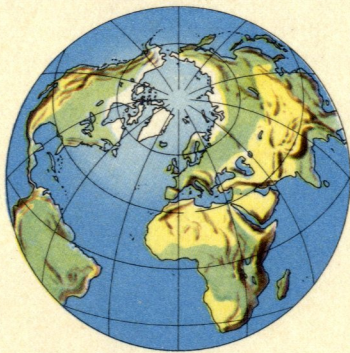




*welcome  
to  
the  
National  
Geographic  
Society...*





# The National Geographic Society

Through the Board of Trustees at  
a meeting held in Washington District of  
Columbia in the United States of America  
has elected

Doctor Hans Thirring

a member of that Society

In Witness Whereof, this certificate has been  
signed and presented



Thomas W. McKnew  
Secretary

January 1, 1961



# The National Geographic Society

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

January 1, 1961

Dear New Member:

We are glad to have you come "exploring" with us as a member of the National Geographic Society.

The Board of Trustees and Officers welcome your support of The Society's world-wide work; exploration, scientific research, and the spread of geographic knowledge. We hope and believe your affiliation will be a benefit and pleasure to all in your household.

Inscribed with your name on our Membership rolls are names of many men and women who played important parts in the great events of the past 73 years . . . immortals in exploration . . . outstanding scientists . . . leaders in national and community life at home and abroad.

The membership has included many Presidents of the United States and ranking personages in governmental, educational, and cultural activities the world over. As Members or Trustees of The Society, these leaders have helped carry on the program begun three-quarters of a century ago.

Your Society has sponsored more than 160 scientific expeditions and research projects. Its work in promoting knowledge of flight spans the entire Air Age and keeps apace with the Space Age. The National Geographic Society-U. S. Army Air Corps Stratosphere exploration in 1935 was the first probe of "space" for scientific information. The balloon Explorer II established the world's official altitude record for manned flight at that time, a record which held for the long period of twenty-one years. . .

. . . and in 1960 the National Aeronautic and Space Administration requisitioned GEOGRAPHIC staffman Luis Marden as the official photographer for "Project Mercury," its man-carrying space rocket.

You may ask how The Society grew from a tiny beginning into the world's largest educational and scientific organization.

The answer is simple. The 33 distinguished scientists and educators who began this useful work nominated for Membership their friends and associates of active, inquiring mind.

Members in all walks of life have enthusiastically joined with these founders of The Society by proposing in turn their friends for Membership and Gift Membership. The rest of the story is chain reaction.

(Over)



We urge you to take part in this important activity. It will please and compliment your friends without obligating you or them. It is the means by which your Society has become a potent force for the increase of human knowledge.

Growth through nominations and presentation of Gift Memberships has enabled us to produce a NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC magazine which sets the world standard in publishing for number and quality of color pages . . . for thorough, perceptive writing . . . for entertaining, informative presentations of great breadth and penetration . . . for its renowned map supplements.

The Society's Membership Year is concurrent with the calendar year. Your Membership, attested by the enclosed Certificate, will date from January 1, 1961. Each month during the period covered by your dues you will receive the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, beginning with the January 1961 issue.

For further information about your Membership privileges and benefits, you will want to read thoroughly the enclosures accompanying your Certificate.

I cordially invite you to visit your Society's headquarters whenever you are in Washington. Our Explorers Hall Museum contains many interesting exhibits of Society expeditions and research activities around the world.

Sincerely yours,

*Thomas W. F. Frew*  
Secretary

