Hans Nussbaum, AAAS Business Manager, Retiring After 32 Years

Dr. Nussbaum is retiring. Hans Nussbaum, AAAS business manager and a mainstay of the Association, steps down in mid-July after 32 years on the job. For anyone who has worked for AAAS or had dealings with its business side in those years, he, more than anyone else, has personified the Association.

His duties as business manager involved him in practically the whole spectrum of AAAS activities, but he also took on the extra tasks which give an organization a little heart, like editing the AAAS Bulletin and the office newsletter, orchestrating the United Fund campaign, even playing the guitar for carols at the annual Christmas party. And not badly. Possessed of a remarkable memory and an excellent filing system, he made himself the Association’s unofficial but indispensable historian and archivist.

Dr. Nussbaum has been a “company man,” in the best sense, doing his job with an old-fashioned regard for the interests of the institution. Also with an Old World correctness and, on occasion, a flare of Old Testament temper. The objects of righteous indignation have sometimes been staff members who did not meet his standards of performance, but more often someone who had crossed the Association, usually by lingering too long before paying a bill. In any event, there was never any doubt that Dr. Nussbaum really cared.

The “Dr.,” which almost everyone uses in addressing him stands for the doctorate in economics he earned at the University of Cologne. Born and raised in Suhl in a part of central Germany now in the German Democratic Republic, the young Nussbaum did his university work in Frankfurt and Cologne. He received his doctoral degree in 1932, a time of world depression and of the coming to power of the Nazis, circumstances which killed prospects that Nussbaum would be able to work as an economist.

He returned to his home city and did the books in his father’s wholesale shoe business. Nussbaum recalls that he experienced anti-Semitism as a school boy in pre-Hitler Germany, but that, bad as it was, Nazi oppression in Germany in its early days was capricious and unsystematic. In 1938 he was able to leave Germany and come to the United States.

He worked first in New York and then moved to Washington and wound up with a job as an accountant for a cooperative gas station and auto repair shop and, on the side, did the books for the local league of consumer cooperatives. In 1943 he was inducted into the army, served for 2 years in the United States, and was discharged in December 1945, the same month he joined the staff of AAAS.

AAAS was a small organization then, with about 25 employees. Nussbaum’s career at AAAS spans its modern history, since he arrived very soon after AAAS took over editorial responsibility for Science. The journal had previously been privately owned and AAAS had bought and distributed the journal to its members under an arrangement which dated back to the turn of the century.

At the time of the takeover, AAAS moved its offices from the Smithsonian’s brownstone “castle” to a big red brick house at 1515 Massachusetts Avenue.

This was a transition period for AAAS, with changes at the top of the staff and with part-time editors in charge of Science and The Scientific Monthly, a second AAAS publication. With the arrival of Dael Wolfe as executive officer in 1954, the Association began to take on the form and functions familiar today. Problems with the zoning commission were reconciled and the present building at 1515 was built and, in 1956, occupied.

Nussbaum had been named business manager in 1949 and, in the following years, well, you name it, Nussbaum was in charge of it—accounting, personnel, purchasing, the mailroom, investments, real estate, building and grounds. Wolfe asked him to take a hand in efforts to build membership and circulation, so he even oversaw the addressograph operation that used to generate a familiar loud clanking on the first floor.

Looking backward, Nussbaum thinks the biggest and most important change in his years at AAAS has been the improvement in the quality of Science. What hasn’t changed, he says in an allusion to AAAS’ recent unsuccessful search for a new headquarters building, is frustrations over real estate.

Words of praise and appreciation are pro forma at retirement time, but few would dispute the comment on Nussbaum of Dael Wolfe, who occupied the AAAS front office for about half of Nussbaum’s tenure. “Hans was called on to do a great number of things not in his job description and he did them very well.”

And “Nobody was more willing to put his own interests and convenience second to the interests of the Association.”

The last word might go to Rose Lowery, who has worked with Nussbaum since 1962. No man is a hero to his assistant, and Ms. Lowery is no sentimentalist. “A diplomat he’s not,” she says. “That’s not his way. But he’ll take on any problem for anybody. And he’s effective. He knows what he’s doing.”

Nussbaum and his wife Anne have a son and three grandchildren. They have lived in the District of Columbia for years and intend to go on living there after retirement. Nussbaum has been active in his synagogue, in efforts on behalf of Israel, and in the United Jewish Appeal.

Photo by Gary D. Landsman
Fourth Candidate for Board of Directors Election

The slate of candidates for the Board of Directors, printed in the 2 June issue of *Science*, was incomplete. The fourth candidate is John C. Sawhill, president of New York University. The full slate for the Board of Directors is:

Harold E. Dregne
Bernard Gifford
Anna J. Harrison
John C. Sawhill

John Walsh
*Science*

NSF Chautauqua-Type Short Courses

Fifty-two courses on such topics as biomass conversion, brain science, chemical communication among insects, ethical issues in engineering, evaluation research, and anthropological studies of women will be offered during the 1978-79 NSF Chautauqua-Type Short Courses for College Teachers.

Beginning in mid-October, the courses will be held at 15 regional field centers throughout the United States. The series is designed to provide a forum in which scholars at the frontiers of various disciplines communicate recent advances in their fields directly to college teachers, enabling them to keep their teaching up-to-date.

The program is conducted by AAAS and the University of Missouri (Kansas City) and supported by the National Science Foundation.

Announcement brochures with details about the courses and application forms are available from the Office of Science Education at the AAAS address.

Twenty Media Interns in 1978 Program

Twenty students in the natural, social, and health sciences, economics, and mathematics are participating in the fourth Mass Media Intern Program, administered by AAAS with support from the National Science Foundation, this summer. They were chosen from among nearly 500 applicants.

The interns, who will spend 10 to 12 weeks working for newspapers, magazines, and radio and television stations across the country, gathered for a 2-day orientation at AAAS headquarters in Washington, 8-9 June, during which they participated in workshops on news writing; toured radio, television, and print media facilities; and heard talks by government officials and Washington print and broadcast reporters.

The 1978 mass media interns, their academic affiliations, and their internship sites are: Anthony Barcellos, Department of Mathematics, University of California (Davis), *Albuquerque (New Mexico) Journal*; Bernard C. Beins, Department of Psychology, Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, WOSU Radio, Columbus, Ohio; Douglas Bolin, Institute of Child Development, University of Minnesota, WFAA-TV, Dallas, Texas; James R. Champion, Department of Physics, West Virginia University, *Baltimore News American*; Mary H. Clark, Department of Anthropology, Duke University, *Raleigh (North Carolina) News and Observer*; Richard P. Emanuel, Department of Geology, University of Wisconsin, (Portland) *Oregonian*; Patrick Garry, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, *Richmond (Virginia) News Leader*; Barbara Gastel, School of Medicine and School of Hygiene and Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, *Newsweek*; Pamela E. Hill, Department of Counseling and Guidance Psychology, Loyola University, WILL Radio, Urbana, Illinois; Dominica T. Jones, Department of International Economics, Canadian Studies, International Law, and Organization, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, WDSU-TV, New Orleans; Richard A. Keen, Department of Geography, University of Colorado (Boulder), *Miami Herald*; Maureen E. Kelleher, Department of Sociology, University of Missouri (Columbia), WGBH Radio, Boston; Steven Leveen, Department of Sociology, Cornell University, KPBS-TV, San Diego; John D. Miller, Jr., Department of Psychology, University of Michigan, KTCA-TV, St. Paul, Minnesota; Roberta E. Pearson, Department of Political Science, Yale University, KSAT-TV, San Antonio, Texas; Sandra L. Postel, Department of Geography and Political Science, Wittenberg University, *Charlotte (North Carolina) Observer*; Margaret Seluk-Race, Department of Zoology, University of California (Berkeley), KQED-TV, San Francisco; Mitchel Resnick, Department of Physics, Princeton University, *Business Week*; Elaine J. Schechter, Department of Anthropology, Columbia University, WNEW-TV, New York; and Charles S. Versaggi, Department of Biological Sciences, Physiology, and Cell Biology, University of California (Santa Barbara), *Milwaukee Journal*.

Kirtley F. Mather, 1888–1978

Kirtley F. Mather, president of AAAS in 1951, died on 7 May, 2 weeks after suffering a severe stroke.

Dr. Mather, who had served as secretary and vice president of Section E (Geology and Geography) and as a member of the Executive Committee, was 90 years old. At the time of his death, he was a visiting professor of geology at the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque, and professor emeritus of geology at Harvard University, on whose faculty he served for 30 years beginning in 1924. He is remembered for, among many contributions as a scientist and educator, his testimony in defense of the theory of evolution during the famous Scopes trial of 1925.

Before beginning his tenure at Harvard, Dr. Mather had taught geology at the University of Arkansas; Queens University in Kingston, Ontario; and Denison University in Ohio.

He served as president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences from 1957–1961.
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Science 201 (4350), 40-41.
DOI: 10.1126/science.201.4350.40

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