1. Changing Presidents

During the last two years, from August 1993 – August 1995, Ole Barndorff-Nielsen served as President of the Bernoulli Society. Under his presidency the society thrived and flourished thanks to his initiatives and various activities inside and outside the Society. He strengthened existing ties and established new ones both within the stochastic community as well as with the mathematical community in general. His report on these developments, which was read at the General Assembly of the 50th ISI Session in August 1995, speaks for itself.

The picture shows the new President Jef Teugels (left), the outgoing President Ole Barndorff-Nielsen (middle) and the President-Elect Louis Chen (right). It was taken by Makoto Maejima at the SPA conference dinner in Singapore.

President's Report
August 1993 – August 1995

In the course of the last four or so years the Society has, thanks to the efforts of many people, expanded its activities in a number of respects.

- Membership Secretary.

With the expanding activities of the Society it became more and more apparent that the responsibilities of the Office of Scientific Secretary far exceeded what could be reasonably and fully handled by a single person. In connection with the Council meeetings at the joint BM/IMS World Congress in Chapel Hill, June 1994, it was therefore decided immediately to create a post as Membership Secretary, with main responsibility for personal contacts to members, membership drives, etc. We have been very fortunate that Professor Volker Mammitzsch agreed to take this post, and the experience from the last year has shown that there is ample need for such a post. Eventually, the post should be made more formally official in connection with a forthcoming change of the statutes of the Society.

- Committees.

The CCSP (Committee for Conferences on Stochastic Processes), the CSPS (Committee for Statistics in the Physical Sciences), the ERC (European Regional Committee), and the LARC (Latin American Regional Committee) have all been active in organizing conferences and workshops, either on their own or in collaboration with other bodies. Overviews of past and planned activities are given in Bernoulli News and in the ISI Newsletter. (In the future, details of the meetings and other aspects of the work of the Committees will appear mainly in

Bernoulli News.)

The CSPS is about to change its name and acronym to Committee for Probability and Statistics in the Physical Sciences (CPSPS) in order better to reflect the Committee's actual ambit.

The EAPRC (East Asian Pacific Regional Committee) has been dormant for some time, due to the special geographical and economic character of that region. However, during the recent Conference on Stochastic Processes and Their Applications, 19-23 June in Singapore, an open meeting was held which was intended as a first step toward resuscitating the EAPRC, and this will be pursued at the ISI Beijing Session and later.

- Meetings.

As in the case of Committees, details about past and planned activities are given in Bernoulli News and in the ISI Newsletter. Suffice it here to mention the highly successful BS World Congress, 20-25 June 1994, held jointly with IMS, and the forthcoming Fourth World Congress of the Bernoulli Society which will take place in Vienna 26-31 August 1996. The Fifth World Congress is scheduled for the year 2000 and negotiations are under way to find a suitable location and time period. The Society has received several most welcome invitations for hosting this event.

- Finances.

A couple of years ago the financial prospects of the Society looked somewhat dire. However, this situation has changed drastically to the better. The main reasons for this is that the Society was able to conclude a favourable contract with Chapman and Hall for the production of the new Society journal BERNOULLI and because the ISI (International Statistical Institute), our 'Mother' institution, has changed its economic and accounting policies in a way that is significantly beneficial to its various Sections.

- ISI/BS relationship.

The Society has now, in my opinion, a very healthy and symbiotic relationship to the ISI. We are benefitting strongly from the kind and professional assistance provided by the staff of the Permanent Office of the ISI in Voorburg, the financial situation of the Society is, as already mentioned, much improved, and the autonomy of the Society in all matters of scientific importance has been made manifest through the signing of a document by the President of the ISI, Professor Jayanta K. Ghosh, the Director of the Permanent Office, Dr. Zoltan Kenessey, and myself (cf. the ISI Newsletter Vol. 18 No. 3, 1994 and Bernoulli News No. 2, 1995). It is a real pleasure here to acknowledge the goodwill and collaborative spirit with thich the Society has been met, in this somewhat transitionary period for both the ISI and BS, by the Executive Committee, the Council and the Permanent Director of the ISI.

One of the ways where the Society can contribute to the life of ISI is as coorganizer of a new series of 'Cutting Edge Conferences' that the ISI is planning in dialogue with its Sections.

- Publications.

The 'classical' journals in which the Society has a stake, namely Stochastic Processes and Their Applications, Time Series Analysis, and International Statistical Review continue to fare well. In a restructuring of the editorial setup for the Review each of the ISI Sections have appointed a Section Editor who will be responsible for a part of the Review, and this is bound to enhance the interest of the journal to Section members. The Section Editor for the Bernoulli Society is Professor Elja Arjas.

At the Florence Session of the ISI, the Bernoulli Society decided to start its own newsletter, Bernoulli News. Professor Claudia Klüppelberg has taken on the editorship with gusto and the first issue appeared in connection with the Third World Congress in Chapel Hill, June 1994. In the future Bernoulli News will appear twice annually, with every other issue of BERNOULLI. Please have Bernoulli News in mind as a medium for the venting of ideas and comments, for communication of Society relevant activities around the World, and for articles on cultural, Society related, issues.

The publication of the first two issues of BERNOULLI has, unfortunately, met with some difficulties, not due to lack of excellent manuscripts but on a practical level, at the production end. These difficulties have now been resolved and a combined March/June issue has just appeared; hopefully you, the BS members, will be pleased with it. From now on we should be back on the planned track for the publication of the journal, with four issues appearing annually.

- BS/IMS relationship.

To strengthen the already existing and fruitful connections and collaboration between BS and the IMS (Institute of Mathematical Statistics) a Liaison Committee was established in connection with the BS/IMS Conference in Chapel Hill. As just one example of the further collaboration between our two societies, let me mention the contribution of the IMS that will form a part of the scientific programme at next year's BS World Congress in Vienna.

- Logo.

The Society has adopted as its logo the spiral design which appears above and which was devised by Jacob Bernoulli. The Latin inscription reads in translation 'Changed I rise again in the same way', and this was thought nicely appropriate for a scientific society such as ours and for our new journal BERNOULLI in particular. Some comments, by Richard Gill, on the history of the design will appear in Bernoulli News Vol. 3 No. 1.

- What does the future hold for our Society?

I have no doubt that the Society will grow in strength over the next many years. Its role as the international society for mathematical statistics and probability combined with the ever expanding range and importance of our scientific subject areas would seem to make this certain.

This brings me to an important point. It is, in my opinion, an essential task for the Bernoulli Society to cultivate the unity of probability and statistics, not just for unity's sake but because there are rich results to be reaped from that. As examples of constellations of areas where that unity is strongly felt at present I might mention point processes/interacting particle systems and spatial statistics, including image analysis, as one instance, large deviations and higher order asymptotics in statistical inference as another, and Gibbs random fields and graphical models as a third.

On a more pedestrian level, some of the issues that confront the new Executive Committee and Council are the need to bring the Society more in line with present day electronic communication and publication means, and to develop ties with other major international scientific societies, whether in the natural or medical or engineering or social sciences.

With the ISI Session in Beijing and the European Meeting of Statisticians in Aarhus my term as President of the Society comes to end. It has been a great privilege and pleasure to serve as President. During this term, the various Officers of the Society, the Chairmen and Members of our Committees, the Organizers of conferences, workshops, etc. held under the aegis of the Bernoulli Society, and our journal Editors have put an enormous amount of time, effort and devotion into strengthening the vitality of the Society, and we all owe them a warm thanks. I have of course had most contact with our incoming President Jef Teugels, the Scientific Secretary Richard Gill, the Treasurer Morris Eaton and the Membership Secretary Volker Mammitzsch, and I wish here to thank them specially for their friendship and support - I will miss our frequent 'business' contacts.

Ole E. Barndorff-Nielsen

The new President is Jef Teugels and the new President-Elect Louis Chen. Both are well-known for their various contributions to our community. On the next page we present some of the highlights of their careers to date. The picture of Louis Chen was taken in a study room in Kolmogorov's house at the outskirt of Moscow in June 1993.

Jozef L. Teugels
Department of Mathematics
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
B-3030 Leuven (Belgium)
email: jef@pearson.cc.kuleuven.ac.be

• Born in 1939, married to Rita Rosa BETTENS, one daughter Lieve.

• Undergraduate in Leuven (Belgium); M.Sc. (1966) and Ph.D. (1967) at Purdue University, West-Lafayette, Indiana, USA.

• Currently Professor of Mathematics, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium; held visiting positions at Cambridge, Coimbra, Naval Postgraduate School (Monterey), British Columbia, Chapel Hill, UC Santa Barbara, Australian National University, University of Maryland, Keio University at Yokohama. Teaching assignments in developing countries Zaire and Indonesia.

• Fellow of IMS, Member of ISI.

• Member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Applied Probability*, *Advances of Applied Probability* and the *Wiley Series in Probability and Mathematical Statistics.*

• Scientific Secretary of the Bernoulli Society (1975–1985).

• Organiser of the *Stochastic Processes and their Applications* meeting (1972), the *European Meeting of Statisticians* (1977) and the *Statistics, Earth and Space Sciences* meeting (1989), all at the Katolieke Universiteit, Leuven, Belgium.

• Addict of classical (including contemporary) music. Special interest in mathematical and statistical modeling for music and musical instruments.

Louis H.Y. Chen
Department of Mathematics
National University of Singapore
Singapore 119260 (Republic of Singapore)
email: matchyl@leonis.nus.sg

• Born in 1940, married to Annabelle Wing YIP with two daughters Carmela I-Tien and Jacinta I-Pei.

• B.Sc. (1964) from University of Singapore; M.S. (1969) and Ph.D. (1971) from Stanford University.

• Currently Professor of Mathematics, National University of Singapore; held visiting positions at Simon Fraser University, Stanford University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Université de Provence.

• Associate Editor of *Statistica Sinica* (since 1988) and BERNOULLI (since 1993).

• Fellow of IMS (elected in 1989); Winner of the National Science and Technology Award (Singapore) in 1991.

• Honorary Secretary (1974–77 and 1980–82) and President (1984–85 and 1988–91) of the Singapore Mathematical Society; Vice-President (1980–82) and President (1982–83) of the Singapore Institute of Statistics; Member of the BS Structure Committee (1993–94); Member of the BS Committee for Conferences on Stochastic Processes (1993–).

• Organizing Secretary of the *International Mathematical Conference*, Singapore, 1981; Organizing Chairman of the following conferences: *Time Series Workshop* (1984); *Singapore Probability Conference* (1989); *23rd Conference on Stochastic Processes and their Applications* (1995), all in Singapore.

• Member of the Education Service Commission, Singapore (1990–).

• Hobbies include listening to classical music and opera, singing and playing the recorder.