

Encouraged by Dr. Tony Scordato, past Board Chair of the Dozenal Society of America, and Arthur Whillock, Information Secretary of the Dozenal Society of Great Britain, I write this anecdotal history of our Society. It is based upon documents in our Archives and my personal recollections. Tony had pointed out that I was one of the last few people who knew some of the early Members of the DSA.

## a history orth DSA

by Gene Zirkel


Dr. Tony Scordato and I visited the Nassau Community College's library collection of dozenal material after the 15 May 1982 Annual Meeting. Dr. Scordato was then serving as Chairman of the DSA.

## Some Prehistory

Note: In what follows, the dozenal fraction point (;) indicates a base twelve numeral, while a period or dot (.) is used to indicate base ten numerals. The abbreviation, WN, in Bulletin citations, refers to an issue's "Whole Number"

E01; 1585. Simon Stevin mentions duodecimals.
E98; 1700. Charles XII of Sweden investigates other number bases.
10X7; 1855. Sir Isaac Pitman urges his students of shorthand to also use duodecimals.
10£6; 1866. Thomas Leech writes Dozens vs. Tens containing the logs of prime numbers.
1103; 1875. A New Treatise on Elements of Mechanics Establishing Strict Precision in the Meaning of Dynamical Terms Accompanied with an Appendix on Duodenal Arithmetic and Metrology by John W. Nystrom is published using the unfortunate term "duodenal."
1120; 1896. In June, Herbert Spencer advocates duodecimals in Appelton's Popular Science Monthly.
1148; 1928. Grover Cleveland Perry authors a pamphlet, The American System of Mathematics.

1152; 1934. F. Emerson Andrews dallies with dozenal counting in January.

F. Emerson Andrews at the 1967 dSA Annual Meeting.

Although advocates of counting in dozens existed for centuries, it wasn't until 1152; that the seeds of an organization advocating base twelve were sown. The unlikely planter was F. Emerson Andrews, an employee of a foundation and a diversified writer. Andrews had written over $21 / 2$ dozen books and countless articles including children's books, articles in Mechanix Illustrated, material on insurance, etc. One day, he started playing with numbers and discovered the advantages of dozenal counting. From his discoveries he penned an article which he sent to several likely publishers only to be universally rejected. Finally, in desperation, he sent it to the Atlantic Monthly. The editors agreed to print it provided that Andrews would insert a disclaimer halfway thru the article warning readers that what followed was mathematics.

Hence the article, entitled "An Excursion in Numbers", appeared in October, including the following:

## ${ }^{66}$ Thus far I hope my lay friends have followed me in comfort. To PURSUE OUR EXPLORATIONS FROM NOW ON, SOME MATHEMATICAL INSTINCT IS NEEDED. PERHAPS THOSE WHO DESIRE TO TAKE THEIR EASE HAD better stop here, but I Can promise the ones who wish to stretch THEIR MINDS A BIT FURTHER THAT THEY WILL NOT GO UNREWARDED. ${ }^{9}$

Immediately upon publication, numerous messages of support started pouring in and these were forwarded to the author. Out of this correspondence a group of pioneers began a round robin of letters regarding dozenal counting. A would write to $B$. $B$ would add his thoughts and pass it on to C , etc. At times they mimeographed their thoughts. $\nrightarrow$ See our Bulletin wn18; vol. 9 № 1.

## An Embryonic Society

In addition to Andrews who lived in New Jersey, early writers included George S. Terry of Massachusetts, F. Howard Seely of California, F. Morton Smith of Massachusetts and Charles Q. De France of Nebraska.
\(\left.$$
\begin{array}{lll}\text { 1153; 1935. } & \begin{array}{l}\text { Andrews authors "Revolving Numbers" in the February issue } \\
\text { of the Atlantic Monthly and "The Dark Ages of Arithmetic" in the } \\
\text { July issue. }\end{array} \\
\text { 1155; 1937. } & \begin{array}{l}\text { Andrews' book, New Numbers, is published by Harcourt Brace. A } \\
\text { British edition is published by Faber and Faber, however most of } \\
\text { these are destroyed in a WW II air raid. }\end{array} \\
\text { 1156; 1938. } & \begin{array}{l}\text { J. Halcro Johnston publishes The Reverse Notation. } \\
\text { Longmans, Green \& Company publish Terry's }\end{array}
$$ <br>

Duodecimal Arithmetic.\end{array}\right]\)| Ralph Beard contacts Andrews, joins the letter-writing group |
| :--- |
| which he humorously dubs the "Duodecimal Society of America", |
| and offers to help create our Society. |

Ralph was an executive in the phone company who always signed his letters with the lighthearted "Whiskers". George Terry gives them almost 3 great gross (\$5000.) dollars (a sizeable sum in 1944!) to found and incorporate our

## The Birth of the DSA

Society along with the instructions: If the Society was meant to be, this seed money would be enough to get it started. If it was spent and we went broke, then our time had not yet come. Well here we are, more than 5 dozen years later, and we're still around.
Ralph wrote a Constitution and By Laws which established the Duodecimal Society of America as a tax exempt, non profit, educational organization. We are officially incorporated on July 16; (18.).
The Charter members and their membership numbers are:

| F. Emerson Andrews | Tenafly, NJ |
| :--- | :--- |
| George S. Terry | 507 Main St., Bingham, MA |
| F. Howard Seely | San Francisco, CA |
| Ralph H. Beard | 20 Carlton Place, Staten Island, NY |
| F. Morton Smith | Boston, MA |

These five founders became the Board of Directors, and Carlton Place became our official address. There is no mention of Charles Q. DeFrance, so presumably he had passed away.
1160; 1944. First Meeting. On 5 April the first meeting of the DSA is held in Andrew's office in New York City. Terry is elected Board Chair and Andrews is President. Beard is elected Secretary-Treasurer and Editor of our Bulletin. Seely, who cannot get to NY from California is elected Vice President.

A revised edition of New Numbers is published by Essential Books.
1161; 1945. Duodecimal Bulletin. Ralph publishes the first issue of The Duodecimal Bulletin, listing more than a dozen aspirants to our fledgling Society. These included Kingsland Camp, fas (Federation of American Scientists), Pvt. William Crosby, Paul E. Friedman, H. K. Humphrey, Cpl. Dallas Lien, Mrs. Robert Lloyd, Lt. Eugene "Skip" Scifres, AAC and Lewis Carl Seelbach, CPA all of whom are frequently mentioned in later issues of our Bulletin.
Scifres, Member Number 11; and Lien, Number 14; are still active members of our Society. When Vice President Seely died, Friedman was elected to succeed him as Veep. Humphrey soon replaced Beard as Treasurer, and when he resigned, a dozen years later, Scifres was elected to that position. Seelbach and Beard created an excellent bibliography of dozenal materials which was published in our Bulletin in 1952 as WN 17; vol. 8; № 2. Mary Lloyd contributed many puzzles for the enjoyment of our readers. Camp later served as President and then as Board Chair.

Terry gave F. Morton Smith credit for being instrumental in getting his Duodecimal Arithmetic published by Longmans, Green.
1163; 1947. Vice President Smith dies.

1166;
or
1167;

1950 or 1951. In the 1950's I was taking a course in Higher Algebra at St. John's College which included the then esoteric topic of number bases. One day, my teacher, Professor Anthony H. Sarno, held up a copy of the Duodecimal Bulletin and said something to the effect: there is even this bunch of nuts who think we should count in base twelve. Being a sophomore (that is one who disagrees with teachers) I asked for the address of the publisher. I wrote to them and received some literature including Andrews' "Excursion In Numbers" and a current Bulletin. I quickly became enamored by the logic of dozenal counting and proceeded to write an article entitled "I'm a Dozener" for the college Math Club's magazine, The Mathazine. In the meanwhile I had applied for membership in the Society. At that time Aspirants were required to pass a series of four tests in duodecimal arithmetic before they became full fledged members. I had passed the first test and was working on the second one when the Mathazine article came out. Upon reading it, the Society told me I was accepted, and in fact they reprinted it in wn 18; vol. 9; № 1. As editor Beard stated, we like to have an elementary article in every issue.
Late 60;s

Late 1950s. I attended several annual meetings in New York City, meeting Andrews, Terry, Beard and other notables. Meetings were sometimes held at the foundation where Andrews worked. I was present when Charlie Bagley was installed as President. I remember his inauguration speech. He held a copy of Andrews' book, New Numbers, in his hand as he spoke. There was a paper dust jacket on the book and the publishers had advertised other math books including one that praised the awkward decimal metric system. Charlie read the advertisement and then proceeded to throw the book on the floor, startling all of us, and alerting us to our new president's sense of humor.

I also met our early bibliographer, Seelbach, a man responsible along with Beard, for the three dozen plus pages of bibliography mentioned above. Another early dodekaphile giant I met was the author and astronomer Kingsland (KC) Camp. I then moved away from New York City for a number of years, and became inactive in the Society, although I often spoke of dozenals to my students and to Math Clubs.


Eugene "Skip" Scifres, after having won the Beard Memorial Award 13 October 1984.

H. K. Humphrey seated, attending the 1961 Annual Meeting at the Carnegie International Center


President Charles S. Bagley in Des Plaines, (Chicago) Illinois for the 6-9 April 1968 Annual Meeting.

## Our Sister Society

During this time Ralph continued to send me the Bulletin, and - as I discovered years later - he personally paid my annual dues!
116£; 1955. The French Connection. Douze, Notre Dix Futur by Jean Essig, an employee of the French Government, is published.
1959. Our Sister is Born. In April a fledgling Dozenal Society of Great Britain publishes its first Newscast. Brian Bishop is Acting Secretary and Editor. For the " 7 pioneers". The dSA sent copies of Andrews' article, "An Excursion in Numbers" along with the tests they used for Aspirants to their Society and the support of Chairman Andrews, President Camp and Secretary Beard. In October they have $11 / 4$ dozen members including Robert B. Carnaghan and our own Ralph Beard, and a bank balance of $345 ; 96$ shillings.
Bibliographer Lewis Carl Seelbach passes away.


Attendees of the 1960 First International Duodecimal Conference, from left to right: Kingsland Camp, Brian Bishop, Jean Essig, and M. Baillancourt.
1960. First International Duodecimal Conference. A Summit Meeting of dodekaphiles is held in France. M. Jean Essig of France sends an invitation to DSA's President Camp and Brian Bishop of the DSGB to a "Summit Conference" at his estate in Normandie in late September or early October. On 23; \& 24; (27 \& 28.) September at his Normandie estate he hosts the representatives of the DSA and DSGB for a conference that establishes another historic landmark for duodecimals. M. Essig is author of Douze, Notre Dix Futur, and has actively advocated the study of the duodecimal base in many public addresses. This conference at La Herpinière, Beaumontel, Eure département, Haute-Normandie région, France, is an important event in our history. Essig consented to be Chairman of the Conference, and he delegated his secretary, M. Baillancourt, to act as Secretary to the Conference. $\rightarrow$ See our Bulletin, wn 28 \& 29; vol. 14; № 1 \& 2.
117X-乏 1966-1967. Henry C. Churchman publishes a series of Dozenal Essays.
117£; 1967. I returned to NY, was hired by Nassau Community College (NCC) and became active in the DSA. At the college I discovered by accident that Professor Jim Malone was a dozenalist, and he used a simple story of egg delivery to teach people about base twelve.

1180; 1968. The DSGB, scattered throughout the British isles, holds its first general meeting.


DSA General Meeting at the O'Hare Concord Motor Inn in Chicago in early April 1968. From left to right: Henry C. Churchman, Bruce A. M. Moon, Kingsland Camp, Ralph H. Beard, and Tom B. Linton.

1181;
1969. New editor Shaun Ferguson changes the name of the DSGB's Newscast to the Duodecimal Review.
1182; 1970. A member of the DSA, Dr. Anton Glaser publishes A History of Binary and Other Nondecimal Numeration.
1974. 7 October. The end of an era! The last of our founders, Ralph Beard, dies on his way to Jacksonville, Florida to attend our Annual Meeting when his car and a Trailways bus collide. Ralph had served as an original Board Member, President, Secretary, Treasure and Editor. He was the 4th recipient of our Annual Award which has since been named in his honor. Ralph would have been 7 dozen years old 3 days later. Ralph was the prime mover in founding the DSA.
1190; 1980. Our Society was headed by an engineer, President Tom Linton. He was concerned with a dwindling membership and called the annual meeting in Denver, Colorado where two active members Gene (Skip) Scifres and former army Sgt Henry Webber lived. Tom invited Jim Malone and myself to attend. Trying to revitalize the Society, Tom nominated Jim as Treasurer and myself as Vice President, and of course, we both were elected unanimously (and unopposed).
1190; Our editor, Henry Churchman, a lawyer from Iowa, had become ill and the Bulletin had ceased publication. I was convinced that this vacuum was in a large part the cause of our dwindling numbers. Our membership is scattered thruout the us and, in fact, throughout the world. Most members never attend an Annual Meeting. No Bulletin meant for many of them no Duodecimal Society.

Upon my return to New York, I convinced my wife, Dr. Patricia Zirkel, to become editor of the Bulletin. Although Pat is not a mathematician, she did have some experience in publishing a newsletter for a bank where she had worked previously.


Mr. Churchman in his home state of Iowa in 1968.


Jamison "Jux" Handy during the 1968 Annual Meeting in Council Bluffs, Iowa.


Dudley George in 1968.


Prof. Jay Schiffman at the chalkboard during the 1999 Annual Meeting.

A Name Change. Under editor Don Hammond, dSgb’s Duodecimal Review becomes the Dozenal Review.
1981. A New Publication. The Dozenal Review morphs into Vol. 1, № 1 of the Dozenal Journal.
Shortly after this Tom Linton suffered a heart attack and passed away, and I found myself in the President's chair. Fortunately, I had two very capable people in the two most important positions of our Society: Jim as Treasurer and Pat as Editor. Pat served in this capacity for a dozen years before turning the reins over to the next editor, Professor Jay Schiffman.

Tom was the prime mover behind our Society's developing a duodecimal slide rule. Many other members had talked about this project, but Tom was the first to succeed in producing one. These were very popular among our members. Several members worked on the idea of a dozenal calculator without success. Calculator companies were only interested in products for mass marketing.
Consolidation of the Dozenal Collection. About this time, Vivian Linton, Tom's widow, invited us to come to Garden Grove, California and take any dozenal materials we wanted. Similarly, John Churchman, Henry's son invited us to Council Bluffs, Iowa to collect his father's papers. Pat and I along with our son George Zirkel traveled to Iowa and later to California. We shipped many cartons of DSA papers back to NCC where several members of the DSA volunteered to sort and store them. We discovered that among the papers stored in Churchman's barn were the papers of two dozenal greats: KC Camp and Ralph Beard. Both of them had passed away to join the Twelve Apostles, the Twelve Sons of Israel who founded the Twelve Tribes of Israel and one hundred forty four thousand mentioned in the Book of Revelation.

Camp left his papers and books to the Society, and they went to our Dozenal headquarters in Beard's home. Beard similarly left his papers and books to the Society along with one twelfth of his estate, and they went to Editor Churchman's home in Iowa. Not wishing these papers to get lost if someone happened to die and their heirs did not appreciate
their value, I arranged for the DSA Library to create a permanent Dozenal Collection of many valuable Society holdings. Later the collection was renamed the F. Emerson Andrews' Dozenal Collection.
1982. Prof. Alice Berridge joins the DSA. Alice becomes a strong advocate and serves on several Committees. She is elected to the Board of Directors and, subsequently, to the offices of Vice President, Secretary and long standing Treasurer. Like many Treasurers before her, she serves as faithful custodian of our Society's funds until illness forces her to resign. I have long held that the Treasurer and the Editor are the two most important people in the DSA.

Because of her devotion and hard work Alice was made a Fellow of the Society. She was the recipient of the Ralph Beard Annual Award in 11XX; (2002.) 1987. Dr. Paul Rapoport, Professor of Music at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, demonstrated his dozenal clock at our Annual Meeting. More than 2 dozen years in the making, it displays the time in our usual mode or in dozenals. However, you must know base twelve, since you can only set the time in dozenals. It shows 4 digits such as 543.6 indicating 5 twelfths of a day ( 2 hour units) 4 twelfths of 2 hours ( $\chi$; minute units) 3 twelfths of dek minutes ( $5 / 6$ of a minute - approximately 1 minute units) and 6 twelfths of that ( $4 ; 2$ second units) or 10:42:55 AM. To see this, consider that 543;6 times $5 / 6$ of a minute yields 456 ; $£$ minutes after midnight. Divide this by 5 dozen ( $50 ;$ ) minutes per hour obtaining $\chi ; 87$ hours. (That's ten AM plus 0;87 hours.) Multiply 0;87 hrs by 50; mins/hr to get $36 ; £$ minutes, or $31 / 2$ dozen minutes plus $0 ; £$ of a minute. Finally $0 ; £$ minutes times 50 ; secs per min equals 47; Secs. (See "The Dozenal Clock" in our Bulletin, wn 5£; vol 31; № 3; pp 10-14;)

11Х7; 1999. Our First Website. Our Society announced that we were soon to have our own web page. Thru the efforts of two students, Chris Harvey \& Christina D'Aiello-Scalise, John Earnest of NCC and Dr. John Impagliazzo of Hofstra University the site was up and running in the following year.
The Math and Computer Science Department of nCC generously hosted the DSA website.


Dr. John Impagliazzo tickles the keys at the 1985 Annual Meeting at NCC.


Prof. Alice Berridge following the 1997 Annual Meeting at NCC.


Christina D'Aiello-Scalise and Chris Harvey at work on the DSA website.


Screenshot of Harvey Kramer Hawks' 2002 Doz- 11£0; enal Digital Calculator.


Partial screenshot of the DozensOnline chat room.

Bulletin wn 80; vol 40; № 1 ; informs its readers that the DSA has an email address.
2002. The Dozenal Digital Calculator. Harvey Kramer Hawks produced a dozenal calculator, offering its use to the DSA. Harvey's calculator performed the four arithmetic functions in either decimals or dozenals.
2004. Michael Punter of England came up with a wonderful little calculator for your computer. It is easy to download and a joy to have. It includes logs and trig functions and has a memory. The logs work in base 10 , whether that symbol represents a dozen or a ten. The trig works with four different angular measures: degrees, radians, a full circle and a semicircle. This latter unit is from Tom Pendlebury's excellent work, TGM: a Coherent Dozenal Metrology Based on Time, Gravity \& Mass wherein one zeniPi ( 1 twelfth of $\pi$ ) is equivalent to 13 ; (15.) degrees.

11£1; 2005. A Second Website. Dr. John Impagliazzo, Jay, Christina and myself work with some professionals to establish our current website, www.Dozenal.org.

A Dozenal Forum. An email conversation among Brian Bishop, Robert Carnaghan, Shaun Ferguson of the DSGB and myself resulted in Shaun encouraging Brian Parry to create a dozenal forum (chat room) at http://s13.invisionfree.com/DozensOnline/index.php.

That inspired a web search for "duodecimal" which yielded about 36,600; $(73,440$.$) hits.$ It included items such as:
http://base12.org or, why God really should've given us six fingers, and "Base Eight And other math for people who are missing fingers" retrieved at http://www.ncsu.edu/ felder-public/kenny/papers/bases.html. 㨓
Editor's note:
The following six pages summarize the history of the Dozenal Society of America in the form of timelines and lists. These have been updated as of August 2008. If you discover errors or omissions please contact the Editor.
Prof. Gene Zirkel's article includes an Appendix which includes some thoughts compiled from notes from Brian Bishop, Shaun Ferguson, and Robert Carnaghan. This Appendix covers some of the history of the Dozenal Society of Great Britain. It will be published in the next issue, wn 98; Vol. $4 \chi$ № 1 . 丵
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Do you know of a friend who would appreciate a sample copy of our Bulletin? Just send us his or her name and address and we'll be happy to oblige.


## HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

The Dozenal Society of America has elected several people to Honorary Membership. This is a list of Honorary Members and their Membership Numbers.

| I. V. Colonna Valevsky | £7; | Arthur Whillock | $262 ;$ |
| ---: | :---: | ---: | :---: |
| Bruce A. M. Moon | $1 \chi 7 ;$ | Shaun Ferguson | $287 ;$ |
| Dr. Anton Glaser | $1 £ \varepsilon ;$ | Isaac Asimov | $293 ;$ |
| John Earnest | $250 ;$ | Donald Hammond | $373 ;$ |
| R.B. Carnaghan | $259 ;$ | Chas W. Trigg | $374 ;$ |

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Generous donors have contributed to the Dozenal Society of America and have been awarded Life Membership. They are listed here with their Membership Numbers.

| Kingsland Camp | $\chi ;$ | George Zirkel | $253 ;$ |
| ---: | :---: | ---: | :--- |
| Eugene "Skip" Scifres | $11 ;$ | Mrs. F. Emerson Andrews | $257 ;$ |
| Albert S. De Valve | $32 ;$ | Neela Lakshmanan | $271 ;$ |
| Paul Adams | $40 ;$ | Walter Berkmann | $276 ;$ |
| Gene Zirkel | $67 ;$ | John Impagliazzo | $27 £ ;$ |
| Henry C. Churchman | $72 ;$ | Jerry Spellriyter (G. Brost) | $294 ;$ |
| Thomas H. Goodman | £6; | Paul Schumacher | $2 \chi 6 ;$ |
| Nelson B. Gray | £9; | Charles Ashbacher | $2 £ 8 ;$ |
| H. K. Baumeister | $140 ;$ | George P. Jelliss | $316 ;$ |
| Richard T. Trelfa | $159 ;$ | Mary Newhall | $321 ;$ |
| William H. Leonhardt | $18 \chi ;$ | John Steigerwald | $325 ;$ |
| James M. Dixon | $206 ;$ | James McElhatton | $337 ;$ |
| Erich Kothe | $210 ;$ | Michael T. DeVlieger | $34 £ ;$ |
| Miriam Bagley | $243 ;$ | Christina D’Aiello-Scalise | $35 \chi ;$ |
| Arby Talley | $249 ;$ | Courtney B. Owen | $360 ;$ |
| Patricia Zirkel | $251 ;$ | Chris Harvey | $367 ;$ |

## - $\rightarrow$ We Depend on You \&

Annual dues are due as of 1 January. If you forgot, please forward your check for only one dozen dollars to Treasurer Ellen Tufano, 95 Holst Drive West, Huntington ny 11743-3939, usA. Student dues are $\$ 3$. As you know, our continued work depends very much upon the tax deductible dues and gifts from our Members.

$$
\sim \rightarrow \text { Our British Associates } \& \sim
$$

## FELLOWS OF THE SOCIETY

The Dozenal Society of America has designated certain persons Fellows of the Society. This is a list of these persons and their Membership Numbers.
Kingsland Camp $\quad \chi$; B. A. M. Moon ..... 1X7;
Eugene "Skip" Scifres 11;Dallas H. Lien 14;Jamison "Jux" Handy, Jr. 19;
Robert R. Mc Pherson $4 \varepsilon$;
J. Halcro Johnston 55;
Velizar Godjevatz ..... 56;
Gene Zirkel ..... 67;
Henry C. Churchman ..... 72;
William C. Schumacher ..... 84;
Charles S. Bagley ..... Х3;
I. V. Colonna Valevsky ..... £7;
Nelson B. Gray ..... £9;
George S. Cunningham ..... 107;
Theodore Baumeister ..... 140;
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