

THE CIRCLE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 606 SOCIETY

(Issue #11, February 1982)

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LETTER FROM CHRIS HARDING:

24/12/81.

Dear Ron.,

Sometimes one has a sudden feeling that one has walked into something really vast, and your letter and ideas have conveyed to me a sense of awesomeness about them. I am convinced that YOU and YOU alone have begun to slowly open the door to the meaning of reality. Your mention of the Banash-Tarsky Decomposition theory is staggering as it fits into your other ideas. I have already suggested to Prof. I.J. Good that B-T Decomposition Theory could be used to explain the expansion of the Universe, since this axiom supposed rotation, a phenomena we observe in heavenly bodies and in the universe in general. If B-T-D-Theorem arises from your thought, and if here there is an explanation of time itself, then YOU have a basis for the conceptualisation of a true unified field theory not just in philosophy but the basis for one for the whole of science, even it's methods. It will of course require much effort to fully develop, but surely a group with the sort of capacity in ISPE, TNS, 4 Sigma, and 606 could provide the means. But don't just drift with this, start organising and start down the path. The world is waiting for the emergence of a Genius.

On the matter of my performance on your latest test, I'm afraid I'm becoming more cynical daily about it all. The problem seems to be the great amount of elasticity in these scores. You need a test where the selectees who make it, and here the 1/Million level, are all scoring around 50 % in the test.

Why not put your speculations in the Circle Newsletter. I'm sure we will all be interested in reading them, and you will likely get a big return on the investment.

606 Scores for admission are:

Skyscraper	I70
W87	I70
BAT	I70
Binet	I85
ACE	I85
Otis-Lennon	I85
CTMM	I86
Thurstone	200
LAIT	I70
HAT	I70
WAIS	I80
WISC	I80

Hope this is of benefit to you. Best regards,

Chris.

REPLY TO CHRIS'S LETTER: Chris's remarks are almost embarrassingly flattering. His first paragraph refers to a letter I wrote him in which I briefly described an extension of my philosophical theory in which I offered what I believe to be the first and only explanation ever made as to why Russell and Whitehead's Principia Mathematica contains precisely three "empirical" axioms (the word "empirical" is Russell's own descriptive term), in addition to its many purely logical axioms. I have submitted a somewhat more detailed explanation of my thesis to the editor of Vidya, the journal of the Triple Nine Society, but will reprint the essay in a future issue of The Circle for the benefit of those of you who are not TNS members.

LETTER FROM 606 MEMBER JOHANNES D. VELDHUIS (ADDRESS: University of Virginia, School of Medicine, Charlottesville, Virginia 22908, USA):

Dear Ron,

January 7, 1982

The 606 newsletter was informative and interesting in its new format under your editorial auspices. I did remain somewhat uncertain of the nature of the statement(s) pertinent to the 606 Society currently being considered by Guinness. Unfortunately, the 1982 version did not recognize the society per se or define its unique composition. Incidentally, I should be happy to participate in your evaluation of Form H. Were you planning to send it to all existing 606 members?

In relation to your call for an autobiographical sketch, I shall be happy to contribute. In addition, I believe some comments should be exchanged regarding the scope and specific aims of the 606 Society, so that a more precise and detailed matrix of philosophical intent can be defined.

Best regards in your new efforts.

Sincerely,

*Johannes*

EDITOR'S REPLY: I, too, was disappointed with the 1982 Guinness entry, although I deliberately refrained from making any negative comments in last month's newsletter. I had sent Guinness the names and addresses of all eight high-IQ societies of which I have any knowledge and had emphasized that the 606 Society was the one with the highest admission requirement. I also referred the editors of Guinness to Professor James L. Blawie at the University of Santa Clara School of Law as a corroborative source, mentioning that Professor Blawie was writing a book about the high-IQ societies. It is possible that the form the 1982 entry finally took may have been influenced by Professor Blawie, although space limitations might also have been a factor. A major defect in the entry is that it does not even mention that the 606 Society is a high-IQ society, much less explaining the fact that it is the one with a world's record admission requirement. I am also doubtful that the Stanford-Binet has a ceiling of 200, as stated in the Guinness entry. Perhaps if other 606 members wrote to Guinness, they would make further changes and improvements in their entry. Regarding my tests, I probably will include one or more of them in this newsletter if I remain editor through the rest of this year.

LETTER FROM JOHN STOCKS (ADDRESS: 6323 Garfield Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118):  
John Stocks is not a member of the 606 Society, but his remarks concerning several of the high-ceiling intelligence tests he has taken lately may be of interest to 606 members. I am thankful to him for permission to quote these interesting observations. Dr. Stocks is a psychiatrist by profession and a member of the Triple Nine Society.

"As a taker rather than giver of tests, let me add a few anecdotal thoughts for use or non-use in your design and statistical ruminations.

"Let me compare for you my subjective experience in taking a Terman, Langdon, Harding, or Hoeflin test.

"Terman has his finger on the pulse of conventionality. Doing well on his test must surely assure one of the opportunity (assuming the desire) of success in the ladder climbing arenas where being keyed to the 'logic' of the times cranks out answers that are timely and efficient.

"By contrast, Langdon reaches for the pulse of the new elite, the new brains of a systematized and computerized new world. But there is a hint of coldness in this rarified cognition that leaves one wondering if intellect might one day replace meaning (whatever intellect & meaning might be).

"Then there is the pulse of Harding, asking not to touch but to be touched. Taking a Harding test is a trip into another world (if you can make it), a cryptic world of arcane wonders administered by a most singular hierophant. One cannot help but fantasize that the initiated have transcended.

"And then there is Hoeflin, afflicted with the search for truth (perhaps even the truth about intelligence) and desirous of being an honest craftsman in its pursuit. His tests seem to ask us not so much how smart or clever or uniquely discerning we are, but can we think, can we think out, can we search too. Or, is truth and the search for it anachronistic?

"Whatever these ramblings may suggest, one thing I am intending to imply is that from a subjective point of view I believe that Terman, Langdon, Harding & Hoeflin are each taking different parts of me and that these parts may not be backed up by a Spearman 'g'."

EDITOR'S REPLY: I agree with many of these observations but not with the conclusion. Subjectively, the shot put, the high jump, and the hundred yard dash seem quite different, yet they all tap a common trait which we might loosely call "athletic ability." A factor analysis of decathlon scores might reveal a number of different factors involved in determining overall performance, such as strength, speed, and agility. But if strength, speed, and agility have a strong positive correlation with each other, then we have good reason to posit a common factor or "g" underlying athletic ability in general. I recently studied the scores of 27 persons who had taken three of the four tests alluded to by Dr. Stocks: the Terman Concept Mastery Test (Form T), the Langdon Adult Intelligence Test, and the Hoeflin Intelligence Test (Form H). It was found that the HIT had a 0.59 correlation with both the CMT and the LAIT, while the latter two had a 0.57 correlation with one another. Since the CMT is almost entirely verbal while the LAIT is almost entirely non-verbal, their intercorrelation is impressive, especially considering the narrow range of scores involved (i.e., a mean of 3.2 sigmas on the LAIT and a mean of 2.9 sigmas on the CMT). Hence, the evidence is very powerful that these three tests all tap "g" or general intelligence, subjective impressions to the contrary notwithstanding.

QUESTIONNAIRE: I hope every member will fill out this questionnaire and return it to me at the address given below.

1. Your name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_
2. Your address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Would you like to see the name of the 606 Society changed? Yes \_\_\_; No \_\_\_
4. If so, what alternate name would you suggest? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Do you know anyone not currently a 606 member who might be qualified (see the qualifying scores on the first page of this newsletter)? Yes \_\_\_: No \_\_\_  
(If yes, please give names and addresses on the opposite side of this page.)
6. In response to Dr. Veldhuis's request earlier in this newsletter, would you indicate (on the reverse side or a separate sheet of paper) what you believe should be the "scope and specific aims" of the 606 Society? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Would you be willing to write a regular column (not necessarily every month) for this newsletter? Yes \_\_\_; No \_\_\_
8. If yes, please indicate what topic or topics you have in mind: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. If no, what other contributions do you believe you could make to help sustain the society? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Please offer any additional comments or suggestions on the reverse side.

RETURN RESPONSES TO:

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U. S. A.