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Editorial

Tony F.W. Embleton, National Research Council, Ottawa

Canadian Committee on Acoustics - Past and Present.

Some 70 acousticians attended the October 1972 meeting of the CCA held at McGill University: just over 80 were at the National Research Council in Ottawa for the annual gathering of 1971. There has been an increase in the number of people actively engaged in acoustics in Canada, in the number who wish to meet and discuss mutual problems with others similarly engaged, and in the number who have come to hear of the existence of the Canadian Committee on Acoustics. For both newcomers and old timers a review of our history seems appropriate as we launch our first attempt at sharing information, news and ideas on some regular schedule that is more frequent than the annual meetings.

The first meeting was called by Tom Northwood and met on 29 March 1962 at the National Research Council. Of the 18 persons attending all except one or two are still active in acoustics and still attend meetings of the CCA. The agenda was simple and the proceedings direct. We introduced ourselves, said where we worked and what our interests were, discussed in detail one or two topics that we felt were of importance - these turned out to be traffic noise, aircraft noise, sound insulation in buildings and the training and supply of future acousticians - and ended by deciding that the meeting had been useful and that future meetings should be held. The following year attendance had grown to 22 and subjects covered included underwater acoustics, hearing threshold studies, and a report on U.S. and international standards.

At this second meeting (1963) there was serious discussion of the future organization of the group. Several possibilities existed. It was decided to form a Canadian organization to meet once a year for informal discussions on topics of mutual interest, but that it should be formalized to the extent of having a definite title and a recognized chairman and secretary to provide some central core. The title "Canadian Committee on Acoustics" was adopted. Tom Northwood was elected chairman and Tony Embleton secretary.

The pattern was set and meetings have been held annually since in various locations including Bell-Northern Research Laboratories, University of Toronto, McGill University (once in conjunction with Université de Montréal), and the University of Western Ontario. During this time several other members have served as chairman and secretary, and deserve our thanks for cherishing the CCA through its early years - Herb Ribner and Dave Anderson, Bob Tanner and Joe Piercy, and currently John Foreman and Bob Donato.

And so we come to the present. This is the first issue of this newsletter, a new venture, though it may claim as ancestry the efforts of many people over a period of ten years to provide a forum for Canadian acousticians. It is our intention to circulate an issue of several pages each calendar quarter. These will contain editorials, articles on acoustical or related topics, lists of publications and book reviews, and also news of general acoustical interest such as government regulations, by-laws and court cases.

This newsletter is a means of communication among acousticians. What it becomes in the future (even whether or not it survives more than a few issues) is going to be determined by the support it receives from all of us. If as a reader, you want a Newsletter that has the breadth to be useful and interesting, then it is incumbent upon you to supply relevant material whenever you find something worth contributing. This should be sent preferably to your nearest regional contributing editor, whose name is listed on p. ii. Material can be submitted in either English or French. Having voted unanimously to have a newsletter it is now up to all of us to make it a viable reality.

Industrial Noise Legislation in Canada, 1972

William H. Langford, Canada Department of Labour

All over the world, rapidly advancing production techniques in modern industrial processes are generating known, as well as hidden, dangers in the work-place. In recent years improved preventive measures have been taken everywhere to secure safety in the face of such developments.