

In 1926, on the occasion of the third international conference, representatives of the Georgist movement around the world decided to formalize their relationship and established the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade — which now has the subtitle of International Georgist Union.

This Union was not expected to direct or co-ordinate action, but just see to it that international conferences were regularly held, to maintain a registry of members and to make it easy for Georgists to contact colleagues around the world. The Union decided then to take advantage of the Georgist magazine *Land and Liberty*, published since 1894, and use it for information.

It was never supposed that the International Union should actively initiate the promotion of Georgist ideas, other than at conferences if opportunities arose, but it would of course respond to enquiries received at its headquarters. Promotion was to be taken care of by Georgists and their organizations working at national and local level.

Through the years there have been 22 international Georgist conferences, and the IU is preparing the 23rd, which is planned to take place in Scotland in 2001.

At the three latest international Georgist conferences a growing number of members expressed the view that the International Union should strengthen its image, and have both individual and corporate members and affiliates, and be able to offer contact to people of knowledge and competence in Georgist related matters such as incentive tax collection, incentivization of sustain-

International Georgist Conferences

1. Ronda, Spain — May 1913
2. Oxford, England — August 1923
3. Copenhagen, Denmark — July 1926
4. Edinburgh, Scotland — July 1929
5. London, England — September 1936
6. New York, USA — August 1939
7. Swanwick, England — August 1949
8. Odense, Denmark — July 1952
9. St. Andrews, Scotland — August 1955
10. Hanover, Germany — July 1959
11. New York, USA — August 1964
12. Caswell Bay, Wales — September 1968
13. Isle of Man, England — Sept. 1973
14. San Francisco, USA — July 1979
15. Utrecht, Holland — July 1982
16. Cambridge, England — August 1984
17. Vancouver, Canada — May 1986
18. Philadelphia, USA — July 1989
19. London, England — March 1991
20. Melbourne, Australia — Sept. 1993
21. Roskilde, Denmark — July 1995
22. Brighton, England — July 1997
23. Planned to be in Scotland — 2001

able use of resources, best possible use of resources, minimizing of urban sprawl, development of cities and housing, abolishing of national financial debts, etc.

At the latest international Georgist conference in Brighton in 1997, the centennial anniversary of Henry George's death, Georgists reviewed past successes and failures of the promotion of the Georgist ideas over the years. They confirmed their determination to use the opportunities open to them at the start of the 21st century.

A tremendous need was seen for modernization of tools and methods, particularly in the areas of outreach and research.

The Internet has made the world smaller; computerized analysis has made land valuation potentially easier than ever before. The IU has taken its first important step toward effective use of technology by getting on the Net, and more will follow; look for our new site at: www.interunion.org.uk.

We seek to explore every available opportunity for dialogue with other organizations that search to find and strive to abolish the causes of poverty. Vital in this area is our work as a United Nations' Non-Governmental Organization. IU representatives Pat Aller and Alanna Hartzok have both taken advantage of this platform for years, but we know of several other Georgists who are in contact with officers in the UN administration offering their advice.

In order to strengthen this NGO endeavour the IU's Executive Committee has decided to apply to NGO for consultative status in Economic and Social matters (see page 17). The greatest problem in that respect has been that the decentralized structure of the Georgist movement did not look very impressive from outside. Therefore the task of preparing the application to NGO for consultative status has merged with the Campaign for more Corporate Members.

In April 1999 it was agreed by IU's Executive Committee that the President of the International Union, Dr. Robert V. Andelson, should send out invitations to a host of Georgist organizations that it was believed would be ready to join the International Union, either as a full corporate member with the right to vote at IU's General Business Meetings and pay the required fee UK£15, or as an associate corporate member, with no right to vote and no fee to pay. By now, fifty-five Georgist organizations have joined as corporate members, and we hope that even more organizations around the globe will accept the invitation and agree with the aim of the International Union (see our back cover), thereby strengthening the image of the Georgist movement even more.

Finally, we hope to see all of you next year in Scotland!

