

Minutes of the ESHS General Assembly held in Vienna, Sept. 11, 2008.

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- 2) Election of three members as auditors
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1) Welcome and Report of the President (Eberhard Knobloch)

Report of the President of the ESHS Eberhard Knobloch

Given on the occasion of the General Assembly of the members of the ESHS, 3rd Congress held in Vienna (regarding the period September 8, 2006 - September 11, 2008)

September 11, 2008

According to the Constitution of the ESHS, article VII The General Assembly, § 2a the General Assembly has (among others) following function: to receive a report of the president.

Here it is. Only those items are mentioned the president has dealt with.

1. The official journal of the ESHS

1.1 New structure of the enlarged groups of editors

In close cooperation with the president of the ESHS the editor Hanne Andersen restructured the editorship. Now there are four groups of editors:

editor (Hanne Andersen), assistant editor (Claire Nessham, instead of three assistant editors), six associate editors (Barker, Heymann, Klein, Neuenschwander, Stamhuis, van Wyhe), eighteen consulting editors (all in all 27 editors).

1.2 Publications

The volumes 49 (4 numbers) and 50 (numbers 1, 2, 3) have appeared. Vol. 49, 1 contains the presidential address of E. Knobloch: Alexander von Humboldt - The explorer and the scientist, vol. 50, 1+2 contains E. Knobloch's commentary on "*Cleomedes and the measurement of the earth: A question of procedures*" by Alan C. Bowen. These two numbers reprinted seven outstanding articles that had appeared in *Centaurus* in the past together with commentaries of some twelve colleagues. "The format of this issue is the auspice of the new formats that will gradually be introduced in the future: target papers with commentaries, as well as a special section that spotlight a particular topic through a concerted discussion among several authors" (Andersen 50 (2008), 3).

1.3 Web based submission system

Such a system has been established.

1.4 Publisher

Since January 2007, O’Kane Rachel from Blackwell Oxford Office is responsible for *Centaurus*. An announcement in the Newsletter of the ESHS will make clear that Wiley Blackwell offers members of the ESHS a discounted subscription rate to *Centaurus*. A change of the publisher is neither wanted nor necessary.

2. Newsletter of the ESHS

The President thanked the Newsletter Editor Simon Werrett for the excellent job he had done. Several numbers came out during the last two years. The President added some introductory words. Publishers asked us whether we would be willing to publish advertisements in the newsletter. The council of the ESHS decided that we admit announcements of new publications but no advertisements.

3. Scientific relationships; patronage of congresses, colloquies; participation in European research projects

I had an intensive correspondence about such questions with the public relation officer Raffaele Pisano who will give his own report. There is a growing interest in such patronages. For example the Catalan colleagues organized such a congress in 2007, Italian colleagues did the same.

4. Organization of the 3rd congress of the ESHS

I would like to emphasize that there was a continuous, very close and fruitful cooperation between Hermann Hunger, his co-workers, the other council members, and me in this respect.

4.1 The choice of the subject of the congress “*Styles of thinking in science and technology*” was a proposal of the President.

4.2 A contract between the ESHS and the Austrian Academy of Sciences had to be signed by the presidents of both institutions.

4.3 A visit of the President in Vienna took place in 2007 in order to discuss all questions regarding the congress.

4.4 The invitations of appropriate plenary speakers were sent out by the President.

4.5 The establishment and chairmanship of the Program Committee consisting of 32 members was a task of the President as well as the evaluation of dozens of submitted abstracts (every abstract was submitted to three experts).

4.6 The President wrote the inviting text/preface for the webpage of the congress.

4.7 Eight subventions of the ESHS for young scholars were granted.

4.8 Several publishers were interested in an exhibition of their books.

5. Future

The President had to solve the difficult task to find suitable candidates for tasks and positions (auditors, next president elect, other council members, renewal of the scientific board, organizer (and place) of the next congress).

Eberhard Knobloch, Past President of the ESHS
Berlin, the 18th of September 2008

2) Election of three members as auditors

The President introduces three candidates to be elected auditors by the General Assembly: Hans-Joachim Braun, Karin Reich, and Annette Vogt.
No other candidates are advanced by the General Assembly.
The three candidates are elected auditors of the ESHS unanimously.

3) Report of the Treasurer (Erwin Neuenschwander)

ESHS Report of the Treasurer August 2006 - August 2008

Checking Account with Sparkasse Hochrhein (D)

Total amount in the account at 23 rd August 2006	Euro 1380.20
Membership dues August 2006-Sept. 2006	Euro 160.00
Membership dues collected in Cracow	Euro 940.00
Membership dues collected 2007	Euro 80.00
Membership dues collected 2008	Euro 240.00
Student Grants for 2 nd ESHS Intern. Conference in Cracow	- Euro 1200.00
Expenses General Secretary Stéphanie Dupouy	- Euro 55.00
Bank Charges	- Euro 11.89
<u>Total amount in the account at 7th Sept. 2008</u>	<u>Euro 1533.31</u>

Savings Account Sparkasse Hochrhein (D)

Total amount in the account at 23 rd August 2006	Euro 1561.51
Interest payments	Euro 30.48
<u>Total amount in the account at 7th Sept. 2008</u>	<u>Euro 1546.99</u>

Savings Account Credit Suisse Zürich (CH)

Total amount in the account at 23 rd August 2006	Euro 341.66
Membership dues collected	Euro 320.00
Bank Charges	- Euro 3.64
<u>Total amount in the account at 7th Sept. 2008</u>	<u>Euro 658.02</u>

Sterling Account (GB) (established by Robert Fox)

Total amount in the account at 23 rd August 2006	£ 452.63
<u>Total amount in the account at 3rd August 2008</u>	<u>£ 547.56</u>

(according to Robert Fox)

Paypal Account (established by Stéphanie Dupouy, later controlled by Leonardo Gariboldi)

<u>Total amount in the account at 26th Aug. 2008</u>	<u>Euro 2074.81</u>
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Zurich, September 7th 2008

E. Neuenschwander

4) Report of the Secretary (Leonardo Gariboldi)

It is a great pleasure that the General Assembly of the European Society for the History of Science is held in the Festsaal of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. I wish to thank personally the head of the organizing committee, Prof. Hermann Hunger, and all his collaborators for the precious work done for the organization of the 3rd congress of our society.

The European Society for the History of Science has constantly grown in these last two years. The membership is now of about 200 people from most European countries. As secretary of the society, I will discuss just two points concerning your membership: the fees and the members' data.

During this congress you have the possibility to pay your fees to me or directly to the treasurer, Prof. Erwin Neuenschwander. We have checked your payments, updated to August 2008, from the different accounts of the Society. There are some members who paid only in Maastricht. They were solicited after the Cracow congress to regularize their position, but they did not. After the Vienna congress, the treasurer and I will check again your updated payments. After that, we will discuss the decision to consider them as resigning members.

During the last two years, some of your data changed. Some of you were very kind and communicated the changes to the Society. Since it is never easy to remember all of whom you have to communicate your new data in case of a change, this congress will be the occasion to check them with me. The main problem is the change of e-mail. There are some of your e-mail addresses, which seem not to work any more. The messages sent to these addresses actually always jumped back. The check of your data will be completed via e-mail in the next weeks.

After the Cracow congress, the web-master Christelle Rabier asked for a substitute. As you know the web-master of my group of research accepted to help the Society. If you have any suggestions for improvements of our web-site, we will be pleased to take them into account. As you remember, at the Cracow congress, the General Assembly decided not to encrypt the newsletters of our society, as well as other documents. That is why you can get them directly with a link from the home page of our web-site. In the last two years, some of you asked the Society to advertise some events you were organizing. The proper place for announcements is our newsletter, and your requests have always been thus handled by our newsletter editor, Simon Werrett. The European Society for the History of Science also was a partner of some of these events. More details on the past and future activities of this kind will be given by Raffaele Pisano in his report.

As you can see from the home page of our web site, the official journal of our Society is *Centaurus*. I would like to thank the editor Hanne Andersen, for her work, as well as the other Assistant and Associate Editors. The publisher, Blackwell, sent here leaflets for your subscription to the journal. You can subscribe also directly from the web-site of Blackwell. During the General Assembly, we will discuss a problem concerning the subscription to *Centaurus* for institutional members.

Some young researchers submitted to our Society a request for a grant to participate to this congress. We are pleased to announce the names of the young researchers, who have been awarded the grant: Mihnea Dobre, Ilaria Gaudiello, Roberto Lalli, José Ramón Marcaida López, Anna Maria Mercurio, Nicla Palladino, Josipa Petrunic, and Olena Shcherbak.

The last thank goes to my predecessor, Dr. Stéphanie Dupouy, and to the previous web-manager, Dr. Christelle Rabier, for their help in the solution of some problems.

Milan, September 5th, 2008
Leonardo Gariboldi

5) Report of the Public Relations Officer (Raffaele Pisano).

See attachment.

6) Report of the Newsletter Editor (Simon Werrett).

The ESHS Newsletter has continued to offer information to members on the activities of the Society and on current jobs, grants, prizes, conferences and seminars in the history of science, with a focus on events taking place in Europe. Members have used the Newsletter as a forum for announcing new journals and on-line enterprises, and there seems no reason to suppose that the Newsletter cannot continue to be developed as a valuable resource for the Society.

7) Report of *Centaurus* Editors (Ida Stamhuis)

Report on *Centaurus* 2006-2008, read at the ECHS in Vienna September 11, 2008

First I apologize for the EiC, Hanne Andersen, because she is not able to be present here. I read the *Centaurus* report on her behalf.

Hanne Andersen took over as Editor in Chief by January 2006. The Editorial Board has been renewed and enlarged and now includes Erwin Neuenschwander, Matthias Heymann, John van Wyhe, Ursula Klein and Peter Barker and me, Ida Stamhuis. By courtesy of the Dept. for Science Studies, University of Aarhus, the editorial office has employed Claire Neesham as assistant editor

The journal has started using an online submission system that enables authors to track the current status of their paper in the editorial process. The journal has also started offering additional material and the use of colour in its electronic edition. These options can both be seen in the most recent issue (50:3) on *The Empirical and the Formal - Tensions in Scientific Knowledge*. Further, the full archive of the journal has been digitalized and is available through the Blackwell-Wiley website.

In terms of access through library holdings, the total access to the journal has increased over the last two years, and the number of online article downloads has doubled. The journal is currently working on being included in the Thomson ISI Citation Index.

The journal just celebrated volume 50 with an anniversary double-issue that commemorated the first fifty issues by looking into the archives of the journal and reprint a selection of some of the many eminent papers together with commentaries from some of the outstanding scholars of today and tomorrow. In this way, the anniversary issue not only looks back into the archives, but also ahead into the future archives to be created. The issue is currently freely accessible online, and hopefully it

will serve as inspiration for many discussions on the history of science, its current status and future development.

By courtesy of the University of Aarhus, the Editorial Board held a meeting in Aarhus in March 2008 to discuss both the current status and the future development of the journal. As a result of this meeting several new developments will be found in the pages of coming issues of the journal. 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. The journal would also like to engage the up and coming generation of historians and philosophers of science in these discussions, so helping them find the tools they will require to carry the discipline forward in the future. The first spotlight sections are expected to appear in 2009, and the editors are happy to receive suggestions for themes and potential contributors for future spotlight sections. Another new development will be a section for scholarly interaction through a target article with invited commentaries and author response. For both these new sections, the editors welcome suggestions for themes and contributors.

However, in the first place the Editorial Board is eager to publish regular good 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 stimulate your colleagues and pupils to do that. With respect to language, the author is of course responsible for the quality of the language of the paper. However, if needed, pre-submission English-language editing is possible. See for information the author guidelines on the website of *Centaurus*.

8) Election of new officers

President

The President introduces the former President-Elect, Helge Kragh, to be confirmed President, according to the constitution of the ESHS.

The General Assembly has no objections.

Helge Kragh is elected President of the ESHS unanimously.

Vice-President

The President introduces himself to be confirmed Vice-President, according to the constitution of the ESHS.

The General Assembly has no objections.

Eberhard Knobloch is elected Vice-President of the ESHS unanimously.

President-Elect

The Vice-President introduces the candidate to be elected President-Elect of the ESHS by the General Assembly: Sona Strbanova.

Sona Strbánova is associate professor and senior research worker at the Department of history of science of the Institute of Contemporary History of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and teaches ethics of medicine at the medical faculty of the Palacky University Olomouc. Her background is in biochemistry and she received her Ph.D. degree in biology at the Institute of Microbiology of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. Her historical research focuses on the nineteenth- and

twentieth-century history of chemistry, biochemistry and biotechnology; science national style and institutionalization and communication networks in modern science. She wrote the books *Who Are We?*, 1978, and (with J. Janko) *Science in Purkinje's Time*, 1988. She has published about 200 scientific articles and edited several volumes, recently (with I. Stamhuis and K. Mojsejová) *Women Scholars and Institutions*, 2004; (with B. Hoppe and N. Robin) *International Networks, Exchange and Circulation of Knowledge in Life Sciences 18th to 20th Centuries*, 2006. Her recent edited monograph with Anita Kildebaek Nielsen, *Creating Networks in Chemistry; The Founding and Early History of Chemical Societies in Europe*, was published in 2008 by the British Royal Society of Chemistry. She is among others Effective Member of the International Academy of History of Science, member of the Scientific Committee of the ESHS, President of the Czech National Committee for History of Science and Technology, Vice-President of the IUHPS/DHST Commissions Women in Science and Czech Republic's representative in the EuChemS Working Party on History of Chemistry.

No other candidates are advanced by the General Assembly.
Sona Strbanova is elected President-Elect of the ESHS unanimously.

The Vice-President introduces the Secretary, Leonardo Gariboldi, as candidate for re-election.

No other candidates are advanced by the General Assembly.
Leonardo Gariboldi is re-elected Secretary of the ESHS unanimously.

The Vice-President introduces the Treasurer, Erwin Neuenschwander, as candidate for re-election.

No other candidates are advanced by the General Assembly.
Erwin Neuenschwander is re-elected Treasurer of the ESHS unanimously.

The Vice-President introduces the Public Relations Officer, Raffaele Pisano, as candidate for re-election.

No other candidates are advanced by the General Assembly.
Raffaele Pisano is re-elected Public Relations Officer of the ESHS unanimously.

9) Election of eight members for the Scientific Board

The Vice-President introduces eight candidates to be elected members of the Scientific Board of the ESHS by the General Assembly: Suzanne Débarbat, Robert Fox, Hermann Hunger, Michal Kokowski, Ladislav Kvasz, Henrique Leitão, Antoni Roca-Rosell, Eva Vamos.

No other candidates are advanced by the General Assembly.
The eight candidates are elected members of the Scientific Board of the ESHS unanimously.

10) Discussion on the next ESHS Congress

The Vice-President announces a proposal advanced by Antoni Roca-Rosell about the next ESHS Congress. No other proposals are advanced by the General Assembly.

The Vice-President officially thanks Antoni Roca-Rosell for his proposal. The 4th international congress of the ESHS will be held in Barcelona (Spain) in 2010. The President will advance the topic of the congress in the next future.

11) Other items:

A) Nomination of a new Newsletter Editor

The Vice-President asks the General Assembly to advance proposals for a new newsletter editor.

No new candidate is advanced.

The Vice-President thanks again Simon Werrett who will continue to work as Newsletter Editor of the ESHS.

B) ERIH evaluation of journals (Robert Fox)

Robert Fox introduced a discussion of the recent initiative of the ERIH (European Research Index in the Humanities) concerning the grading of journals in the history and philosophy of science. The ERIH's grading of journals into categories A, B, and C has aroused a strong protest on the part of editors, over forty of whom have now signed a common editorial that will appear in the first issue of their various journals in 2009. Opinion in the General Assembly was strongly supportive of the protest.

C) Establishment of the Gustav Neuenschwander Prize (Neuenschwander)

Erwin Neuenschwander announces that he is willing to establish a Prize named after Gustav Neuenschwander. Details on the Prize will be discussed with new ESHS President.

12) Closure by the President (Helge Kragh)

The President closes the General Assembly with his greetings and his willingness to work at his best for the future activities of the ESHS.

Vienna, September 11th, 2008.