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### Editor's Note

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### ***Editor's Note***

In the last issue of the *Comparative Civilizations Review*, I explored the burgeoning reach of our journal via internet access. Since the electronic edition was first launched in the fall of 2011, hosted by Brigham Young University, it has attracted one-million page views...and increasing.

The URL for the CCR is: <https://ojs.lib.byu.edu/spc/index.php/CCR>.

Our Civilitas blog has also generated a loyal following, representing more than 20 countries and five continents. Contributions continue to stream in from scholars around the world, and their postings delve into the widest variety of topics. If you have not visited the Civilitas blog, I encourage you to do so. And, share your thoughts, concerns and opinions. (The blog can be accessed most easily by entering "Civilitas blog" into a Google search.)

Given this enthusiasm exhibited by a broad global audience, as well as by our members, I decided to investigate the electronic availability of the archives of the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations. To find out about our materials, I wrote to the Dickinson College official in charge of our collected papers, Jim Gerencser. He's the College Archivist at Dickinson, the institution which was the intellectual home for many years of our late president, Dr. Vytautas Kavolis. Could Mr. Gerencser describe the collection so that potential researchers would have a guide to the documents found in our archives?

The first place to begin, he suggested, is with an outline (really, an extensive Table of Contents) found at the web-based collection site for ISCSC.

It is: [http://archives.dickinson.edu/sites/all/files/files\\_collection/ea05-ISCSC\\_0.pdf](http://archives.dickinson.edu/sites/all/files/files_collection/ea05-ISCSC_0.pdf)

There you will discover that we have papers gathered from 1968 to the present. A total of 20.5 linear feet of materials are collected together in Documents Boxes numbered from 1 to 13. There are also two videotapes and a number of audiotapes capturing presentations delivered during annual meetings.

The depositing of materials commenced in 1987, and there is no restriction on use.

The collection begins its web page listing with a very brief history of the ISCSC as of the 1980s. This is roughly parallel to that written by our former president, Prof. Michael Palencia-Roth, and carried on the inside back cover of this publication.

## **Organizational History**

The International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations was founded in 1961 by a group of European and European-born American scholars, under the presidency of Pitirim Sorokin, Emeritus Professor of Sociology at Harvard University.

Between then and 1963, the society sponsored two international conferences in Europe which were attended by such overseas representatives as Alfred Kroeber, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, and Arnold Toynbee of the Royal Institute of International Affairs. After Sorokin's death in 1968, Othmar Anderle, Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Salzburg, succeeded to the presidency.

In 1971, an American chapter of the ISCSC was formed by Roger Wescott, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at Drew University. The first annual meeting of the American chapter of ISCSC was held as a joint meeting with the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1972.

The chapter has since sponsored several other national conferences in conjunction with the AAAS and a series of independent annual conferences. Although dates have varied over the past three decades, the annual conference is generally held in late spring/early summer. While the conference locations have been mainly American university campuses, the ISCSC has met in Santo Domingo, Ireland, and most recently, Brazil.

In 1973, Raoul Naroll, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology at the State University of New York at Buffalo, instituted an active collaboration between the ISCSC and New Haven's Human Relations Area File and its Comparative Archive of Pre-Industrial Civilizations.

In 1974, Dr. Anderle declared the parent organization in Europe officially dissolved. However, the American chapter of the ISCSC has held an annual conference every year since, and continues to grow in membership and participation. The Society roster contains well over 500 members worldwide.

In order to supplement its annual conferences, the ISCSC has also produced several publications regarding the comparative study of civilizations. The Society Newsletter has been published since the founding of the American chapter, as well as two journals, the *Comparative Civilizations Bulletin* and the *Comparative Civilizations Review* (which are currently being published jointly). In addition, the Society has sponsored several collaborative works (e.g., the Sorokin Project).

The purpose of the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations is to foster interdisciplinary contribution from most of the humanities and social sciences to a holistic view of those complex transitional entities which are called civilizations.

What will you find within this rich collection? For potential researchers into the history of our organization, I am including the description of the contents of our ISCSC archives, which is as follows:

### **Collection Description**

The papers of the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations have been organized into five basic series: Society Business, Correspondence, Manuscripts, Videotapes and Cassettes, and Miscellaneous.

The organization of this collection is based on the guidelines established by Jan Blodgett and Matthew Melko in 1989. The collection was deposited by the Society in the Dickinson College Archives through the recommendations of the late Ralph Slotten, Emeritus Professor of Religion, and the late Vytautas Kavolis, Professor of Sociology, both of Dickinson College.

The collection continues to grow as society members deposit their papers regarding the organization in the archives. In 2014, the collection was re-processed in order to incorporate this new material. Should the Society disband, the collection then becomes property of the archives.

The Society Business series of this collection is organized into nine subseries as follows: Archives, General, President, Minutes and Reports, Finances, Committees, Annual Meetings, Membership, and Publications.

The materials contained within each subseries are arranged chronologically, and then alphabetically where applicable.

- The Archives subseries includes correspondence between various members of the organization regarding the disposition of the organization's papers in the Dickinson College Archives and Special Collections.
- The General subseries consists of papers regarding the society that do not readily fit into any of the other Society Business subseries.
- The President subseries consists of reports of the president of the society, as well as instructions to the various committees and councils.
- The minutes of the ruling council and business meetings are to be found in the Minutes and Reports series, along with the reports of both the secretary and the treasurer.
- The Finances subseries includes papers concerning the finances of the society.
- The Committees subseries consists of memoranda and correspondence of the society's various committees: Nomination, Program, Future of the Society, Prize, and Sorokin Project committees.

- The Annual Meetings subseries consists of papers dealing with each individual meeting, including calls for papers and local arrangements. (A chronological listing of the annual meetings indicating each meeting location can be found at the end of the collection inventory.)
- The Membership subseries includes general membership directories and officer directories.
- The Publications subseries includes copies of printed matter published by the society (such as the Newsletter, the *Comparative Civilizations Bulletin*, and the *Review*) as well as correspondence regarding the preparation of these publications.

The Correspondence series is organized into three subseries: Related Societies, General, and Individual. Within each of the three subseries, the correspondence is arranged alphabetically and then chronologically. The inventory listing includes the range of dates of the correspondence housed within each folder.

- The Related Society subseries includes correspondence between the ISCS and other groups such as the International Studies Association.
- The General subseries contains correspondence by various members of the society.
- The Individual subseries is reserved for those members who have a large enough volume of correspondence to warrant individual folders.

The Manuscripts series is devoted to copies of papers delivered at annual meetings, abstracts and comments for those papers, articles that appeared in society publications, and so forth. (Again, a chronological listing of the annual meetings indicating each meeting location can be found at the end of the collection inventory.)

This series is divided into three subseries: Publications, Symposium, and Papers.

1. The Publications subseries contains articles, essays, and other items that have been published in the society's various publications. The materials in the Publications subseries are organized alphabetically by publication title, and then chronologically.
2. The Symposium subseries includes memos, abstracts of papers, and comments regarding each annual meeting. The materials in the Symposium subseries are arranged chronologically within each of the three aforementioned categories. The Papers subseries includes copies of papers that were delivered at the annual meetings. These papers are arranged chronologically by the year in which the papers were delivered, and then alphabetically by author. An index of these papers, by author, can be found at the end of the collection inventory.

The Videotape and Cassette Tape series is comprised of two videocassettes and three boxes of audiotapes, all of which contain presentations delivered at the annual meetings. The two videotapes, analog UCA sixty minute cassettes, are both from the 1985 meeting; the audiocassette tapes, which are analog ninety minute audiocassettes, are organized chronologically within the three boxes.

The Miscellaneous series includes materials such as papers prepared by Society members that were not delivered at Society meetings, correspondence unrelated to the society, and the curricula vitae of individuals associated with the society.

This series is divided into three subseries: General, Individuals, and Organizations. As with the Correspondence series, the Individuals subseries is reserved for those persons who have a more substantial volume of materials. Both the General and the Individual subseries are arranged alphabetically and then chronologically within each folder.

Those familiar with the organization's history certainly will enjoy perusing the names of the active members from years ago. I remember well many if not most of these individuals and realize what giants we have had in the organization.

But of all the boxes of materials, perhaps the most interesting is found beginning at Page 12 of the listing of materials.

Here is a selection of some of the names of presenters and their topics, going back to the first listing, **from 1972**, drawn from RG 4 (Annual Meetings) Inventory 4.1.4.1.:

Flack, Michael. "Thoughts Concerning Civilizational Change" (2 versions)

Kavolis, Vytautas. "Aesthetic Education in the Civilizational Perspective"

Melko, Matthew. "Quigley's Model as a Model Model"

Naroll, Raoul. "Civilizations as Empirical Systems"

Naroll, Raoul. "Trustworthy Information from Untrustworthy Sources"

Nelson, Benjamin and Vytautas Kavolis. "Comparative and Civilizational Perspectives in the Social Sciences and Humanities: an Inventory and Statement"

Quigley, Carroll. "The Civilizational Process: A General Systems Approach"

Quigley, Carroll. "Cognitive Factors in the Evolution of Civilizations"

Wenger, Susan and Win Wenger. "Civilizations and Other Living Systems"

Wescott, Roger. "One-Word Synonyms for 'The Comparative Study of Civilizations'"

**From 1977:**

Wallerstein, Immanuel. "Civilizations and Modes of Production: Conflicts and Convergences"

**From 1979:**

Edwards, William E. "The Insular Integration Theory of the Origin of Civilization: the Aegean Case" (3 versions)

Hord, John K.. "State and Non-State Systems"

Iberall, Arthur S. "A Social Physics for the Origins of Civilized Societies"

Wakeman, Mary. "Mother"

Wescott, Roger W. "Protohistory: The Transition from Pre-Civil to Civil Society"

Ziskind, David B. "Civilizations and Legal Systems"

**From 1991, twenty-five years ago:**

Andregg, Michael. "Integrating Quantitative and Qualitative Data About Wars, Battles and Casualties"

Diaz-Stevens, Ana Maria. "Nostalgia and Language as Culture Identity: A Sociological Analysis of the Literature of Caribbean Migrants to New York"

Eckhardt, William. "War-Related Deaths Since 3000 B.C."

Helms, Mary W. "Perspectives on Middle America and the Caribbean: The 1490's (and Before)"

Hord, John K. "The Comparability of Ancient and Modern Civilizations"

Maurer, Crescencia. "The China Brazil Earth Resource Satellite: Patterns of Third World Scientific Cooperation"

Maxwell, Ross R. "Methodology for the Historical Studies"

Melko, Matthew. "Hypotheses Concerning General War and General Peace"

Riordan, Robert. "North American in the 1490s"

Stevens-Arroyo, Anthony M. "Incorporation into the World System and into the Otherworldly System: A Comparative Analysis of Conquest and Evangelization in the Canaries and Hispaniola 1355-1522"

Talbutt, Palmer. "Reflections upon the Geopolitics of the Noosphere"

Van Schendel, Willem. "The Past in Development: The Need for a Comparative Approach to History"

**From the 2001 meeting, fifteen years ago:**

Benesch, Walter. "The Essential Question; *Existence*: As 'Concept' and 'Condition' (What do we mean? or Parmenides vs Gorgias)"

Benesch, Walter. "Traditions and Civilizations: Another Approach to Understanding Human History"

Bowler, Downing. "Why Me? Why Now? Why at All? Why Are You Asking?"

Burgy, Donald. "The Forethought of 25 Francis Road"

Gray, Wallace. "The Peoples Of South America: A Case Study, Or, When Civilizations Pause To Look At Ethnic Groups"

Cosandey, David. "The Rich States System Theory"

Farhat-Holzman, Laina. "God's Law or Man's Law"

Kawakubo, Keisuke. "The Status of Japanese Civilization: My Journey for the Discovery of Japan"

Melko, Matthew. "The Civilizational Concept"

Richardson, David. "The Mideastern Worldview"

Rothman, Norman C. "Indian Ocean Trading Links: The Swahili Experience"

Stauffer, Lee. "Globalization as a Signal of the Next Stage in Cultural Evolution"

Snyder, Lee Daniel. "From Macro to Micro: It Takes Three to Dance, Civilization and the Urban Dynamic"



Vieira, Alberto. "The Islands and the Atlantic System"

There are dozens more, contributions from many of our lifetime's most outstanding thinkers in the history of the field of comparative study of civilizations.

What we need now is a historian or historians who will put it all together. In a letter, Mr. Gerencser notes that if anyone wishes a copy or copies of papers that were delivered at conferences in previous years, or any other material, they may contact his office using the form on his website: <http://archives.dickinson.edu/request> or may email him directly at [archives@dickinson.edu](mailto:archives@dickinson.edu).

"We typically charge 25 cents per page for scanning/copying, but for smaller amounts (under \$5) we generally waive the fee. It is our practice to provide the copies as PDF files, which can be emailed to the person making the request, usually within a few days," he writes.

I hope that everyone reading this goes to the website and browses through this wonderland of papers, speeches, and arguments. It's a great and valuable collection of some of the brightest and most challenging thoughts, rendered by men and women who have crossed disciplinary lines in search of what is most significant in the perhaps 200,000-year-long journey of *Homo sapiens* on this planet.

Finally, let me prod those whose papers were written but not included on the archival lists. Please send in your written documents to Mr. Gerencser so that they are not lost in the mists of time and your contribution is adequately memorialized in the ISCSC Archives.

See you in Monmouth this summer!

Joseph Drew  
Washington, D.C.