

ESHS

European Society for the History of Science

Newsletter n° 8

ii. Conferences and other events

Denmark

Click on Knowledge: The State of Learning in the Time of Google
15 September 2008

We invite papers on any topic related to the contemporary or earlier constitution of knowledge, and on the treatment of knowledge not only in theoretical reflection but also in the literature of authors such as Borges, Calvino and Perec. We are particularly interested in hearing from doctoral students and other researchers engaged in 'meta-reflection' on the way in which their work is technologically conditioned, and how those conditions might determine or threaten the constitution of distinct disciplines and areas of knowledge.

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Visit the website at http://cds.hum.ku.dk/courses/workshops/click_on_knowledge

France

HISTELCON 2008 IEEE History of Electrotechnology Conference
Paris, 11 - 12 September 2008

The Conference - The IEEE 2008 History Conference intends to build a comprehensive view of the history of electrical and information technologies, through professional papers, each of which investigates some formative development in the last centuries. The developments may include the opening of a new area of application, the invention of a major technique or the gradual replacement of one dominant technique by another. An important feature of this conference is the participation of people with different backgrounds - engineers, historians, museum curators - that should make discussions particularly fruitful. Visits to Museums will also stimulate exchange of ideas.

For more information: www.iee.org/oncomms/pn/history/Histelcon_Conference2008.pdf
Dr. Jacob Baal-Schem
Region 8 History Coordinator
Email: histelcon@ieee.org

Société Française d'Histoire des Sciences et des Techniques (SFHST)
Congrès de Paris, 4, 5 et 6 septembre 2008

Les travaux en histoire des sciences et des techniques sont, en France, nombreux et de qualité. Les publications de livres, de revues et d'articles en témoignent largement, de même que les multiples colloques et journées d'étude qui y sont consacrés. Cette activité importante, dont la valeur est reconnue sur le plan international, est notamment rendue possible par l'existence de plusieurs équipes de recherche, dans plusieurs universités, au CNRS, à l'EHESS, au CNAM, ou associées à de grands établissements et autres instituts de recherche. Des institutions comme le Palais de la découverte, la Cité des sciences et de l'industrie de La Villette, le Museum d'Histoire naturelle, mais aussi certains centres régionaux pour la promotion de la culture scientifique et technique, comme l'Espace Mendès France à Poitiers, auquel notre Société est associée étroitement, contribuent activement à maintenir cette vitalité. La pratique de l'histoire des sciences et des techniques est extrêmement variée et rassemble des scientifiques, des historiens, des philosophes, des sociologues. Les champs couverts sont eux aussi très diversifiés, tout comme les approches et les méthodes employées. Ces distinctions ne font pourtant pas obstacle à l'existence d'une communauté qui se reconnaît comme telle et qui s'est dotée d'institutions et d'associations qui ont pour but de dynamiser et de valoriser ses activités. Les membres du Conseil d'Administration de la SFHST ont considéré qu'il fallait aussi organiser périodiquement des congrès qui seraient l'occasion de faire le point sur l'ensemble des activités et des travaux les plus récents, qu'il s'agisse d'enseignement, de recherche ou de publication. C'est en effet une mission essentielle de la SFHST que de donner à la totalité de la communauté française des historiens des sciences et des techniques l'occasion de se rassembler pour faire le point sur l'état des recherches dans les divers domaines, sur leurs relations avec les équipes et chercheurs étrangers, notamment en Europe, et sur la situation institutionnelle de l'histoire des sciences dans l'enseignement du second degré, la formation des maîtres et les universités. Un premier congrès, organisé en mai 2001 à l'université de Lille 3, avec le soutien de l'UMR « Savoirs et textes » (CNRS, université de Lille 3, université de Lille 1) a réuni près de 300 participants. Le précédent Congrès, en 2004, s'est déroulé à Poitiers (Espace Mendès-France, Université de Poitiers, Région Poitou-Charentes). Il a dépassé l'audience du premier Congrès, montrant l'intérêt et l'attente suscités par l'organisation d'une manifestation scientifique qui rendrait compte de la diversité des travaux dans notre domaine. En 2008, le 3e Congrès de la SFHST se tiendra à Paris, en partenariat avec différentes institutions qui œuvrent pour la structuration du champ de l'histoire des sciences et des techniques (ainsi l'EHESS et l'ENS). La SFHST souhaite que soit mise en avant, tout particulièrement, la scène scientifique que représente Paris. A travers deux sessions consacrées à la Capitale ("Paris, capitale savante" et "La biologie parisienne à la fin du XIXe siècle"), mais aussi par l'organisation, tout au long des trois journées, de séances de présentations d'institutions, de bibliothèques aux fonds anciens, le Congrès de Paris doit pouvoir constituer un moment de convergence destiné à faire connaître les ressources de la capitale dans le domaine de l'histoire des sciences et des techniques. Les thématiques retenues afin d'illustrer la diversité des champs d'études de notre communauté ont été volontairement tournées vers la pluridisciplinarité. Privilégiant des thèmes transversaux dans lesquels se rencontrent différentes approches méthodologiques, la SFHST a désiré montrer in concreto la richesse qu'apporte au discours sur les sciences l'existence de plusieurs registres et styles différents se rapportant à des objets communs. Ainsi les sessions 'science et art', et 'science et marine' combinent-elles des études relevant de toutes les sensibilités de l'histoire des sciences et des techniques. La part des sessions consacrées à la question biologique, il faut le noter, est le reflet d'une dynamique réelle qui s'est créée, ces dernières années, dans le domaine de l'histoire et de la philosophie des sciences autour de ces questions. L'histoire des sciences et des techniques place les chercheurs face à la nécessité de penser des problèmes qui, pour être historiques, n'en demeurent pas moins liés à des préoccupations contemporaines. S'interroger sur le "système-Terre", comme le fait une des sessions prévues dans le Congrès, revient à établir dans l'histoire des repères qui sont, pour le monde contemporain et ses questionnements environnementaux, des indices fort utiles. Il n'est d'ailleurs pas

indifférent que ces thèmes de recherche aient pris, depuis le dernier Congrès, une importance croissante non seulement dans le champ des recherches en histoire des sciences et des techniques, mais aussi, de manière plus évidente pour le grand public, dans la société elle-même. C'est bien de cette manière que peut se comprendre le lien, qui pourrait sembler fort ténu, entre les préoccupations des chercheurs et celles qui relèvent de la recherche du bien public. Le programme élaboré pour le Congrès de Paris reflète, autant que faire se peut, et sans désir particulier d'exhaustivité, un certain état de la recherche française et internationale en histoire des sciences. En ce sens, le déroulement de cette manifestation doit s'accomplir en bonne harmonie et, nous l'espérons, avec le soutien des grands organismes d'Etat. Il n'y a pas d'autre occasion, en France, d'accueillir et de faire dialoguer, à si grande échelle, tant de chercheurs reconnus dans leur discipline propre. Disséminés dans des instituts, des universités ou des laboratoires du CNRS, les chercheurs en histoire des sciences et des techniques n'ont que peu d'occasions de rencontrer et d'entendre des chercheurs qui ne travaillent pas exactement dans leur domaine. Cette fonction de rassemblement est l'une de celles qui sont apparues comme les plus appréciées par les participants des deux précédents Congrès. Le Congrès de Paris réunit dans son organisation même des chercheurs de la plupart des Unités de recherche qui, en France, ont pour axe de recherche la question de l'histoire des sciences et de ses transformations. Le Congrès de Paris sera par ailleurs l'occasion de renouer avec un double partenariat associant d'autres sociétés savantes : la SFHSH et la SHESVIE qui présenteront toutes deux une session.

For more information: <http://www.sfhst.org/>

Germany

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Medizin, Naturwissenschaft und Technik 91. JAHRESTAGUNG

vom 26. - 28. September 2008 in Darmstadt
MEDIZIN, WISSENSCHAFT UND TECHNIK IN EINER (POST-) KOLONIALEN WELT

Die Geschichtsschreibung des Kolonialismus erlebt international einen bemerkenswerten Aufschwung. Neuere Arbeiten, die die vielfältigen Anregungen aus dem Bereich der Kulturwissenschaften aufgenommen haben, machen darauf aufmerksam, dass die historische Wirkungsmächtigkeit der Kolonialzeit weit über die faktische Existenz der Kolonien reichte. Darüber hinaus haben insbesondere die im Rahmen der transnationalen Geschichtsschreibung entstandenen Studien verstärkt den Blick auf die Rückwirkungen des Kolonialismus auf die Gesellschaften der Kolonialmächte gerichtet.

Die in den Kolonien vorzufindenden „Laborbedingungen“ ermöglichten Feldforschungen, die anderswo kaum durchsetzbar waren. Nicht ohne Grund hatten die verschiedensten Wissenschaften, von der „Völkerkunde“ bis hin zur sog. Tropenmedizin ihren Höhepunkt in der Zeit des Kolonialismus. Die Eugenik als eine sowohl interdisziplinäre Human- und Naturwissenschaft als auch „moderne“ wissenschaftliche Variante der Sozialpolitik etwa wäre ohne die koloniale Erfahrung und dem dazugehörigen „Versuchsmaterial“ kaum denkbar gewesen. Auch besaßen Humanwissenschaften eine Schlüsselfunktion in einer Kolonialpolitik, die statt auf Vernichtung der Kolonisierten auf die Bewahrung ihrer Arbeitskraft und ihre Integration in den kolonialen Wirtschaftskreislauf zielte. Andererseits waren Erschließung von Raum, Rohstoffen und Energiereserven in den Kolonien abhängig von Infrastrukturen wie Verkehrsnetzen, modernen Kommunikationswegen und Energieversorgung. Diese Aspekte waren jedoch keineswegs ausschließlich auf die Kolonialzeit beschränkt. Nicht allein dass der „Kolonialismus ohne Kolonien“ in der Weimarer Zeit fortbestand und sich koloniale Praktiken und Mentalitäten in der nationalsozialistischen Besatzungspolitik finden lassen (Osteuropa als deutscher Kolonie),

auch über 1945 hinaus zogen sich koloniale Muster in der Entwicklungshilfe hindurch. Technik- und Wissenstransfer zwischen Industrie- und sog. Entwicklungsländern spielte im Prozess der Dekolonisierung eine erhebliche politische und ideologische Rolle, nicht zuletzt wegen der zahlreichen Stellvertreterkriege im Kontext des Kalten Krieges.

Obwohl die wichtige Rolle von Ärzten, Wissenschaftlern und Ingenieuren für die Durchführung des kolonialen Projektes offenkundig ist, findet - abgesehen von einigen Pionierstudien - in der deutschsprachigen Medizin-, Wissenschafts- und Technikgeschichte eine Auseinandersetzung mit dieser Thematik bislang nur in Ansätzen statt. Mit der Jahrestagung der DGGMNT soll dem entgegengewirkt werden. Ziel der Tagung ist es, die Rolle der Medizin, Wissenschaft und Technik im Kolonisierungs- und Dekolonisierungsprozess und ihre Verschränkungen mit kolonialen Herrschaftspraktiken zu thematisieren. Hierbei können sowohl die kolonisierten Gebiete selbst, als auch die Rückwirkungen auf die „Kolonialen Mutterländer“ in den Blick genommen werden.

Inwieweit trägt das Bild von den Kolonien als Laboratorien für die Medizin-, Wissenschafts- und Technikentwicklung? Wie ist die Rolle der kolonialen Erfahrung in der Herausbildung und Entwicklung von Disziplinen wie etwa Ethnographie, Anthropologie und Eugenik einzuschätzen? Welche Institutionalisierungsprozesse lassen sich in diesem Kontext beobachten? Welche Brüche und Kontinuitäten lassen sich im Bereich der Kolonialdiskurse und kolonialer Herrschaftspraktiken über die Kolonialzeit hinaus erfassen? Haben lokale Wissensbestände Eingang etwa in die Medizin gefunden und inwieweit ist die Generierung „indigenen Wissens“ im Sinne von „erfundenen Traditionen“ nicht selbst auf europäische Wissenschaftler zurückzuführen? Welche hybride Strukturen haben sich in der Begegnung zwischen verschiedenen Wissensformen herausgebildet? Wie ist hier der Zusammenhang zwischen Wissenschaft und Kontrolle, wie der zwischen Medizin und Gewalt zu begreifen? Welchen Stellenwert nahmen Kolonialinstitute und ethnologische Museen in der Vermittlung kolonialen Wissens und des Eigenen und des Anderen ein und welcher visuellen Strategien bedienten sich die Wissenschaften und Museen dabei? Mit anderen Worten sind auch Vorträge zu begrüßen, die die Repräsentation des Anderen auf europäischem Boden analysieren. Ferner wäre es wünschenswert, die transnationale Dimension des Tagungsthemas zu thematisieren, da Ingenieure, Mediziner und Wissenschaftler wie die Kolonialbürokratien innerhalb transnationaler Netzwerke agierten.

Auf der Tagung sind selbstverständlich auch Beiträge mit Themen außerhalb des Rahmenthemas und offene Sektionen zur Vorstellung neuerer Forschungen willkommen. Zum Einreichen von Referatsangeboten aufgefordert sollen sich auch Historiker fühlen, deren Expertise in der vorkolonialen Periode liegt - man denke hier z.B. an ein Thema wie die Naturgeschichte ferner Kontinente zu Humboldts Zeiten oder davor.

Nachfragen können an das Programmkomitee gerichtet werden: Dr. Noyan Dinçkal, Institut für Geschichte, TU Darmstadt, Schloss, D-64283 Darmstadt. E-Mail: dinckal@ifs.tu-darmstadt.de.

See also <http://www.dggmnt.de>

Alexander von Humboldt, 2009: Travels Between Europe and the Americas

Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
July 27-31, 2009

Contact: lubrich@zedat.fu-berlin.de
For more information see: www.humboldtconference2009.de

Great Britain

150th Anniversary Celebration: the 1858 Transatlantic Telegraph Cable

The Institution of Engineering and Technology one day seminar on the history of transatlantic telecommunications, organised by the History of Technology TPN jointly with the Manchester Local Network, Tuesday 28th October 2008, Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester.

Marking the 150th anniversary of the first transatlantic telegraph cable in 1858, this one-day seminar will explore the history of transatlantic telecommunications. Papers are invited on the following subjects:

- The telegraph network in the UK, Ireland, Europe and the USA at the time of the first transatlantic cable
- Early HF radio between UK/Europe and the USA and the supporting technology
- The first telephone cable TAT 1 and the supporting technology
- The first satellite link TELSTAR and the supporting technology
- The first geostationary satellites and the growth of this method of transatlantic communication

The seminar will be followed by an evening lecture by Professor Nigel Linge on the 1858 cable and its significance to the development of global telecommunications.

Speakers should submit a brief abstract (maximum 200 words) by 15 June 2008 to:

Anne Locker,
IET Archivist
IET
Savoy Place
London
WC2R 0BL

Email: alocker@theiet.org
Tel: 020 7344 8407

A full programme and information on registering to attend this event will be published at a later date, but those wishing to register early can contact Anne Locker at the address above.

For more information on the IET History of Technology TPN, please visit <http://www.theiet.org/history>

The Body: Simulacra and Simulation: Models, Prosthetics and Interventions

14th Congress of the European Association of Museums of the History of Medical Sciences
17-21 September 2008, Edinburgh

Models in wax or plastic, wood or metal, plaster or papier-mâché are held in almost every medical museum in the world; while the development of surgical interventions and prosthetics has also led to a range of materials being used to replicate and imitate external and internal parts and movements of the body. Congress 2008 will explore aspects of the use, culture, history, art and manufacture of models, prosthetics and surgical

interventions. It is hoped that the conference will be the catalyst for the development of a European-wide electronic database of models and prosthetics held in medical collections.

Sessions:

- * Models
- * Prosthetics
- * Interventions
- * Medical Museums for the 21st Century

Special session Friday 19th September. Invited speakers include: Ken Arnold (Head of Public Programmes, Wellcome Trust) and Thomas Soderqvist (Medical Museion, University of Copenhagen)

<http://www.rcsed.ac.uk/site/1009/default.aspx>

William Hunter and the Art and Science of 18th century Collecting

Conference 3-5 September 2008, Glasgow

This conference, organised jointly by the Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery with the University of Glasgow History of Art Department, will explore the context and role of William Hunter's (1718-1783) place as a collector in eighteenth-century Europe. It is a continuation of the bicentenary celebrations of the founding of the Hunterian Museum (1807-2007) which was marked by major redisplays of the museum galleries, special exhibitions of William Hunter's collections and a series of other activities.

The new Museum displays include a permanent exhibit on William Hunter, founder of the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow, exploring his life on a personal and professional level. It highlights both his passion for collecting and his hugely successful career as a royal physician, an outstanding teacher of anatomy and surgery and pioneering scientific researcher. The Art Gallery staged a celebratory exhibition during the bicentenary on Hunter's art collection accompanied by a book describing its importance, 'My Highest Pleasures' edited by Peter Black (2007).

The conference's four sessions are:

1. European Private Collections.
2. Medical Men as Collectors.
3. Eighteenth-Century Museums and Collections: Architecture, Interiors and Display.
4. William Hunter and his collections - a centre for instruction and enlightenment.

These provide a unique opportunity to place into an historical and modern context William Hunter's extraordinarily broad collections. The conference will include private views of the galleries and delegates will receive abstracts and a copy of 'My Highest Pleasures'. Posters are invited from participants. It is intended that the conference proceedings will be published.

Through the generosity of Shapes Auctioneers of Edinburgh, we can offer free places for up to 15 students on a first come, first served basis.

For further information contact Geoff Hancock at the Hunterian Museum:

Email g.hancock@museum.gla.ac.uk

Telephone: 0141 330 2194

To book a place at the conference, download the booking form and return it with payment to Roslyn Purss at the Hunterian Museum.

Email: r.purss@museum.gla.ac.uk

Fax: 0141 330 3617

Post: Roslyn Purss, Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ
Telephone: 0141 330 4384

<http://www.hunterian.gla.ac.uk:443/museum/whatsOnItem.php?item=168>

Call for papers: Classical Myth and Psychoanalysis

Conference 3-6 September 2009, London

Since Freud published the Interpretation of Dreams in 1900 and utilised Sophocles' Oedipus Rex to work through his developing ideas about the psycho-sexual development of children, it has been virtually impossible to think about psychoanalysis without reference to classical myth. Since that time psychoanalytic theorists of various persuasions have continued to work with myth, viewing it as a resource that is less restrictive than individual literary texts, bound up as they are with issues of authorship and temporality. The mobility of myth offers psychoanalysis an alternative to the culturally specific and provides a framework within which to think through issues such as the redefinition of the personal and the radical alterity at the heart of what is most familiar. This capacity of myth to transcend the context of any particular retelling and to continue to transform the understanding of the present has long been recognised by Classicists for whom it has been a notoriously slippery object of study.

Classical myth has more often been interpreted as encoding a loosely conceived ancient mentalité than as evidencing explicitly configured psychological truths, but the tension between its potency in a particular context and its multivalent potential has repeatedly been stressed. And throughout the twentieth century experts on the ancient world have sometimes turned to the insights of psychoanalytic criticism to supplement and inform their readings of classical myth and literature.

Just as psychoanalysis has developed a canon of classical myth (e.g. Oedipus, Narcissus, Prometheus, Antigone, Greek tragedy in general) so Classical Studies has developed its own canon of texts that seem to attract psychoanalytically-informed analysis (e.g. Greek Tragedy, philosophy and Roman poetry in particular). In some cases this seems to be because of a perceived 'fit' or coherence between the literary work and the mode of analysis, for example the fragmented articulation of desire in Catullan verse or the glorification of the irrational in Euripides' Bacchae; in others it is inspired by an influential reading of a classical text by a particular critic - an obvious example here is Lacan's analysis of Sophocles' Antigone in the seminar The Ethics of Psychoanalysis. The aim of this conference is to probe the limits of these mutually influencing canons and to explore the potential of texts so far excluded from them. Why is it, for example, that Greek myth and literature continues to attract more attention in this context than their Roman counterparts? Why have certain forms of psychoanalysis tended to dominate whilst others have been almost completely ignored? What constitutes an authoritative version of a psychoanalytic or a classical myth? Are there new forms of criticism of classical myth and literature which will harmonise with developing forms of psychoanalysis as we move forward in the new millennium?

Suggested topics for panels include:

- * Foundational narratives
- * Fantasy and the Past
- * Religion Getting the Myth Wrong
- * Text and Object
- * 'And'
- * Group Psychology and the Collective Archetypes

* Colonialism Creativity & the Visual Arts

Invited speakers include:

- * Richard Armstrong (University of Houston, Texas);
- * Page DuBois (University of California, San Diego);
- * Eric Gunderson (University of Toronto);
- * Bruce King (Vassar College);
- * Michaela Janan (Duke University);
- * Jonathan Lear (University of Chicago);
- * Paul Allen Miller (University of South Carolina);
- * Jill Scott (Queens University, Ontario);
- * Robert Segal (University of Aberdeen);
- * Sonu Shamdasani (Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine, University College London);
- * Victoria Wohl (University of Toronto).

Proposals for panels are welcomed as are papers on relevant psychoanalytic or mythic texts. Please send a title and half-page abstract by 1st September 2008 to Vanda Zajko & Ellen O'Gorman, Department of Classics & Ancient History, University of Bristol, BS8 1TB v.zajko@bris.ac.uk; e.c.ogorman@bris.ac.uk. This conference is organised under the aegis of The Bristol Institute for Greece, Rome and the Classical Tradition: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/birtha/centres/institute/>.

"Unreasonable effectiveness"? Historical origins and philosophical problems for applied mathematics': research symposium.

All Souls College, Oxford, Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 December 2008

This symposium will bring together a group of leading scholars to discuss 'applied mathematics' from historical and philosophical perspectives, with the focus of the historical contributions being on the period between the mid-seventeenth and mid-eighteenth centuries. It is hoped that discussion of the historical origins of particular applications of mathematics may help to shed light on the philosophical issues which such applications raise, and vice versa. The sessions will be based as far as is feasible around the discussion of pre-circulated papers.

The symposium is fortunate to have the financial support of the British Society for the History of Mathematics, the British Society for History of Science, and All Souls College. Confirmed speakers: Kirsti Andersen (Aarhus), Alan Baker (Swarthmore, Pennsylvania), Henk J.M. Bos, (Utrecht), Mark Colyvan (Sydney), Niccolò Guicciardini (Bergamo), Antoni Malet (Barcelona), Domenico Bertoloni Meli (Indiana), Jeanne Peiffer (CNRS), Helmut Pulte (Bochum), Benjamin Wardhaugh (Oxford), Mark Wilson (Pittsburgh)

Provisional topics include: 'The reception and transformation of Newton's Principia by continental mathematicians and philosophers' (Pulte); 'Johann Bernoulli on the mathematization of central force motion' (Guicciardini); 'From the Bending of Beams to the Problem of Free Will' (Wilson); 'Images as experiments: Steno's myology, Viviani, and Galileo' (Meli); 'Useful mathematics in England, c. 1700' (Wardhaugh).

Organiser: Benjamin Wardhaugh

A limited number of places are available for observers: these will be allocated on a strictly first-come basis. The cost will be £40, and will cover attendance at the conference sessions, with tea and coffee, and at the conference dinner on 17 December. Unfortunately accommodation cannot be provided for observers.

To reserve a place, or for any enquiries, please contact Benjamin Wardhaugh at:

benjamin.wardhaugh@all-souls.ox.ac.uk
Dr Benjamin Wardhaugh
All Souls College
Oxford OX1 4AL, UK

Hungary

XXIII International Congress of History of Science and Technology: Ideas and Instruments in Social Context

26 - 31 July, 2009
Budapest, Hungary
Corvinus University

The Hungarian National IUHPS Committee is pleased to invite you to attend and take an active part in the XXIII International Congress of History of Science and Technology in Budapest between 26 and 31 July, 2009.

1. Theme

Ideas and Instruments in Social Context

The organizers encourage all scholars to submit fully organized scientific sessions, fully organized symposia and individual papers related to the topic: "IDEAS AND INSTRUMENTS IN SOCIAL CONTEXT"

This slogan, conjuring images of both scientific theory and practice, is meant to suggest a broad agenda, not a restrictive one. The organizers welcome a wide range of proposals for papers and sessions, covering any period from antiquity to the present and any place on the face of the globe.

Although all presentations should relate to the history of science or technology, they may focus on institutions as well as beliefs, inventions as well as applications, the popular as well as the abstruse. They may explore the historical relations of science and technology with such topics as politics, medicine, religion, gender, education, and the arts-or look at the intersection of the history of science and technology with philosophy and sociology. Ideas mean, in this respect, all kinds of scientific, technical, philosophical, religious, political and social ideas that influenced, in a given period and in a given area, the development of science and technology. Topics that show the mutual influence of philosophical, religious, political and social ideas and scientific and technical development are highly appreciated. The analysis of ideas that brought into being or changed an instrument or an institution forms also part of the topic.

All kinds of scientific and technical instruments as preserved in museums, descriptions, memories and in art belong to the topic of the congress. The influence of the instruments on the culture of the laboratories and on everyday life in the different periods is also a highly appreciated topic of the congress.

The history of all kinds of „instruments” that helped or hindered the development of science and technology like legislation, international, state or local influence institutions are incorporated into the second part of the topic.

For much of the history of our discipline, two separate and sometimes antagonistic approaches to the history of science have focused on the study of ideas, and on the study of instruments. However, in the past few decades, more and more scholars have striven to integrate both aspects, showing that instruments not only constitute the material culture of science, but also shape and even embody ideas. They are also central in understanding how science operates within societies, is shaped by the milieus as well as the material conditions in which it is produced, and in return contributes to the construction of these societies. The advent of “Big Science” in the twentieth century, closely dependent on highly sophisticated and costly instruments, has forcefully brought forward the importance of their study by historians of science.

Moreover, the Budapest Congress will be the first to be held after our Division's change of name from "Division of History of Science" to "Division of History of Science and Technology" in 2005. In order to explicitly bring out the ways in which science and technology have been interrelated in history and how studies of both fields are complementary, a series of plenary lectures, symposia and special sessions will be devoted to "Science and ideas in social context", with the aim of bringing together historians of science and historians of technology, and to enhance common discussion on objects that are traditionally regarded as pertaining exclusively to one or the other discipline.

2. 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.

A joint mail from the Presidents of both the IPC and the LOC is to be sent to all Council members, IPC members, chairs of National and Scientific Commissions, as well as some selected scholars, inviting them to organize symposia for this Congress. Proposals for organizing symposia from other qualified scholars are also welcome. Guidelines concerning the nature and structure of a symposium can be found at the Congress website.

3. Business Meetings

- General Assemblies of the IUHPS/DHS;
- Council Meetings of the IUHPS/DHS;
- Meetings of Commissions of the IUHPS/DHS;
- General Assembly of the International Academy of History of Science;
- Meetings of other scientific associations and working groups.

4. Other Activities

- Display and sale of books on history of science and relevant subjects;
- Exhibitions devoted to special topics;
- Various cultural programs and local excursions;

Practicalities

1. Dates

26-31 July 2009

2. Venue

Corvinus University of Budapest

3. Languages

Official

Documents and correspondence of the Congress: English and French;

Papers and Posters

The LOC suggests that participants use DHST official languages in their presentations in plenary lectures, scientific sections, and symposia; it also follows the tradition of previous congresses of accepting papers and posters written in other languages, including Arabic, Chinese, German, Italian, Russian, and Spanish.

4. Abstract

All abstracts will be submitted to a peer review process. Abstracts can be sent to the Congress Secretariat until 15 March 2009. (The Abstract Form will be available soon.)

Papers reaching the Congress Secretariat after 15 March 2009 will not be accepted. No more than one paper per person will be accepted.

5. Accommodation

Special hotel rates have been negotiated for Congress participants. Most of the selected hotels are within walking distance of the Congress venue, or 20 minutes by public transportation. The actual names of the hotels and their prices will be available with the Second Circular.

6. Expression of Interest

All those intending to take part in the Congress are kindly requested to complete the **“Intention to Participate Form”** for being included in the official Congress Mailing List.

7. Registration Fees

Both on-line and off-line registrations will be open in September 2008 (more than 6 months before the early registration deadline).

The registration fees will correspond to the rates of the previous conferences. All services traditionally included in the conference’s registration fee will be provided for.

8. Grants

The Local Organizing Committee will provide free registration to some participants. In allocating this support, preference will be given to applicants from countries facing economic difficulties, as well as young scholars. In order to assist such colleagues, other applicants are asked to explore other possible sources of help before turning to us. If required, the LOC can provide invitation letters.

Under no circumstances will the LOC contribute to travel expenses.

Applicant has to send his/her Curriculum Vitae to the Congress Secretariat before 15 January 2009. Successful applicants will be informed by 15 February 2009.

9. Further Information

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

10. Important Dates

Deadline for symposia proposals	30 June 2008
Second Circular (Call for Papers in Scientific Sessions, Grant information, Registration information)	30 September 2008
Deadline for determination of the final symposia programs	15 December 2008
Deadline for grant applications	15 December 2008
Deadline for early submission of scientific sessions paper abstract*	15 January 2009
Deadline for the LOC confirmation of grant applications	15 February 2009
Deadline for the LOC acceptance of the scientific sessions papers received before 15 January 2009	15 February 2009
Deadline for notification of working meeting by DHS Commission	15 March 2009
Deadline for early registration	15 March 2009
Deadline for the LOC acceptance of scientific session papers received between 15 January and 15 March 2009	15 April 2009
Deadline for hotel reservations	30 April 2009
Third Circular (Congress schedule, Symposia, Scientific sessions)	31 May 2009
Congress program ready	31 May 2009
Program booklet printed	30 June 2009
Abstracts on the web	30 June 2009
Opening of the Congress	26 July 2009

*Speakers applying for grant and/or request the acceptance letter for processing the registration before the early registration deadline must submit their abstracts before 15 January 2009.

Italy

15th International Conference on the Origin of Life

Florence, August 24 - 29 2008

The International Society for the Study of the Origin of Life (ISSOL), cordially invites all those interested in the scientific aspects of the origin of life and related issues to attend the 15th International Conference on the Origin of Life. The conference is scheduled to take place in Florence, Italy, 24-29 August, 2008. Because of the multidisciplinary character of the study of the origin and early evolution of life, the aim of the conference is to discuss and integrate recent discoveries in various scientific fields. Examples of relevant fields include: exo/astrobiology, including interstellar chemistry; comparative planetology; Precambrian paleobiology; chemical evolution and prebiotic chemistry; microbial evolution; genomics; extremophiles; the search for life in the Solar System, as well as historical and educational aspects related to the origin of life. Your participation and contributions are most welcome.

The organizers are sure you will enjoy your stay in the city of Florence, the cradle of the Renaissance, and are confident that both the scientific and the social programs will ensure a happy and productive academic exchange. The First Circular including the registration form and the corresponding deadlines is planned for the end of 2006. Information of the venue of the meeting is available at: <http://www.dbag.unifi.it/issol2008>. For further information please contact: Professor Enzo Gallori, Department of Animal Biology and Genetics, University of Florence, Italy, enzo.gallori@unifi.it. Professor Renato Fani, Department of Animal Biology and Genetics, University of Florence, Italy, renato.fani@unifi.it.

Further Information:

* <http://www.dbag.unifi.it/issol2008>

Mexico

International Congress on the History of Medicine

7-12 September 2008, Mexico City

For more information see www.facmed.unam.mx/eventos/congresos/cihm/c_e.html

The Netherlands

Workshop: "Artificial Cold and International Cooperation in Science"

Leiden, Lorentz Centre

4-8 August 2008

This workshop aims to bring together international scholars working on the history of cryogenics, experts on the history of scientific collaborations and international congresses, historians who focus on the relationships between science and industry as well as active scientists to reflect on the various historical dimensions of these events. The purpose of this week-long workshop is to use the case of cryogenics as a probe to unravel the complex processes through which pure research on a local scale is transformed into an international endeavour with technological and industrial ramification.

<http://www.lorentzcenter.nl/lc/web/2008/290/info.php3?wsid=290>

Scientific coordinators: G. Somsen (Maastricht, Netherlands), F. van Lunteren (Amsterdam, Netherlands), K. Gavroglu (Athens, Greece), D. van Delft (Leiden, Netherlands).

The invention of the Dutch telescope. Its origin and impact on science, culture and society, 1550-1650

Symposium held at the Roosevelt Academy Middelburg,
(International Honors College of Utrecht University),
Thursday 25 - Saturday 27 September 2008
in Middelburg, The Netherlands

Organized in cooperation with the Huygens Institute for the History of Literature, Science and Scholarship of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, The Hague

In September 2008 it will be exactly 400 years ago that the Dutch spectacle maker Hans Lipperhey travelled from Middelburg, the capital of the Province of Zeeland, to The Hague, the seat of the States General, then the governing body of the Dutch Republic, to apply for a patent for 'a certain instrument for seeing far'. Lipperhey's application is the oldest known record anywhere in the world of an actual and usable telescope, an instrument that has changed the world in many respects: both the telescope and the microscope (an instrument developed directly from the telescope) have been of vital importance for military, navigational and scientific use.

During his stay in The Hague the spectacle maker demonstrated the telescope to the Stadholder, Prince Maurits of Orange, and several other court officials and diplomats, who had gathered in this city for a peace conference. In this diplomatic context the vital importance of the telescope was grasped immediately. The news of the new strategic 'spyglass' spread throughout Europe like wildfire. As a result, Lipperhey was ordered to produce several telescopes. A patent was, however, not granted, as Lipperhey's invention was disputed, for instance by his fellow-citizen Sacharias Jansen and by Jacob Metius of Alkmaar. However, within less than six months after Lipperhey's demonstration in The Hague, the telescope was in the possession of the most important European authorities: at least one telescope was owned by the States General; another was held by their commander-in-chief; a third and a fourth had been sent to the French King and his prime minister; another instrument was in the hands of the governor of the Spanish Netherlands, and even the Pope in Rome had received a telescope, a gift from one of the Vatican diplomats.

The significance of the instrument increased further when, starting in 1609, Galileo Galilei used more powerful telescopes of 'Dutch design' in Italy for his astronomical discoveries. Of these the satellites of Jupiter are the most famous. Now the telescope also had become a major tool for astronomy.

In 2008 The Netherlands will celebrate this landmark in the history of Western culture with a number of activities, one of these will be the symposium held in Middelburg, the cradle of the Dutch telescope: an instrument with a convex objective lens and a concave eyeglass.

In the Middelburg symposium several internationally renowned historians of science, cultural and intellectual historians, historians of literature, archaeologists and other scholars in the field of historic scientific instruments will reflect on the historic importance of the instrument in the first years of its existence. Recent insights in the prehistory of the telescope and the production and distribution of glass technology will allow this interdisciplinary group of

scholars to shed new light on the cultural, technical, and scientific circumstances that led to the construction of the instrument. Speakers will place the invention of the telescope within the economic, political, and religious contexts of the emerging Dutch Republic, Middelburg and the Province of Zeeland to respond to the question of why it took place in Middelburg in September 1608. Recent finds of early 17th-century telescopes will contribute to our understanding of the enormous impact of the Dutch telescope in science, culture and society, from its use for navigational purposes on VOC ships, its attractiveness as an object worthy of mercantile and princely collections, its metaphorical use in early modern literature to its revolutionary impact in optics, astronomy and cosmology.

Invited speakers

- Klaas van Berkel (Groningen University)
- Mario Biagioli (Harvard University)
- Marvin Bolt (Adler Planetarium, Chicago)
- Daniëlle Caluwé (Free University Brussels)
- Floris Cohen (Utrecht University)
- Sven Dupré (Ghent University)
- Rob van Gent (Utrecht University)
- Albert van Helden (Emeritus Utrecht University & Rice University)
- Vincent Ilardi (University of Massachusetts)
- Michael Korey (Mathematisch-Physikalischer Salon, Dresden)
- Antoni Malet (Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona)
- Jan Parmentier (Ghent University)
- Eileen Reeves (Princeton University)
- Mark Smith (University of Missouri)
- Katrien Vanagt (Twente University)
- Rienk Vermij (University of Oklahoma).
- Rolf Willach (Independent Scholar, Switzerland)

Organizing Committee

- Albert van Helden, Albert Clement, Sven Dupré, Peter Louwman, Rob van Gent, Huib Zuidervaart

Potential participants can subscribe to the conference through the website www.roac.nl of the Roosevelt Academy in Middelburg, Zeeland.

Lange Noordstraat 1
4331 CB Middelburg
The Netherlands

or by sending an e-mail to:

Dr. Huib J. Zuidervaart
Huygens Institute (KNAW)
P.O. Box 90.754
2509 LT The Hague
The Netherlands
E-mail: Huib.Zuidervaart@huygensinstituut.knaw.nl

For hotel information in Middelburg, see: www.hotels.nl/nl/Middelburg

Portugal

XXVII Symposium of the Scientific Instrument Commission
16-21 September 2008, Museum of Science, University of Lisbon

The Museum of Science of the University of Lisbon is glad to host the 27th edition of the Symposium of the Scientific Instrument Commission. The conference is open to all interested in the history, preservation, documentation and use of scientific instruments. The Conference will take place between 16 and 21 September 2008 and will include visits to the most important collections of scientific instruments in Portugal. The invited speakers are Thomas P. Hughes, Professor Emeritus, University of Pennsylvania and Distinguished Visiting Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and John L. Heilbron, Professor Emeritus of History and History of Science at the University of California at Berkeley <http://chcul.fc.ul.pt/sic2008/>

Switzerland

Call for papers: Towards a Global History of Development: interweaving Culture, Politics, Science and the Economy of Aid

Workshop 16-19 October 2008, Zurich

Currently, historians seem to discover the history of the post-colonial development endeavour. Several research projects have just been completed or are still under way, which focus on one of the many aspects of this global phenomenon. We see two reasons for this rise in academic interest.

First, foreign aid and development has indeed become historical. The optimistic drive of the early years, i.e. the 1950s and 1960s, has vanished in view of the rather poor record of the venture. Many authors, including Colin Leys in 1996, have declared development dead, in the sense that the idea of speeding up economic change in poor countries through financial, technological or informational input has lost its former glory. Meanwhile, aid has become a knowledge industry that easily survives its own obituaries but that does not happily embrace its past. Whenever practitioners of the field look back they are confronted with an enormous difference between what once were future prospects and/or fears and what effectively did emerge. The “Development Machine” (James Ferguson) has become part and parcel of the actually existing condition of globality as described by Michael Geyer and Charles Bright. Like other agents of global convergence, it bears witness of the high degree of global cultural and economic integration that has been achieved in the last decades while it is one prominent arena for asserting difference and rejecting sameness around the planet. Development has come to denote many contradictory things, but it is this plurality that makes for its historical reality, paradoxical and wanting, as it may seem. In this situation historians can reconstruct the many development experiences and locate them in past spaces of action and frames of expectations.

A second reason for the new historiographic interest lies in the historians’ recent attention towards phenomena of global interaction and connectedness. The history of foreign aid and development surely offers many opportunities to inquire into transnational and global connections. While the bulk of aid was organized bilaterally, the context of international development at the same time gave rise to many new institutions, which challenged the agency of the nation state through supranational or non-governmental associations. Aid has become a powerful element within the socio-economic reality of almost all recipient countries while the fundraising activities of the aid agencies have strongly influenced the public image of the Third World within donor societies.

Aim of the Workshop

The workshop takes advantage of the fact that many research projects of different focus and scope are under way. Donor politics and fund raising, development discourse, international agencies, expert cultures and social change in recipient countries are under scrutiny. The workshop wants to engage the isolated undertakings in a dialogue and enhance discussion and exchange, where they already take place. We aim at a survey of the

field, however without searching for a synthesis. Rather, the heterogeneity of the collected approaches shall be articulated and discussed. We are interested in the question, what notions and assumptions different researchers are sharing. Is development just a common starting point of the research projects or are there instances of analytic convergence? In what ways can the perspectives of economic, political, or social history be combined with approaches from cultural history or the history of science and technology? The results of the workshop shall be collected in a published volume in order to promote these debates in a wider audience.

Leading Assumptions

We are convinced that the historical development experience is so manifold that it cannot be summarised in one dominant account. Neither the telos of enlightened universalism nor the particularism of tiers-mondistes, who defend an alleged authenticity of non-Western cultures, can convincingly account for the phenomenon. Two leading assumptions are proposed. First, we assume that the multitude of approaches reflects the complexity of the topic. Development is a global phenomenon that touches economical, political, social and cultural questions alike. The empirical facts of economic gaps and differences in wealth are inextricably intertwined with cultural and scientific representations of inequality. Researching into foreign aid and development inevitably brings up aspects of poverty, oppression and hegemonic rule and leads to ethical questions of equality and justice. At the same time, one has to envision the genesis of late modern expert cultures and reflect upon the advent of a knowledge society. Both, matters of fact and their interpretations, material sources of power as well as knowledge claims, accounted for the political dimension of foreign aid and development and shaped their historical contours.

The second assumption concerns the globality of the phenomenon. Development discourse has always tended to encompass and annihilate the worlds' diversity by promoting universalistic concepts. This totalizing stance must not necessarily be repeated when the history of development is taken into view globally. On the contrary: it seems interesting to ask, in what ways different actors in different positions within the development endeavour have conceptualized the world as one and how these global imaginations influenced social change locally. Development historiography needs to be complemented by a genealogy of these world-views. Reducing the phenomenon to a unidirectional flow of financial aid and technical know-how from North to South seems rather simplistic, because such a perspective does not account for the productive reinterpretations of modernization and development in the recipient context. In fact, one is confronted with a multilayered global connection, which most probably cannot be reduced to a "hidden transcript" (James C. Scott) of neo-colonial dominance of an active West over the passive rest. Emphasizing agency on all sides of the North-South-relation allows for a detailed historical analysis of dependency and exploitation in the unfolding of multiple and interwoven modernities.

Call for Papers

We invite submissions of papers on global aspects of the history of foreign aid and development along the above-sketched lines of inquiry, irrespective of their geographical focus. Contributions on recipient countries are of special interest. While Decolonization and the Cold War will form the main temporal frame, we also welcome papers that look further backwards into colonial rule, or put more recent times under scrutiny. Presentations should not exceed twenty minutes each. The deadline for submissions is June 15, 2008, and abstract should not exceed 400 words.

Please send your abstracts to the event's communication address via e-mail:

development@live.de

We thank the sponsors:

DFG, SNF, Gerda Henkel Stiftung, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, ETH Zurich

Dr. Daniel Speich, ETH Zürich, Institut für Geschichte, Technikgeschichte, Auf der Mauer 2 (ADM), CH-8092 Zürich, www.tg.ethz.ch/forschung/mitarbeiter/DanielSpeich.htm, speich@history.gess.ethz.ch

Dr. Hubertus Büschel, Historisches Institut der Universität Potsdam, Am Neuen Palais 10, D-14469 Potsdam, www.zzf-pdm.de/site/492/default.aspx, hubertus_bueschel@web.de

See also <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/termine/id=9326>

Announcements

The Science Studies Network

ESHS members are invited to join the on-line Science Studies Network, recently set up for anyone interested in the history and philosophy of science, science and technology studies, medical history and ethics, etc.

The group website includes a tagcloud application, in which members can be linked to researchers with similar interests by clicking on relevant keywords presented in a 'cloud'. There are also links to podcasts and discussions on STS themes. Recent podcasts explore issues such as:

- “Art and Science”
- “Scientists’ Perspectives on STS”
- “Democratizing Science”
- “Media Technologies & Science”
- “How to do Interdisciplinary STS”
- “A Discussion with Nancy Cartwright”
- “Directions in History of Science”
- “Research, Policy, & Ethical Issues in Science”
- “Cultural Studies of Science”

You can also access the podcasts by visiting the Science Studies Network Homepage:
<<http://depts.washington.edu/ssnet/>>

To join the on-line network group, follow this link:
<<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5901838860>>

Simon Werrett
Department of History
University of Washington

Exhibition: The Medici and Science Instruments and Machines in the Grand-Ducal Collections

Florence, Museo degli Argenti
May 15, 2008 - January 11, 2009

From May 15, the Museo degli Argenti in the Pitti Palace is hosting the exhibition The Medici and Science. Instruments and Machines in the Grand-Ducal Collections, conceived by the Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza and promoted in collaboration with the Soprintendenza per il Patrimonio Artistico, Storico ed Etnoantropologico e per il Polo Museale della città di Firenze) and the Ente Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze.

The exhibition, curated by Filippo Camerota and Mara Miniati, revolves around the prominent role that physical-mathematical disciplines played in Tuscany in the 16th-17th century, particularly from Cosimo I until Ferdinando II. The Medici were great patrons of instrument-makers and natural philosophers inasmuch as they, more than any other European ruler, were fully aware that scientific knowledge and the technological control of nature conferred stability and prestige on political power. For this reason, along their rich treasure of paintings, sculptures and jewels, the Medici sovereigns formed a notable collection of mathematical instruments. This close relationship between art and science emerges from the beauty and preciousness of many of these instruments, some of which are unique pieces and authentic works of art in themselves.

The Medici and Science highlights the alliance between art, science and political power by combining a broad selection of instruments from the Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza with an equally ample selection of paintings, books and manuscripts coming from the institutions of the Polo Museale Fiorentino and from other prestigious Italian institutions. The exhibition catalogue (*I Medici e le scienze. Strumenti e macchine nelle collezioni granducali*, € 40,00), edited by Filippo Camerota and Mara Miniati, is published by Giunti Editore, Florence-Milan.

Notes & Records of The Royal Society

From March 2008, *Notes and Records* will have a new editor:

Professor Robert Fox, History of Science, Technology and Medicine, University of Oxford

As you know, Professor Fox was until recently President of the ESHS and is currently Vice-President of the Society.

Notes and Records publishes original research in the area of history of science, technology and medicine, up to and including the 20th century. Published by The Royal Society, its aim is to promote scholarship and encourage research into the history of science. It reports on the most current research and archival activities in the field of history and philosophy of science, and we invite your article submissions, on a wide range of analytical themes.

While continuing to welcome biography-related articles and those with a connection with the Royal Society, under its new editor, the journal is also seeking articles not relating to the Royal Society and its Fellowship.

From March 2008 *Notes and Records* will publish 4 times a year - in March, June, September and December. Themed issues appear on a regular basis; the March 2008 issue will be on 'Technicians'.

To submit now go to <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/nrrs> or contact us at notes@royalsociety.org

To arrange 60 days' FREE trial online access to *Notes and Records* or to request a FREE print sample copy, please contact trial@royalsociety.org, quoting NRRS1207

For further information visit publishing.royalsociety.org/notes

New publication: Les archives des scientifiques, guide des fonds conservés en France par Thérèse CHARMASSON

Ce guide, conçu comme un outil d'accès aux archives des scientifiques conservées en France du XVI^e au XX^e siècle, regroupe des informations sur des fonds d'archives et collections de manuscrits appartenant à des établissements relevant de réseaux institutionnels différents. Sans se substituer aux instruments de recherche existants, il a

pour objectif premier de permettre au chercheur de s'orienter et de déterminer les documents qui sont susceptibles de répondre à ses interrogations. Au-delà, il compose un corpus qui pourra être interrogé de différentes manières et a pour ambition de susciter de nouvelles recherches en attirant l'attention sur des fonds trop souvent méconnus.

Commander l'ouvrage en ligne depuis le site web du CTHS ou depuis Amazon:

ISBN : 978-2-7355-0665-1

Année : 2008

Collection : Orientations et méthodes

Code Sodis : F30710.5

ESHS Membership Form

Please fill out the form below and send to the ESHS secretary at the following address: leonardo.gariboldi@unimi.it

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