



PROPOSALS FOR PARTICIPATION
NOW BEING RECEIVED

VELIKOVSKY AND THE RECENT HISTORY OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM

This coming June McMaster University will host an international gathering of scholars to examine the recent history of the solar system in the light of Velikovsky's work.

Sponsored by the Student Academic Freedom Forum (publisher of *Pensee*), the multidisciplinary symposium will encompass the physical sciences, archaeology, and historical and mythological interpretation. All will be brought to bear on the question, "Has the Earth suffered major catastrophes during historical times?"

Date and Location

The three-day symposium will convene June 17-19, 1974, on the McMaster University campus. Located about 40 miles southwest of Toronto, in Hamilton, Ontario, McMaster is 60 miles northwest of Buffalo, New York. Toronto maintains a modern international airport.

Scope and Format

Six "Invited Papers" are listed on this page. In addition to these, there will be many other papers, respondent panels, seminars and workshops. Emphasis will be laid on the critical evaluation, by technically qualified individuals, of all arguments put forth, combined with intensive interdisciplinary "cross-fertilization." Examples of some of the broad subject areas to be discussed: Earth geology and catastrophism; the lunar, Martian, and Venusian surfaces; eruptive and catastrophic processes in the solar system; radioactive dating methods; cometary origins; archaeological evidences for catastrophism; the relation between myth and history; approaches to ancient historical records; and the reception of new ideas by science.

The original researches of several scholars other than Velikovsky will be considered and their implications for the recent history of the solar system analyzed. For example, S. K. Vsekhsvyatskii's

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

McMaster University
Hamilton, Ontario
June 17-19, 1974

theory of cometary origins and Claude Schaeffer's archaeological work on the destruction levels of ancient cities will come under intensive discussion.

How to Attend and Participate

All persons desiring to attend the symposium may do so, either as *participating scholars, observers, or students*. Application forms to attend or participate may be obtained by writing to Symposium, Student Academic Freedom

Forum, P.O. Box 414, Portland, Oregon 97207. Scholars who wish to read a paper or participate in some other way will be asked to return, together with the application form, a synopsis of the paper and a brief personal resume.

Cost and Financial Aid

The registration fee for the three-day symposium is \$55 (less for single-day or single-session attendance), or, for students, \$20. On-campus room and board rates are \$15/day (double occupancy) or \$17/day (single occupancy). Registration and room/board reservation forms will be provided to everyone who requests them.

Participating scholars may be eligible for waiver of registration fee and, in hardship cases, for room/board waiver. Applications for such waiver will be supplied on request.

INVITED PAPERS

PROFESSOR SERGEI VSEKHSVYATSKII, Director, Kiev Observatory, Kiev, U.S.S.R.

The Origin of Comets: Eruptive and Catastrophic Processes in the Solar System

PROFESSOR IRVING MICHELSON, Department of Mechanics and Mechanical Aerospace Engineering, Illinois Institute of Technology

Celestial ELECTROmechanics and Velikovsky's Catastrophism

DR. WILLIS WEBB, Department of Physics, University of Texas (El Paso)

The Electrical Structure of the Earth

PROFESSOR CLAUDE SCHAEFFER,* Chaire d'Archéologie de L'Asie Occidentale, Collège de France

The Destruction of Ancient Cities

DR. WILLIAM MULLEN, Hodder Fellow in the Humanities, Princeton University
Myth and the Science of Catastrophism: The Mesoamerican Record

DR. IMMANUEL VELIKOVSKY, author of *Worlds in Collision*, *Earth in Upheaval*, *Ages in Chaos*, and *Oedipus and Akhnaton*

Man and the Universe at the Dawn of the Space Age

*Owing to his excavation responsibilities and the unsettled Middle East situation, Professor Schaeffer's participation in the symposium was not finally confirmed as of January 10, 1974.

INVITED SPEAKERS

PROFESSOR IRVING MICHELSON

Professor Michelson teaches in the Department of Mechanics and Mechanical Aerospace Engineering, Illinois Institute of Technology (Chicago). The author of *World Understanding* (1965), *The Science of Fluids* (1969), and *Tide Theory* (1972), he discovered the interrelationship of earth-moon-sun distances and their mass ratios (1964). He introduced the reciprocity concept in planetary mechanics and gave an explanation for earth's rotational speed value (1965-66). In 1965 he offered a new formulation of ocean tide theory. Since 1970 he has written a newspaper column, "Professor at the Breakfast Nook."

Professor Michelson took his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in aeronautics and mathematics at the California Institute of Technology (1947). Prior to his assignment at I.I.T., he was professor of aerospace engineering and department head at Pennsylvania State University (1957-60). Since 1960 he has also been a member of the Faculté des Sciences de Nancy (France).

He is a member of the American Astronomical Society, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (chairman, education commission, 1959-61), the American Society for Engineering Education, Sigma Xi, and Kappa Psi. He participated as one of six panelists in the February 25, 1974 symposium, "Velikovsky's Challenge to Science," at the AAAS convention.

DR. WILLIAM MULLEN

Currently the Hodder Fellow in the Humanities at Princeton University, Dr. Mullen's efforts are directed toward creating a new translation and commentary on the Pyramid Texts. From 1964-71 he took his undergraduate (Harvard) and graduate (University of Texas—Austin) degrees in classics. From 1971-73 he taught at the University of California (Berkeley) in the departments of classics and comparative literature and the division of interdisciplinary general studies.

Dr. Mullen maintains an interest in the mythological and psychological implications of Velikovsky's work, concentrating particularly on Egyptian and Mesoamerican sources in his mythological studies. He spent the summer of 1970 in Princeton, assisting Velikovsky in researching Egyptological details for *Ages in Chaos*.

PROFESSOR CLAUDE SCHAEFFER

One of the world's foremost archaeologists, Professor Schaeffer has extensive experience in fieldwork throughout western Asia. He served as Curator, Prehistoric, Roman and Early Medieval Museum, Strasbourg (1921-32); Curator, Coins and Medals Department, Strasbourg University (1926-32); Curator, French National Museum (1933-46); and Director of Research, National Center of Scientific Research, Paris.

As director of the Ras Shamra expedition from 1929-70, Professor Schaeffer discovered the Canaanite alphabetic cuneiform records. He has also directed expeditions to Cyprus, and Malatya, Turkey. From 1954-59 he was Honorary Professor, Collège de France. Among his many other recognitions, he is Honorary Fellow, St. John's College (Oxford); Honorary Member, Royal Academy of Denmark and Belgian Royal Academy; Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy; Honorary Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland; and recipient of the Gold Medal from the Society of Antiquaries (1958).

He has been named an honorary citizen of Syria and Cyprus.

Professor Schaeffer's publications include *Ugaritica* (vols. I-VII); *Missions en Chypre*; *Alasia* (vol. I); and *Stratigraphie comparée et Chronologie de l'Asie occidentale*.

DR. IMMANUEL VELIKOVSKY

(See accompanying biography)

PROFESSOR SERGEI VSEKHSVYATSKII

Occupying the head chair in astronomy at Kiev University, Professor Vsekhsvyatskii is director of the Kiev Astronomical Observatory. He discovered the laws of comet disintegration, the characteristics of the structure and rotation of the sun's corona, and the existence of ice in comet nuclei. He developed the theory of comet ejection from the outer planets and, following this, pursued investigations concerning the eruptive development of the planets.

Professor Vsekhsvyatskii graduated from the Faculty of Physics and Mathematics at Moscow University in 1925. From 1924 he was a scientific worker, and later scientific secretary of the Astrophysics Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences. He defended his candidate thesis in 1929, and his doctoral thesis in 1935. From 1935-39 he was a scientist at the Pulkova Observatory. In 1939 he was elected head of the Faculty of Astronomy at Kiev University.

His publications include: *General Catalog of the Absolute Sizes of Comets* (1933, 56); *The Origin of Comets* (1933); *The Annual Variation of Solar Activity* (1960); and *Volcanoes, the Earth and Outer Space*.

DR. WILLIS WEBB

Dr. Webb is a lecturer in the Physics Department, University of Texas (El Paso), and Research Meteorologist, Atmospheric Sciences Laboratory, White Sands Missile Range. He earned his Ph.D. degree in atmospheric sciences, Colorado State University, after taking a B.S. degree in mathematics (Southern Methodist University, Dallas) and an M.S. degree in meteorology (University of Oklahoma—Norman).

Dr. Webb is editor, author, or contributor to some 40 technical books and papers dealing with the earth's upper atmosphere and electrical structure. He has made scores of scientific presentations on these same subjects to learned societies. From 1962-66 he served as associate editor, *Journal of Applied Meteorology*, and he is the editor for the *Progress in Astronautics and Aeronautics Series* published by the American Institute of Astronautics and Aeronautics (AIAA). He acts as a reviewer for the *Journal of Geophysical Research*, *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences*, and *Journal of Astronautics and Aeronautics*. From 1963 to the present he has chaired the Technical Review Panel, Atmospheric Sciences Laboratory.

Dr. Webb is a member of the American Meteorological society, American Geophysical Union, and the AIAA.

A FEW ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS IN THE MCMASTER SYMPOSIUM

Professor Ernest Angino

Chairman, Department of Geology, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas

Professor Albert Burgstahler

Department of Chemistry, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas

Professor Martin Dickson

Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey

Professor Alan Gowans

Chairman, Department of History in Art, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia

Dr. Hilton Hinderliter

Department of Physics, Pennsylvania State University, New Kensington, Pennsylvania

Dr. Euan McKie

Assistant keeper, Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow, Scotland

Dr. C. J. Ransom

Project Aerosystems Engineer, Convair Aerospace Division, General Dynamics Corporation, Fort Worth, Texas

Professor Lynn E. Rose

Department of Philosophy, State University of New York, Buffalo, New York

Professor Albert Schatz

Division of Curriculum and Instruction, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Professor Robert Schneider

Department of Classical Languages, Berea College, Berea, Kentucky

Professor Lynn Trainor

Department of Physics, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEADING SCHOLARS TO EVALUATE THE CATASTROPHIST THEORIES OF IMMANUEL VELIKOVSKY

Vital Facts

International Symposium: "Velikovsky and the Recent History of the Solar System"

Host: McMaster University, Hamilton (Toronto), Ontario, Canada

Date: June 17-19, 1974

Sponsor: Student Academic Freedom Forum, publisher of *Pensee* magazine

Immediate priority: **Scholars and students wishing to participate in the symposium should contact the organizers immediately (address given below)**

Story

After enduring a two-decades-long exclusion from the councils of legitimate science, Dr. Immanuel Velikovsky and his theories about the Earth's past will provide the focus for a major international symposium next June at McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. Organized by the Student Academic Freedom Forum (STAFF), the interdisciplinary symposium will draw together such internationally recognized scholars as Soviet astronomer Sergei Vsekhsvyatskii, French archaeologist Claude Schaeffer, and Velikovsky himself. STAFF expects 250 registrants for the symposium.

In 1950 Velikovsky published the bestseller, *Worlds in Collision*, in which he drew upon ancient records to show that the Earth has suffered devastating catastrophes during historical times. He ascribes these cataclysms to the near-collision of planets. Many events described in the Bible and other documents from around the world are directly related to these catastrophes, he maintains.

Once scorned by many scientists, Velikovsky's claims have received impressive confirmation from space probes and other researches. Many long-closed doors are now opening before him. During August, 1972, he was the subject of a major symposium at Lewis and Clark College (Portland, Oregon), and he was invited to speak at the NASA Ames Research Center in California. Last December 10 the one-time heretic scientist addressed the staff at NASA Langley Research Center in Virginia, and on February 25 his work will be the subject of a symposium at the annual convention of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in San Francisco.

Next May, for the first time, Velikovsky will receive an honorary degree for his life "as a humanitarian, a humanist, and a scientist," from the University of Lethbridge, Alberta.

The McMaster University symposium is now open for applications from those who wish to participate or attend as observers. For application forms, write or call Symposium, Student Academic Freedom Forum, P.O. Box 414, Portland, Oregon 97207. Tel. (503) 226-1237.

Background information on Velikovsky is on the reverse side of this sheet.

EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND MATERIAL IS IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE FROM THE CONTACT CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING:

1. Biography of Invited Speakers.
2. Velikovsky's theories and their current scientific status: comments from scientists and scholars around the world.
3. The "Velikovsky Affair"—the controversy surrounding Velikovsky.
4. The Student Academic Freedom Forum and *Pensee*.

IMMANUEL VELIKOVSKY: A SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Immanuel Velikovsky was born in Vitebsk, Russia, in 1895. His formal schooling began in Moscow at Medvednikov Gymnasium, from which he graduated with full honors. Following a brief period of study at Montpellier, France, and travels in Palestine, he began pre-medical studies in natural science at Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1914. When his schooling abroad was interrupted by the outbreak of World War I, Velikovsky enrolled in the Free University in Moscow and for a few years studied law and ancient history. Meanwhile, in 1915 he resumed work toward a medical degree at the University of Moscow, and in 1921 he received his medical diploma.

The next few years Velikovsky spent in Berlin, where he and Prof. Heinrich Loewe founded and published *Scripta Universitatis* with funds supplied by Velikovsky's father. In this series of volumes, conceived as a cornerstone for what would become the University of Jerusalem, contributions from outstanding Jewish scholars in all countries were published in their native languages and in Hebrew translation. The late Albert Einstein edited the mathematical-physical volume of the *Scripta*.

In Berlin Velikovsky met and married violinist Elisheva Kramer of Hamburg. Later the same year the young couple moved to Palestine, and the doctor began his practice of medicine. For fifteen years this practice—first as a general practitioner in Jerusalem, and later, after psychiatric training in Europe, as a psychoanalyst in Haifa and Tel Aviv—occupied most of Velikovsky's time. Nevertheless, he published a number of papers on psychology, some in Freud's *Imago*. In one paper, to which Prof. Eugen Bleuler wrote a preface, Velikovsky was the first to suggest that pathological encephalograms would be found characteristic of epilepsy; distorted and accentuated brain waves of epileptics were later found to be important clinical diagnostic symptoms. He also conceived a plan for an academy of science in Jerusalem and started a new series, *Scripta Academica*, to which Prof. Chaim Weizmann, president of the World Zionist Organization and a noted scientist, contributed the first monograph in biochemistry. This series was dedicated to the memory of Velikovsky's father, who had died in Palestine in December 1937.

Velikovsky also had an idea for a book, and to complete the necessary research he decided to interrupt his practice for an extended visit to America. The Velikovskys and their two school-age daughters arrived in New York in the summer of 1939, and the doctor plunged into his library research. The intended book had been conceived as an analytic study of Freud's own dreams, as recorded in his writings, and a comparative study of the lives of three personages—Oedipus, Akhnaton, and Moses—who had figured prominently in Freud's thoughts and works.

The research was nearly completed by the spring of 1940, and Velikovsky began to make preparations for the return home. Then, at the last moment before an already-postponed sailing, he chanced upon an idea that was to completely alter his life plans and keep him in America for decades.

Reflecting upon events in the life of Moses, Velikovsky began to speculate: Was there a natural catastrophe at the time of the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt? Could the plagues of Egypt, the hurricane, the parting of the waters, and the smoke, fire, and rumblings of Mt. Sinai described in the Bible have been real and sequential aspects of a single titanic cataclysm of natural forces? If the Exodus took place during—or because of—an upheaval, perhaps some record of the same events has survived among the many documents of ancient Egypt; if so, might not such a record be a clue to the proper place of the Exodus in Egyptian history?

After weeks of search Velikovsky came upon the story he sought. A papyrus bearing a lamentation by one Ipuwer had been preserved in the library of the University of Leiden, Holland, since 1828. Translation of the document by A. H. Gardiner in 1909 had disclosed an account of plague and destruction closely paralleling the Biblical narrative, but the similarities escaped Gardiner's attention. Ipuwer bewailed the collapse of the state and social order during what seemed to be a calamity of natural forces. Mention of Asiatic invaders (Hyksos) made it appear that the sage Ipuwer had witnessed the downfall of the Middle Kingdom (Middle Bronze Age) in Egypt.

In the fall of 1940 Velikovsky traced events similar to those described in the Pentateuch and the Book of Joshua in the literature of ancient Mexico. This confirmed his growing suspicion that the great natural catastrophes that visited the Near East had been global in scale. Immediately he expanded his research to embrace records of all races. The next five or six years he spent developing parallel themes—reconstructions of ancient political history and recent cosmic history—and as month followed month the intimate details of a new concept of the world emerged. Two manuscripts were the product of his labors: *Ages in Chaos* traced Near Eastern history from -1500 to -300; *Worlds in Collision* documented the evidence and sequence of catastrophes on earth and in the solar system.