns an undertaking that will only really begin in 1954, and will undoubtedly extend over several years. But since its October 1953 meeting the Standing Committee has decided on the principle of such an enquiry and agreed to conduct it, with the assistance, in particular, of the International Union of Orientalists who take a leading interest in one of the enquiry's main aspects : the mutual knowledge of Western and Oriental civilizations .

Thus, faithful to a principle that it has firmly and spontaneously accepted, from the first months of its existence, the Council has never shirked the tasks that it has been asked to perform by UNESCO. Within the limits of its competence the Council has always done its utmost to respond to the wishes expressed by the UNESCO General Conference. It can congratulate itself on having been in a position each time to fulfil the mission confided to it.

In this way there has developed between UNESCO and the Council a mutual exchange of services that justifies the generous allotment to the I.C.P.H.S. of the subsidies voted by UNESCO for supporting publications and meetings of the organizations of the Council.

The list of bibliographies, reference works, specialized publications and learned works published from 1951-3, figures below. In the bibliographical field, thanks to UNESCO's help and despite the mounting scale of expenses, the situation was not only maintained but even improved. Moreover, considerable difficulties arose again here from the Council's growth. When the I.C.P.H.S. was created in 1949, five bibliographies were published under its auspices. At the present moment, nearly a score of different bibliographies were published by the member organizations. The assistance which the Council had to give is thus becoming much greater, and will become much larger than the credits allotted to this part of its work. These are not increased in relation to the number of new members. This situation naturally involves an automatic reduction in the aid supplied to bibliographies, for all the member organizations can justly claim in principle the same needs. On the other hand, this increase in the parties drawing on the budget intended to help bibliographical work unfortunately coincides with a greater rise still in the costs of printing and paper. The situation is thus in danger of becoming tragic. No illusions should be entertained : if the help accorded to them were to end, many of these bibliographies, indispensable to knowledge but with a restricted circulation, would have to cease publication.

It will perhaps be argued that if these bibliographies cannot survive, they ought to disappear. This is a grave question, for it raises the problem even of the relationship between learning and society. However, civilization must go on developing, and its precondition is the extension of learning of every kind. These studies can progress only if the scholars have the necessary working tools at their disposal. It is admitted that the natural scientists need apparatus for their laboratories, astronomers need more and more perfect telescopes, chemists need more and more costly products; but one still hesitates to admit that the humanistic studies need anything. It is sometimes imagined that the scholar's brain is enough; the need for libraries and the need for working tools are overlooked. For all these reasons it appeared indispensable to maintain the assistance generously lent by UNESCO up to now, and not only to maintain but expand this in relation to the number of bibliographies circulated each year.

It can be stated that the I.C.P.H.S. has done useful work in this field by allowing for the return and revival of a certain number of bibliographies, and by carrying out the resolutions of the UNESCO General Conference making the Director General responsible for :

" encouraging the bibliographical services and the documentation concerning the UNESCO programme and for assisting co-ordination between different projects in the bibliographical field."

But there is another way still of spreading the knowledge acquired in different fields : this consists in representatives from each of the great specialities attached to the I.C.P.H.S. meeting at big congresses. (1).

From 1949 onwards a true policy for congresses came into being. It was decided to hold at dates, regular but not too near each other, big meetings grouping the specializations. It was even envisaged, so far as was possible, holding at the same time, in the same town or at least the same region, conferences for specialists whose subjects were more or less connected. These congresses provide an opportunity of surveying work carried out since the last congress in each special subject. Reports prepared in advance and printed and distributed to members of the congress before its opening, posed problems of a general nature, raised and discussed the various tendencies apparent in the subject, and drew the necessary conclusions for the future orientation of the work. UNESCO, through the intermediary of the I.C.P.H.S., has put at the disposal of its member organizations credits for the arrangement of these congresses, for the printing of reports and to facilitate the travels of scholars whose personal resources would not allow them to move and of scholars belonging to countries far from the meeting place or economically unable to assist in these journeys.

All the congresses organized by the members of the I.C.P.H.S. have resulted (or will result) in the publication of proceedings contributing significantly to the progress of learning.

It can thus be said that in the congress field also the I.C.P.H.S. has accomplished a useful task, by encouraging not only the progress of learning but intellectual rapprochement, an element indispensable to the establishment of peace. Difficulties always arise in this field as in others, from the increasing number of meetings. Not only does each member organization of the I.C.P.H.S. hold a regular meeting, but the organizations affiliated to the member organizations (such as the byzantinists, the onomatologists and toponymists, the papyrologists, the philosophers of science, etc...) also meet. One solution, to counterbalance the number of congresses, would be to space the frequency of their meetings. But specialists want to examine their hypotheses as frequently as possible and also the progresses in their subjects. At a start, a space of five years was thus anticipated for the different congresses. But this principle of quinquennial congresses, although admitted by the organizations, is not always respected. Certain scholars think that this delay is too great and anyway the most honourable motives can justify a certain number of exceptions. However this might be, the diary of congresses expected rarely coincides with the true record of conferences held. It is desirable that an effort should be made towards a discipline without blinkers but agreed in the interest of scholars wishing to attend their chosen congresses under the most favourable conditions.

So far as a working organization is concerned, as we have already indicated above, with reference to the system of publishing reports, used from now on for each congress, important results have been obtained. The collective discussion of reports is being substituted gradually for individual communications. This change undoubtedly calls for a different intellectual approach than that ruling up to the present at the different congresses but promotes more fruitful work and fuller discussion.

Finally, one last element should not be neglected. The congresses are exposed to a danger that springs from their very success; not only have they

(1) The list of congresses held in 1951-3 will be found later.

a tendency to become too frequent, but they also sometimes attract a very considerable number of participants. We are approaching a time when the meeting with a thousand members will be common currency. Will it then be possible to work usefully? One can remain convinced of this. But it is not less essential, perhaps, to support smaller meetings attracting some specialists to study a particular problem. These will be known as symposia, and the I.C.P.H.S. programme for 1951 to 1953 included a certain number that will be found listed below.

To undertake international enquiries, spread knowledge in the form of bibliographies and reference works, and throw together in international meetings, congresses or symposia, scholars from different countries and disciplines, does not account for the whole of the task assigned to the Council. The I.C.P.H.S. has also to take part in the scholarly work going on in the world, in the field of the different subjects represented within its membership. It has to support certain works of international interest and obtain for learned works of international character, that seem to it worthy, the material assistance needed for their completion. In this task of encouraging research on the international scale the Council is conforming to one of the essential reasons for the existence of UNESCO, the attainment of international co-operation that, through work performed in common, involves a better reciprocal acquaintance between the scholars of different countries - an essential factor in the establishment of intellectual goodwill.

From 1951 to 1953 the Council has not failed in this task and on its advice UNESCO has distributed fairly considerable sums, although inevitably not as great as those required, to large scale enterprises of scholarship. The list of these undertakings also appears below.

Finally, the Council has not overlooked the fact that, if bibliographies, congresses, symposia, and scholarly work each play a part in their own way in the diffusion and acquisition of new knowledge in the different fields, these undertakings are limited only to the learned world; they would not be following one of UNESCO's essential objects if they restricted this diffusion of learning simply to the initiated. If one cannot hope to approach all the people who are literate, one can at least endeavour to reach a wider public. If it is possible, and this is not always easy, to use the press to announce, albeit too often with distortion, the results achieved in the natural sciences, it is infinitely more difficult to make use of a press which hardly ever attempts to raise the intellectual level of its readers to acquaint them with the results achieved by research in the field of humanistic studies. Here one is concerned with purely intellectual matters where often improvement is shown by a certain nuance in the appreciation of such and such a catalogue of facts or by a hardly appreciable variation in the expression of an idea. For that, specialists themselves, temporarily abandoning the hermetic language which is too often theirs, will have to make the effort necessary to express clearly, in the language of ordinary men, what they have discovered, or what they have thought. One could thus approach a continually growing public to which the name "cultivated public" could be applied. One could also perhaps, in this way, overcome the very strong prejudice so often existing against the supposed uselessness of humanistic studies. It is by showing how the results of these studies end, more or less directly, by putting a very heavy weight upon human existence, that one will prove to a society which still believes solely in machines and in the brutal or automatic force of which the machines are the approximate expression, that what really counts in the world and leads men, is not only matter with which natural science is preoccupied, but also mind, the proper object of study in the humanistic sciences.

Published since 1952, in execution of a resolution of the UNESCO General Conference making the Director General responsible for :

"encouraging the publication of a general informative review covering the work in progress in the field of philosophy and humanistic studies, "the review *Diogenes*, summarized in this Bulletin (pages 21) attempts, without competing with either publications of a technical nature, or with popular reviews, to provide a main channel for broad scientific information. Addressed to a culti-

vated but non-specialist public, Diogenes does its best to keep all pure scholarship from its pages, all technical apparatus, all discussion of detail, that would only be of interest to a very limited number of initiates. Attempting never to forget or overlook the point of common reference in so many of the varied studies and disciplines, Man, Diogenes aims to enable the mind to become free of accepted opinions and common errors and to give each person the means for renewing or crystallising the perhaps out-dated or vague part of his knowledge and so closing the gap between general culture and the many specialized fields of scholarship. Diogenes is thus acting as the link between scholars and researchers on the one hand and the general educated public on the other. Diogenes is the first attempt of this kind conceived on a world scale. With its six editions in Arabic, English, French, German, Italian and Spanish, it is a truly international publication. By the variety of disciplines in which it is interested - from semantics to demography, from epistemology to political economy, from psychiatry to the history of commerce and literature - it really covers the whole field of studies the centre of which is the knowledge of Man.

The welcome received by the review Diogenes encourages the I.C.P.H.S. to stress very specially the importance of this project which corresponds very exactly with the objectives that it has unceasingly pursued.

Such, briefly summarized, are the principal tasks that the Council has completed and some of the projects that it intends to follow during the months and years to come. The I.C.P.H.S. is conscious of having thus honourably fulfilled the different missions for which it is responsible. Certainly, everything is not perfect in its work, but five years' existence are little enough for an international organization and time must be allowed for the Council to develop projects, find its definitive lines and really take stock of itself. Certain organizations that have recently joined the Council were literally born yesterday. They meet within the I.C.P.H.S. organizations more than 25 years old and members of the Council since its foundation. It will be necessary to wait until all the member organizations have been sufficiently long in the Council to know if they really can work together and on what they can work. It will also be necessary for the newly created organizations, and that accounts for the majority of the Council, to be 'run in', perfected, and generally acquire the capacity for rendering real services. Their representatives will have to learn to think in terms of the Council, to think of themselves as members of the Council, and no longer to think simply of being members or representatives of one of its associate bodies.

The administrative work, asked not only, as is normal, from the Council's Secretariat, but from the private secretariats of member associations, often overloads secretariats which are practically all voluntary, and not yet used to dealing with purely administrative affairs. It is often difficult to ask eminent scholars to devote part of their time to thankless tasks which they nevertheless accept with a real disinterest. But carrying on such work is the necessary counterpart to the aid lent by UNESCO to learned projects, an aid often allowing them to exist and develop.

The I.C.P.H.S. is conscious of the great importance of the assistance generously given by UNESCO to its different projects. In the course of its last General Assembly it expressed to the Director General of that organization the Council's feelings of gratitude. We should like to reiterate here the very sincere thanks of our organization to him and to the different UNESCO departments who bring continual support to the Council.

If the Council has been able from its foundation to develop smoothly, this is thanks to UNESCO's unceasing assistance. Its development is far from being complete. Anxious, moreover, to demonstrate strongly its properly universal character in the field of humanistic studies and its broad international character, the Council will have to strive towards developing united collaboration between scholars and research workers of the entire world. Many improvements have still to be effected on this plan. For three years, the Council has unceasingly shown its interest in every enterprise that showed very clearly a truly international spirit. It is essential that the Council shall acquire for the scholars and

research workers from the world over, from Latin and North America, from Europe and the Middle East, from South Asia and the Far East, from Africa and the Indian Pacific, the means for developing contacts and exchanging their news. This is in fact its most important mission. On this point, moreover, we are sure that UNESCO's support will not fail the Council. Thus, in the field of culture, which is certainly not the least important, there will be assured, in the interest of advances in knowledge, an international collaboration that is the surest guarantee of intellectual goodwill and indeed of peace.