

## letters

of that group was also prominently featured in Fleming's article.

No doubt these errors of omission were inadvertent, but it would be ironical and a shame if, in popular discussions of the detection of forgeries, the names of the chief detectives were to be covered over as if by a layer of obscuring paint.

### References

1. E. V. Sayre, H. N. Lechtman, "Neutron Activation Autoradiography of Oil Paintings," *Studies in Conservation* 13, 161 (1968).
2. M. J. Cotter, P. Meyers, L. Van Zelst, C. H. Olin, E. V. Sayre, "A Study of the materials and techniques used by some XIX Century American oil painters by means of neutron activation autoradiography," in *Proceedings of International Congress on Applicazione dei metodi nucleari nel campo delle opere d'arte*, Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, Atti dei Convegni Lincei II, Roma, (1976) page 163.
3. H. Muether, N. Balasz, W. Voekley, M. Cotter, *Neutron Autoradiography of The Spanish Forger*, in press.

BURT V. BRONK  
Clemson University

5/8/80

Clemson, South Carolina

THE AUTHOR COMMENTS: I welcome Burt Bronk's letter because it duly credits Maurice Cotter's efforts in autoradiography in a way far more extensive than I tried to achieve by a manuscript correction at proof stage.

STUART FLEMING

The University of Pennsylvania

5/16/80

Philadelphia, Pa.

## Brezhnev's title

If you would, please help in maximizing the clarity of thought of our nation and that of other nations concerning Leonid Brezhnev: He does not appreciate the title "president" when applied with reference to his official governmental position and I believe that we of planet Earth should honor his preference in this regard.

Specifically, on page 23 in April, Leonid Brezhnev is referred to as "Soviet president."

Such a title is quite erroneous and impolite as well.

GLENN S. WOLF

5/9/80

Belle Glade, Florida

THE AUTHOR COMMENTS: We admit to not knowing Leonid Brezhnev's personal preference concerning his title, as he did not reply to our letter sent to him last year. However, since Brezhnev "succeeded" Podgorny in June 1977, he is commonly designated in reference books published in the West as "President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR."<sup>1-3</sup> As for the impoliteness of it all, we are more

concerned over the "impolite" harassment and imprisonment of dissident scientists by the Soviet authorities. Fortunately, many of our colleagues share this concern, as demonstrated by the fact that within a few weeks after our human-rights advertisement appeared on page 23 of the April issue, and in other professional journals, several thousand scientists, including 30 Nobel Laureates, joined our moratorium on scientific cooperation with the Soviet Union to protest that country's treatment of Sakharov, Orlov, Shcharansky and others. The number joining the moratorium continues to increase daily.

### References

1. *Statesman's Year Book 1979-1980*, John Paxton (ed), St. Martin's Press, New York. (1979).
2. *Encyclopedia Britannica, 1978 Book of the Year*, University of Chicago. (1978); page 81.
3. *Who's Who in the World*, 4th Edition, Marquis Who's Who, Chicago, (1978)

MORRIS PRIPSTEIN

Chairman, Scientists for Sakharov,

6/16/80 Orlov and Shcharansky (SOS)

## More on amateurs

A correction in the August issue (page 64) notes that Lance I. Kethley's complaint (May, page 82) regarding the participation of "amateurs" at scientific meetings ["Also during the recent meeting of AAS in San Francisco, we were denied the opportunity of presentation"] was a reference to the recent AAAS Annual Meeting and not to one of the American Astronomical Society; there had been a typographical error.

I am at a loss to understand Kethley's remark, since I have no recollection of any paper submitted by him for our meeting. Presentations at the AAAS Annual Meeting are of three types: Public Lectures (about 10) given by distinguished scientists and public

figures who are invited on the behalf of the AAAS Board of Directors; symposium participation (about 1000) made by individuals who are invited by the arrangers of the accepted symposia, that is, those symposia that have passed a peer-review process which looks into the appropriateness of their subject matter for the AAAS Meeting and the competence of the proposed arrangers and speakers to address this subject matter (there is about a 50% rejection rate); and contributed papers (of the Poster-Session type).

The criteria for accepting a contributed paper are that it be sponsored by a member of AAAS, that an abstract be received before the deadline (about Labor Day), and that the abstract be coherent, legible enough for direct reproduction, and be within the confines of a 5-inch square. Information about contributed papers appears in *Science* in June, July and August (see the 13 June issue, page 1252, for such information about the forthcoming AAAS Annual Meeting in Toronto, 3-8 January 1981). Professional standing is not a criterion for acceptance of contributed papers; in fact, members are urged to sponsor good work done by their students, including high-school students, if the work is suitable. Contributed papers have been an acceptable format at the Meeting since 1977, and their number has been steadily expanding to where about 700 individuals availed themselves of this opportunity in San Francisco. Incidentally, finding a member to sponsor your paper should not prove difficult; there are about 130 000 around the world.

ARTHUR HERSCHMAN

Head, Meetings & Publications

American Association for

the Advancement of Science

6/30/80

Washington, D. C.

THE AUTHOR COMMENTS: I got mixed feelings when I read Arthur Herschman's reply to my letter. On the one hand it seems to me that the written policy of AAAS is not known by the

## Observers observing observables

As the wood weaves around the knothole in vain,  
it leaves behind differential paths of tone,

paths that permit the sunlight to reflect  
a particular span of time into our eyes,

that transmit for our acknowledgement an event  
completed in the past, and

which ensure that this previous endeavoring to  
contribute to existence shall have been not alone,

as the present is synthesized.

M. I. PULLEN

Brookline, Massachusetts