

ESHS meeting, Budapest, July 29, 2009

Attendants:

Board: Helge Kragh, Eberhard Knobloch, Sona Strbanova, Leonardo Gariboldi, Erwin Neuenschwander, Ida Stamhuis.

Scientific Council: Suzanne Débarbat, Robert Fox, Hermann Hunger, Michal Kokowski, Henrique Leitão, Antoni Roca-Rosell, Éva Vámos.

Other attendants: Claude Debru, Hans Joachim Braun.

The President greets the attendants and shortly illustrates the agenda.

1) Candidates for the next elections.

The Secretary reminds that the next elections will be held during the Barcelona congress in 2010.

Candidates for the President-elect, the Secretary, the Web-master, and the Newsletter-editor have to be advanced. The Council is invited to send to the Secretary the names of possible candidates.

According to the Constitution, Helge Kragh will serve as Vice-president, and Sona Strbanova as President.

The treasurer, Erwin Neuenschwander, and the P.R. officer, Raffaele Pisano, can be re-elected.

All the members of the Scientific Council can be re-elected once.

2) New web-master and web-site.

The current Web-master has to be substituted.

The Secretary asks that, if possible, a temporary Web-master should be found before the Barcelona congress as soon as possible. The Council is invited to send any suggestion to the Secretary. In any case, a new Web-master will be elected in Barcelona.

3) Centaurus (editor, fees, etc.).

Ida Stamhuis relates about Centaurus. Her letter is distributed among the attendants (See: Attachment 1).

Ida Stamhuis agrees to take over the chief editorship of Centaurus.

Centaurus is formally the ESHS official journal, but at the moment this fact is just a name. Her aim is to connect more strictly Centaurus and the ESHS.

As a result of comparisons with other journals and societies, the subscription prize to Centaurus is too high for the members of the ESHS. All financial matters are but officially in the hands of the publisher.

A small committee is asked to work with the chief editor.

A stand for subscriptions to and information about Centaurus has to be very visible at Barcelona congress.

The Council is invited to send names for a new editorial board.

The editorial board will stimulate people to submit papers and book reviews to Centaurus, and to send proposals for topics.

The Council unanimously decides that the editor of Centaurus will be informally a member of the Council up to Barcelona. The proposal of a modification of the Constitution, in order to have the Chief Editor of Centaurus as a full member of the ESHS Board, will be submitted to the members according to the society rules and voted during the general assembly in Barcelona.

Helge Kragh reminds that there is no formal relation between the Chief Editor of Centaurus and the Aarhus University.

All the suggestions advanced by Ida Stamhuis are appreciated and accepted. The Council agrees to face them before the Barcelona congress.

As in the contract, the journal policy on languages requests that papers can be published only in English. A Text Editor dedicated to Centaurus works for all language aspects of any published papers. Books reviews can be done on books written in any language.

4) Barcelona Congress (programme, invited speakers, grants, brochure, etc.).

Antoni Roca-Rosell relates about the Barcelona congress (See: Attachment 2).

A great programme committee is appointed following the experience of the previous congresses (about 350 proposals of communications, corresponding to 700 referees).

The ESHS congress will be done almost at the same time of the conference of the SCHCT (Societat Catalana d'Història de la Ciència i de la Tècnica). This will be a challenge for the SCHCT (with communications only in English). The ESHS congress will be held on November 18-20. 150 inscriptions to the ESHS are foreseen.

The Institut d'Estudis Catalans is chosen as the main location. The largest room is for 200 people, but there are video-conferences in other rooms.

The registration fees amount to € 150.00 for early registrations. It is more than in the previous congresses, but it is meant as a help to cover all costs. The deadline for early registration is May 7, 2010. After the early registration deadline, there will be an extra-fee of 30%.

The deadline for symposium proposals is Nov 16, 2009. A second circular will be sent in December 2009. The deadline for symposia programs is December 2009. The deadline for grant applications is January 2010. The deadline for abstract commissions is January 2010. The Institut d'Estudis Catalans offers informatic support.

The provisional web-address is: <http://taller.iec.cat/4iceshs/>

The Treasurer reminds that the ESHS will not contribute to the congress costs, but will offer a certain number of grants to cover the congress fees.

Michal Kokowsky highlights that 150 euros is a lot of money for people from Eastern Europe. Also the flight to Barcelona from the East is very high. Antoni Roca-Rosell announces that there will be grants for 50 free registrations, 30 grants for 3 days-stay, 30 grants for travels (€ 200.00), and 3 honoraries in additions to refund costs (in total € 1200.00).

The President discusses the choice of the three plenary speakers: the first one is invited locally, the second one is the future president (Sona Strbanova), and the third one is chosen by the Council.

As for the last plenary speaker, the Council is invited to the send to the Secretary names and motivations. A candidate will be chosen from the final list.

Hermann Hunger reminds that the topic of the plenary lecture should be of general nature, impressive, and connected to the congress theme. Helge Kragh suggests Andrew Warwick.

5) Paypal account.

The Treasurer reports about the difficult situation concerning the Paypal account, as he already described in previous communications to the Council.

The Council decides to close the French Paypal account and to open a new one in Switzerland.

This fact requires that the Society has to be previously registered in Switzerland.

6) Neuenschwander Prize.

Erwin Neuenschwander reports about the Prize to be named after his father. A Foundation connected with the Credit Suisse will be used. A total amount of CHF 150,000 will be given as a Prize.

The Neuenschwander Prize is meant to be given only once as a big prize from the ESHS.

The Council decides to prepare a committee. Erwin Neuenschwander will be a member of the committee.

The Council decides that the announcement will be made in Barcelona. It will also be previously reported in the ESHS newsletter and sent to the national committees of History of Science for circulation.

A statute of the Prize has to be decided: possible limits to the age of the candidate, a book/article/lifetime work, etc.

7) Prize to young historians.

The President suggests that, for the time being, it might be better not to take any action about minor prizes, other than the Neuenschwander Prize.

Robert Fox reminds that there is a growing number of awards for young people, often by journals. It is generally a small amount (a few hundred euros). Leonardo Gariboldi informs about the use of the Italian Physical Society to award prizes to the best communications at the yearly congress.

8) Czech Government and Basic Research.

Sona Strbanova reports about the situation in the Czech Republic (See: Attachment 3). A document from the Czech Academy of Sciences, two articles published on Science (“Czech Science Academy Threatened by Budget Cuts” by Gretchen Vogel, July 7, 2009) and Nature (“Czech researchers angry over government changes” by Quirin Schiermeier), and a proposal of letter are distributed. A resolution is asked to the Council of the ESHS.

Sona Strbanova is asked to distribute in an electronic form all the documentation and to send to the Council a proposal of letter to be sent to the Czech Prime Minister.

9) Workshop in Aarhus.

Helge Kragh reports that the next conference in-between the congress will be held in October 2010 as a joint conference of the ESHS and Institute of Science Studies in Aarhus. The topic of the conference will be about the History of Science in relation with the Teaching of Science. Conference funding will come from local sources. There will be a local committee.

10) Other items.

Robert Fox announces that the Proceedings of the 2005 Oxford meeting are almost ready for publications.

Suzanne Débarbat, Robert Fox and Eberhard Knobloch propose a symposium for the Barcelona congress on “Voyages de scientifiques en Europe depuis le XVIIe siècle”. A description of the symposium’s theme is distributed among the attendants (See: Attachment 4).

The Council accepts the proposed symposium.

Attachment 1.

The future of *Centaurus* and its connection to the European Society for the History of Science

Ida Stamhuis, editor (from September 1, 2009), stamhuis@few.vu.nl

Centaurus. An International Journal of the History of Science and its Cultural Aspects recently celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. It was founded in 1950 as a journal for the history of mathematics, science, and technology.

In 2006 the organizational context of the journal was revised, although there was also continuity. The continuity was that the official scope of the journal remained the same and that its editorial location remained in Aarhus. The change was that the journal became associated with the newly-founded *European Society for the History of Science* (ESHS) and that the contents of the journal covered the areas within the scope of the journal more equably: the history of science in a broad perspective. As a result *Centaurus* is now a modern first quality history of science journal in the English language with a great deal of potential. The moment has now arrived for the process of change to be consolidated and extended.

The following aspects are relevant: Connection with the ESHS – Subscription prize; The profile of the Editorial Board; Submissions; Book Reviews Section.

Connection with the ESHS – Subscription prize

The future of *Centaurus* depends to a large extent on its ties with the ESHS and the future of ESHS is to a large part dependent on its connection to *Centaurus*. This connection will influence the number of members of ESHS and the number and scope of submissions to *Centaurus* as well as the number of subscribers.

1. One option for making *Centaurus* a more structural part of the ESHS is to let the editor be a (maybe special) member of the council of the ESHS.
2. In addition *Centaurus* must have a visible presence at the European Congresses. I propose to organize in Barcelona a workshop 'Publishing in an international history of science journal (such as *Centaurus*)'.
3. Moreover, a manned stand with previous issues must be visibly present at the Congress venue.
4. Scholars who present promising papers will be asked to submit their papers to *Centaurus*.
5. To raise the number of *subscriptions*, an attractive individual subscription price for members of the ESHS is absolutely necessary. I think that by far the best is a combination of membership of ESHS and subscription of *Centaurus* (360 pp). At this moment the prize is € 186 (€ 20 membership ESHS, plus € 166). Comparable prices are HSS/*Isis* (900 pages) € 70, BSHS/*BJHS* (600 pages) € 39. Therefore a prize ESHS/*Centaurus* like € 30 to € 35,- seems reasonable.
6. I will discuss with the publisher in the autumn of 2009 the relationship between ESHS, editor and publisher. **My request to ESHS** is the

appointment of a small *Centaurus Committee*, a think tank with the aim to develop further thoughts how to move on and to participate in the negotiations with the publisher. This committee can then also make a proposal about the embedding of the editor in the ESHS (see point 1).

Editorial Board

The *editorial board* is crucial to the way the journal is perceived. A well functioning group of *associate editors* is essential. Associate editors must be experienced in publishing in international English language history of science journals as well as in reviewing papers submitted to this kind of journals, or they must have comparable expertise. They must be able to motivate potential authors from non-English-speaking European countries to submit their papers to *Centaurus*. They must also be able to serve *Centaurus* by doing suggestions of books to be reviewed and to suggest reviewers. Last but not least they must be willing to dedicate themselves to the journal. Together they must as much as possible cover the whole scope of the journal and represent the various European regions. Terms of appointment are four years.

I look forward to receive names and CV's of potential associate editors.

Submissions

The quality and the significance of the journal are determined by the quality and importance of its submissions. Of prime importance are the normal submissions. Recently special submissions have begun to make the journal more attractive. One is a spotlight section that will bring together a number of shorter articles that focus on a common theme. The hope is that this style will offer contributors the opportunity to raise issues concerning current historiographical discussions. Another new development will be a section for scholarly interaction through a target article with invited commentaries and author response.

I look forward to receive your suggestions and proposals for topics and authors.

Book reviews section

Raf de Bont (Leuven) is the Book Review Editor. He will revalue the Book Review Section and connect it closely to the profile of the journal. **He is eager to receive** your suggestions for books relevant to be reviewed, books in the English language but also in other European languages. Raf.DeBont@arts.kuleuven.be.

Attachment 2

**4th International Conference
of the European Society for the History of Science
Barcelona, 18-20 November 2010**

First Circular

**Hosted by
Societat Catalana d'Història de la Ciència i de la Tècnica (SCHCT)**

**Website:
<http://4eshs.iec.cat>**

1. International Program Committee

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Kragh, Helge | University of Aarhus |
| Arrizabalaga, Jon | CSIC, Barcelona |
| Barona, Josep L. | UV, València |
| Bernabeu, Josep | UA, Alacant |
| Bertomeu, José Ramon | UV, València |
| Bonetta, Stefano M. | US, Milano |
| Calvo, Ángel | UB, Barcelona |
| Camarasa, Josep M. | IEC, Barcelona |
| Capel, Horacio | UB, Barcelona |
| | CARDENAL HERRERA CEU, València |
| Catalá Gorgues, Jesús | Observatoire de Paris |
| Débarbat, Suzanne | MHS, Oxford |
| Fox, Robert | US, Milano |
| Gariboldi, Leonardo | UB, , Barcelona |
| Granada, Miguel A. | UAB, Barcelona |
| Grapí Vilumara, Pere | AAS, Vienna |
| Hunger, Hermann | EPHE, Paris |
| Jacquart, Danielle | TU, Berlin |
| Knobloch, Eberhard | PAS, Cracow |
| Kokowski, Michal | CU, Bratislava |
| Kvasz, Ladislav | UAB, Barcelona |
| Herran, Néstor | UL, Lisbon |
| Leitão, Henrique | UPC, Barcelona |
| Lusa, Guillermo | |

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Martínez-Vidal, Àlvar | UAB, Barcelona |
| Massa-Esteve, M. Rosa | UPC, Barcelona |
| Molero, Jorge | UAB, Barcelona |
| Mülberger, Annette, | UAB, Barcelona |
| Navarro Brotons, Víctor | UV, València |
| Navarro Veguillas, Luis | UB, Barcelona |
| Neuenschwander, Erwin | UZ, Zürich |
| Nieto-Galan, Agustí | UAB, Barcelona |
| Pardo Tomás, José | CSIC, Barcelona |
| Perdigueró, Enric | UMH, Elx |
| Piqueras, Mercè | SCHCT, Barcelona |
| Pisano, Raffaele | Sapienza, Rome |
| Presas-Puig, Albert | UPF, Barcelona |
| Puig, Roser | UB, Barcelona |
| Puig-Pla, Carles | UPC, Barcelona |
| Rius, Mònica | UB, Barcelona |
| Roca-Rosell, Antoni | UPC, Barcelona |
| Roqué, Xavier | UAB, Barcelona |
| Roselló, Vicenç | UV, València |
| Ruiz Castell, Pedro | UAB, Barcelona |
| Sallent Del Colombo, Emma | UB, Barcelona |
| Sánchez Miñana, Jesús | UPM, Madrid |
| Strbanova, Sona | Ich, Prag |
| Vamos, Eva | HMST, Budapest |
| Werrett, Simon | UW, Washington |
| Zarzoso, Alfons | MHM, Terrassa |

Local Organizing Committee

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Grapí Vilumara, Pere | UAB |
| Massa-Esteve, M. Rosa, UPC | UPC |
| Navarro Brotons, Víctor | UV |
| Pardo Tomás, José | CSIC |
| Piqueras, Mercè | SCHCT |
| Puig, Roser | UB |
| Puig-Pla, Carles | UPC |
| Rius, Mònica | UB |
| Roca-Rosell, Antoni | UPC |
| Sallent Del Colombo, Emma | UB |

Conference Secretariat

Carme 47, Barcelona E-08001
 Fax: +34 932 701 180
 e-mail: 4eshs@iec.cat

Program

THE CIRCULATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Historiography has recently acknowledged that circulation of ideas and techniques plays a central role in the understanding of their evolution. Given that science and technology are international achievements, their circulation could be the most distinctive element in their construction. Circulation is not a simple change of geographical place; it carries with it epistemological and philosophical changes as a result of the crossing of cultural and political boundaries. The networks of circulation cover a wide range of local settings, actors, institutions, and interests, both in the production of new science and technology and in the reception and appropriation of known science and technology.

The conference should stimulate studies and debates about the circulation of science and technology: first, the circulation of ideas, theories, methods and practices; second, the circulation of objects, instruments, machines, artefacts, seeds, plants, minerals, drawings, illustrations, inscriptions, paintings...; third, the circulation of texts: manuscripts, printed books, textbooks, journals, letters, book notes; fourth, the circulation of scientists and technicians around the world in “grand tours”, trips for leisure, lecturing, business and industrial espionage; and fifth, the circulation of information about institutional organization, transmission of knowledge, the influence of local contexts, etc.

The organizers encourage all scholars to submit proposals for scientific sessions, symposia and individual papers related to the topic of the Conference.

Scientific Activities

- Plenary lectures given by invited experts;
- Sections covering the history of science, technology and medicine from antiquity to the present;
- Symposia devoted to themes of current interest;
- Poster sessions.

The *XI Trobada d'Història de la Ciència i de la Tècnica* of the SCHCT will be held on November 21th as a satellite event of the 4th International Conference of the ESHS.

Business Meetings

- General Assembly of the ESHS
- General Assembly of the SCHCT (21 November)

Practicalities

1. Dates

18 – 20 November 2010

2. Venue

Institut d'Estudis Catalans (Carme, 47 – Barcelona)

3. Languages

The official language is English.

4. Abstract

All abstracts will be submitted to a peer review process. Abstracts can be sent to the Conference Secretariat until 18th January. The Abstract Form will be available soon. Papers reaching the Conference Secretariat after the deadline will not be accepted. No more than one paper per person will be accepted.

5. Accommodation

The venue of the Conference (IEC) is in the city centre. A number of hotels in this area is available. In addition, this area is very well connected with public transport (see the [map](#)). Therefore, no especial list of hotels will be offered. If you have any doubt, please contact the Conference Secretariat.

6. Registration Fees

Both on-line and off-line registrations will be open in October 2009.

Registration fees:

| | |
|------|-----------------------------|
| 150€ | Before May 17 th |
| 225€ | After May 17 th |

7. Grants

The Local Organizing Committee will provide free registration or accommodation grants to some participants. In allocating this support, preference will be given to applicants facing economic difficulties, as well as young scholars.

Under no circumstances will the LOC contribute to travel expenses.

Applicants should send their Curriculum Vitae and an explanatory letter to the Conference Secretariat before January 18th 2010. Successful applicants will be informed by April 19th 2010.

8. Further Information

The Conference Website will be frequently updated in order to keep participants informed about important information concerning the organization of the Conference.

9. Important Dates

| | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Deadline for symposia proposals | November 16 th 2009 |
| 2nd Circular (Call for Papers, Grant and Registration Information) | December 21 st 2009 |
| Deadline for determination of the symposia programs | December 21 st 2009 |
| Deadline for grant application | January 18 th 2010 |
| Deadline for abstract submission | January 18 th 2010 |
| Deadline for the confirmation of grant applications | April 19 th 2010 |
| Deadline for the accepted/rejected papers | April 19 th 2010 |
| Deadline for early registration | May 17 th 2010 |
| 3rd Circular (Schedule, Preliminary Program) | October 18 th 2010 |
| Abstracts on the web | October 18 th 2010 |
| Opening of the Conference | November 18 th 2010 |

Attachment 3

We are seriously concerned about the imminent liquidation of the Academy of Sciences of the CR and majority of the basic research in the Czech Republic. The unprofessional, confused and unjustified setting of the system of financing research, development and innovation in the CR if implemented will have fatal consequences not only for the ASCR itself but also for the entire Czech society. As a result of the proposal of the Research and Development Council, the institutional budget of the Academy of Sciences of the CR is to be cut by one half over three years, which would lead to the redundancy of many highly qualified experts, to the destruction of the scientific infrastructure and to the liquidation of the current network of academic institutes.

The destruction of the Academy of Sciences of the CR would affect also higher education institutions, with which the ASCR closely cooperates in a number of areas from the guidance of graduate students to instruction in a number of unique and irreplaceable fields. The main victims of the budget thus proposed would be both basic and applied research on the one hand and tertiary education on the other. These immense damages would be unequivocally held against the current Research and Development Council with all of the political, cultural and moral implications.

We, therefore, consider the action of the members of the Council for Research and Development as unsystematic, unqualified and irresponsible. We urge that the Prime Minister of the Government of the CR Jan Fischer alter the composition of the Research and Development Council forthwith in order for it to comprise a truly qualified and responsible body capable of ensuring the needs of research and development in the Czech Republic and the long-term interests of Czech society in this area.

At the same time, we appeal to the government to consider again the overall strengthening of investment in research and development as the best way to face the current economic crisis and to lay the foundations for future advancement and prosperity.

Without quality and universally developed basic research, not even successful applied research can exist and economically effective innovation evolve. Budget cuts precisely in this area would be manifestly counterproductive and would directly contradict the anti-crisis measures of the governments in the developed states of the world.

In Prague, 30 June 2009.

Attachment 4

Voyages de scientifiques en Europe depuis le XVI^e siècle

Proposition de thème pour le Congrès de l'ESHS de Barcelone en 2010

Par Suzanne DÉBARBAT (Observatoire de Paris)

Robert FOX (Museum for the History of Science, Oxford)

Eberhart KNOBLOCH (Technische Universität, Berlin)

Since the sixteenth century, in different contexts and at different periods, European scientists have been notable travellers. Their travels have been undertaken with very diverse motives, ranging from curiosity and pleasure to the systematic gathering of scientific information. Some 'scientific travellers' have sought to advance careers in their discipline. Others have wanted to extend their competence into new areas of enquiry, to collaborate with their peers in other countries, or to foster the exchange of information. Other motives again have included the desire to undertake explorations in fields of research poorly developed in a traveller's own country, 'spying' in the quest for industrial knowledge, and the reinforcement of correspondence networks. The purpose of this session would be to advance our understanding of the voyages that have drawn upon and enriched European science since the sixteenth century and to assess their consequences for science in the early modern and modern periods.

Aux différentes époques, des scientifiques se sont déplacés en Europe (depuis le XVI^e siècle). De tels voyages s'inscrivaient dans des perspectives de connaissances qui pouvaient s'étendre du voyage d'agrément au voyage d'études en passant par des motivations de caractères très diversifiés. Certains souhaitaient se former dans leur discipline, entreprendre des études nouvelles relevant de domaines connexes, mener des opérations en coopération avec un ou plusieurs pays, amorcer des échanges d'informations, ... D'autres entreprenaient des voyages de découvertes sur des thèmes de recherche non encore développés dans leur pays, des déplacements d'espionnage qu'on qualifierait d'industriels à notre époque, d'organisation de collectes de données ou d'informations, de connaissance à l'égard de correspondants épistolaires, de compagnes scientifiquement programmées, ... On s'attachera aux conditions des voyages, permettant de montrer l'importance des échanges, la nature des éléments recueillis, les progrès qui en ont découlé, les influences réciproques remarquées, ...