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Lawrence Dorr Provides Thaw

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in its development. It is thought that Moon came from that region which is now the Pacific Ocean. Another idea is that Moon was formed separately at the same time that Earth and other planets were being formed. A third way of explaining the existence of Moon is that it was formed at some distance from Earth and later captured by Earth. Haskin said that although examination of Moon rocks has revealed much about the structure and formation of Moon, such analysis has not conclusively eliminated any of these theories.

Yet, examination of the more than 2,000 samples of lunar material has revealed a great deal about the composition of Moon, professor Haskin explained. First, the density of Moon is found to be much less than that of Earth. Although Earth has a radius which is only four times that of Moon, its mass is 80 times as great. Haskin pointed out that craters scattered over the face of Moon were found to be of two types. The first, a smaller number, were lava craters that were found mainly on the side of Moon facing Earth. These were covered with black material which was found to be basalt similar to lava from earth craters.

The outer crust of Moon is thicker on the back side, and the head of lava did not have sufficient pressure to break through here as it did on the front side of Moon where the crust is thinner in many places. Also observed in the lava craters were rills or empty meandering beds through which the molten lava had once flowed, and wrinkle ridges caused by extreme pressure from beneath the crust. A second type of crater on the Moon is of impact origin. According to Haskin, these arose even prior to the lava craters and are more numerous.

Although the density of Moon is close to that of chondritic meteorites, analysis of Moon rocks reveals a composition differing greatly from that of the chondrites. The barium concentration is ten-to-one-hundred times greater than that found in chondrites. Also, much less gold, iridium, nickel, and cobalt are found in Moon rocks than in Earth rocks and chondrites, and no sulfides are found to any extent on the surface of the Moon.

Dr. Haskin feels that the large difference in element composition seems to indicate a great amount of differentiation early in Moon's development, during which many elements became enriched in Moon's crust, and others became depleted by moving into regions below the crust. Because the amount of sulfides present is only one fifth that of Earth, Haskin believes that the average material on Moon must have condensed at a much higher temperature than on Earth, allowing the rather volatile sulfides to escape.

The time scale in Moon's development has been estimated by radio-isotope dating of the various rock samples collected from many places on the surface of Moon. Accretion and separation of the crust is estimated at 4.6 billion years, according to Haskin. He stated that the last major impacts to cause craters were about 4 billion years ago. He also said that vulcanism had begun by 3.9 billion and ended by 3.2 billion years ago, whereas bright crater Copernicus and bright crater Tycho were formed 800 million and 100 million years ago, respectively.

Edwin J. Geels

Lawrence Dorr Provides Thaw

Christian fiction writer Lawrence Dorr gave us a touch of warmth during our long, cold winter. He flew up from Florida to spend two days in February with us, and obviously relished the crunching of snow under his feet and the freezing of his breath on his beard.

He appeared in various classes to discuss some of the stories contained in his book *A Slow, Soft River.* The stories are

not easy, but students obviously found them or the writer worthwhile, for the bookstore soon sold all their copies of his book.

"I eat everything, but I do have an accent," Dorr, who was born in Hungary, had written before his visit, but what strikes the reader about Dorr's stories is that they are not *written* in an accent. That is, like Conrad and Nabokov before him, Dorr uses the English language with an eloquence that few native speakers demonstrate.

In a public address entitled "The Christian Fiction Writer and the Christian Reader—An Interaction," Dorr spoke candidly of his personal odyssey as a writer: searing war experiences in Europe leading to a loss of faith; consequent wanderings across Europe and England; acquaintance with an English woman—later to become his wife—who brought him to a sense of forgiveness and renewal of faith; and the adoption of a new country through immigration.

Dorr also led a fiction writing workshop in which students read their own stories and Dorr provided critique. His evaluation was honest and incisive, but also constructive, so that while students at times felt themselves on the hot seat, they nevertheless recognized the positive character of the critique.

The Dordt community was strengthened by the visit of Lawrence Dorr. We look forward to more of his fiction, for it gives us a clearer glimpse of Christian hope in a fallen world.

Hugh Cook

Conference on Business and Economic Affairs

The Conference on Business and Economic Affairs, held February 27 and 28, 1978, at Dordt College, was sponsored by the Department of Business Administration and Economics, and the Special Events Committee. Visiting scholars were Dr. Marvin G. DeVries, Dean of the F. E. Seidman Graduate School of Business and Administration of the Grand Valley Colleges, Allendale, Michigan, and Dr. George Monsma, Chairman of the Department of Economics and Business of Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Dr. DeVries spoke on the topic, "How to Cope with Inflation and Unemployment." He noted many underlying causes of inflation. The problem is not simple, and there is no evident simple solution. An overexpansion of the supply of money, a considerable spread between "current" dollars and "real" dollars (such as wages earned compared with their buying power), pressures on food prices (caused to some extent by adverse weather conditions), the emergence of an energy problem and a dramatic increase in the cost of oil—a persisting fear of a depression—all these factors have augmented inflation.

Other contributing causes are federal debt increases, increases in minimum-wage rates, unfavorable balances of trade, the labor wage-price push, and the mere expectation of inflation. For a long time we have experienced an acceptable, unanticipated inflation rate of 4%; now it seems that we have an anticipated, but unacceptable, inflation rate of 5-7%.

Dr. DeVries offered several suggestions on how to deal with the inflation problem. Fiscal policy, involving taxation and government expenditures, must be evaluated for effectiveness. Monetary policy, involving availability of money and credit, must also be critically evaluated. Wage-price controls could be considered, although they typically deal with symptoms rather than root causes. The government should continue to try to persuade business, labor, and consumers to avoid decisions which cause or increase inflation.

In regard to the problem of unemployment also, we must recognize that there