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Author: Kenneth B. Warner, 1BHW

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International Amateur Radio Union Formed!

Twenty-Three Nations at Paris Congress Unanimously Agree. Union Devoted to Two-Way International Communication. Maxim President; Headquarters at Hartford. Membership Now Open.

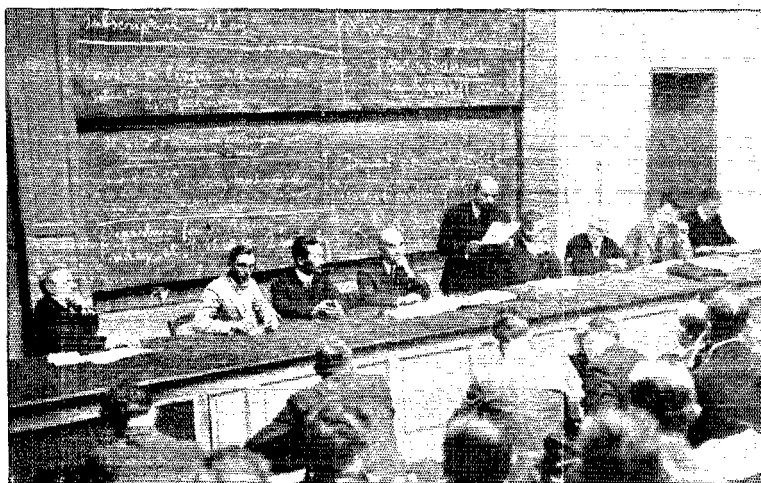
By K. B. Warner, International Secretary-Treasurer

THE International Amateur Radio Union, the dream of years, came into existence on April 17, 1925, when the delegates of twenty-three nations met at the *Faculte des Sciences* in Paris in the First International Amateur Congress. The Union has adopted a constitution, its officers have been elected, and four national sections have been formed and recognized. Its objects lie along lines that will promote and co-ordinate two-way radio communication between the amateurs of the various countries of the world. Membership is by individuals, and anyone interested in the objects of the Union can become a

z4AA, New Zealand; the writer was elected International Secretary-Treasurer. These five officials constitute the Executive Committee or Bureau of the Union.

In that one paragraph is told the result of months of preparation and a week of feverish activity at Paris. The whole story is much too long to tell in our limited space. The chief point is that the transmitting amateurs of the world—our own kind of fellows—got together and formed an international league very similar to the A.R.R.L. in this country, “of, by and for the amateur.” And everything looks rosy.

The opening session of the Congress con-



THE AMATEUR CONGRESS IN SESSION. The Bureau sits at the long table. Left to right: M. Firman, president of the Legal Congress; Lloyd Jacquet, u20Z, and Leon Deloy, f8AB, interpreters; M. Belin, president of the Amateur Congress; M. Beauvais, Secretary; Jean G. Mezger, f8GO, interpreter; Mr. Maxim; Mr. Warner; a stenographer.. (Photo Delano, Paris.)

member. In each country from which there are 25 or more members, there is to be a National Section, like divisions in the A.R.R.L., each with its National President, and these National Presidents, with the Executive Committee, constitute the Board of Directors of the Union. Our A.R.R.L. president, Mr. Hiram Percy Maxim, u1AW, was elected International President; Mr. Gerald Marcuse, g2NM, Great Britain, is the International Vice-President; the Councillors-at-large are M. Jean G. Mezger, f8GO, France, and Mr. Frank D. Bell,

vened on the afternoon of April 14th, as a joint meeting of the Radio Amateurs and the International Radio Legal Committee, which was having its Congress at the same time, with a total attendance of around 250. The gathering was welcomed by M. Edouard Belin, president of the *Radio-Club de France* and well-known inventor of the systems of teleautography that bear his name, and by General Ferrie. Thereafter the “juridiques” held their congress separately, meeting with us again only at the closing session, and we regret that we know nothing as yet of their

work. Late that first afternoon the Amateur Congress had its first separate meeting, at which M. Belin was elected president of the Congress, Messrs. Maxim and Marcuse vice-presidents, M. Beauvais secretary, and the writer as second secretary. The rolls were opened for membership on the sub-

erally a scientist, a man of years and position, and almost invariably wore a beard; he was supposed to be interested only in research and would never make a "brass-pounder" like we know them! This was all wrong; the French amateur when we really found him, and all the rest of them,



A LITTLE INTERNATIONAL GROUP, in the courtyard of the Faculte des Sciences, with seventeen nations represented. (Photo-ROL, Paris.)

are just like ourselves, a noisy, happy bunch of keypushers of our own age, tooting whistles and discussing circuits, and talking "QST English," bless 'em! And so we are happy to record that we found the hams from all around the world all alike in complete agreement as to what they wanted, and looking to Mr. Maxim to lead the way.

The most important work of the Congress centered in Sub-Committee No. 1 on the formation of the I. A. R. U. It was here that the real amateurs of the Congress got

together and worked, there being about fifty members of this committee. The following nations were represented by the delegates noted:

- Argentina Mr. Repetto
- Austria Mr. Fischel
- Belgium Mr. Deloor, P2.
- Brazil Mr. Lacomb, 1AC
- Canada Maj. Borrett, 1DD
- Czecho-Slovakia Dr. Kamil Sulc
- Denmark Mr. Perroux, f8BV
- France Mr. Lefebvre, 8GL
- Finland Mr. Perroux, f8BV
- Germany Mr. Kraus
- Great Britain Mr. Marcuse, 2NM
- Hungary Mr. Grenkamp-Kornfeld
- Italy Mr. Salom, 1MT
- Japan Mr. Usami
- Luxemburg Mr. DeGroot
- Netherlands Mr. Tappenbeek, PCTT
- Newfoundland Mr. Reid, SAR
- Poland Mr. Odyner
- Spain Mr. Moya, AR1
- Sweden Mr. Svensson, SMYY
- Switzerland Dr. Merz
- Uruguay Mr. LeGrand
- United States Mr. Maxim, 1AW

The American delegation had arrived in Paris several days before the start of the Congress and had made a preliminary study of the situation. It seems necessary to record here the unfortunate fact that the French officials who had arranged the Congress were not contemplating that the Union to be formed there would be primarily an association devoted to two-way telegraphing amateur activities. We were not sure just what they did want it to be, but there were present at the Congress many engineers, many BCL's, and many other kinds of radio folks who were interested but little in two-way short-wave amateur telegraphy, and we fear many of them were disappointed at the kind of a Union that was formed. It has become, however, exactly what the transmitting amateurs of the world set out to accomplish. We must record another discovery too: we had been told that the European amateur, particularly the French amateur, was an altogether different variety than the American ham; that he was gen-

erally a scientist, a man of years and position, and almost invariably wore a beard; he was supposed to be interested only in research and would never make a "brass-pounder" like we know them! This was all wrong; the French amateur when we really found him, and all the rest of them, are just like ourselves, a noisy, happy bunch of keypushers of our own age, tooting whistles and discussing circuits, and talking "QST English," bless 'em! And so we are happy to record that we found the hams from all around the world all alike in complete agreement as to what they wanted, and looking to Mr. Maxim to lead the way.

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Twenty-three nations! This Sub-Committee elected Mr. Maxim its chairman, and Mr. Jean G. Mezger, f8GO, its secretary, and started work. By its second session it had agreed unanimously that there should be a Union, that it should be an organization by individual memberships, that it should have for its chief purposes the co-ordination and fostering of international amateur two-way communication, and that its headquarters should temporarily be located in the U. S. A. Then the A.R.R.L.

delegate was requested to prepare a constitution along these lines for the consideration of the committee. Then the fun began! Messrs. Maxim and Mezger and the writer went into retirement at the Hotel du Louvre, and by late that night a constitution was ready. But there had to be a copy for each official delegate. With lots of hams available, that was easy. A bunch of English amateurs commandeered a flock of typewriters and tackled the English edition, while a group of French hams translated the constitution and batted out the French edition, and by morning the job was done. But those fellows went without a wink of sleep, didn't have their clothes off that night, and ought to be taken in as honorary members of the Boiled Owls.

The next morning, the 17th, every delegation had a copy of the constitution, and consideration began. Nineteen countries were represented at this meeting: Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Newfoundland, Poland, Switzerland, Spain, Uruguay and the United States. Section by section the constitution was examined and adopted, and then it was unanimously approved and adopted as a whole by the nineteen official delegates. That afternoon the Sub-Committee reported to the full Congress and its report was unanimously approved, whereupon M. Belin, the chairman, declared the constitution unanimously adopted by the First Congress.



HANDS ACROSS THE SEA. M. Belin, president of the Amateur Congress, shaking hands with Messrs. Maxim and Marcuse. (Photo Barratt's, London.)

This constitution provided that the first bureau of officers of the Union was to be elected by the amateur delegates attending this Congress, and so on the morning of 18th of April there was a large gathering for that purpose, nineteen countries being represented. Here the officers reported in the first paragraph of this article were elected, in a strictly ham meeting reeking with international goodfellowship. For in-

stance, even tho New Zealand was not represented at the Congress, the fellows there felt that the representation on the Executive Committee ought to be divided and some consideration given that splendid lot of amateurs off in Australasia, so they elected Bell



FOUR MEMBERS OF THE I.A.R.U. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Left to right: M. Mezger, France, Councillor-at-large; Mr. Maxim, U.S.A., president; Mr. Marcuse, Great Britain, vice-president; Mr. Warner, U.S.A., secretary-treasurer. (Photo Barratt's, London.)

of 24AA as one of the Councillors. In the election of the other Councillor there were originally proposed MM. Mezger, Perroux and Lefebvre, all of France. The French amateurs withdrew to select a single candidate and then presented M. Perroux, but M. Perroux is a commercial radio engineer and the Bureau was obliged to declare him ineligible to office in the Union, whereupon M. Mezger was proposed and elected.

At the conclusion of the election the Secretary-Treasurer opened the roll for membership, Mr. Maxim becoming the first member. We are pleased to say that at this writing we already have 112 paid members. More about this subject later.

There were other sub-committees of the Congress, dealing with tests, wavelength distribution for international co-ordination, international auxiliary language, and calls and intermediates. We regret that we haven't copies of their reports, but they will be available as soon as published in France. Some of the committees were of amateur membership, some were not. Their reports, altho adopted unanimously by the Congress, are not binding upon the Union. They will be made the subject of an early study by the Executive Committee.

Late on the afternoon of 18th April the closing plenary session of both congresses convened, and ratified all the actions taken. At this meeting late arrivals were present from Russia and Indo-China, raising the total of countries represented to 25. In the

closing moments of this meeting a great bowl of flowers, provided by Dr. Merz, the Swiss delegate, was presented to Mr. Maxim by M. Belin amid immense applause, in the name of the transmitting amateurs of the world; and that night every ham wore one in his buttonhole at the banquet at the Hotel Lutetia, which, by the way, was a



THE FIRST MEMBER. Mr. Maxim paying his dues, to become Member No. 1 of the I.A.R.U. (Photo by 4BQ.)

beautiful affair. And another example that amateurs are the same the world over: During the time that the work was going on the hardest in the drafting of the constitution and making the report for Sub Committee No. 1, the writer missed three meals in a row and must have acquired a lean and hungry look. At any rate, just as the Congress closed a delegation of Belgian and French amateurs presented him with an immense ham sandwich, some three feet long and weighing all of ten pounds, all dolled up in the ribbons of Belgium, France and the United States. (See Fig. 1). That sandwich had an interesting end; the next night another little international "congress" took it to a little sidewalk restaurant across from the hotel and there it was dispatched *very pronto*, washed down with good beer, which didn't happen to be against the law there!

The American delegation consisted of Mr. Maxim, principal delegate; Mrs. Maxim, acting as our interpreter; Jimmie Morris of 4IO and Gordon L. Hight of 4BQ, representing the Southeastern Division of A.R.R.L.; Lloyd Jacquet of New York City, editor of "Amateur Radio;" and the writer, alternate delegate. Then of course there was Major Bill Borrett, c1DD of Halifax, the accredited Canadian delegate; and Loyal L. Reid, c8AR of St. John's, representing Newfoundland. We all had a wonderful time—Paris in springtime!—and only wished that more of the gang from North America could have been with us. There were visits to the extremely interesting laboratories of M. Belin at Malmaison, to

the Eiffel Tower FL, to the great station UFT at Ste. Assise, and to Versailles. And the pretty little French girls everywhere, "calling CQ very QSA," as one of the gang put it. Before we leave France we must tell one on Jimmie Morris: he wanted to ask his way of a gendarme but couldn't think of the right word and called him "Jardiniere." Imagine the emotions of that French cop upon being called a flower-pot! Thereafter Jimmie was not heard to strut a single word of French!

Great thanks are due M. Belin for his very able chairmanship of the Congress and for his kindness in conducting the delegates thru his establishment; and to the French committees headed by Commandant Mesny and Dr. Pierre Corret which made all the arrangements for the holding of the Congress. To Commandant Mesny in particular too much praise and thanks cannot be given.

On the way back home the American delegation, with the exception of Mr. Jacquet who remained in France on an extended vacation, visited London and were the guests of the Radio Society of Great Britain at a delightful dinner at the Hotel Waldorf, the night before sailing for home. Here we met the flower of the British radio world and many of Britain's leading hams. Here too we met Capt. Rex Durrant, of GHH1, Mosul, Mesopotamia, well-known on the

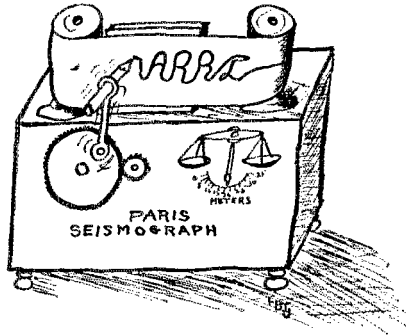


THE FAMOUS HAM-SANDWICH, presented to the Secretary-Treasurer to even up for lost meals. In the center, pointing, is Mr. Deloor of Belgian P2, who made the presentation. (Photo Barratt's, London.)

amateur air here. Capt. Durrant is a flier in the R. A. F. and set out for the Paris Congress by 'plane, a mere hop of 4,000 miles, but was forced down fourteen times by bad weather enroute and only arrived at Marseilles the last day of the Congress, so proceeded on to England. He would have made the twenty-sixth country!

Jerry Marcuse, old 2-N-Emmer, A.R.R.L. Traffic Department Manager for the British

Isles, made our five-day stay in England one never to be forgotten. He took us to visit the Mullard lamp works (British for tube factory), the General Electric research



"PRONOUNCED VIBERATIONS"

laboratories, the Croydon airdrome, took us for luncheon to 2NM, gave us a charming dinner at the Victoria and to the theatre afterwards, and in general did himself proud. We are very grateful for the wonderful reception given us by him and the other British amateurs.

Before we left France a mass meeting of the French members of the Union was held, to organize and elect their national president, more than the required minimum number of members having joined; and a



THE AMERICAN VISITORS AT G2NM. Left to right, seated: Mrs. Maxim, Mr. Mezger, Mr. Maxim, Mr. Marcuse, Mr. Warner, Mrs. Marcuse. Standing: Mr. Hight, Major Borrett of Canada, Mr. Reid of Newfoundland, Mr. Morris, Mr. Nicholls of g2CC. (Mr. Jacquet remained in France for a visit and does not appear in the photo.)

similar meeting of the British amateurs was held in London while we were there. In both cases a meeting of four members of the Executive Committee of the Union was called by the president and the sections and their presidents officially recognized. Thus we can report that there are already in existence four sections of the I.A.R.U.:

- UNITED STATES SECTION
H. P. Maxim, u1AW, National President
- CANADIAN SECTION
A. H. K. Russell, c9AL, National President
- FRENCH SECTION
Jack Lefebvre, f8GL, National President
Edouard LeBlanc, f8DE, National V. P.
R. Audureau, f8CA, National Secretary
- BRITISH SECTION
E. J. Simonds, g2UD, National President

QST has been named the official organ of the Union, we are proud to say. We can announce no new plans now, but hope to be able to present soon a sizeable section devoted to the affairs of the Union. Many kind and complimentary things were said



"MISS SUZANNE TAURENWERFER," Manager of our Maritime Division, as she appeared at a fancy-dress ball on the S.S. "Berengaria" on the return trip. If the Canadian amateurs only could have seen their Bill!

about QST by the amateurs of every nation, for which we are very grateful and which we hope we may continue to merit.

MEMBERS WANTED!

Now for a bit of snappy business talk. The constitution of the Union is printed in full at the conclusion of this article. Read it—it tells you all about the organization and its aims. The membership roster is now open and applications are invited. If you believe in world peace and understanding, you ought to be a member. If you're a transmitting amateur as well, you must be a member.

The Union is the great force that in future will co-ordinate our international relations, arrange tests, assign intermediates, represent the amateur at interna-

tional communication conferences, subdivide wavelengths and hours if that becomes necessary, work for the removal of restrictions upon amateur operation, and in general endeavor to advance two-way private communication. To do these things it needs membership and funds. The dues are but \$1—US per year. Surely everybody can afford that. Dues have nothing to do with A.R.R.L. membership or QST subscription—that is entirely separate. We want members—lots of them. This invitation is addressed to every reader of QST, wherever he may be, but particularly to the thousands of A.R.R.L. members

in the United States and Canada. Come on in, fellows, and get your little membership certificate and that satisfied feeling which comes with knowing that you've done your part to help the good work along. We ought to get umpty-ump thousand members from North America in thirty days, but to do that every real ham who reads this will have to "join up." Clip the handy little application blank (or copy it on a card if you don't want to cut your copy of QST), pin a dollar bill to it, drop it in the mailbox, and you're set. QRO, QRQ!

APPLICATION BLANK

Executive Committee:1925
 International Amateur Radio Union,
 1711 Park St., Hartford, Conn., U.S.A.

Sirs: I am interested in the objects of the International Amateur Radio Union and desire to become a member. I agree, if elected to membership, to abide by the Constitution and regulations of the Union. I attach \$1.00 covering my first year's dues.

.....
 (Name)

.....
 (Street or Box Address, etc.)

..... (Town) (State)

.....
 (Country)

(Remittances should be made payable to The International Amateur Radio Union.)

CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO UNION

ARTICLE I—NAME AND OBJECTS

1. The name of this organization is The International Amateur Radio Union, hereinafter called the Union.

2. Its objects shall be the promotion and coordination of two-way radio communication between the amateurs of the various countries of the world; the advancement of the radio art; the representation of two-way radio communication interests in international communication conferences; the encouragement of international fraternalism; and the promotion of such additional activities as may be allied thereto.

ARTICLE II—MEMBERSHIP

1. Any person interested in the objects of the Union shall be eligible to membership. Applications for membership shall be submitted to the Executive Committee of the Union and a majority vote of the said Executive Committee shall elect to membership. The said Committee may refuse to elect to membership any person who, in their opinion, would be an undesirable member; *provided*, that any person who is refused membership may have his case reviewed by the Board of Directors of the Union upon the recommendation of two or more members of the Executive Committee, and the Board of Directors may, in its discretion, reverse the action of the Executive Committee.

2. Members shall comply with the requirements of the Constitution and of such regulations of the Union as may be adopted from time to time.

3. A member may voluntarily terminate his membership by written communication to the International Secretary. If all his dues and other indebtedness to the Union have been paid, the resignation shall be accepted.

4. Upon the written request of twenty-five or more members that, for cause therein stated, a member of the Union be expelled, the Executive Committee shall consider the matter, and if there appears to be sufficient reason, shall advise the accused of the charges against him. The accused shall then have the right to present a written defense, or to secure a hearing before a meeting of the Executive Committee or authorized representatives of the Executive Committee, of which meeting he shall receive notice at least sixty days in advance. Not later than sixty days thereafter, the Executive Committee shall finally consider the case, and if in the opinion of two-thirds of the members of the Committee a satisfactory proof of the undesirability of the accused as a member has been established, and he has not in the meantime tendered his resignation, he shall be expelled from membership.

ARTICLE III—SECTIONS

1. In each country represented in the Union, from which there are twenty-five or more members of the Union, there shall be formed a Section of the Union, which shall be known as "— Section, International Amateur Radio Union."