

Symmetry: Culture and Science

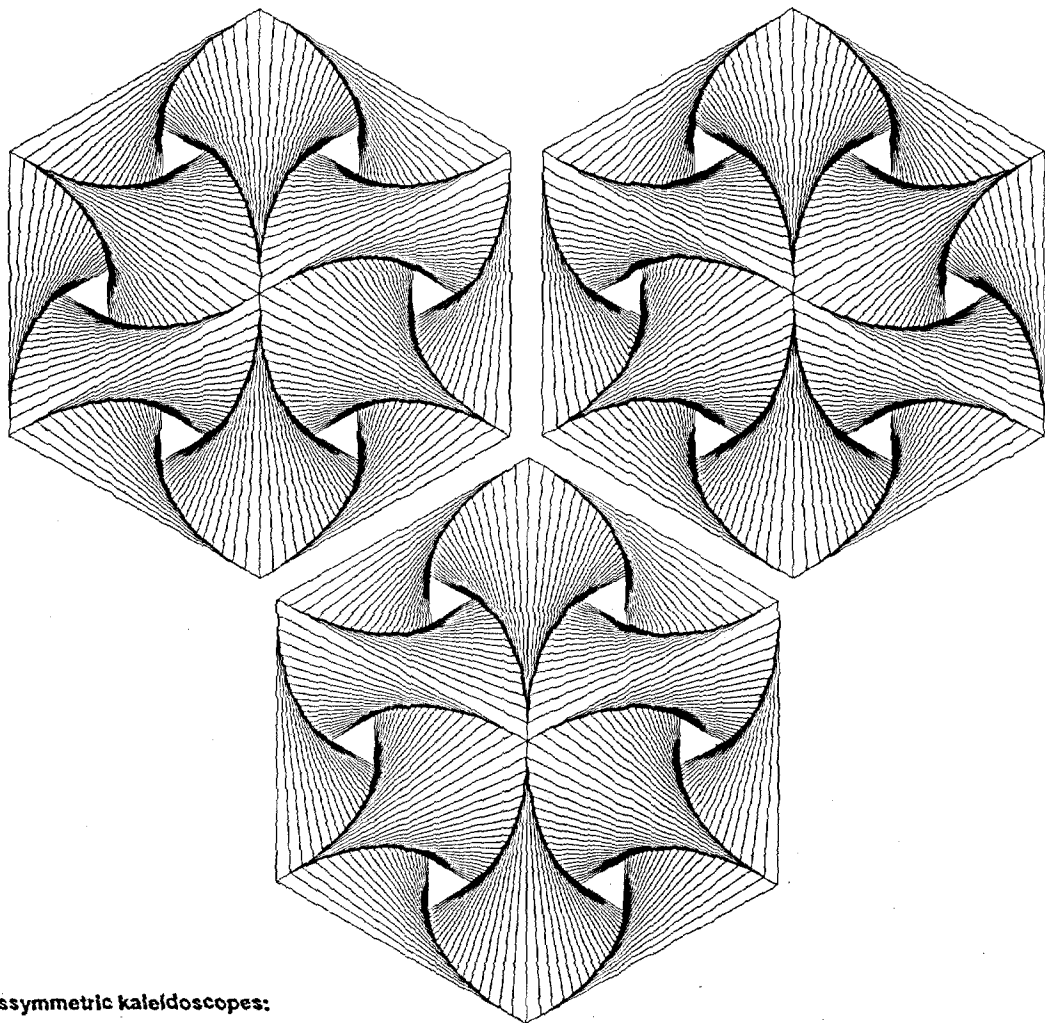


SPECIAL ISSUE
Symmetry in a Kaleidoscope 2

The Quarterly of the
International Society for the
Interdisciplinary Study of Symmetry
(ISIS-Symmetry)

Editors:
György Darvas and Dénes Nagy

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Dissymmetric kaleidoscopes:
Hommage à Pasteur

Last, but not least, let us turn to a very concrete point. The main goal of ISIS-Symmetry is to help the personal interaction of interested scholars and artists, educators and students. The printed quarterly and the electronic journal supplement of ISIS-Symmetry — together with the related correspondence — are very useful in maintaining the connection at some level, but cannot substitute for real discussions. The *hot* atmosphere in a lecture room, the strong debate at a round table, or a quiet chat at a remote corner of the conference building (all of them are frequent visiting places for the muses!) may give inspirations and ideas much more quick than the readings. The central forum of the Society is the triennial symposium. This issue includes — supplementing the preliminary announcement in the previous issue — the *Call for papers, workshop topics, and exhibition items* for the Second Interdisciplinary Symmetry Symposium and Exhibition in 1992.

Let there be (dis)symmetry!

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SYMMETRY IN A KALEIDOSCOPE, 2

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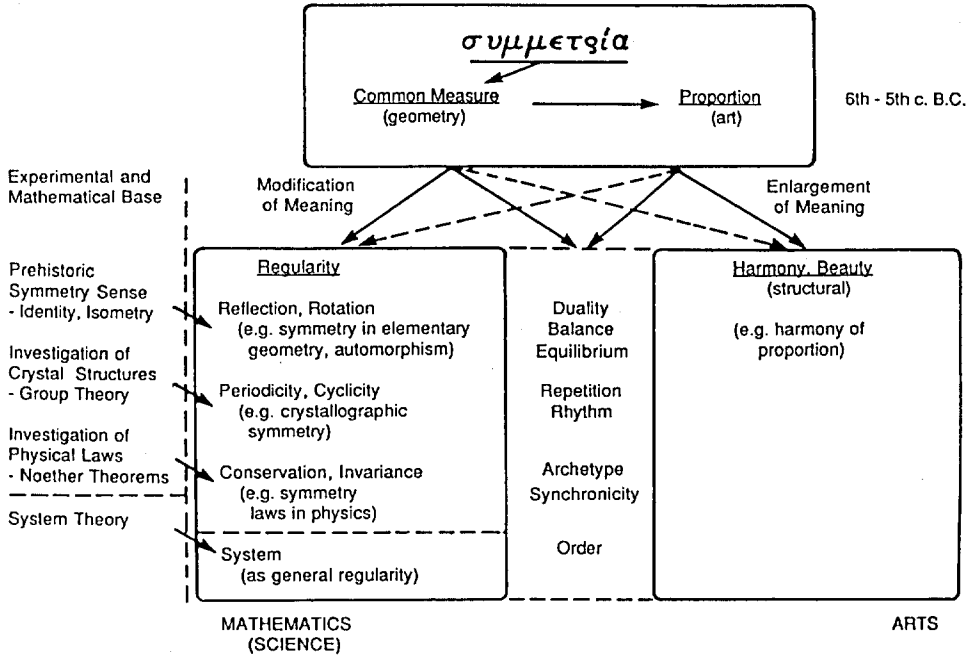
The collection presents the "kaleidoscopic" views of many scholars and artists on symmetry, and introduces the contributors in a sort of *Who's Who* in the field.

Thus this "kaleidoscope" can be turned symmetrically in both directions:
counter-clockwise to see some foci of the earlier symposium
Symmetry of Structure (Budapest, August 1989)
and clockwise to see the perspectives of
future cooperations...

The editors would like to thank the contri-symmetro-butors for their cooperation and patience.

THREE QUESTIONS: THREE AXES OF SYMMETRY

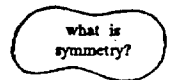
The concept of symmetry, having its roots in both ancient geometry and aesthetics, has become a central concept in modern science and art. The meaning of symmetry is broad enough to serve as a "pillar" of some "bridges" between the two sides of our split culture.



The roots and the modern meanings of symmetry
(after Dénes Nagy, 1988)

Aiming to help the discussion between various fields of art, sciences, and technology, we asked some representatives to answer the same three questions in short essays.

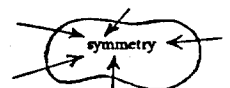
1. The methodological and heuristic role played by symmetry (and asymmetry) in your field of study and cultural circle.



2. The interdisciplinary impact of symmetry -- as used in your field -- on other scientific and/or cultural spheres ("output").



3. The special meaning of symmetry influenced by your cultural background (external effects, "input").



These three axes of symmetry direct all the contributions, except the first paper.