

DSA Newscast

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The official newsletter of the Dozenal Society of America

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AND WE'RE BACK!

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And We're Back!

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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.

AND WE'RE BACK! Many apologies for this long (five months!) hiatus. A conspiracy of personal issues prevented much time from being devoted to dozenals by your incorrigibly tardy editor, and he extends to you his most heartfelt sorrow for this. Now that things have cleared up on his schedule, he hopes that he will be able to once again provide a regular updating of dozenal thoughts and news to the DSA's members.

It seems that many of our leadership have had similar issues this year, but your Board of Directors held a telephonic meeting recently and decided on a plan of action. We've set a date and place for our annual meeting, and we discussed the topics and articles that we hope to put out in our next issue of the *Bulletin*.

As we've mentioned before, this year is the 60th (six dozenth) year of the DSA's existence, and though we've had a few slow years here and there, we've spent that entire time as a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public about dozenals. As such, we still do have some great plans for the second half of the first year of the new biquennium.

First, we are preparing to publish a small, dozen-page booklet entitled *A Dozenal Primer*, which contains a brief introduction to dozenal counting, arithmetic, and measurement. This is in full-color, and will be offered for free download as well as in print form for a minimal price.

Second, many of our members will

recall the old *Manual of the Dozen System*, compiled by the members of the DSA and published in 1174 (d960). The *Manual*, or MODS, served as a superb introduction to the dozenal system in its day. However, it has been *four and two-thirds dozen* years since it was published, and a great deal has changed since then. Not only were computers incredibly large and expensive at the time, but even calculators were unusual; the most common mathematical calculation tool was a slide rule. Britain was still using ftsd, and had yet to abandon the measurement system which still (though incorrectly) often bears the name of "English." Human beings had not yet walked on the Moon. Not only had Britain not yet left the European Union, but the European Union did not yet exist. Simply put, we live in a very different world than that which produced MODS, and MODS therefore needs a significant update.

So your Board has been reviewing an updated version of the MODS, which will also be published this year. Currently weighing in at a substantial but manageable 40 pages, the new MODS begins, like the old one, with a simple question-and-answer and continues on to explain the basics of Hindu-Arabic numerals, the dozenal system, converting between decimal and dozenal and back again, dozenal arithmetic, divisibility tests, Systematic Dozenal Nomenclature, dozenal measurement, and computerized tools for working with and in the dozenal sys-

tem. Designed in black-and-white to minimize printing costs, this will also be offered for free download and for purchase in physical form.

So while we've been quiet so far this year, we've not been idle. We've attracted a lot of new members this

year, and we wish them welcome, and hope that they've been patient with our recent taciturnity and are ready for the Society to return to its former activity. Our members, of course, are the mainstay, the past, present, and future of the Society, and we thank them

as always for their patience and support.

Stay tuned, then; and please, let us know about your own dozenal projects and ideas.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Ideas about dozenals? Brilliant plans for furthering dozenals? Thoughts on notation; measurement; arithmetic; mathematics in general? Send them in to the Editor of the Bulletin:

editor@dozenal.org

Many people seem to think that their ideas are too small to be of interest to the *Bulletin*, or that others have already written about them. The former, though, is *never* true, and the latter is irrelevant. New takes on old ideas are always interesting, and no idea is so small that some cannot learn and be edified by it.

We're all very excited about our upcoming issue, and we hope to have a

great deal of input from our membership to include. Thank you.

WEBSITE UPDATE

We're still making very little progress on getting our website back on track. It still *works*, but updating it and maintaining it is still difficult. We hope to have things more or less upgraded to a new format by next month, and anticipate some better news at that time.

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

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

DOZENAL NEWS

NEW DOZENAL CLOCK APP FOR MACS

Our biggest bit of news this month is the publication of a fantastic tool by Gavin Douch, which our Mac-using members will likely find useful:

<http://gavindouch.com/dozenalTimeApp>

This app will install a clock in a Mac's menu bar, which displays the time in our current 20-hour system, but with dozenal digits. It uses "X" for ten and "E" for eleven, and is offered to the public for free, with no ads.

Thanks to Mr. Douch for making the app available.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Society's annual meeting will be in Atlanta, Georgia from 26 (d30) September to 1 October, at the Marriott Midtown. We had our meeting in Atlanta two years ago and enjoyed it, and hope that this location will be maximally convenient for our geographically dispersed membership.

We have scheduled two days for the meeting in the hopes of being less rushed and having more opportunities for meaningful presentations and social interaction. We hope to see many of us there.

POETICAL DIVERSION

THE DOZEN — PART I

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,
over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore—

While I contemplated number, revelling in math's great wonder,
Suddenly I thought of twelve, a number with such wealth in store.
"Tis the greatest one," I marvelled, "greater than the ones before—
filled with properties galore."

After all, it is abundant; and it will not be redundant
if I note that it's the smallest of the numbers of that type;

Twelve is factor-rich; the sum of all the factors it comes from
is greater than twice six, a property that's worth a lot of hype.
"Tis amazing," then I marvelled, "this is number's archetype!"
About this I had no gripe.

And more than that, beyond abundant, dozen is *superabundant*,
for sigma-em o'er em for factors is less than twelve is for the same.¹

And then, twelve is *supercomposite*, which means that of it we posit
That twelve has more of divisors than can lower numbers name.
"Tis stupendous," then I marvelled, "this makes math into a game!"
More I delved into twelve's fame.

To be continued...

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

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

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 |

¹ A poetical representation of $\frac{\sigma(m)}{m} < \frac{\sigma(n)}{n}$; how successfully I rendered this is dubious, but at least it fits the meter.

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 “TIEE” 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