

Second International Congress on the History of Oceanography
and the Challenger Expedition Centenary Celebrations (1972)

The Council has received from the Royal Society, 6, Carlton House Terrace, London, S.W.1., the following "First Announcement" on the said Congress, with the request that it be made known to those, who might be interested:

"The Royal Society and the Royal Society of Edinburgh are pleased to announce that the Second International Congress on the History of Oceanography will be held in Edinburgh during the second half of 1972 in association with the celebration of the centenary of the sailing of the Challenger Expedition (December 1872).

The Executive Committee of the History Division of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science has approved a proposal that, because of the strong association of the Challenger Expedition with the City of Edinburgh it would be most fitting for the second congress on the History of Oceanography to be held in Edinburgh in the centenary year of the sailing of the Expedition.

The Royal Society, The Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Challenger Society together with representatives from the City and University of Edinburgh, The Scottish Marine Biological Association and the Royal Navy will be discussing later this year how best to proceed with the planning of both the Congress and the celebrations associated with the centenary. Although no detailed plans can be announced at this stage we hope that it will prove possible to include in the congress programme topics connected with Challenger and perhaps illustrate how some of these subjects pioneered 100 years ago have advanced today.

It is intended to mount exhibitions to illustrate recent progress in oceanography and we hope that a number of British research vessels will participate in the Edinburgh celebrations. It is possible, for example, that Discovery might carry an exhibition of modern oceanographic instruments.

The purpose of this circular is to announce our intention of holding the Congress and the celebrations in Edinburgh in 1972 and to express the hope that many oceanographers from many countries will participate.

Circulars giving further information will be distributed during the next four years and definite dates will be announced as soon as possible.

It would be appreciated if you would kindly distribute the preliminary information contained in this circular to scientists who might be interested.

Whilst it is too early to consider inviting contributions to the Congress, we would welcome expressions of interest and suggestions about the kind of activities which scientists from other countries would wish to be included in the programme."