

A Brief History of The Early Years of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons

Issam A. Awad, MD, MSc, FACS, MA (hon) Historian and Archivist 51st Past President Congress of Neurological Surgeons



The CNS Seal (Officially Adopted November 1954)





The Call for a Founding Meeting February-April 1951

- The Congress of Neurological Surgeons was founded in May 1951 by 22 neurosurgeons, mostly mid-westerners, outside the world of established elitist "societies"
- The Founders had met and "conspired" on the fringes of the Inter-Urban Meeting in Chicago in recent years, and decided to act on February 24, 1951

BLAND W. CANNON, M. D. NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY 1992 HADDON AVENUE MEMORY, J. LENNESSEL April 9, 1951

(user

Name Address City, State

Dear Dr. :

For some time a group of neurosurgeons have given considerable thought and intermittently discussed the idea of forming a nuerosurgical society. For the most part these individuals form a portion of the younger group of practicing neurosurgeons who will be contemporaries during their professional life. Such an organization would be intended as a medium for the exchange of technical information and experience and for profiding annual fellowship. This group has no intention of competing with the other fine neurosurgical societies which have been established. However, the membership restrictions of some of these groups have encouraged us to consider forming a group of our own.

A caucus met at the Palmer House in Chicago, Illinois on February 24th, after the meeting of the Interurban Neurosurgica! Society, to lay ground work for subsequent organization. Approximately 40 names were suggested by those present. We would opreciate your careful thought about this idea of forming a resurgical society and the composition of the membership.





The Founding Meeting Jefferson Hotel, Saint Louis, Missouri May 11, 1951

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RLD:rp	
CONGRESS OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS	
ORIGINAL MEMBERS	
Men who attended the initial meeting in May, 1951:	
Dr. Floyd S. Barringer	
Dr. Leon M. Becker	
Dr. Carrol A. Brown	
- Dr. Bland W. Cannon	
- Dr. R. L. DeSaussura	
Dr. John W. Devanney, Jr.	
Dr. Franklin Earnost	
Dr. Edward M. Gates	
— Dr. Jamas R. Gay 🗸	
- Dr. Philip D. Gordy ~	
Dr. Warren C. Hastings	
Dr. John A. Hetherington	
Dr. Nathaniel R. Hollister	
Dr. Don Ivey	
- Dr. Thomas M. Marshall	
Dr. Frank A. Palanno	
- Dr. Frederick C. Rehfeldt	
- Dr. Elmer C. Schultz V	
- Dr. Hendrik J. Svien	
- Dr. Donald B. Sweeney	
Dr. A. Roy Tyrer	
Dr. Edgar H. Meaver	
22. DUDOOY HUOUDILand	

22 Founding Members, 11 would later become presidents of the new organization

The name CNS was chosen with care. The word "American" was dropped, to symbolize international outreach. The initials would also reflect the central nervous system!



Follow-up to The Founding Meeting Principles to Guide the new Organization

1 29.	

Dr. Bland W. Cannon 1092 Madison Avenue Memphis, 3, Tennessee

Dear Bland:

I'm sorry to have been delayed in writing you regarding the repot of my Committee; however, on returning home from St. Louis I found myself in and out of the hospital for most of the next 10 days as a result of a severe penicillin reaction taken for that finger infection.

The following is the report of the committee set up to consider Articles I, II, and IV of the constitution and the annual membership dues. The committee was composed of myself as Chairman, and Doctors Baranger. Heatherington, and Palozzo.

Article I: Name of the organization: The Congress of Neuro-Surgeons.

The committee suggested the possibility of altering the title to The American Congress of Neuro-surgeons. This was disapproved on presentation to the group as tending to destroy the international connection of the association and as adding unnecessarily to the length of the title.

ARTICLE II: Purpose: The purpose of the Congress shall be:

 To form an association of contemporary neurosurgeons which would meet annually for the purpose of expressing their views on various aspects of the principles and practice of neurological surgery.

2. To exchange technical information and experience.

3. To join in discussion and study of the developments in scientific fields allied to neurological surgery. .

 To honor living leaders in the field of neurological surgery.

Comment of the Committee: After considerable discussion, the committee felt that the purposes as set fourth in Article II. most adequately expressed the intent of the society and no changes were recommended. Dr. Bland W. Cannon

PDG/fz

Article IV: The officers of the Congress shall consist of a President,

First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The committee made the suggestion that the office of Secretary and Tresurer might be covered by one individual. On presentation to the group, this was disapproved. Article Iv was then accepted as originally presented, but following discussion later in the meeting regarding the various committees, this matter was reopened and the officers were approved as being President, President Elect, Vice-President, Secretary, and

Page 2

May 29; 1955

The final matter for the committees consideration was the annual membership fee. It was recommended that this be \$ 25.00, which could be varied as necessity would demand. The question of non-payment of dues for members recalled to the Armed Forces was brought up. Dr. Tyre suggested that meetings should be self-sustaining and expenses of the Society. Dr. Cannon suggested that the registration fee at the meeting would take care of the cost of the banquet and it was also suggested that additional levies could be made as necessary. Dr. Decker suggested that additional levies could be made those members just out of residency but it was felt on the whole that this would unnecessarily complicate the procedure.

I will be glad to be on the Steering Committee for this section of the country and will be glad to help in any way I can. The only limitation would be that I have no one covering me here, and getting away again anytime very close to our recent meeting will be rather difficult.

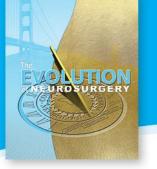
Things seem to be going along very nicely and we are all looking forward to a very valuable and stimulating group.

Sincerely yours,

Philip D. Gordy, M. D.







The First Annual Meeting of the CNS Peabody Hotel, Memphis, Tennessee November 15-17, 1951

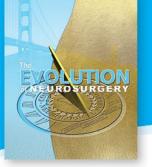
Elmer C. Schultz, First CNS President Nine Guest Speakers, No Honored Guest

HONORARY GUESTS:

Dr. R. Eustace Semmes and Dr. Nicholas Gotten

- "Honorary Guests," Professors Semmes and Gotten were invited, but did not actually attend this first CNS meeting
- Legal advisor Mr. Dunlap Cannon, Jr. prepared the Charter of the new organization, incorporated in the State of Tennessee on November 15, 1951





The First Annual Meeting of the CNS Peabody Hotel, Memphis, Tennessee November 15-17, 1951

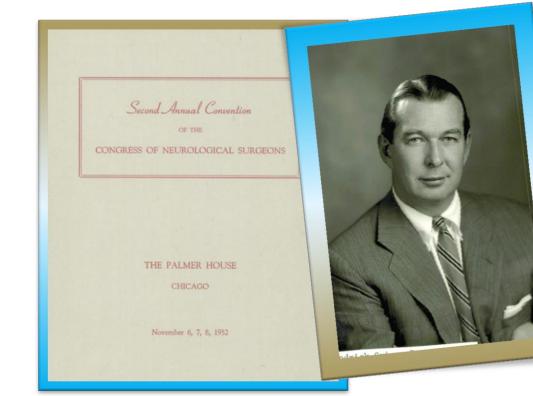
The 1st CNS Annual Meeting included 63 neurosurgeons, 33 guests and 30 spouses (126 registrants)



- The CNS held its first Scientific Meeting November15-17, 1951 in Memphis, Tennessee.
- It was a small affair, each of the 22 Founders committing to bring one or two partners or colleagues while a few also brought their spouses.



Hendrik Julius Svien Elected Second CNS President



- Hendrik Svien, age 41, from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota was chosen as the 2nd CNS President
- The "Second Annual Convention" would need a great venue, a stellar program, substantial attendance or the CNS could not survive as an organization







- The 22 Founders of the CNS had met before at the Inter-Urban Meeting and they knew Chicago well.
- They selected the Palmer House, one of the most magnificent hotels in the city. The venue would be a great destination.



Recruitment of Attendees

- Coming with wife. - no answer or not coming.

UROSURGERY

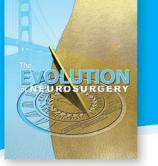
z - coming without wife.

CONCRESS OF NUMBOLOGICAL SUBGROUND

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- Alaman, Uver I. V. Dyrry Hedical Arts Hidg, B. V. Paul & Minnesta, Hig, Wilbur A., Medical Arts Hidg, Casha G. Murradio ener, William Y., Go Mast Yandi N., Yort Worth, Feran Hill, Wendl R., 65 Mast Yandi R., Norseyo H., Yilliami K., Barto J., 59 Mast Mashington R., Change J., Illiami K., Barto J., 59 Mast Mashington R., Minnesola R., Marto J., 59 Mast Mashington R., Minnesola R., Minne, Migd, A. Mishani Arts Mild Minnesola R., Minnesola and Arny M. Mishan Arts Mild Minnesola R., Minnesola and Arny A., Calle Simon Torking Vinneso, Dis Art, Clands, P., Xilli Branan Torkasional Mulling, Bouton, Jong And, Tang Barto, A., The Branan Torkasional Mulling, Muston Y., Teman Mady, Tradesino, North M. Shing, Minnesola M., Wang M., Wang Mada, Yandesino, Shing M., Shing M., Shing, Kanaton Y., Teman Mady, Tradesino S., 1975 Balania Arts Milding, Port Worth, Yunas Arydi A., Sai Tirin Raitonal Hang Milding, Mulling, Shing Ang Mashan, Sai Mashan, Ang Mashan, Anthe Milding, Muston Milan, Shing Minneso, Ming M., Shing Mashan, Milding, Muston Milan, Shing Minneso, M 21 Third National Bank Building, Dayton, Ohio Indiana Univ. Medical Center, 1040 M. Michigan St., Indianapolis, Ind. 599 Medicon Avenue, Memphis, Tem.. g. cmm. r., university magicans, rows city, rows (r. Jack, do 59th Hr., Oskland 9, California, and the second state (r. Jacks R., The Neuroclinic, 13 Doctors Billing, Atlanta 3, Os. symp. Vinalow P., 1905 HL Insardo Foulierad, HJ Pado, Texna P, Gordon J., 1000 Hedisal Arts Mulding, Dolinb, Mim. Benry, Al Hunny Hidz., Madicon 3, Wisconsin (r. Schwarz, Harts, State) (r. Schwarz, H. State) (r. Schwarz, Harts, Schwarz, Harts, Schwarz, H. Schwarz, H. State) (r. Schwarz, Harts, Schwarz, Harts, Schwarz, H. Sc Donald B., 2205 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama y Johnson By, 2007 Induction Article, and Article a cal Branch, Galveston, Tw

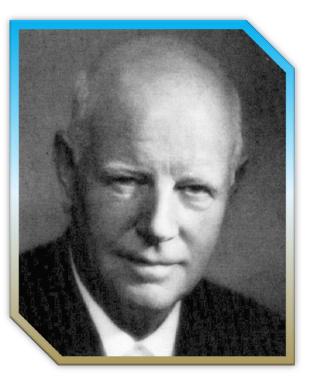
- The Membership Committee went on ٠ a recruitment spree. Each attendee at the first meeting in 1951 was contacted and asked to recruit another partner or colleague.
- Lists were drawn of young ٠ neurosurgeons in every city and a few foreign colleagues.



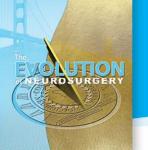


The First Honored Guest: Herbert Olivercrona Second CNS Meeting, Chicago 1952

- The founding pledge "To honor living leaders in the field of neurological surgery", was finally fulfilled in 1952
- Herbert Olivercrona, from Sweden, a towering figure was chosen
- Many of the early CNS Honored Guests were foreign leaders, uncommitted to other established American neurosurgical societies







Emerging Prominence The 1952 CNS Meeting in Chicago



- Total of 316 registrants (a record not surpassed until the 6th CNS Annual Meeting, also in Chicago!)
- These included 116 declared members, 101 guests, 28 residents and 71 spouses
- The attendance of 28 residents was a major coup – establishing the CNS as a leader in Neurosurgical Education



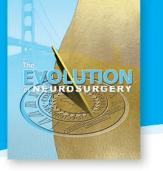


Emerging Prominence The 1952 CNS Meeting in Chicago The Attendance of Spouses



- Traditional neurosurgical meetings were "smoke filled" affairs purposely excluding women
- The CNS would be different, with the venue and evening events designed to welcome accompanying spouses
- The attendance of spouses forever altered the culture of neurosurgical meetings





Establishing the CNS Meeting Tradition

The Third CNS Annual Meeting November 12 – 14, 1953 The Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana

Third Annual Congress of Neurological Surgeons	CONGRESS OF NEUROLOGICAL SURGEONS 1952 - 1953	10110000 - November 0:00 - 10:00 2.K 10:00 - 10:00 A.K 10:00 - 10:00 A.K 10:00 - 10:00 P.K 20:00 - 10:00 P.K	Regionation Nations Willing Restance of Officers for Section 20070888 - Style : Tonomacel the Section Restance and Particles of the Restance of Section 2008 Restance of Restance of Restance Restance of Restance Re
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THE ROOSEVELT HOTEL	H. J. Svien, Past President Frederick Rehyfeldy Alexander Johnson Donald B. Swienney	2000 - 4/20 2 X. 6/20 - 5/20 2 X. 5/20 - 5/20 2 X. 5/20 - 5/20 2 X. 5/20 - 12/20 2 X.	Ten Allemons Southall Prove Baccut and Barte Southall Prove Barte States and States and States Southall States and States Southall States Stat
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISUANA NOVEMBER 12, 13, 14, 1953	DONALD FRESHWATER R. K. THOMPSON IRA JACKSON	11-00 - 10-00 A.N.	attan DOBRIN 2: Lowran Dia 2: Lowran Dia 3: Low VIII 3: Sectory 200710305 - Tepter Danarased 3: Sectory 200710305 - Tepter Danarased







New Orleans, the Paris of America is where we're bound come November 12-14. mistory and oft referred to as "America's Most town with a fabul Interesting City". Where else can you find a Bourbon Street named for the real McCoy, with Dixieland jazz scintillating from very nook and cranney? As for cuisine, son, you haven't eaten til you've had breakfast at Brennan's, lunch at Galatoire's, or dinner at Antoine's, and there are literally hundreds of others just like them. It makes no difference whether your palate is wheted for Italian scallopini, French crepe suzettes, Cantonese egg roll, or Maine Lobster, you'll find it in N. C., and believe me, it will be tasty. Then there is Royal Street - that will be men, with its entique shops, linen stores, and - well, you name it, its there. Make your plans now for a great time in a grand town with a super grou

BUT, that's just the preview. For those that have a few additional days (plus a few dollars), there'll be dancing in Havana, and basking in the sun at Varadero Beach. Jorge Picaza is making these arrangements, and the plan is something like this? Immediately following Saturday's session, the Havana-bound group will leave by pre-chartered Chicago & Southern Airlines for that Isle of the Caribbean. En route, there will be held



downfall.

ROSURGER

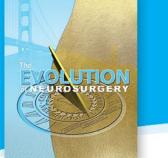
a short scientific session, or it may be a brief clinic shortly after arrival. Then, there'll be a delightful Night in Havana, and the next day the lucky travelers will leave by chartered bus for the Kawama Club at Varadero Beach. Here we have a deal, thanks to Jorge, for a special price of \$10 per day per person - American plan. has been arranged compared with the usual figure of \$17.50, providing we have fifty persons. Each A.M. for the next few days there possibly will be arranged a brief CPC. However, let there

be no doubt, you'll have more than adequate time for sun and sand. From then on, it will be "paddle your own cance". Sounds great, doesn't it? Lets boost it! So much for the fun, but listen to these

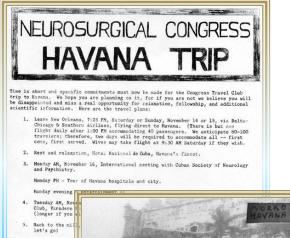
MEETING PLANS ... On Wednesday, the day preceding the Third Annual Congress Meeting, there is planned a course in Neuroradiology. This will be conducted by Dr. J. N. Ane, Professor of Clinical Radiology, Tulane University, and Dr. Harold O. Peterson of the University of Minnesota. Opportunity will be provided for the presentation of personal films. Further details later, but be thinking about it. It is hoped that

The first CNS Newsletter: **Promoting the local venue,** "New Orleans, the Paris of America"





The Third CNS Annual Meeting November 12 – 14, 1953 New Orleans, Louisiana



Introducing the Post-meeting Travel Group to Havana, Cuba

> "For those who have a few additional days (plus a few dollars)"





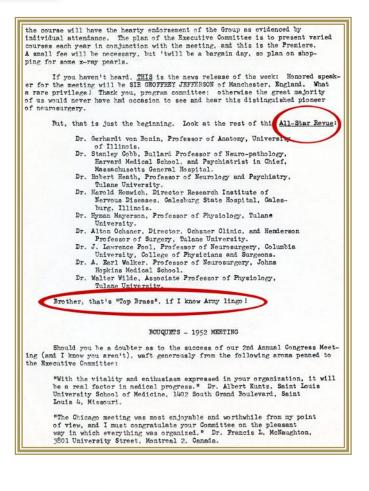




Photo & Signatures of the Post-meeting Travel Group







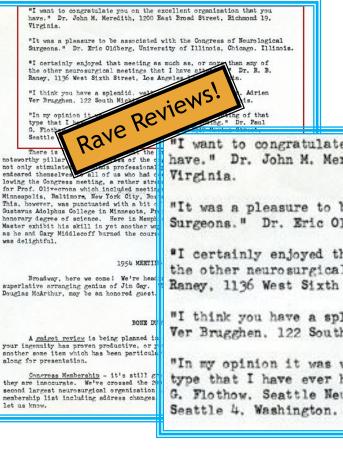
UROSURGERY

Follow-up correspondence to the CNS members, with highlights of the Scientific Program:

- "All-Star Revue"
- "Top Brass"...if I know Army lingo!"



The Third CNS Annual Meeting November 12 – 14, 1953 New Orleans, Louisiana



> "I want to congratulate you on the excellent organization that you have." Dr. John M. Meredith, 1200 East Broad Street, Richmond 19, Virginia.

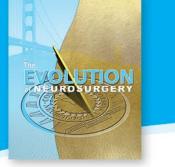
"It was a pleasure to be associated with the Congress of Neurological Surgeons." Dr. Eric Oldberg, University of Illinois, Chicago. Illinois.

"I certainly enjoyed that meeting as much as, or more than any of the other neurosurgical meetings that I have attended." Dr. R. B. Raney, 1136 West Sixth Street, Los Angeles 17, California.

"I think you have a splendid, well-run organization." Dr. Adrien Ver Brugghen, 122 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago 3, Illinois.

"In my opinion it was without question the finest meeting of that type that I have ever had the privilege of attending." Dr. Paul G. Flothow. Seattle Neurological Institute, 1317 Marion Street, Seattle 4. Washington.





The Third CNS Annual Meeting November 12 – 14, 1953 New Orleans, Louisiana

<u>Congress Membership</u> - it's still growing. Figures are scarcely quoted until they are inaccurate. We've crossed the 200 mark, and you are a member of the second largest neurosurgical organization in the world. The enclosed is a current membership list including address changes. If there are any corrections, please let us know.

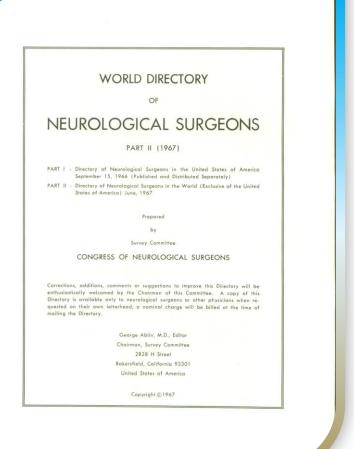
Membership grows dramatically after 2 years!

The CNS becomes the second largest neurosurgical organization in the world



CNS Firsts!

- *Congress Newsletter*, February 1952 (Roy Tyrer, first editor)
- Directory of Neurological Surgeons in the United States, 1957 (John R. Russell, Chairman of the CNS Survey Committee)
- CNS Executive Committee authorizes the expenditure of funds for the lodging of residents attending the Annual Meeting (May 1958)
- World Directory of Neurological Surgeons, 1967 (George Ablin, Editor)





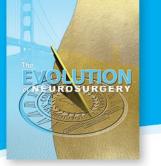
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Other Notable CNS Firsts (International Stewardship)



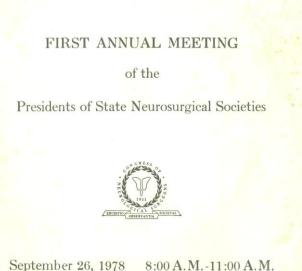
- Founding member in the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies in 1955
- The CNS commissioned the "International Gavel" and presented it to the WFNS at its first meeting in Brussels in 1957





Other Notable CNS Firsts (Socioeconomics)

- *Fee Survey* (Edward Bishop, CNS Socio-economic committee, 1966)
- *Neurosurgical Utilization Guidelines* (Utilization Guidelines Committee, Walter Lockhart, Jr. 1969)
- The CNS hosted the first meeting of *Presidents of State Neurosurgical Societies,* 1978

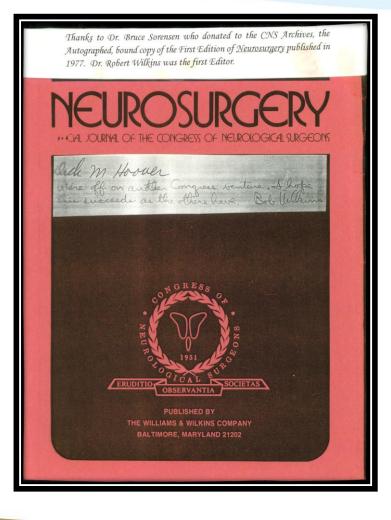


Lincoln Room, Washington Hilton Hotel Sponsored by The Congress of Neurological Surgeons



Promotion of Knowledge: A Pillar of Neurosurgical Education

 1977, the CNS publishes the peer reviewed journal *NEUROSURGERY* (Robert H. Wilkins as its first Editor)





CNS Tribute to its Founders





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CNS History Archives! www.cns.org/about/history

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EDUCATION & UNIVERSITY OF NEUROSURGERY	MEETINGS	PUBLICATIONS	INTERNATIONAL	SECTIONS	WASHINGTON	MEMBERSHIP	
About the CNS	Home > About t	he CNS > History & Arch	ives			Member Login	
Bylaws	History an	d Archives					
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CNS Officers and Executive	the education		logical Surgeons has pro ership development opp			Opportunities	
CNS Standing Committees				ion of young pour		The CNS offers a host opportunities for Res	
AANS / CNS Committees			Var II era, when an explos s, seeking advanced neur			advance their educat	
			rgical societies. To fill thi Id held the founding mee			further their careers, Resident courses to	
Affiliated Organizations			owed in November 1951.			awards.	
CNS Representatives to Other Organizations			rosurgeons. Since that tir cation and currently boas			Learn More.	
CNS CME Endorsement	7,000 neuros	urgeons, worldwide.					
History & Archives		Quarterly Fall 2012 MD, MSc, FACS, MA (I	100)			Join the CNS To	
+ Founders		and Archivist, 51st F				The CNS offers its m	
- Archives						host of benefits from	
- Walter E. Dandy	International	Initiatives of the Cong	gress of Neurological Su	rgeons: Historica	l Vignettes	representation in Wa	
- Past Presidents	Congress	Quarterly Winter 201	0			DC to access to the l educational resource	
- Honored Guests		MD, MSc, FACS, MA (I				Neurosurgery.	
	CNS Historia	n and Archivist, 51st F	Past President				
Volunteer	VIGNETTES	FROM THE CNS ARC	HIVES: CONTRIBUTION	S OF THE CONGR	ESS OF	Learn More.	
Announcements			SOCIOECONOMIC ISSU				
Press Release							

- Documents and photographs, logos, mementos from each CNS Annual Meeting, 1951 through the present
- Photos of Past CNS Presidents and Honored Guests
- Annual CNS Presidential Addresses in print or audio since 1969...
- Walter Dandy Archives...
- Special historical essays, exhibits, and more!

