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Betty Royon tells of coming to Eaton's Pugwash conference

Thus, in July, 1957, 22 participants from 10 nations converged on Pugwash, overcame their initial suspicions of one another, freely exchanged ideas and data on nuclear hazards and agreed on a joint statement of their views for publication.

In his autobiography, Bertrand Russell wrote of this meeting, "Most important of all, it was held in an atmosphere of friendliness. Perhaps the unique characteristic of this and subsequent Pugwash Conferences was the fact that members consorted with each other in their spare time as well as during the scheduled meetings, and grew to know each other as human beings rather than merely as scientists of this or that potentially inimical belief or nation. This most important characteristic was in large part made possible by the astute understanding of Cyrus Eaton of the situation and what we wished to accomplish and by his tactful hospitality."

CYRUS EATON died in 1979, but the Pugwash Conferences of scientists go on. To date, there have been 32 of them, now officially known as the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs (PCOSWA), plus innumerable regional symposia and workshops. Early on, the Conferences as well as their participants took to traveling. A full-time, paid Secretariat has been established in London, and the location of the Conferences now alternates between East and West from year to year.

A permanent Council and Executive Committee meet regularly betwen plenary meetings, and a fairly frequent Newsletter keeps one and all informed of Pugwash activities around the world. National Groups operate at home between Conferences in the countries of Pugwash participants.

Subjects of discussion have been broadened to include, for example, problems of developing countries. The Fifth Conference, held in Pugwash itself in 1959, turned completely away from nuclear hazards to the fearsome peril of biological and chemical Warfare. At present, some 2,000 scientists from 75 countries constitute the active membership of the Pugwash Movement.

An impressive and fitting 25th Anniversary Commemorative Meeting of PCOSWA was convened in Pugwash this past summer, under the joint sponsorship of the Canadian Pugwash Group and Mrs. Cyrus Eaton (Anne Kinder, HBS '40). Anne was the dedicated partner of her late husband in the quest for better international udnerstanding, and she continues to work energetically to keep the "Spirit of Pugwash" alive.