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# DSA Newscast

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*The official newsletter of the Dozenal Society of America*

1 January 1200

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## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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**H**APPY NEW YEAR! This is an auspicious year for the Dozenal Society of America. The beginning of a new biquennium, the year 1200! The 60th (six dozenth) anniversary of the Society itself! It's hard for a dozenalist *not* to get excited.

As we enter a new era, a new biquennium, and the second half-gross years of the Dozenal Society of America, it behooves us to consider the past, and then to consider how to build on the past into the future.

For all practical purposes, the modern history of dozenals begins with **F. Emerson Andrews**, who began dabbling in dozenal counting in January of 1152. The articles he wrote about this are all available on our website. Andrews was *not* a mathematician; but he found himself increasingly fascinated by numbers expressed in dozens. An article, *An Excursion in Numbers*, published in the ATLANTIC MONTHLY in that year concerning dozenals (which they only agreed to publish if he inserted a disclaimer halfway through that he was about to do—gasp!—*some math*)—started a conversation that continues to the present day.

Several years and articles later, five charter members (Andrews himself; **George S. Terry**; **F. Howard Seely**; **Ralph H. Beard**; and **F. Morton Smith** (spread throughout the country from California to Boston), using \$5,000.00 generously donated by Terry (\$67,425.00 in today's money, according to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics),

started the Dozenal Society of America. The first annual meeting was held in April of that year. Although the Society began during the greatest war in history, the outcome of which was still by no means certain, these five charter members started to build a Society which has not ceased operation since.

In 1161, the first issue of the *Duodecimal Bulletin* was published.

In 1166 or the next year, long-time member **Gene Zirkel** (#67), who has served the Society in nearly every possible office at one time or another, became a member. Gene, our longest-serving member, is still active in the Society, more or less single-handedly saved the Society in the early 1190s, and remains an inspiration to us all.

In 1168, *Douze, Notre Dix Futur* was published in France by **Jean Esig**.

In 1173, the **Dozenal Society of Great Britain** was founded. It has produced an incredible volume of literature, much of which is still important for dozenals today.

In 1186, the last of the founding members, Ralph Beard, died in an auto accident on his way to the annual meeting that year. Though a second generation had long helmed the Society by this time, this marked the definitive passing of the Society to that generation.

1190 was the low point of the Society; our *Bulletin* had not been published for several years, and active

*The Dozenal Society of America is a voluntary, nonprofit educational corporation, organized for the conduct of research and education of the public in the use of dozenal (also called duodecimal or base twelve) in calculations, mathematics, weights and measures, and other branches of pure and applied science.*

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membership was quite low. President **Tom Linton** persuaded Gene Zirkel to become involved, a decision that proved prescient, as without only a few years the Society was again thriving.

In 1991, the first dozenal slide rule was produced by Tom Linton. These were quite popular until the advent of easily-available digital calculating devices.

In 1997, **Dr. Paul Rapoport** demonstrates a working dozenal digital clock at the DSA's annual meeting. Dr. Rapoport remains an active dozenalist, and has recently sponsored the production of an app for iOS providing a working dozenal clock.

In 2007, the DSA launched its first website.

In 2012, **Harvey Kramer Hawks** produced a digital calculator for Windows machines in dozenal. This was the first of a now wide variety of digital calculating devices for dozenal mathematics. **Michael Punter** has since produced another calculator for Windows systems, and **Donald Goodman** has produced a text-based RPN calculator for Unix-like systems, as well as a calculator app for Android devices, dozbc.

In 2014, dozenal.org is launched.

In 2014, **Michael deVlieger** took the helm of both the Society itself, as president, and of the *Duodecimal Bulletin*,

as editor. He's produced an incredible volume of hugely influential works, as well as brought the *Bulletin* roaring in the digital age, a tradition of excellence which our newest editor, **John Volan**, has already begun to continue.

Since 2009, the DSA has began expanding still more. We've presented programs before the American Society for Engineering Education, as well as three regional conferences of the National Conference of Teachers of Mathematics. We've produced several mobile apps to help dozenals further penetrate the digital age. We've expanded our membership outreach to the Internet, resulting in a huge increase in membership, both in numbers and breadth. We now have members from all over the world, speaking many languages, all interested in continuing the DSA's aims.

So much for the past, though; where do we go in the future?

That's a question that only you, the members of the DSA, the lovers of dozenal arithmetic, can answer. We will certainly continue what we are doing: our educational outreach, particularly to those who teach mathematics to others; our efforts to expand our digital presence, particularly a more effective online presence via our website and social media; our efforts to provide tools for using

dozenal arithmetic which are accessible to modern people, particularly computer programs and mobile apps.

But the primary tools for educating people about dozenals is *people*. Most of us don't hear about dozenals from a teachers' conference, or from an annual meeting, or even from a *Bulletin* that we happen to come across. (Though all of these are wonderful and useful things.) Most of us hear about dozenals from entertainment we've consumed (perhaps a story we've read), or from the people around us.

*Share* your interest in dozenals. From the very beginning, one of our founders, Ralph Beard, has said, "Each one, teach one"; there is no other way for the Society to fulfil its purpose.

Six dozen years is a long time for a small society with an admittedly niche interest to persevere. With your help, we will continue to persevere, and continue our mission of "conduct[ing] research and education of the public in the use of dozenal in calculations, mathematics, weights and measures, and other branches of pure and applied science."

Thanks to you, we've had six dozen years of successes; with your help, we will produce six dozen more.

Happy New Year!

## SOCIETY BUSINESS

### CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The next issue of *The Duodecimal Bulletin* has been somewhat delayed (please forgive us; this is an all-volunteer organization, and we all have day jobs, so sometimes personal issues prevent us from accomplishing our DSA tasks as quickly as we'd like), but we still hope to release it soon.

This issue will focus on dozenal's contribution to the field of metrology. This is an incredibly broad topic, and one which has occupied huge por-

tions of our *Bulletin* over the years.

If you have ideas about metrology, please write them out and send them to the Editor:

[editor@dozenal.org](mailto:editor@dozenal.org)

We're all very excited about this issue and hope to have a great deal of input from our membership to include. Thank you.

### WEBSITE WOES, CONT'D

As we announced in our last issue, we've been having to do some major overhauls of our website. We've unfortunately made less progress in the past month than we had hoped. However, though visually the website looks more or less the same, we have not been completely idle.

Most importantly, our online membership form has been (finally) fixed, and we have received *two dozen and one* new members in the past month!

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Welcome to all the new members, and we hope we'll be hearing a lot from you!

Undoubtedly due to several members, especially Michael deVlieger (#378), as well as to non-member but interested party James Wood (in Yorkshire, England), having taken to Twitter and spreading the word, the inauguration of the year 1200 today has resulted in a huge increase of interest. Thanks to these individuals for their efforts.

We will continue working on our website and keep our membership up-

to-date; thanks again to all our members for your patience and assistance.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As mentioned earlier, the DSA is an all-volunteer organization, and we pay no salaries. As a result, everything that we do comes out of the spare time of our members, time that they have to take away from their families, jobs, or other obligations.

We all love dozenals and enjoy assisting the Society in educating people about them; however, as the Society expands and does more, we find ourselves in need of more help.

Fortunately, the Society has a large membership with a very broad range of professions and experience. If you think you can spare any time or effort for the cause of educating the world about dozenals, please let us know:

[contact@dozenal.org](mailto:contact@dozenal.org)

You can help as much or as little as you'd like. Thank you.

## POETICAL DIVERSION

*To be sung to the tune of Auld Lang Syne.*

Should twelve's great glory be forgot,  
and ten's heg'mony be borne?  
Are two, three, four and six forgot,  
for just two and five forlorn?

To twelve's great praises sing, my dear,  
to twelve's great praises sing!  
We'll take a cup to twelve's great song,  
to twelve's great praises sing!

## DONATIONS

Members, please remember that while dues are no longer required for membership, we still rely on the generosity of members to keep the DSA going. Donations of any amount, large or small, are welcome and needed.

A donation of \$10; (\$12.) will procure Subscription membership, and entitles the payer to receive both a digital and a paper copy of the *Bulletin* if requested. Other members will receive only a digital copy. To invoke this privilege, please notify the Editor of the Bulletin, John Volan, at

[editor@dozenal.org](mailto:editor@dozenal.org)

As members know, we are a volunteer organization which pays no salaries. As such, every penny you donate goes toward furthering the DSA's goals.

It may be worth considering a monthly donation; say, \$3, or \$6, or whatever seems reasonable to you. This can be set up quite easily with PayPal or WePay, both of which are available at our web site.

Of course, if you prefer to donate by check, you may send them

to our worthy Treasurer, Jay Schiffman, payable to the Dozenal Society of America, at:

Jay Schiffman  
604-36 South Washington  
Square, #815  
Philadelphia, PA 19106-4115

Remember, too, that the DSA will likely soon be a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization; when this happens, your contributions will be tax deductible under applicable law.

## FOR SALE

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The DSA is pleased to offer the following for sale. These are all either at cost, or the proceeds go to the Society.

Item	Price (\$)
Wall Calendar for 1200, coiled binding	10.05
TGM: A Coherent Dozenal Metrology	8.00

Prices are, unfortunately but by necessity, in decimal.

To find these works, simply go to:

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/shop.ep>

and enter the appropriate terms. E.g., searching for “nEE” will turn up these calendars and the planner; searching for “TGM dozenal” will turn up the TGM book.

We hope to offer other titles, and even some other items (such as dozenal clocks and the like), in the future.

**EACH ONE, TEACH ONE**