Science Writers International: EUSJA + ISWA Title 324

Science Journalism was not only a British phenomenon after World War II, it also became widespread in Europe. By the 1950s and 1960s, it was recognised world wide.

The European Union of Science Journalists Associations, E U S J A, was founded on 8 March 1971 by the Presidents of the Science Writers Associations of Austria, Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Since then Finland, Denmark, Ireland, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Israel (as an associate member), and others have joined EUSJA.

The aims of EUSJA are also those of the ABSW, to promote the exchange of scientific information through the press, radio and television in all European member countries, to establish and promote contacts between individuals and the various Associations. EUSJA achieves its aims by arranging visits lasting about a week, on an average three each year, to scientific and technological places of interest throughout Europe. Mostly these visits are sponsored by a Government or an industrial company showing their own achievements and include pure-science laboratories. Travel inside the inviting country is free as well as all subsistence, which often is of a very high standard. According to availability, a small number of places, two or three, are allocated to each member country in rotation. Within the Member Association the places have to be drawn by lot, as these week's tours abroad are always most desirable. A Central Bureau in Brussels organises all EUSJA's affairs.

I S W A, the International Science Writers Association, is composed of individual members and is, as the title indicates, truly international. Members' names and addresses are published from time to time in a long roster which clearly demonstrates that science writers are now active in Brazil, India, Australia, Ecuador, Nigeria, Ghana, USA, Argentina, Nepal, Kenya, the People's Republic of China, Sri Lanka', Russia, Colombia, Senegal, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Canada, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Taiwan, Phillipines, Seoul (South Korea), Indonesia, Czech Republic, Japan, Poland, Venezuela, Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, and Peru. Of the 229 names in the 1994 list, 79 members live in the USA, 10 in India, 10 in Canada, and a large number in Europe.

The main activity of ISWA in the last few years has been to organise Conferences and Seminars on science writing in less developed countries. It always holds its Annual General Meetings during AAAS meetings in various cities of the USA at which prospective members are invited to participate.

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