THE EIGHTEENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
OF ACTUARIES
MUNICH, 1968

"And now, to echo Professor Kern, "Auf Wiedersehen in Deutschland!"
"—E. C. Evans, J.I.A., 90, 344.

The Eighteenth International Congress of Actuaries was held in Munich from 4 to 11 June 1968 under the Honorary Presidency of Dr h.c. Heinrich Lübke, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, with the Minister President of Bavaria, the Federal Ministers of Finance, for Economic Affairs and for Scientific Research, and the Mayor of Munich as honorary vice-presidents.

Congress had returned to Germany, after an interval of 62 years, in accordance with the decision made in Edinburgh in June 1964 in response to the invitation given on behalf of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Versicherungsmathematik. The general arrangements for the Congress represented a development of those adopted for the London-Edinburgh Congress; as then, the membership was divided into full and business members but on this occasion both classes could be accompanied by another person or persons, and business members participated in all but two of the social events.

The list of members contained 1,205 names, from 46 countries. Several nations were represented by single participants, while the largest contingent, of 220, was from Great Britain; it was unfortunate that the crisis in France prevented many of the French party from attending.

The formal opening of the Congress, on the first Tuesday, took place in the National Theatre, an elegant post-war building. The proceedings began and ended with music played by the Bavarian State Orchestra; the principal speeches, in French or German, were made by the President of the Permanent Committee, Prof. Edouard Franckx, by the President of the Congress, Prof. Dr. Helmut Kracke, who read out to the assembled company President Lübke's message of greeting to Congress; and by Minister President Dr h.c. Alfons Göppel.

Later in the day there were two receptions, one for the members of the Conseil de Direction, given by the City officials and the Mayor of Munich in the Town Hall, and the other for government representatives given by the Bavarian government in the Residency. The members of the Conseil were also honoured by an invitation to a reception in Bonn, on the Wednesday after Congress, given by President Lübke.

The subjects discussed
The subjects selected for consideration at the Congress were as follows:
National Reports: The present methods of participation in profits and distribution of profits particularly in life, annuity, sickness and motor insurance.

Subject 1. Experience bases for individual assurances and annuities with particular reference to mortality, disability and accident rates.

Subject 2. Bases of calculation and funding requirements for private and state retirement, disability and dependants' benefits.

Subject 3. The interdependence of funding and investment in life assurance and pension funds.

Subject 4. Experience bases and assessment of premiums in non-life insurance, particularly (a) sickness insurance, (b) motor insurance and fire insurance (industrial risks).

Subject 5. The influence of electronic computers on the methods of solving actuarial problems.

There were 20 National Reports and 131 papers submitted by individual members. A list of the papers by members of the Institute and the Faculty, whether resident in Britain or not, is appended. As is now the custom, all the Reports and papers, each with summaries in all five Congress languages, had been circulated beforehand in six paper-back volumes: they were also published in two bound volumes, for permanent retention, which were awaiting the Congress members in Munich.

It is not without interest that out of 151 reports and papers, no fewer than 76 were in English, whilst at several of the discussions the use of English predominated. This serves to emphasize a comment by Dr Wolfgang Sachs in Versicherungs Wirtschaft; after wondering whether, in view of increasing national representation at Congresses, there should not be an increased number of Congress languages, he seemed rather hastily to turn to the thought that it would be very useful if the discussions, at least, could be confined to one language—and in the world as it is, he said, only English can serve this purpose.

The national reports and each subject were allotted a general meeting,..
while there were also 13 special meetings to allow less formal, preliminary
discussions of sub-divisions of each subject. The discussions were very
varied in character; some were over in an hour, while others were brought
to an end only by the clock: for some, a useful number of members had
signified their intention beforehand to speak, whilst for others only one
or two had done so, although prolonged discussions nevertheless some-
times ensued.
The general meetings were in the charge of teams of co-chairmen, who
included Dr. B. Benjamin, R. A. Culley, L. G. Oxby and H. F. Rood,
while members of the Institute and the Faculty who took the chair at the
special meetings included R. E. Beard, K. M. McKelvey, A. P. Morton,
At the final business meeting, on the second Tuesday, there were
speeches on behalf of each of the five 'language groups' of members
including a happy contribution by J. B. Dow on behalf of those members
speaking 'any recognizable variety of English'. Two significant recom-
mendations were agreed. One was that the Norwegian actuaries' invita-
tion to hold the 1972 Congress in Oslo should be accepted. The other
was that, because in the light of the developments and changes that have
taken place, 'Permanent Committee for International Actuarial Con-
gresses' has ceased to be an appropriate title, the organization should adopt
a new style and title the English version of which is 'International Actuarial
Association'.

The lighter side
The lighter side of Congress was full and varied. It could be said to have
began with the delivery to the ladies of a delightful piece of Nymphenburg
porcelain in the form of the Bavarian lion. On the Monday before Con-
gress, some of the early arrivals attended a Bavarian folk-lore evening at a
popular Munich restaurant, and on the first Tuesday evening there were
the receptions already mentioned. The first major social occasion was on
the Wednesday evening, when all participants attended a performance
of Beethoven's opera 'Fidelio' at the National Theatre. The method of
seat allocation distributed the audience in a truly random, democratic
fashion, so much so that one President found himself in the 'gods'. A
superb cast, fine singing and magnificent stage sets contributed to a
memorable evening.
The ladies were offered a variety of activities, beginning with a tour
of the city on the Wednesday. Thursday afforded a choice between
Nymphenburg Castle, the Alte Pinakothek (the old art gallery) and Hellas-
brunn Zoo. On the Monday there was a fashion show and another
opportunity to visit Nymphenburg, whilst on the last day there was again
a choice, this time between some of the old churches of Munich, the Neue
Pinakothek and the Viktualienmarkt.
For the Friday, our hosts had organized four major outings, open to all
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participants. A coach tour through the lower Alps had as its purpose visits to some Bavarian baroque and rococo buildings; another party went further afield into the Bavarian countryside, almost into Austria, and enjoyed a quiet boat trip on the Königssee. A third group were taken to Chiemsee and by boat to the island of Herrenchiemsee, where in the Schloss they enjoyed chamber music and dinner by the light of thousands of candles. The fourth party went to Tegernsee and were given a trip around the lake, and a visit to the Walberg mountain by cabin suspension railway.

In between times, there was sufficient free time for members to learn their way about Munich. For those who were content with public transport the tram service was very efficient, and for those who believed in exploring on foot there was a chance to cross one of the main squares via a gigantic ‘hole in the road’—part of the construction work for an underground railway, which is apparently all being carried out as one major operation, largely on the ‘cut and cover’ principle. Opportunities for good eating at moderate cost abound in Munich, and enabled even the moderately adventurous to begin to learn something of Bavarian Gemütlichkeit. The weather, on the whole, was unkind but this was more than offset by the general friendliness and kindness of the Bavarian people, which made an abiding impression on those who were visiting this part of Germany for the first time.

The two social functions reserved for full members and their ladies (or husbands, as the case may be) were receptions on the Thursday evening and on the final evening. For the former, the participants were taken by coach to the ancient Schloss Schleissheim, several miles out of Munich. The magnificent rooms of the Schloss provided a very fine setting in which the visitors could enjoy walking and talking together, although it was a pity that a prolonged storm prevented the perambulations from being extended into the attractive gardens.

The final evening’s event was held in the more modern elegance of the Bayerischer Hof Hotel. The ballroom and the balconies surrounding it were a gay scene as members met and talked and dined together to the accompaniment of two orchestras. The work was over; Congress danced.

Looking back, those responsible for the preparation of the eighteenth Congress can feel justifiably gratified at the successful organization of the largest Congress yet held. The Organizing Committee was under the able chairmanship of Dr Kracke himself, and they were supported by a Meeting Committee (Chairman, H. v. Denffer) and by a Scientific Committee (Chairman, W. Sachs). These gentlemen and their colleagues worthily met the challenge set by the standards achieved at earlier Congresses, notably the sixteenth and seventeenth, and while memories are fresh their advice and counsel are no doubt already being sought by the Norwegian actuaries who have accepted the corresponding responsibilities for the nineteenth Congress.
Seventh ASTIN Colloquium

There had been a significant 'non-life' element in the Munich deliberations, but as a sequel to the eighteenth Congress, more than 150 members of the ASTIN section of the newly named International Actuarial Association met in Berlin to hold the Seventh ASTIN Colloquium.

The Colloquium began with an address by Prof. Dr Hans Bühlmann, on the theory of games. Five papers on a variety of subjects were presented but beyond a brief introduction these were not discussed. The main subject for discussion was fire insurance. The opener was R. E. Beard, who also spoke on risk theory during a later session.

The concentrated hard work at a sophisticated mathematical level that is an established feature of ASTIN Colloquia was relieved by social activities that comprised a reception by the Mayor of West Berlin at the Schloss Charlottenburg, and a party that was described by one participant as a 'fairly hectic “Evening in old Berlin”'.

A. C. EDWARDS
EDEY, J. The relationship between assets and liabilities where benefits are subject to options.


HALL, E. G. and MOORE, P. F. The principles of investment of life assurance funds and their application in the United Kingdom.

HARRISON, J. A. and JACOBS, P. H. The valuation of the equity assets of pension funds.

OMBRE, L. G. Inversion of the funds of Australian life assurance companies.

ROB, D. S. The interdependence of funding and investment in life assurance funds.

WICKENS, P. C. The influence of legislation on the investment of Australian life office and pension funds.

BEARD, R. E. Some observations on no-claim bonus schemes in motor insurance.

FAIN, I. M. The actuarial assessment of a newly established motor insurance business.

HARFORD, V. The calculation of premiums for covers of loss reassurances of motor business.

KAHN, P. M. A survey of some recent developments in credibility theory and experience rating from the Bayesian viewpoint.

LONGLEY-COOK, L. H. Statistics and ratemaking for commercial fire insurance.

SEAL, H. L. The use of multiple regression in risk classification based on proportionate losses.

BENJAMIN, S. A language for routine actuarial programming.

GOODARE, K. J. and KENNEDY, S. P. L. The assessment of reinsurance strategies.

PERMIN, J. Use of computers for investment purposes.

ROMER, H. Interpolation by computer.

WARD, G. C. The use of model offices in Australia.

WILKIE, A. D. Valuation and analysis of surplus on a continuous basis.