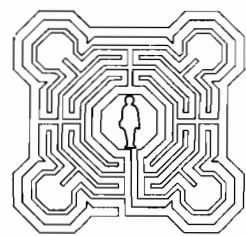


WORLD GIFTED

Newsletter of the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children



Vol. 2, No. 1

March 1981

From the Chairman of the World Council:

Why on earth have a world conference? Because round the earth many gifted minds are growing up and the future of civilisation could be shaped for good, if only very slightly, should our aims succeed.

The World Council is five and a half years old and is still a small organization to tackle a big problem, but the foundation of every structure however tall has first to break the ground. This is just what the Executive Committee has been doggedly trying to do. The going has been hard on us as we have had unexpected setbacks and stony responses to most of our fund-raising efforts. However, thanks largely to the Secretariat, there have been consolidation and expansion. This means that at the Montreal Conference, which is so full of promise, the World Council will be seen to be well off the ground and set fair to achieve its objects.

How can YOU help to bring this achievement nearer? Ideally by joining the World Council and attending the Conference as a fully fledged member. If you cannot get to Montreal, then still send in your membership form. This will make you a subscriber of modest dues to the only international body existing solely for the benefit of gifted and talented children.

Membership and active support in your own country will assist the Council to explore new programmes, educational and social, for children of any race or culture and specially for those who are disadvantaged. With your cooperation we look forward to "many views of the gifted for the advantage of all children".

My best wishes to you all.

—Henry Collis

Fourth World Conference on G/T Children

"Many Views of the Gifted for the Advantage of All Children."

Nearly 7500 registration packages and calls for papers have already been distributed world-wide and an extensive publicity campaign has been launched. The most exciting thing is that proposals to present and

registrations have begun to come in. Indeed the Program Committee began the review of proposals in January. It has been decided to continue to receive proposals for consideration through February. If you have not yet returned Form A (session proposal), please hurry.

More than workshops and papers will greet you at the Conference. The Social and Cultural Committee is arranging musical and other artistic programs by gifted children for every day of the program, including Sunday, and during lunch hours on the four other days. *There will also be special entertainment for World Council members on Sunday evening.*

The Exhibits Committee has sent an exhibits prospectus to almost 500 producers of texts and teaching materials related to the gifted. There will be as many as 40 or more display booths plus a bookstore with the capacity to handle materials from all

500 if they choose to participate. The exhibits will stay open until 6 p.m.

We have been delighted at the response to the Conference graphics. One registrant wrote to ask what happened to the maze on the return envelopes. The reply was, "The child got out, and watch for more surprises!"

On arrival at the Conference, participants will receive a full program, a text of all accepted abstracts, tickets to cultural events, a receipt, and an information package about Montreal. All Conference events except the children's art exhibit will take place at one site, the Queen Elizabeth Hotel.

(continued on p. 2)

TIME TO RENEW!

Now is the time for all good men (and women) to renew memberships in the World Council. The present biennium expires July 31, 1981. Memberships entered or renewed at this time will be valid through June 30, 1983. Counter-cyclically, dues will not increase for the next biennium, but remain at \$30 for the two-year period. Membership carries with it not only your contribution to development of an international concern with the gifted and talented; it also brings issues of Gifted International, the new journal which replaces GATE, our newsletter (World Gifted), the right to vote for delegates and the executive committee of the Council, and admission to special events for members only at the biennial World Conference. Paid-up membership will be necessary for voting at the Conference in Montreal and for attendance at membership-only events in August.

1983 CONFERENCE BIDS OPEN

Bids for the 1983 World Council Conference are being actively solicited. No decision has been made as to the location of the Fifth Biennial Conference. Organizations, Ministries and Universities are invited to submit bids to sponsor the meeting.

Conduct of the international conference in a given country generally lends impetus to further development of interest in the gifted in that country. Attendance from 1,000 to 2,000 persons may be expected. Meeting and hotel accommodations for five days during July or August need be available for a conference of this size. Costs of the conference are covered by registration fees paid by participants.

For further information, or to submit a bid, write to the Secretariat in New York City. A decision on location of the Fifth World Conference will be made by the Executive Committee at or before the Fourth Conference in Montreal, August 21-25.

MONTREAL CONFERENCE REPORT (cont. from p. 1)

Finally, as registrations are now coming in at a steady rate, please remember that early registration discount ends on April 15, and please send all fees in Canadian funds to avoid delays and exchange difficulties: a money order or draft is best.

To receive a registration package which includes the call for papers (or an exhibitor's prospectus), please write, phone or wire names and addresses to:
 Gifted Secretariat
 772 Sherbrooke Street West
 Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 1G1
 Phone: (514) 392-6744; Telex: 05-26810
 We look forward to having you with us.

--Bruce Shore, Conference Coordinator

Newsletter of the WORLD COUNCIL FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN

Published at Teachers College, Columbia
University, Box 218, New York, NY 10027

Editor - Milton J. Gold
Executive Committee

Mr. Henry Collis (United Kingdom) Chairman

Dr. Dorothy Sisk (U.S.A.) Vice-Chairperson

Mr. Ron Day (Australia) Treasurer

Dr. Bruce Shore (Canada) Secretary

Mr. Dan Bitan (Israel)

Dra. Elena Konstat (Mexico)

Dr. Klaus Urban (Federal Republic of Germany)

Secretariat

Dr. A. Harry Passow Honorary Director

Dr. Milton J. Gold Executive Secretary

Publications of the World Council

Gratifying comments have been received on the usefulness of *Gifted Children: Reaching Their Potential* as a text in courses on education of the gifted. This volume, edited by James J. Gallagher, is the proceedings of the 1977 World Conference in San Francisco and includes articles by Stanley, Parnes, Torrance, Marjoram and others. *To facilitate use in course work, the Council is offering a discount of 10 percent on 20 or more copies. The same discount is offered for GATE, Volume I.*

Trillium Press has agreed to handle distribution of World Council publications. *Reaching Their Potential* (\$14 plus 85 cents shipping) and *GATE I* (\$6 including shipping) may be ordered directly from Trillium Press, PO Box 921, NY, NY 10159.

GATE II has been shipped from Bulgaria to members. Proceedings of the 1979 Conference in Jerusalem should be available in the late spring.

Funding for Jerusalem Proceedings

The World Council notes with gratitude the efforts of Arthur Liper III in securing funding for printing of the Proceedings of the Third International Conference in Jerusalem in 1979. Mr. Liper made arrangements for substantial contributions from the Fund for Higher Education, the Liper Foundation, and the *Gifted Children Newsletter*. To all three donors, the World Council is deeply grateful.

Executive Committee Meets

The Executive Committee met in Montreal on October 23-26, to review planning for the Fourth World Conference, to consider the publications program, to discuss changes in the Constitution and other business items.

Changes in the Constitution will be proposed to the Delegate Assembly in August to revise procedures for electing officers so as to provide greater participation by members.

Dan Bitan, Coordinator of Jerusalem Conference, reported on funding of the 1979 Proceedings and on progress of the editorial committee. The Proceedings should be available for distribution late in the Spring. Dorothy Sisk, Editor of the new journal, *Gifted International*, proposed a plan for an invitational first issue of the journal with articles to be solicited from leaders in education of the gifted.

The Executive Committee also issued a call to Delegates and members to submit research proposals of an international character to Delegates in each country or to members of the Executive. Funding will be sought by the Secretariat for proposals of promise.

WORLD-WIDE GIFTED NOTES

New Zealand Association For Gifted Children (NZAGC)

Barbara Gesthuizen, President of NZAGC, reports the publication of a list of current research in universities throughout New Zealand on the gifted (Contact NZAGC, PO Box 34-104, Birkenhead, Auckland 10). Two travel bursaries have been awarded to an elementary and secondary school inspector responsible for gifted children to study latest developments in Britain. A pilot scheme is being set up to help committee members from all branches deal with phone calls from parents with problems.

IN MEMORIAM: Sidney Bridges

Sidney (Sandy) Bridges, innovator, experimenter and protagonist of gifted education passed away last year in Athens, Greece. Dr. Bridges examined the problems of teaching gifted children in Scotland, England, Kenya, Nigeria, and Greece. His work at Brentwood and Millfield, England, is recorded in *IQ-150* and *Gifted Children and the Millfield Experiment*. His special interest was the importance of parental support in the teaching of gifted children. Dr. Bridges was Deputy Headmaster of Campion School, a private school in Athens, Greece, at the time of his death. He will be remembered by our members for his presentation at the International Conference in San Francisco.

-Ann E. Bachtel

U.S. OFFICE OF GIFTED--FUNDED PROGRAMS

The United States Office for the Gifted and Talented (OGT) is currently supporting 92 State Administered Programs, 8 model projects, 9 professional development grants and one research contract. In the state-administered programs, at least 90 percent of the funding must be passed along to local educational authorities on a competitive basis. Professional development programs include one internship project, five graduate degree program grants and three grants for leadership development. The research contract has been awarded to the Educational Improvement Center South in Sewell, NJ to develop a master catalog of instruments, procedures and techniques used in identifying and assessing gifted and talented children. The total funding for these projects is \$6,274,425.

On December 8-9, OGT conducted a meeting of project directors which provided a forum for interchange of ideas and experiences as well as contact with the national office. Details of project support are available from Dr. Harold Lyon, Director of OGT, Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20202.

THE MINISTRY AND THE GIFTED IN SOUTH AFRICA

J.L. Omond, Chairman of the Office for the Gifted and Talented in Port Elizabeth, transmits, with authorisation, a letter from Dr. G. Viljoen, the South African Minister of National Education. In response to Mr. Omond's representation, the letter reports that the Committee of Heads of Education is convinced that necessary provision for the gifted child is adequate. "To stress the needs of giftedness unilaterally has definite disadvantages for the individual and community alike."

Dr. Viljoen indicates, however, that the Departments of Education are continually exploring new avenues in order to meet the needs of the gifted child, that much research has already been undertaken, and that the Director of Education has submitted a comprehensive report and recommendations stemming from a recent study tour abroad. The Human Sciences Research Council is undertaking research on the gifted child. Members of the Transvaal Education Department have visited programs overseas for the gifted, and the Cape Education Department has appointed an educational planner, Dr. J.S. Neethling, to do research on programs for the gifted.

The office for the Gifted has reprinted its book, *The Education of Gifted Children*. It contains about 50 papers, many from world experts, and sells for R5.50. (Contact J.L. Omond, "Rosebank", 30 Bird Street, Port Elizabeth 6001, SA.)

Association Nationale Pour Les Enfants Surdoués (ANPES)

J.C. Terrassier, President of ANPES, reports on activities in France. He is himself completing a work entitled, *Les enfants surdoués: La précocité embarrassante*, representing long efforts to provide "a demonstration based on studies and research and not on speculations or fantasies." He also recommends a long article on the gifted by D.J. DUCHE in the 1980 supplement to the *Encyclopaedia Universalis*.

ANPES will be offering this year a prize for the best study on gifted children prepared by students in medicine, psychology, or pedagogy.

Intelligence and Mental Speed

AN OUTLINE OF WORK IN PROGRESS AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Tests of general intelligence - or IQ tests, as they are commonly known - have been under constant attack in recent years. They have been thought unfair to certain social and ethnic groups; they have seemed less accurate than is desirable for many medical, educational and vocational purposes; and they have been said to lack a convincing rationale insofar as no single definition of "intelligence" has proved widely acceptable.

Research in Edinburgh over the last four years has developed the idea that individual differences in measured intelligence reflect underlying differences in "mental speed". Subjects of all levels of IQ have been shown very simple stimuli (such as two lines of markedly different length) by means of a tachistoscope for durations of around one tenth of a second. The duration that each subject requires if he is to make reliable judgments of the stimuli (e.g. as to which line is longer) is ascertained. This duration of exposure is called the subject's "inspection time" (IT). It has emerged in five separate studies to date that people of higher IQ can make do with shorter durations: the average correlation between IQ and IT was -0.76 , which is an exceptionally strong relationship by the standards of most psychological research.

It seems unlikely that adults of higher intelligence merely develop an ability to take in such simple information as a developmental by-product of their intelligence: in particular, it has been shown that the same strong relationship between IQ and IT exists among four-year-old children. There is no implication that subjects of higher IQ will necessarily make decisions or "respond" more quickly: the results suggest simply that such people should have the capacity to absorb more information in any given period of time. Two studies have indicated that IT's for such stimuli are related primarily to 'general' rather than to 'spatial' intelligence.

The strong and robust effects that have been achieved may be seen as complementing other recent work that promises to link IQ and "mental speed" to direct measures of the brain's electrophysiological activity - see NATO's edition of research papers (M. Friedman *et al.* (eds.), 1980, *Intelligence and Learning*. New York: Plenum.), in which an account of work at Edinburgh and elsewhere is to appear. The physiological implications of work at Edinburgh are discussed by A. & E. Hendrickson (1980, *Personality and Individual Differences*, Vol. 1).

Model Project Offers Video Cassettes

One of the model projects funded by the U.S. Office for the gifted has developed a series of 15 video-cassettes prepared by recognized authorities and providing in substance a course for teachers. These $3/4$ " video-taped cassettes come with handbooks and other printed materials. Ranging from 80 to 132 minutes, they offer a rounded series of topics of concern in education of the gifted. The cassettes feature Callahan, Frasier, George, Kaplan, Lyon, Maker, Meeker, Parnes, Renzulli, Sato, Sisk, Tannenbaum and Ward. For information, write to Project GETT-UP, The Center for Excellence, PO Box 158, Williamsburg, VA 23185, USA.

DELEGATE ASSEMBLY TO MEET AUGUST 20, 1981

Delegates, please note: Next meeting of the Delegate Assembly has been set for Thursday afternoon, August 20, at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal.

If such measurable mental speed underlies individual differences in IQ, it will be possible to test intelligence in a way that is transparently fair: it is not just that few groups are likely to be at an advantage on mental speed tests because of special experience or training to which they have been differentially exposed, but also that laboratory training does not in any case appear to shorten subjects' IT's. In clinical work, mental speed tests would allow a patient's intelligence to be far more frequently monitored than existing IQ tests, with their proneness to practice effects, can allow. This would assist with the diagnosis of brain disease and decay; and, in industry, regular screening of the intelligence of personnel in positions of high responsibility would also be possible. Lastly, in educational work, group testing of IT might prove an acceptable and economical method of assessing intelligence.

The measurement of what might properly be called "initial processing speed" (IPS) is not unduly complicated - indeed, it has been possible for undergraduates at Edinburgh to conduct the testing that has yielded the above results. (The relevant Final Honours Theses are those by Anderson (1977), Grieve (1979), Hosie (1979) and Deary (1980).)

Recently, a "tachistophone" that allows tones to be presented for as few as three milliseconds has been developed by technical staff in Edinburgh. Subjects judge which of two tones (successively presented, but with the order varied) is higher in pitch; the duration of the tones is varied until the subjects' IT is found. Results so far suggest that IQ is strongly related ($r = -.70$) to IPS in the auditory as well as in the visual modality. (Contact Secretariat for report by Iain John Deary.)

-Chris Brand

REVIEWS

Joanne R. Whitmore. *Giftedness, conflict and underachievement*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1980.

An exceptional volume on a crucial issue in education of the gifted. Excellent overview of research on gifted and historical perspective, general treatment of highly gifted underachievers, and comprehensive report on the Cupertino (Cal., USA) Highly Gifted Underachievers Program (elementary).

Schools Commission, M.L.C. Tower, Woden, A.C.T., Australia 2606. *The education of gifted students: A discussion paper*, 1980.

An examination of issues in education of the gifted prepared for the Schools Commission to assist in planning for the 1982-84 Triennium in Australia. Thoughtful discussion of the nature of giftedness, identification of the gifted and education programs. Description of present provisions in Australia and "possible initiatives and approaches."

Freeman, Darlene, and Virginia Stuart. *Resources for gifted children in the New York Area*. New York: Trillium Press, 1979.

A remarkable, comprehensive compendium of selected activities, children's books, games-puzzles-projects, curriculum materials and books for teachers, schools and school programs, and teacher education programs. While this focuses on the New York City area, it could well serve persons in other regions in identifying types of activities available in their own neighborhoods.

Vail, Priscilla L. *The world of the gifted child*. New York: Penguin Books, 1979. \$3.95.

This paperback is written by a reading specialist in a popular style for parents. After describing gifted children, it suggests "solo" and group activities for children and discusses "goodness of fit" of children and the schools available to them. There is an attractive foreword by Henry Collis, Chairman of the World Council.

Report on the First German Workshop

By Klaus K. Urban

On October 9 and 10, 1980, the first German workshop on giftedness took place at Hamburg University. The workshop under the title "The gifted child: Educational, psychological, and psychiatric aspects" was stimulated and organized by Professor D. Wiczerkowsky (member of the advisory board of the World Council's journal *Gifted International*), two of his co-workers at Hamburg University, Dr. Wagner and Dr. zur Oeveste, Professor Dr. Geuss of the Universitat Osnabruck, Abt. Vechta, and by Dr. Klaus K. Urban of the Universitat Hannover (member of the Executive Committee of the World Council).

About 50 participants, scholars, psychologists, educators, psychiatrists, came from different universities and institutes in Germany and abroad. About 20 presentations were printed and sent out several weeks in advance so that every participant could have read them before the workshop began. At the workshop presenters gave only short summaries or statements, providing time for fruitful discussion.

Contents of the first morning were general aspects on research on giftedness, impact and implementations of historical and recent research, identification approaches and creativity. Considerations of special education and the relationship between giftedness and psychiatric symptoms filled the afternoon. Topics of the second day were: identification and programming of children from disadvantaged groups, attribution processes, personal traits of highly achieving youth in science and sports, an ecological enrichment model as well as the question for the possibility of the adaptation of foreign educational models.

Thanks to the generous financial support by the "Fritz-Thyssen-Stiftung" the organizers will be able to publish the results of the conference.

Resources in Educating the Gifted (continued p. 6.)

California State Education Department:

Putting it all together. A 10-minute film strip and cassette, providing an introduction of structure of intellect concepts through a variety of methods.

Parents can make a difference. An eight-minute film strip and cassette showing how parents can become involved in educational programs for gifted and talented pupils.

Order from Gifted & Talented Education Special Projects Unit, 721 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Gifted Children Newsletter. 530 University Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94301. \$24 per yr., 12 issues.

An attractively printed monthly of 16 pages "for the parents of children with great promise." Articles of general interest plus variety of activities for youngsters.

Tools to turn on Thinking. 1980-81 Catalog of Resources for the Gifted, 3421 North 44 Street, Phoenix, AZ 85018.

Resources (continued)

Gifted and talented education. Publications of Special Learning Corporation, 42 Boston Post Road, Guilford, CT 06437 (in England: Globe Education, Houndsmills Basingstoke, Hampshire RG 21 2XS):

Jackson, David M. *Readings in curriculum development for the gifted*, 1980. \$9.95.

Jackson, David M. *Readings in foundations of gifted education*, 1980. \$9.95.

Readings in gifted and talented education, 1978. \$9.95.

Also available with two cassettes as part of a teacher training kit. \$43.50.

Three volumes of well chosen readings to develop a theoretical background for classroom application.

Curriculum enrichment packs for the gifted. Four units developed for the Schools Council Curriculum Enrichment Project, Nene College, Moulton Park, Northampton, England, 1974-76. Each pack \$59. Each

unit includes a student books, teacher's book, cassette tape, transcript of cassette, slides and a viewer. Making changes (Mathematics); Eskimo carving (creative Arts); Living things (Environmental Science); Discovering history (Humanities). Units are intended for grades 3 to 6. They can be used as horizontal enrichment by children individually or in small groups.

PTA Today. March 1980 issue of National PTA, 700 North Rush St., Chicago, IL 60611.

Special issue, Unwrapping the world of the gifted child. For parents.

The Wright selections for the gifted: A multi-media sourcebook. Catalog of the Wright Group, 8265 Commercial St., LaMesa, CA 92041.

Trillium Catalog on gifted education. Trillium Press, Box 921, Madison Square Station, New York NY 10159.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To: Milton J. Gold, Executive Secretary, World Council for Gifted and Talented Children, Box 218, Teachers College, New York, NY 10027

I enclose a check for 30 US dollars to cover my subscription to the World Council for the Biennium ending June 30, 1983. Fee includes issues of *Gifted International* (Journal of the Council) and *World Gifted* (newsletter).

Name (printed or typed) _____

Occupation and title: _____

Address _____

____ Renewal; ____ New Membership

World Council for the
Gifted and Talented, Inc.
Box 218
Teachers College
Columbia University
New York, NY 10027

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
New York, NY
Permit No. 5578