

CENTENNIAL NOTE

The Ohio Academy of Science and Section M: Growth and Continuity

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OAS AND SECTION M

The growth of Section M (Psychology) over the past three dozen years has reflected the growth and continuity of The Ohio Academy of Science (OAS). This is best exemplified in the 1955 Presidential address given by Rush Elliot at the annual meeting of the OAS held at Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, OH. The topic was "Some biological factors in aging." Elliot noted,

"If we could be fortunate enough to be born and to be able to select our parents on the bases of the genetic factor for longevity and the financial factor to provide good nutrition, we could have a reasonable chance to reach a ripe old age, if we could avoid the accidental factor. The fact that we are here indicates we got by the first hurdle of being born—how long we will be here will largely be determined by the other three factors" (Elliot 1955).

It was during the late and middle seventies that gerontology began to flourish as a field in Psychology and appeared on a regular basis on the Ohio Academy annual program.

It is interesting to note that the 25th Annual Meeting of the OAS (26, 27 November 1915) was held at The Ohio State University under the Presidency of J. Warren Smith of Columbus. At that time *The Ohio Journal of Science* was published by The Ohio State University Scientific Society (subscription price \$2.00/year), and Home Economics and Public Health and Sanitation were represented, but the field of Psychology was not. H. A. Aikins' (of Western Reserve University) name first appears on the masthead of the Editorial Board of *The Ohio Journal of Science* as one of the representatives of the OAS (*Ohio Journal of Science* [OJS] 1919a). On request of about 20 psychologists, the minutes of the Academy indicate that Psychology was "granted its own section" (OJS 1919c). In addition, G. R. Wells of Ohio Wesleyan was elected Vice President of the Psychology section (OJS 1919b). Earlier, Section M (Psychology) was called Section E (OJS 1947). Interestingly enough, during the course of this research project it was found that the *Journal* itself was published by The Ohio State University and The Ohio Academy of Science in 1916 (OJS 1916); by 1919 (OJS 1919a) it was indicated that the *Journal* was published by The Ohio Academy of Science and The Ohio State University, a switch in title emphasis.

By November 1921, The Ohio State University Scientific Society comprised the main portion of the Editorial Board (19 of 25 members) with six members representing The Ohio Academy of Science (OJS 1921a). That year H. A. Aikins represented the Psychology Section and Home Economics was no longer represented. Rudolph Pintner of Ohio State University was elected head of the Psychology Section (OJS 1921c).

It is interesting to the Psychology Section that at the annual meeting held in November 1921, a proposed legislative bill was voted on by the membership, "wherein the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Academy would consist of 15 members, 6 appointed by the Governor and 9 elected by the Academy" (OJS 1921b). The Academy was to be "an official source of advice and information on all scientific questions within its field submitted to it by any state department or office thereof." The legislative bill under consideration, interestingly enough, specifically stated that scientific facts and policies were to be considered.

At the 1928 Annual Meeting, under the section Vice Presidency of Sophie Rogers, Ohio State University (OJS 1928a), a critical paper was presented on "Disabilities in college students in certain 'tool subjects' and the relation of such disabilities to college standing" by H. J. Arnold of Wittenberg College (Arnold 1928). Samuel Renshaw was elected Vice President that year (OJS 1928b). At the same meeting a paper was presented on the "Health habits of university women students" by Norma Selbert of the College of Medicine, Ohio State University (Selbert 1928). The latter paper was presented in the Medical Science section of the meeting. Both papers (Arnold's and Selbert's) exhibit the resilience of the Academy and the types of questions members attempt to answer. Both topics are currently of great interest to Psychology and related fields. One has only to examine the impact recently of Women's Studies Programs and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to be appreciative of this.

By 1938 *The Ohio Journal of Science* was published jointly by The Ohio State University and The Ohio Academy of Science. J. P. Porter represented Psychology on the Editorial Board of the OJS with J. R. Patrick being elected Vice President of the section (OJS 1938). C. G. Shatzner of Wittenberg College gave a Presidential address entitled "When are we scientific?" (Shatzner 1938) and included Psychology as one of a number of social sciences (which also included biography, economics, geography, sociology, history, and political science). The physical sciences included: chemistry, mathematics, and physics. Shatzner stated quite matter-of-factly that, "the tests of scientific quality in the social sciences are at the extreme opposite pole from the tests of scientific quality in the physical sciences" (Shatzner 1938).

In 1946 J. P. Porter (OJS 1946a) still represented the Psychology Section on the Editorial Board with Herbert Toops being the Vice President of the section (OJS 1946b).

By 1968 (OJS 1968) J. P. Scott was elected Vice President to the rejuvenated section with Robert Boice being elected membership chairperson. However, Psychology was not represented on the Editorial Advisory Committee of *The Ohio Journal of Science* beginning in 1954 (OJS 1954a,b).

In 1969 Bruce Morrison was Vice President with Henry Rosenquist being Chair of Undergraduate Affairs (*OJS* 1969). Rosenquist set the stage for the development of the section for the next 20 years. He emphasized the need for students to present their research at the annual Academy meeting along with Psychology faculty. This trend still continues and is strongly encouraged.

During the past 10 years greater emphasis has been placed upon the inclusion of related fields as part of the Psychology Section of the OAS Annual Meeting. These fields include, but are not limited to: education, counseling, home economics, social work, and health and physical education. This can be seen in the diversity of papers presented at the annual meetings. The focus has been on research and its application in serving societal needs.

The current authors wish to acknowledge the continued support of the Executive Board of the Academy and Executive Director Lynn E. Elfner, without which we could not have come this far.

Over the years the annual program has grown and given continuity to the Psychology Section. The section and its membership must now go beyond that and submit publications to the *Journal* of the Academy.

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