
DSA Newscast

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The official newsletter of the Dozenal Society of America

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YEAR 1200

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The Dozenal Society of America is a voluntary, nonprofit educational corporation, organized for the conduct of research and education of the public in the use of dozenal (also called duodecimal or base twelve) in calculations, mathematics, weights and measures, and other branches of pure and applied science.

AS THE YEAR 1200 approaches, those attached to the dozenal base should prepare themselves to take advantage of this opportunity. What opportunity? What difference does the passage of yet another year make?

Fundamentally, of course, the year 1200 (2016.) is completely arbitrary. It is no more relevant to the cause of dozens than the year 1178 (2000.) was to the cause of decimals. But psychologically, the year 1200 is extremely important.

Many of us are old enough to remember the year 1188 (1976.), when the hoopla surrounding the American bicentennial was sufficient to arouse a new outpouring of patriotism even in the wake of Watergate, the recent political and social unpleasantness over the war in Vietnam, and the fall of Saigon shortly before. The year 1178 (2000.), despite some fuss over alleged computer problems, was an occasion of great celebration and joy, even though it stood for nothing but vague ideas of “the future” and “progress.” Bare year numbers may be arbitrary; but so also are the sounds that make up our language and the symbols that represent our most hated and most beloved institutions. But despite being arbitrary, they are *vital*; they carry important meaning and resonate more strongly than many things which are more directly meaningful.

While innately the year 1200 means nothing more than any other year, psychologically it is potentially much

more important. We are some time after the last important decimal-numbered year (1178, 2000.), so the marvel of merely round numbers has largely worn off; yet we’re still close enough to 10 December 1188 (12./12./12.) that the uniqueness of a twelve-round date should be fresh on people’s minds.

Unfortunately, unlike 10 December 1188, the year “2016.” doesn’t *look round* to decimal eyes; it’s only when we look at it through our dozenal glasses that we can see its notably round character. The decimal citizen won’t see, without being told, how significant the year 1200 is. In other words, even though the year 1200 is such that it *ought* to carry serious psychological significance, it probably *won’t* unless we can show people why it should.

So we, as dozenalists, are faced with a double problem: (1) help our decimal brethren understand that the year 2016. is also 1200; and (2) *by so doing make the year 1200 psychologically important.* By explaining to people what dozens are, we can show them that the year 1200 is every bit as significant as 1178 was, or as 1188 was before it.

The DSA does hope to offer some tools to help make that possible. Later this month, for example, we will be producing our monthly calendars and weekly planners, which prominently display the dozenal year, 1200, for all to see. These calendars bring notice; people ask about them. Purchasing

one for the wall at home, at work, or wherever they might be seen is an excellent way to make this happen. We will be sending out a notice in another week or two, via the *DSA Newscast* email, when these calendars are ready.

But fundamentally, the Society can only be a resource for the outreach offered by our membership. *You* are the greatest method of outreach. One of our founders, Ralph Beard, used to

say frequently *Each One, Teach One*, and that has never been more true than it is today, as we approach the turning of the biquennium at the end of the month.

Furthermore, this is the 60th anniversary of the Dozenal Society of America, which was founded exactly 60 (72.) years ago next year, in 1160 (1944.). Even during the largest war the world had ever seen, dozenals were known and taught throughout

the country and the world. Is there any reason we cannot do the same now?

Please, take advantage of this excellent opportunity, when a nice, round-looking number provides an easy segue into mathematical conversation, to help spread the knowledge of dozens. Contact us with any ideas, supplies, displays, or other helps directed at this end.

SOCIETY BUSINESS

ANNUAL MEETING, 1188

The Society presented at the Ohio Conference of Teachers of Mathematics on 14 October, and our annual meeting was held on 15 October.

Due to an unlikely and unfortunate series of events, neither our president nor our secretary were able to attend either in person. Treasurer and Board Chairman Jay Schiffman (#278) took the baton and made our presentation at the OCTM, for which we are grateful.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

As noted in our last issue, the next issue of *The Duodecimal Bulletin* will be released later this year, and will focus on dozenal's contribution to

metrology. If you have ideas about metrology, please write them out and send them to the Editor:

editor@dozenal.org

We're all very excited about this issue and hope to have a great deal of input from our membership to include. Thank you.

WEBSITE WOES

Some have already noted that our website's functionality has been reduced in recent weeks. Members may recall that, a dozen years ago or so, our website was seriously compromised. Unfortunately, that has happened again. Member information is not stored on our server; however, out of an abundance of caution, and in the interests of preventing our server from being used as a spambot,

we have shut down all the active (dynamic) elements of our website.

This means that, for the time being, logons won't work; our online membership form does not work (a fillable pdf form is still available); and our search form does not work.

Due to the problems that this has caused, we are unlikely to reactivate member logons; we will make this information available to our members in some other way. We will certainly be reinstating our online membership form as soon as possible (ETA is later this week). We will probably be relying on a third party for search functionality on the site.

However, we will unfortunately have to ask our members to be patient. We are an all-volunteer organization, and this process will take some time. Thank you for all your support throughout this process.

DOZENAL NEWS

NEW DOZENAL CLOCK APP FOR IOS

Some time ago we announced the availability of a few apps for Android mobile operating systems at the Google Play store; specifically, a clock (DozClockWidget), a calculator (dozbc), and a measurement converter (TGMDroid). Dr. Paul Rapoport (#230), wanting a good clock app for iPhones and similar iDevices, has (out of his own pocket!) commissioned and released an iOS clock app, available in the iOS app store.

This clock, developed by Jasper Chan, is free for download to any compatible device with access to the store. It has options for 10-hour days or for our current 20-hour day. We hope that iOS users will be able to profit by it.

Donations to Dr. Rapoport would be appreciated, since as mentioned above he commissioned the app's development from his own pocket. (This request for donations is made without his knowledge.) Such donations will be invested into development of a newer version, which may include such details as an alarm or stopwatch.

POETICAL DIVERSION

A LIMERICK

There once was a man who could delve
into numbers like three, four, and twelve;
Little Ten, feeling jealous,
got a lot overzealous,
And wanted that man twelve to shelve.

But the man said to Ten, "Little Ten,
you just don't have the grace or the ken;
You're just five and a two,
And what good can five do?
Only Twelve is my sweetheart, my zen.

DONATIONS

Members, please remember that while dues are no longer required for membership, we still rely on the generosity of members to keep the DSA going. Donations of any amount, large or small, are welcome and needed.

A donation of \$10; (\$12.) will procure Subscription membership, and entitles the payer to receive both a digital and a paper copy of the *Bulletin* if requested. Other members will receive only a digital copy. To invoke this privilege, please notify the Editor of the Bulletin, John Volan, at

editor@dozenal.org

As members know, we are a volunteer organization which pays no salaries. As such, every penny you donate goes toward furthering the DSA's goals.

It may be worth considering a monthly donation; say, \$3, or \$6, or whatever seems reasonable to you. This can be set up quite easily with PayPal or WePay, both of which are available at our web site.

Of course, if you prefer to donate by check, you may send them

to our worthy Treasurer, Jay Schiffman, payable to the Dozenal Society of America, at:

Jay Schiffman
604-36 South Washington
Square, #815
Philadelphia, PA 19106-4115

Remember, too, that the DSA will likely soon be a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization; when this happens, your contributions will be tax deductible under applicable law.

FOR SALE

The DSA is pleased to offer the following for sale. These are all either at cost, or the proceeds go to the Society.

Item	Price (\$)
Wall Calendar for 11gg, coiled binding	10.05
Weekly Planner for 11gg	8.29
TGM: A Coherent Dozenal Metrology	8.00

Prices are, unfortunately but by necessity, in decimal. To find these works, simply go to:

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/shop.ep>

and enter the appropriate terms. E.g., searching for "11EE" will turn up these calendars and the planner; searching for "TGM dozenal" will turn up the TGM book.

We hope to offer other titles, and even some other items (such as dozenal clocks and the like), in the near future.

EACH ONE, TEACH ONE