



MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ESHS ON 6th SEPTEMBER 2014 (LISBON) CENTRO INTERUNIVERSITÁRIO DE HISTÓRIA DAS CIÊNCIAS E DA TECNOLOGIA (CIUHCT)

Date: 6th September 2014

Present: Officers: Fabio Bevilacqua (President), Karine Chemla (President Elect), Soňa Štrbářová (Vice-President), Maria Rosa Massa Esteve (Secretary), Erwin Neuenschwander (Treasurer), Ida Stamhuis (Centaurus Editor), Leonardo Gariboldi (Public Relations), Kostas Skordoulis (Web Master), Frank James (Newsletter editor);

Scientific Council: Olga Elina, Efthymios Nicolaidis, Felicitas Seebacher, Milada Sekyrková, Ana Simões, Annette Vogt; Apologies: Maria Teresa Borgato, Pere Grapi.

Members: About 50

Agenda General Assembly

- 1) President's report
- 2) Election of three auditors
- 3) Election of two scrutineers
- 4) Vice President's report: a six year commitment
- 5) President Elect's report and plan of action
- 6) Editor of Centaurus' report
- 7) Secretary's report
- 8) Treasurer's report
- 9) Neuenschwander prize's report
- 10) Public Relation Officer's report
- 11) Web Manager's report
- 12) A preliminary assessment of the Lisbon Conference (Ana Simoes)
- 13) Towards the Prague 2016 Conference (Milada Sekyrková): vote
- 14) Possibility of a joint 2018 HSS-ESHS Conference (Ida plus Guest)
- 15) Presentation of the candidates for the New Council: vote
- 16) Discussion, proposals of the members
- 17) Closure by the new President

1) The report of the President (Fabio Bevilacqua)

ESHS is a young society whose activities are completely based on the Officers' voluntary work. It is open to individual and institutional members. Annual individual membership fee is minimal (25 euros which includes on-line access to). There are currently no other sources of income (except for the Neuenschwander prize).

A number of recurrent issues are discussed in our Council Meetings and General Assemblies. I will divide them into two categories:

A. Achievements

- 1) Conferences, both large (held in even-numbered years: Maastricht 2004, Cracow 2006, Wien 2008, Barcelona 2010, Athens 2012, Lisbon 2014) and small "Presidential" ones (usually odd-numbered years: Oxford 2006, Prague 2011, Florence 2013). Athens

proceedings have been published (for which I thank the organizers). In Athens more than 400 participants from 29 European and 16 non-European countries attended the meeting. There was no shortage of offers to host the 2016 meeting which will be held in Prague.

- 2) Erwin Neuenschwander was thanked for supporting the prize for lifelong achievement in the subject (awarded in 2012 to Debru and in 2014 to Jürgen Renn). There are always high quality candidates for the Prize and voting procedures have been improved.
- 3) as a historical journal (see Ida's reports)
- 4) Council meetings (every year at small and large Conferences, plus Skype conversations). No ESHS financial support utilized. The Florence conference was entirely dedicated to Council members' overviews.
- 5) Individual membership (increasing, possibly widely here at Lisbon thanks to the new membership options)
- 6) Finance is improving, in part due to the new fee structure put in place for the Lisbon meeting.
- 7) A useful, easily updated digital brochure has been created by Leonardo at no cost, as well as a digital high definition version of the Logo (courtesy of Patrizia)

It is thus reasonable to assert that many steps have been made towards the first Goal of the Society's Statutes: "Providing a high-level interdisciplinary European forum for research in the History of Science".

The 2013 conference in Florence was dedicated to the second Goal: "Promoting cooperation between its members". Reports were given on the HoS activities in Britain, France, Spain (Catalan Society), Italy (HoS, HoP, HoM), Germany (MPIGW Berlin), Russian Federation, Poland, Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Greece, Austria. Moreover activities of some DHST commissions (Education, Scientific Instruments, HoP) were outlined. But much still needs to be done in order to develop an actual cooperation among Societies in European and non-European countries.

The three visits to Florentine science museums and collections (Galileo, Fondazione Scienza e Tecnica, Specola) remind us of the third Goal: "Promoting the preservation of and access to scientific heritage". A greater degree of cooperation with the Commission on Education of the DHST would improve efforts towards attaining the fourth Goal "Promoting, assisting, and advising on the teaching of the History of Science". This has also been the continuous aim of the Barcelona team (especially Maria Rosa and Pere) specifically with the

. The contribution at the Florence meeting on Open Access (MPIGW Berlin) reminds us of the fifth Goal of the Society: "Advancing the education of the general public in the historical, cultural, and social aspects of science".

B. Past achievements should not however conceal that much still needs to be done:

- 1) Main mission: cooperation with National Societies. The Council of Europe lists 47 countries, whilst DHST has 31 National Committees. ESHS members so far (before Lisbon) come from only 21 countries, and the present Council represents only 13 countries. I believe that the ESHS should play a greater role in establishing cooperation. We could pursue Frank's suggestion to establish "ambassadors" for the countries that are not represented and Erwin's suggestion to support financially joint or local initiatives.

- 2) Added value for individual members: we should seek higher scholarly value for our Conferences, and publish greater information on European events and activities in _____, as well as using the the Web site as a source of information, documents, and papers. We should consider the possibility of joint conferences with other societies. Thanks to Ida's efforts there is a possibility, discussed here in Lisbon, of a joint Conference with HSS in 2018 or 2019.
- 3) Support for young scholars can now be implemented thanks to the improved financial situation. A Young Scholar Prize could be established.
- 4) ESHS relationship with _____: we should give more support to Ida and make clear we believe _____ is an essential tool of the Society.
- 5) Web site: thanks to Kostas and his team we have the structure of the web site but not yet the content. This should be addressed immediately through renewed efforts by Leonardo as collator of information provided by us all. Personally I would like to see the presentations of the Florence Conference on line as well as the minutes of Council meetings and General Assemblies, together with the Treasurer's and Secretary's reports
- 6) Extra funding through projects. In May there was a meeting of the European Alliance for the Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH) in Berlin: possible projects for EU applications were discussed (a report will be sent). We might want to consider applying to an appropriate one.

Finally I wish to publicly thank all of you for the cooperation given during these two years I served as President, but especially Sonia, Maria Rosa, Milada, Pere and Maria Teresa who unfortunately will no longer be part of the Officers and Council. I am sure ESHS will keep cooperating with you (Milada is the organizer of what will (almost) certainly be our next Conference (Prague 2016) and in this capacity will be associated with our next meetings). Serving the Society with you all has been a very rewarding experience. I see all of you not only as active colleagues but also as friends. I also wish to anticipate a warm welcome to the new team that has been invited to the Old Council meeting in order to familiarize it with the Council's workings: first of all to Karine, as the New President, a wonderful President Elect; and to the candidates for the New Council: Antoni, as the new President Elect; Erika as the new Secretary; Emma, Emilia and Baichun as new Members of the Council.

2) Election of three auditors

The three elected auditors are: Efthymios Nicolaidis, Annette Vogt and Frank James. The two former auditors Efthymios Nicolaidis and Annette Vogt were confirmed by the General Assembly for another term of office. Frank James was elected as a new member of the board of auditors for the next term.

3) Election of two scrutineers

The two elected scrutineers are: Donatella Germanese and Roberto Lalli.

4) Report of the Vice President: a six year commitment

Prof. Soňa Štrbáňová began her contribution by explaining that she is very happy to participate in this wonderful conference. She points out that there are some very young scholars at this

conference and this promises a good future for the history of science in Europe. She emphasized two ideas: new tendencies in history of science and some suggestions for the next generation. 'History of science is a wonderful job and I am very happy of working in this subject', says Sona. The blurring of boundaries between various scientific disciplines and the history of science is visible in a significant number of communications at the conference. The future generation of historians of science should focus not only on the developments in single countries but also on topics that investigate interconnections between countries in scientific development. Finally she referred to her leaving her post on the ESHS Council and emphasized how fortunate she has been to serve European history of science and cooperate with many outstanding and competent colleagues. She thanked the officers and the council members who were not only excellent collaborators, but also good friends. She also expressed her appreciation of the many people who had organized the conferences in Barcelona, Athens, Florence and Lisbon. She said that it was a special privilege to work for many years with so many wonderful people.

5) President Elect's report and plan of action (Karine Chemla)

The new President Prof. Karine Chemla began by thanking wholeheartedly the organizers of the 6th ESHS in Lisbon: Ana Simoes, M^a Paula Diogo and Fatima de Haan for all their work.

She said that she would like to see a greater number of young people involved in our Society's activities. She emphasized that we have to find a way of integrating them.

She also suggested involving more people to contribute to the various tasks required by the Society, for example, the members of the advisory board. One idea in this direction could be to organize several commissions.

Moreover, she is exploring the idea of establishing an archive of the ESHS.

She is considering slightly changing the way the Congresses are organized. For instance lecturers could be invited to present an overview of a field where much new work has been published recently. We could select a number of such fields and the people to present them. Discussions could be organized in the form of round table debates, held immediately after the overviews. These communications would be published in

She reminded the General Assembly that she will organize a meeting in October 2015 in Paris to discuss all these issues.

6) Report of the Centaurus Editor (Ida Stamhuis)

Since the previous report for the General Assembly in Athens in 2012, has been consolidated. Original articles have been published on various aspects of the history of science and its cultural aspects

Two thematic issues have appeared:

- 2013 (vol. 55 no. 2)

Special Issue: Beyond the Academy: Histories of Gender and Knowledge, edited by Christine von Oertzen, Maria Rentetzi and Elizabeth S. Watkins

- 2013 (vol. 55 no. 3)

Special Issue: New Perspectives on Cold War Science in Small European States, edited by Matthias Heymann and Janet Martin-Nielsen

And one will shortly appear:



Russian Scholarship on the History of Science in Russia, edited by me, with an Introduction and five Original Articles. This is the outcome of the ESHS meeting in Athens, which many Russian colleagues attended. The aim of this issue is that the international community gains access to Russian scholarship in the history of science and that in that way this issue contributes to mutual understanding.

I am happy to receive suggestions for themes and potential contributors for future thematic issues and for the other formats. Such opportunities will give meaning to the European character of the journal.

I am, of course, eager to publish good quality papers. Regular submissions will remain the backbone of the journal. They may deal with any aspect of the 'history of science and its cultural influences'. Therefore don't hesitate to submit your good papers and please prompt your colleagues and students to do the same. For further information please visit the website or contact me directly.

The book review editor, Raf de Bont, produces around 20 book reviews per year. The selection of the books, in addition to their potential significance, tries to reflect the European character of . Please convince your publisher to send in review copies! [Applause for the book review editor!]

The other members of the Editorial Team are, in addition to Raf de Bont and me, the associate editors Peter Barker, Matthias Heymann, Ana Simoes and Claire Neesham, the assistant editor. Pietro Corsi is no longer an associate editor and he is much thanked for his contribution to the journal.

As I said two years ago Ms. Claire Neesham, the English corrector and assistant editor, has worked since 2013 on a freelance basis. Her work is essential for a journal that will on the one hand be a publication opportunity for the European community of scholars and on the other compete with British and American journals. The publisher pays her 3,500 GBP (€ 4,400) per year.

I look forward to the number of normal submissions increasing and think, when looking at this fruitful conference, that this will be possible.

It is a privilege to be the editor of the journal of European Society for the History of Science. I am thankful for having this opportunity and, like in the past, intend to cooperate well with the ESHS and its Council.

7) Report of the Secretary (Maria-Rosa Massa-Esteve)

Meetings of the Council (2010-2014). Over these four years several meetings have been held. In September 2011, a meeting of the Council was held in Prague (at the meeting held between the two Congresses) where the Athens conference was prepared. On the 1st November 2012 a meeting-lunch of the Council was held at the 5th ESHS Conference in Athens. The General Assembly (3rd November 2012) was also held at the 5th ESHS Conference in Athens. In August 2013 an informal meeting of the Council was held in Manchester (during the International Congress). In November 2013 a meeting of the council was held in Florence and in September 2014 a meeting-lunch of the council in the 6th ESHS Conference in Lisbon. I wrote the minutes of the meetings on all those occasions.

In addition, in May 2012 I represented the ESHS in Barcelona at the “ISE conference: Strengthening the European Research Area - What does science need to flourish? 3rd and 4th May 2012, Barcelona” and sent the conclusions to the President Prof. Soňa Štrbáňová.

I have collaborated in the election of the first Neuenschwander Prize-winner (2012): Claude Debru, by collecting the votes and sending them to the scrutineers. The votes for the second Neuenschwander Prize-winner (2014): Jürgen Renn, were scrutinized in Barcelona and I have sent the results to the council:

“Barcelona, February 20, 2014

In the meeting for scrutinizing the votes of the candidates for the Neuenschwander Prize 2014, with the presence of the following scrutineers, appointed by the president of ESHS: Hilda Rodon, Head of the Department of Mathematics at the University Polytechnic of Catalonia, and Pere Grapí, member of the Scientific Council of ESHS, the secretary of ESHS proceeds to open the envelopes sent by the Prize Committee.”

I would like to address the issue of membership, a really challenging question for our Society. Every year, in January and in March, I send a reminder to those members who have not paid. Some of them declined to renew their membership, but we have recruited some new members. During these years, every month I have sent the updated members list of our Society to .

Membership numbers since I became Secretary in 2010 are:

Year	On-line	Print and on-line	Total
2010	41	33	74
2011	46	23	69
2012	42	18	60
2013	68	18	86
2014	190	16	206

Other interesting aspect is the analysis of the evolution of the distribution of membership by country. I wish to thank Fatima de Haan for her graphical slides, which I have shown in the General Assembly and where we can see the distribution of membership by country at this time. In 2013 the distribution of membership of 21 countries reveals that half the total number of members is concentrated in just four: Italy (14), Germany (13), Spain (10), and Portugal (9). Membership from other countries is: Russia (7), Austria (5), France (5), Greece (4), Czech Republic (3) and the rest with 2 members or 1 member each. Whereas in 2014 the distribution of membership by country (32 countries) reveals that half the total number of members is concentrated in just five countries: France (26), Spain (26), Portugal (20), Germany (20) and Italy (18).

8) Report of the Treasurer (Erwin Neuenschwander)

Professor Neuenschwander commented on the report given below. He explained that the little-used savings account with Credit Suisse Zurich had to be closed because of new banking regulations. The money from that account was transferred to our German account at Sparkasse Hochrhein. Thanks to a careful money and assets management the ESHS achieved in the last five years a surplus of ca. 500 Euros from interest payments, whereas our bank charges were



negligible. After the revision of the accounts by the two auditors, Annette Vogt and Efthymios Nicolaidis, the accounts of the Treasurer were approved by the General Assembly.

ESHS Report of the Treasurer October 2012—August 2014

Checking Account with Sparkasse Hochrhein (D)

Total amount in the account at 29 th Oct. 2012	Euro 3'237.32
Membership fees collected in Athens	Euro 1'835.00
Closing and Transfer of Savings Account Credit Suisse Zurich [Transfer fee 6 Euro deducted]	Euro 1'013.46
Membership fees collected 2012	Euro 960.00
Membership fees collected in Florence	Euro 125.00
Membership fees collected 2013	Euro 1'480.00
Membership fees collected 2014	Euro 930.00
<i>Total earnings</i>	<i>Euro 9'580.78</i>
Expenses for postage to Maria Rosa (Secretary)	Euro 35.00
42 ESHS Member subscription to Centaurus 2012 (online)	Euro 420.00
18 ESHS Member subscription to Centaurus 2012 (online and print)	Euro 540.00
Account fees, banking charges etc.	Euro 67.07
68 ESHS Member subscription to Centaurus 2013 (online)	Euro 680.00
18 ESHS Member subscription to Centaurus 2013 (online and print)	Euro 540.00
<i>Total expenses</i>	<i>Euro 2'282.07</i>
<u>Total amount in the account at 27th Aug. 2014</u>	<u>Euro 7'298.71</u>

Savings Account Sparkasse Hochrhein (D)

New savings account at 2 nd Oct. 2009	Euro 5'000.00
Savings account at 17 th Oct. 2012 with interest payments	Euro 5'221.18
<u>Savings account at 27th Aug. 2014 with interest payments</u>	<u>Euro 5'525.52</u>

Savings Account Credit Suisse Zurich (CH)

Total amount in the account at 25 th Oct. 2012	Euro 975.46
Membership fee collected	Euro 45.00
Bank charges minus interest payment	Minus Euro 1.00
Total amount in the account at 20 th Dec. 2012	Euro 1'019.46
Account closed and transferred to Checking Account with Sparkasse Hochrhein in December 2012	Euro 0.00

Sterling Account (GB) (established by Robert Fox)

Total amount in the account at 15th Oct. 2012 according to



9) Report on the Second Neuenschwander Prize

At the last General Assembly in Athens the new President reported that the procedure for the election of the first Gustav Neuenschwander Prize was very complicated. This time the selection procedure for the prize has been simplified. The nominations were sent to the Secretary via e-

mail until 1 February 2014. The Secretary communicated to the President and the members of the Gustav Neuenschwander Prize Committee the names of the nominees and all the documentation. Then the members of the Gustav Neuenschwander Prize Committee voted by sending a letter in a sealed envelope to the Secretary. The Secretary opened the envelopes together with two witnesses nominated by the President in the Institution of the Secretary, and recorded the votes with the signature of these two scrutineers. The minute for the Second Neuenschwander Prize is:

“Barcelona, February 20, 2014

In the meeting for scrutinizing the votes of the candidates to the Neuenschwander Prize 2014, with the presence of the following scrutineers, appointed by the president of ESHS: Hilda Rodon, manager of Department of Mathematics at the University Polytechnic of Catalonia and Pere Grapí, member of the Scientific Council of ESHS, the secretary of ESHS proceeds to open the envelopes sent by the Prize Committee.

And the winner in the first ballot is Prof. Jürgen Renn with 6 votes; the other two candidates have received two votes each.”

Professor Bevilacqua reported on the Gustav Neuenschwander Prize Ceremony and congratulated the winner of the second Neuenschwander Prize, remarking on the career trajectory and the high esteem of the research of Professor Jürgen Renn.

10) Report of Public Relations officer (Leonardo Gariboldi)

The ESHS pages in report the most significant information about the Society’s activities and future events. The following items were reported:

- report of the 2012 ESHS international conference held in Athens;
- report of the ceremony of the first awarded to Claude Debru;
- announcement of the second ;
- announcement of the of the ;
- announcement of the 2013 Florence in-between conference;
- announcement of the 2014 Lisbon international conference.

Following Ida Stamhuis’ suggestion, information about the journal, starting from August 2013 (), was sent to the ESHS members. Some members responded very positively. Information about the next (November 2014) issue () will be sent again to the new ESHS members.

Leaflet: the general structure of the leaflet was prepared with a standard part including the main information about the Society, membership, subscription to , and a changing part with information and announcements of conferences and future events. The first version was distributed at the Manchester IUHPS/DHST conference and sent to the ESHS members and others on the Society’s database. The first leaflet had information about the Florence in-between conference and the second . The current leaflet is about the Lisbon conference. The next leaflet will announce the composition of the new council and will have



information about the [redacted] awarded to Jürgen Renn and the 2016 ESHS international conference. The leaflet can be downloaded from the ESHS web-site.

Florence and Lisbon conferences: the announcements and calls were sent to the Society's members, the IUHPS/DHST committees list (with the members updated up to the Manchester Congress) and the main international mailing lists of history and philosophy of science.

Database: Work in progress: we are preparing an on-line list of the European national societies of history of science, research centres and publications with their main data.

11) Report of the Web Manager (Kostas Skordoulis)

Kostas, the web manager, presented the new website of the ESHS. The President congratulated Kostas Skordoulis and his team for the magnificent work in creating a new website for our Society. Kostas explained that the new website is technically functional and since it is supported by two servers, a failure will be very difficult. He commented that there is still some work to be done. Now the whole site needs new and updated information, so he will send e-mails asking everybody to provide it for the various parts of the website. In 2013 a commission was proposed at the Florence's meeting to decide the contents of the website. Its members are: Kostas Skordoulis, Leonardo Gariboldi, Karine Chemla, Soňa Štrbáňová and the President.

12) A preliminary assessment of the Lisbon Conference (Ana Simões)

Professor Simões presented a preliminary assessment of the 6th ESHS Congress held in Lisbon. She notes that there were 486 registrants, 126 of which become new members of the ESHS and 43 others, who are already members. 32 papers and 6 sessions were rejected to improve the quality of communications. 63 sessions took place in parallel in 15 rooms, 46 of which proposed by the participants and 17 organized by the Local Committee; amazingly about 420 talks have been given. Only participants who paid their registration fee were included in the program. This option did not affect the number of participants attending the conference and it ensured that sessions were well balanced and had a minimal number no-shows. One-submission per person was allowed for papers singly authored, or two if co-authored. All sessions were well run following the schedule. The President congratulated the three main organisers of the Lisbon Conference, Ana Simoes, Maria Paula Dogo and Fatima de Haan, for the wonderful job they had done and warmly thanked them on behalf of the ESHS. [applause]

13) Towards the Prague 2016 Conference (Milada Sekyrková): vote

Milada Sekyrková from the Charles University in Prague and Martin Kopriva from the agency Guarant International presented some details of the next conference, the 7th ESHS, in Prague (Czech Republic) from 22th to 24th September 2016. The Conference will be held in the Faculty of Arts of Charles University. The theme of the next conference in Prague will be: "Science,



Technology, Medicine and power. Science, Technology, Medicine as power". New rules have been agreed for fees and membership: all the participants will have to become members of the ESHS. From the Conference fee the organisers will give to the Society 25 euros per participant-member. The Conference fee will be similar to that of Lisbon. The assembly voted unanimously for the proposal.

14) Possibility of a joint 2018 HSS-ESHS Conference (Ida plus Guest)

Professor Ida Stamhuis explained that ESHS has begun to collaborate with HSS through its president Angela Creager in order to organize a conference together. The possibilities are for 2019, perhaps in Utrecht.

15) Presentation of the candidates for the new Council: vote

The President presented the list of candidates proposed by the Council for the election by the General Assembly. He asked the Assembly if anyone wished to propose other candidates; there were no further proposals.

The candidates proposed by the Old Council for the New Council are:

Officers:

- President** - Karine Chemla - France (becomes automatically)
- Vice-President** – Fabio Bevilacqua - Italy (becomes automatically)
- President-Elect** – Antoni Malet – Spain (to be elected)
- Secretary** – Erika Luciano – Italy (to be elected)
- Treasurer** - Erwin Neuenschwander – Switzerland (to be re-elected)
- Centaurus Editor** - Ida Stamhuis – The Netherlands (not electable)
- Public Relations** - Leonardo Gariboldi – Italy (to be re-elected)
- Newsletter Editor:** Frank James – UK (to be re-elected)
- Webmaster** –Kostas Skordoulis– Italy (to be re-elected)

Scientific Council:

- Olga Elina (Russia) (to be re-elected)
- Efthymios Nicolaidis (Greece) (to be re-elected)
- Felicitas Seebacher (Austria) (to be re-elected)
- Ana Simões (Portugal) (to be re-elected)
- Annette Vogt (Germany) (to be re-elected)
- Emma Sallent (Spain) (to be elected)
- Emilia Calvo (Spain) (to be elected)
- Baichun Zhang (P. R. China) (to be elected)

Members of Officers and Scientific Council who cannot be re-elected are: Maria Rosa Massa-Esteve (Spain), Maria Teresa Borgato (Italy), Milada Sekyrková (Czech Republic).



All candidates were introduced by the President or by the President Elect, briefly explaining their respective research fields and the affiliation. All candidates proposed by the old Council were unanimously elected by the Assembly with three abstentions.

16) Discussion, proposals of the members

After each of the previous points a discussion took place. No specific proposals came from the floor.

17) Closure by the new president (Karine Chemla)

After the election the former President left the chair to the new President for the closure of the Assembly.

The new president, Professor Chemla, restated that the next “in between” conference 2015 should be in Paris. Moreover she extended many thanks to Milada, Pere and Maria Teresa, members of the council, who unfortunately will no longer be part of the Officers and Council. She expressed all her gratitude towards vice-president Sona, and the secretary Maria Rosa. She is sure that ESHS will keep cooperating with them. Last, but not least, she formulated her most sincere thanks to former President Fabio Bevilacqua whose action for the society has allowed ESHS to develop in a remarkable way. The General Assembly joined her in applauding vibrantly all these officers.