



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization
Egyesült Nemzetek
Nevelésügyi, Tudományos és
Kulturális Szervezete

Hungarian
National Commission
for UNESCO

Az UNESCO Magyar
Nemzeti Bizottsága



WORLD
SCIENCE
FORUM
BUDAPEST

Motto:

„UNESCO is the only organization in the United Nations family which has science inscribed in its name.”

Koichiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO

World Science Forum, Budapest,
4-7 November, 2015

Thematic Session
Science for Peace

UNESCO: When, How and Why the ‘S’; and its consequences

Miklós Réthelyi

President of the Hungarian National Commission
of UNESCO



Sixty Years of Science at UNESCO



1945–2005

UNESCO Publishing

UNESCO Publishing, 2006



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The eminent zoologist and popularizer of science, **Julian Huxley** (1887-1975), first Director General of UNESCO, 1946-48

Sixty years of science at
UNESCO, 2006, p. 41

UNESCO
ITS PURPOSE
AND ITS PHILOSOPHY

by
JULIAN HUXLEY

PREPARATORY COMMISSION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION

1946



II. A PHILOSOPHY FOR UNESCO

But in order to carry out its work, an organisation such as Unesco needs not only a set of general aims and objects for itself, but also a working philosophy, a working hypothesis concerning human existence and *its* aims and objects, which will dictate, or at least indicate, a definite line of approach to its problems. Without such a general outlook and line of approach, Unesco will be in danger of undertaking piecemeal and even self-contradictory actions, and will in any case lack the guidance and inspiration which spring from a belief in a body of general principles.

Naturally the scope of Unesco's activities has been much enlarged and often redefined in slightly different terms. I can truthfully say that my two and half years at Unesco were the high point of my life, a time when all my capacities and all my knowledge and energies were fully involved. I fervently hope and indeed confidently expect that Unesco will continue along the same general lines as a promoter of cultural advance and mutual understanding, but always on the lookout for new problems and new ways of tackling them.

From an interview with Sir Julian Huxley recorded in 1970.



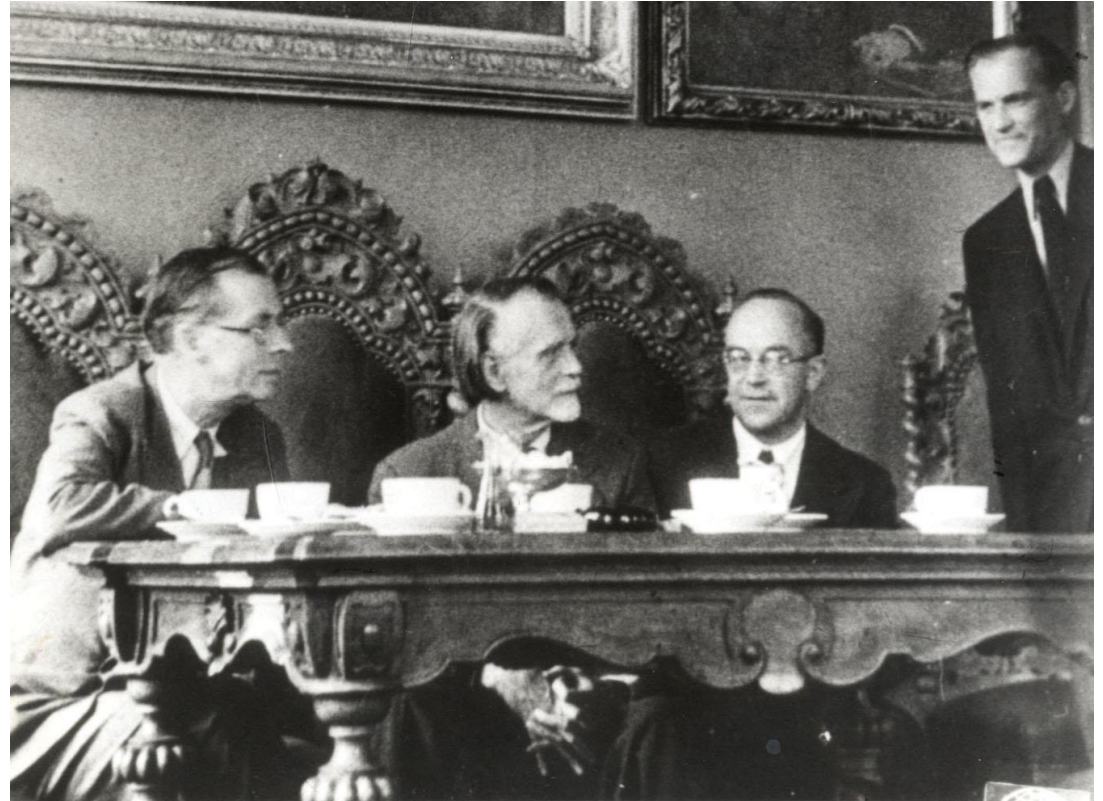
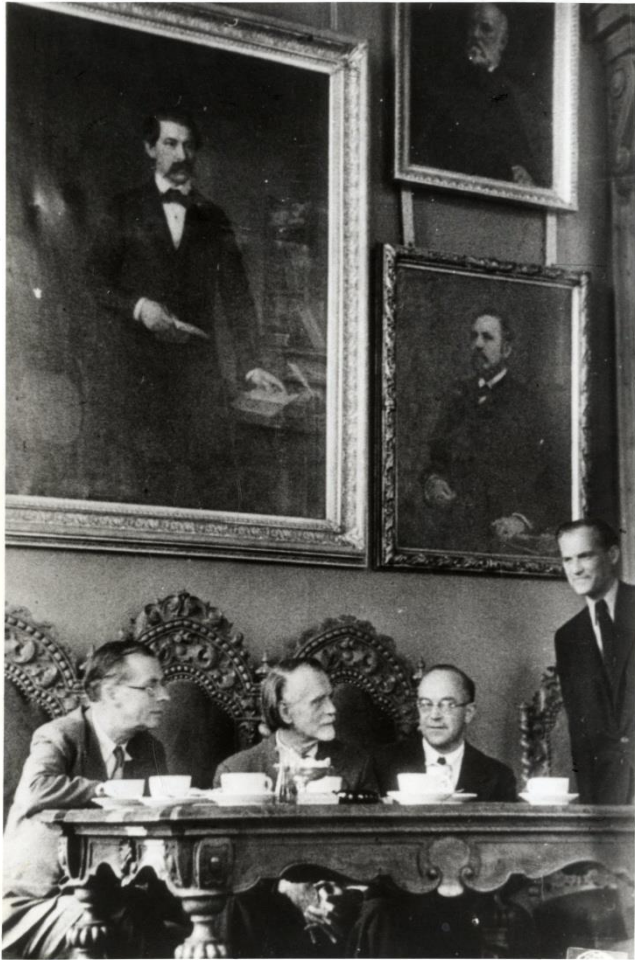
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Joseph Needham (1900-1995) biochemist, Head of Natural Sciences Section, 1946-1948

Sixty years of science at
UNESCO, 2006, p. 44

UNESCO is an agency for peace through active international cooperation. In the field of scientific cooperation and service, we have one of the immediately effective means of accomplishing this. This is partly because scientific research is essentially and traditionally international and cooperative, and also because the applications of scientific knowledge to human welfare, if properly made, can be one of the most effective methods of removing some of the causes of war (UNESCO, 1946).

Lecture of Julian Huxley in the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, July 18, 1948



Julian Huxley

Zoltán Kodály,
president of the
Hungarian Academy of
Sciences

Aladár Beznák,
professor of
physiology