

PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PHONETIC SCIENCES

FIRST MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONALE
ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT FÜR PHONOLOGIE
AMSTERDAM 3-8 JULY 1932

INTRODUCTION.

The International Congress of Phonetic Sciences has been prepared during nearly two years.

A partly account of the history of this preparation and in the first place an exposition of the basis and the purpose of the Congress are to be found in the prospect, which in the last days of December 1931 was distributed (in English, German and French).

Here follow its contents.

International congress of Phonetic Sciences. Second congress of the International Society of Experimental Phonetics and first meeting of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Phönologie. Amsterdam, 3-7 July 1932.

In September 1930 the President of the International Society of Experimental Phonetics proposed to hold the second Congress of the Society in Amsterdam. We then formed an organising committee to discuss the best means of giving effect to this complimentary proposal. The members of the organising committee are: Dr. J. VAN GINNEKEN, Nimeguen, President; Dr. L. KAISER, Amsterdam, Secretary; Dr. A. ROOZENDAAL, Amsterdam, First Treasurer; Mr. C. H. KUHN, Amsterdam, Second Treasurer; Dr. H. BURGER, Amsterdam; Dr. A. W. DE GROOT, Amsterdam; Dr. G. VAN RYNBERK, Amsterdam; Dr. J. SCHRYNEN, Nimeguen (Secretary of the Permanent International Committee of Linguists); Dr. J. H. KERN, Leyden; Dr. P. H. G. VAN GILSE, Leyden; Dr. J. P. KLEIWEG DE ZWAAN, Amsterdam; Dr. B. BROUWER, Amsterdam; Dr. A. A. GRÜNBAUM, Utrecht; Dr. K. J. RIEMENS, Amsterdam; Dr. A. SMYERS, Amsterdam; Dr. M. J. SIRKS, Wageningen; SEM DRESDEN, Amsterdam.

After some deliberation and in view of the recent reorganization of the Dutch Society of Phonetics we decided that it would be wise to make the sphere of activity of the congress as extensive as possible and to have phonetic sciences treated in the widest sense

Physiology of voice and speech, with its great problems concerning articulatory and acoustic structure of vowels and consonants, certainly has the oldest rights here. This science in its new development repeatedly comes

into contact with the still young science of the psychology of evolution (*Entwicklungspsychologie*). The development of speech and voice in the individual, the phonetic origin of European children's language in its various periods, the special timbre of the voice of children as compared with the voice of grown-up persons are of great importance. The evolution of speech sounds in the case of some non-European peoples is perhaps still more important and seems to correspond with anatomical differences in the organs of articulation. (Cf. prognathia and the form of the lips in relation to the disappearance of the p in the languages of the mediterranean peoples.) Besides, some time ago it was demonstrated by an inductive method, that the majority of languages with a tendency towards open syllables belong to the warm regions, whereas languages with complicated groups of consonants are found in the cold climates.

In experiments with the artificial palate experimental phoneticians frequently observe the important differences in structure of the hard palate and the jaws and some investigators are convinced that those differences depend upon differences in race, viz. the differences between dolicho- and brachycephalics.

Thus we touch upon Anthropology and also Biology, because inheritance both in timbre of voice and in the rhythmical disposition and in the articulation basis of different languages has of late found convinced supporters.

Some have gone so far as to bring the origin of the chin in man in connection with the evolution of language. And some have not hesitated to combine the organic roots of language in man with chattering in birds. Although it is not the intention of the Congress to give its support to all these theories without criticism, we think it of great importance that representatives of „*Entwicklungspsychologie*“, anthropology, biology, linguistics and experimental phonetics try to agree in the judgment of those problems.

In speaking above of linguistics, we mean not only the older science of phoneticians and linguistic historians, but also that of the workers on the „*Schall-analyse*“ of RUTZ-SIEVERS and above all phonology as taught by the Prague school.

It cannot be denied that the new phonology gives a splendid synthesis of many facts which were already known but which were not yet combined. This synthesis gives all kinds of new solutions for old problems, but proposes also a series of new questions. At first sight phonologists seem to be inclined to have no great respect for the work of experimental phoneticians, as this work deals with the apparently irrelevant phonetic realisations and never comes to the properly intended phonemes (to use the new Prague terms). But after some more consideration it is obvious that the contact between phonologists and experimental phoneticians promises indeed to become most beneficial to both. On the one hand experimental phoneticians may learn from phonologists that a physiological description of various articulations is only a first step on the road (accessible also to experimental phonetics) to the knowledge of the structure of the phonological system, strictly coherent and built according to definite rules, yet varying for each language. On the other hand phonologists will have to learn from the experimental phoneticians as regards the consideration of phonological elements and their cooperation in the rhythm of conversation language and in prosody, to say nothing of other points.

But phonology is not limited to language, it also comes into direct contact with musicology. It appears that tones of various scales are composed in definite systems just as phonemata of a language are composed in a phonological system, and there even exists a relation between tonal and language systems, as the geographical distribution of some phonological systems and that of definite scales in popular songs is nearly identical. Moreover, the striking fact that musical tones show a deviation from the mathematical number of vibrations, will probably be explained analogically as the difference between objective phonetical realisation and the properly intended phonemata.

Also psychology of normal and abnormal comprehension of language is strictly connected with the knowledge of the phonological system. This is the reason why linguistic psychology was already represented at the last meeting of phonologists in Prague by more than one of its wellknown students. Psychiatrists and neurologists in describing their observations of pathological speech have for a long time clearly distinguished between a defect of representation of speech (aphasia) and a deviation in the realisation of speech (dysarthria, anarthria). The comparing of these dates with those found by linguists may certainly lead to important conclusions, in the same way as the theory of rhythm and melody in the sentence may only come to a definite result by the cooperation of linguistic psychologists and psychiatrists.

With the above we believe to have indicated the purpose of the *International Congress of phonetic sciences* which will be held in Amsterdam from 3rd till the 7th July 1932, and we have the honour to invite herewith phoneticians, psychologists, psychiatrists and neurologists, anthropologists and biologists, musicologists, sound-analysts, linguistic historians, phonologists and all others interested.

Those who wish to be admitted as members of the Congress are requested to apply to the Secretary (L. KAISER, Rapenburgerstraat 136, Amsterdam).

The contribution which gives free admittance to all sessions is fixed at fl. 10.- for active members and at fl. 6.- for passive members to be paid to the second Treasurer, Mr. C. H. KUHN, Oosteinde 15, Amsterdam, Postal account 179597.

A printed report of the addresses etc. will be obtainable for 5 guilders. The members of the International Society of Experimental Phonetics will receive a copy free of charge.

The members of the family of the Congressists may become at the price of 5 guilders associate members of the Congress, having admittance to all sessions, receptions, etc.

Members of the Congress who wish to read a paper or to present a communication on one of the above subjects or on another problem within the described sphere, are invited to communicate with the Secretary of the Congress (Rapenburgerstraat 136, Amsterdam) as soon as possible but not later than February 1st, 1932 and to deliver a short excerpt of their address in English, French or German before the 1st of April 1932.

The Secretary will be pleased to send further copies of this circular on application.

The Municipality of the City of Amsterdam, which in the days preceding our Congress will commemorate the 3rd centenary of the foundation of its University, will graciously assist in receiving the congressists in a worthy way.

To sum up the Congress will embrace the following subjects:

1. Physiology of speech and voice (experimental phonetics in its strict meaning).
2. Study of the development of speech and voice in the individual; their evolution in the history of mankind; the influence of heredity.
3. Anthropology of speech and voice (racial differences in the articulation basis and the pitch of the voice in different peoples).
4. Phonology.
5. Linguistic Psychology.
6. Pathology of speech and voice (clinical experimental phonetics).
7. Comparative physiology of the sounds of animals.
8. Musicology.

All who are interested in these fields of science will be wellcome at the Congress.

JAC. VAN GINNEKEN, President.

L. KAISER, Secretary.

A. ROOZENDAAL, Treasurer.

Amsterdam C., Rapenburgerstraat 136.

November 1931.

Immediately after the distribution of this prospect, Professor SCRIPTURE decided not to hold a Congress of the International Society of Experimental Phonetics in 1932. At the time several speakers had already promised to read a paper. Besides, several members of the Council of the International Society and ordinary members thought it advisable to hold the Congress at the fixed date.

So the preparation was continued and in April 1932 a provisional program could be distributed. About the same time Professor SCRIPTURE sent an announcement that no Congress would be held, which in a few cases was misunderstood as referring to the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences which was no longer identical with the Second Congress of the International Society of Experimental Phonetics.

Of the 48 papers announced in the provisional program it proved that 12 would not be actually read, some speakers being prevented by illness and the engraving of the economic depression compelling in the first place speakers from the Mid-European countries to withdraw. On the other hand new speakers applied, and also the number of demonstrations rapidly grew as time advanced, so that the definite program contained 43 papers and 24 demonstrations.

The Proceedings of the Congress are submitted herewith.

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RECEPTION IN THE VONDELPARK PAVILION.

During the Reception in the Vondelpark Pavilion on Sunday 3rd July, the President addressed the congressists there present as follows:

Mesdames et Messieurs, Professeurs et savants, Etudiants et étudiantes, qui avez bien voulu donner suite à notre invitation, soyez tous les bienvenus en Hollande; notre patrie n'est que petite; mais parce qu'elle est petite, et aussi parce qu'elle est favorablement située, elle est appelée à accueillir les représentants des grands pays qui nous environnent. Soyez les bienvenus dans notre belle cité d'Amsterdam, qui depuis des siècles a continué d'ouvrir toutes grandes ses portes à tous ceux qui lui demandent l'hospitalité.

Soyez les bienvenus dans ce pavillon du parc dédié à notre grand poète national Joost van den Vondel, qui a été premièrement un esprit universel, mais qui tout particulièrement a aimé pendant toute sa vie à faire valoir dans sa poésie, les harmonies sonores et le rythme du langage que nous étudions. C'est pourquoi nous avons cru devoir vous convoquer ici pour cette soirée de réception.

Lorsqu'en Septembre 1930, le Président de la Société Internationale de Phonétique expérimentale proposa la ville d'Amsterdam comme lieu de réunion pour le second Congrès de cette Société, nous nous sommes pressés d'instituer un Comité d'organisation. Après un bref échange d'idées, nous avons été d'avis qu'il serait utile d'organiser un congrès aussi large que possible, afin d'y faire entrer toutes les branches de la science phonétique. Notre Congrès n'est donc pas simplement un Congrès international de phonétique expérimentale, mais en même temps un Congrès international des Sciences Phonétiques. C'étaient surtout les experts de la phonétique psychologique, sociologique et biologique et les représentants de la nouvelle phonologie: à côté des physiologistes et phonéticiens proprement dits que nous voulions inviter à notre Congrès. L'Association phonologique internationale de Prague répondit tout de suite qu'elle ne demandait pas mieux que d'accepter notre invitation et qu'elle aimait à en profiter pour tenir sa première Réunion publique dans le cadre de notre Congrès.

D'ailleurs, Monsieur Scripture, l'éminent président de la Société inter-