

Newsletter

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of the History of Science Society

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Notes from the Inside	3
News from the Profession	5
Search for a New Society Editor	8
Upcoming Conferences	10
Conference Reports	12
Job and Fellowship Announcements	13
Member News	15
In Memoriam	17
Articles:	
Learning Another Language	19
Pox and the City	20
Tennis and the Scientific Revolution	22
New San Francisco Foundation Is Telling the Story of Biotechnology	26
Reflections from Cleveland and the 2011 Annual Meeting	27

FROM THE HSS PRESIDENT: HISTORY OF SCIENCE UNBOUND

by Lynn K. Nyhart

The history of science is everywhere. It is in the names of street signs and in currency adorned with portraits of national scientific heroes. It is in inspirational stories that children learn about men and women who have advanced fundamental knowledge of nature, or who have contributed to improvements in health and technology. It is likewise in the admonitory writings of novelists, playwrights, and muckrakers depicting those who have twisted or suppressed the truths of nature for personal, financial, religious, or political gain. And it is in phrases casually slung around—“It’s not rocket science;” “Hey, it’s only a theory.”



*Lynn K. Nyhart,
2012–2013 HSS President*

These stories and symbols, and the histories behind them, are not generally made by historians of science. Why not? Because the history of science is bigger than we are. Scientists, politicians, civic and national boosters, clergy, bureaucrats, journalists, fiction writers, educators of all stripes and at all levels—all of these groups, along with us, have a stake in making histories of science. Yet we are the experts. We are the ones who understand and care most about the nuances of making scientific knowledge. We have studied science’s entanglements with nationalism and hero-worship and have analyzed the shaping of historical narratives that make certain outcomes seem inevitable. We have theorized about the moral ambiguities of science in a culture saturated with conflicting social and economic messages. We *know* this stuff. But we don’t own it. So what should the history of science, as a profession, do?

Here’s a thought: we could become “them.” Instead of noticing (and complaining about) science writers who take our best material and get it not-quite right, we could sometimes choose—and then learn—to write the way they do. Instead of sighing over science textbooks that

Continued on Page 2

HISTORY OF SCIENCE UNBOUND

Continued from Page 1

compress history into brief sidebars, we could work with their writers to show why history of science deserves not only more space but integration into the overall presentation of science. We could further encourage history of science students to become K–12 teachers, museum professionals, and film-makers, and seek out active means to funnel people headed for these futures into history of science courses. Instead of bemoaning the lack of science-cultural literacy among our politicians and government bureaucrats, we could prepare our students for non-academic jobs that engage with science-related public policy.

All of this is already happening, on small and local scales, individual by individual, driven in part by the endlessly dismal job market in higher education. But the profession as a whole has not yet caught up to this reality. Too many of us still envision the history of science profession as a series of concentric circles centered on a few successful graduate programs and their professors, and tailing off toward peripheral “alternative” careers that are treated as less successful. We need a gestalt shift.

Rather than a concentric approach, how about a polycentric view: the history of science community as a social and intellectual network with many centers and many levels, all connected by our shared commitment to advancing our subject. Considered geographically, this network has significant nodes around centers of graduate and undergraduate education in the field. Other major geographic nodes exist in communities with different kinds of history of science-related institutions, where scholars who curate history of science research resources and museum exhibits, teach K–12 students, develop policy, and write or edit works for the general public stay in close and active touch with one another and with their college- and university-based colleagues. But geographic proximity is not the only way of maintaining community. Given the ease of electronic communication these days, an independent scholar who devotes time to email and Facebook may be as plugged in to history of science networks as a college teacher who is buried under an avalanche of teaching and grading assignments. Geographically and institutionally dispersed sub-networks might have especially thick lines of communication deriving from shared graduate school experiences, intellectual interests, or career/life trajectories.

Continued on Page 4

History of Science Society

EXECUTIVE OFFICE (NEW ADDRESS, EFFECTIVE 16 AUG 10)

History of Science Society

440 Geddes Hall
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN 46556
Phone: 574-631-1194; Fax: 574-631-1533
E-mail: info@hssonline.org
Web site: <http://www.hssonline.org/>

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Moving?

Please notify both the HSS Executive Office and the University of Chicago Press.

EDITORIAL POLICIES, ADVERTISING AND SUBMISSIONS

The *History of Science Society Newsletter* is published in January, April, July, and October, and sent to all individual members of the Society.

The *Newsletter* is edited and published in the Executive Office. The format and editorial policies are determined by the Executive Director in consultation with the Committee on Publications and the Society Editor. All advertising copy must be submitted in electronic form. Advertisements are accepted on a space-available basis only, and the Society reserves the right not to print a submission. The rates are as follows: Full page (7 x 9.25”), \$625; Horizontal or Vertical Half page (7 x 4.6”), \$375; Quarter page (3.5 x 4.6”), \$225. The deadline for insertion orders is six weeks prior to the month of publication and should be sent to the attention of the HSS Executive Office. The deadline for news, announcements, and job/fellowship/ prize listings is firm: Six weeks prior to the month of publication. Long items (feature stories) should be submitted eight weeks prior to the month of publication. Please send all material to the attention of the executive office: info@hssonline.org.

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NOTES FROM THE INSIDE

NSF and the History of Science

Many of you are aware of the recent challenges facing the history and philosophy of science at the National Science Foundation. Last year we encouraged you to write NSF officials regarding proposed cuts and you responded magnificently—some would say in an unprecedented manner. Unfortunately, our fear of losing a program officer in the Science, Technology, and Society (STS) program materialized—which decreases the ability to create funding opportunities for STS proposals in other divisions and directorates at NSF (let alone other federal agencies such as the Department of Energy). Furthermore, the STS base budget was cut by more than 27% (from \$8.5M to \$6.2M). In last January's Notes from the Inside (<http://www.hssonline.org/publications/Newsletter2011/PDF/Jan2011Newsletter.pdf>) I discussed these possible changes and asked for your help as we sought examples of how history of science enriches the discourse of science.

The good news is that NSF is still funding the history of science, and I encourage you to read carefully the new STS solicitation (<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2012/nsf12509/nsf12509.htm>) and a new STS Frequently Asked Questions set (http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/ses/sts/STS_FAQs.pdf). As you put together a proposal, please keep the following points in mind.

- Effective STS proposals go beyond simply describing the interaction between science, technology and society. They explain how the proposed research provides new and important scientific insights into the theory or practice of science (or engineering) or into the adoption, use, or diffusion of technology. They also explain how the proposed research would bring to light the underlying assumptions, practices, methods, values, or goals of science, engineering, or technology.
- Successful proposals are transferrable (i.e. generate results that provide insights for other scientific contexts that are suitably similar).
- At all points of the proposal writers should emphasize the “broader impacts” of their work, especially regarding the impacts of project results on societal issues at some interface between science (or technology) and society (not necessarily society at large, just some substantial societal subgroup that is other than the disciplinary groups involved in the project).
- It is also recommended that you ask scholars outside of history to review your proposal. An interdisciplinary panel and set of reviewers will read the work and make a recommendation, so it's a good idea to have those audiences evaluate the work before it is submitted.

This is the new reality at the NSF but it is not an eternal reality and so I encourage you to read the solicitation and offer me your feedback. Let me know where the new solicitation falls short, and I will transmit your concerns to the NSF.

As always, thank you for your membership in the HSS.

- Jay Malone, HSS Executive Director

HISTORY OF SCIENCE UNBOUND

Continued from Page 2

What difference would it make to envision our profession in this way? First, replacing the concentric image with the polycentric one would help bring recognition to the great diversity of jobs and life-situations existing among practitioners of the history of science, and be more welcoming of scholars whose lives allow them to publish original research only rarely. It would help us re-think “alternative careers” in the history of science simply as “careers.” Second, it would invite greater openness in what we imagine it means to “do” the history of science. If we want to reach a broader public, we should consider “doing” history of science to include writing for that public, making films and websites, blogging, and constructing museum exhibits—especially when these involve direct engagement with primary sources and making historical arguments. Third, taking this attitude could potentially expand who we think “we” are—not just people who are active researchers and college teachers of the history of science, but those who translate scholarly work into forms more accessible to a broader public. By actively embracing this broader community as part of “us,” we might gain greater influence over the messages that circulate beyond the ivied walls (though there are never any guarantees). Fourth, thinking in terms of social as well as intellectual networks might help us stay connected with the many people who engage deeply with the history of science community at some stage of their lives but for whom active intellectual engagement then takes a back seat. It could thereby invigorate the Society’s sense of community, and draw in a broader membership among people for whom *Isis* subscribership is less central than a sense of membership in the community qua community.

None of this would require giving up the advancement of original scholarship as a primary goal of the profession. This will always be at the heart of what we do. Nor would it mean relinquishing the history of earlier periods in favor of policy-relevant recent topics—the evidence from historical novels

and popular histories suggests that early topics remain compelling to general readers, and we should be able to capitalize on that interest. What I’m talking about is recasting the image we carry around of our community to better fit the realities of our subject matter, our membership, and our times.

Whether or not we go this far collectively in re-envisioning our professional community, it seems pretty clear that both the demographics of the profession and the rapidly changing structure of today’s media are pressing us to do some serious rethinking of the forms and functions of the Society to best serve our community. (That means you.) A start is to modernize and expand our forms of communication. Many of you will have noticed the HSS Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/HistoryOfScienceSociety>), which has become more active in recent months, thanks to the efforts of Greg Macklem in the Executive Office. The Women’s Caucus, the Graduate and Early Career Caucus, the Forum for the History of the Human Sciences, and the Forum for the History of Science in America also have active Facebook pages. FHS-America sponsors a lively blog, as does the Society’s newest forum, FHSAsia. (If you haven’t seen these, check them out!) We are working on a major renovation of our website and seek your views on what would improve it. What else would you like to see, that would help our internet presence? Are you interested in volunteering, either in relation to the HSS website or in some other way? Please write to Jay Malone (jay@hssonline.org) or me (lknyhart@wisc.edu) with your ideas. Better yet, start or join an open discussion thread on the new HSSForum at <http://groups.google.com/group/hssforum> and see what results!

I look forward to engaging in a big conversation in our community over the next couple of years about the shape of the profession and how the Society can best support our members. I urge you to join in the discussion and make your voice heard.

NEWS FROM THE PROFESSION

Dibner Library Lecture

Laura J. Snyder of St. John's University delivered the 2011 Dibner Library Lecture this past December. Her talk, titled "The Philosophical Breakfast Club and the Invention of the Scientist," examined the creation of the word "scientist." In 1833, when the poet S.T. Coleridge stood up at a meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science and demanded that its members stop calling themselves "natural philosophers," one man was ready with an alternative title: "scientist." In inventing the name for the modern man of science, William Whewell (pronounced who-ell) was continuing a task he and three of his friends had set for themselves two decades earlier. After meeting at Cambridge University in 1812, Whewell, Charles Babbage, John Herschel and Richard Jones discussed the sorry state of science at "philosophical breakfasts" held on Sundays after the compulsory college chapel services. They vowed to bring about a new scientific revolution.

Each of the four would go on to accomplish great things: Babbage invented the first computer, Herschel was a great astronomer who also co-invented photography, Jones became an economist of note who influenced Karl Marx, and Whewell spearheaded international research on the tides. But their influence goes farther: by the end of their lives these four had succeeded, even beyond their wildest dreams, in transforming science. The amateur



Laura Snyder delivers the 2011 Dibner Library Lecture at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

natural philosopher—the country curate collecting beetles in his spare hours, or the industrialist studying the chemistry of flax-bleaching—became the professional scientist, who was trained at the university, belonged to specialized societies, published in scientific journals, and, eventually, could earn a living by scientific work. The invention of the modern scientist was brought about through the decades-long friendship of four remarkable men.

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Begun in 1992, the Dibner Library Lecture features a distinguished scholar who has made significant contributions to his or her field of study. The speakers may be chosen based on a recently published successful book, or well-received lectures, or entire scholarly output in subjects of the History of Science and Technology. The early lectures also emphasized bibliographical aspects and the scrutiny of the history of the book. Since 2000, the Dibner Library Lecture has become available in published form and since 2004 it has been video archived as well. The lecture series and its publication are made possible by the generous support of The Dibner Fund (former President David Dibner).

Dibner Library Lectures Available Online:

<http://www.sil.si.edu/libraries/Dibner/programs.cfm>

2006: Political Arithmetic. Joyce Chaplin (Harvard University) on "Benjamin Franklin's Political Arithmetic: A Materialist View of Humanity."

2004: Astronomy: Albert Van Helden (Rice University and the University of Utrecht) on the beginnings of telescopic astronomy.

2003: Metrology. Ken Alder (Northwestern University) on "The Measure of the World."

2002: Technology. Anthony Grafton (Princeton University) on "Magic and Technology in Early Modern Europe."

2001: The Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology at 25 Years: Celebrating the Collector's Vision and Its Legacy.

Owen Gingerich (Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory and Harvard University) on "Icons of Understanding: Celebrating Bern Dibner's Heralds of Science."

2000: Scientific Discoveries. Kenneth L. Caneva (Professor of History, University of North Carolina at Greensboro) on "The Form and Function of Scientific Discoveries."

2000: Astronomy. Steven J. Dick (U. S. Naval Observatory) on "Extraterrestrial Life and Our World View at the Turn of the Millennium."

University of Chicago Press Gives Abrams Prize

Mark V. Barrow, Jr., Professor and Chair of History at Virginia Tech, has been selected as the winner of the 2011 Susan Elizabeth Abrams Prize, which is awarded biennially for the best book in the history of science published by the University of Chicago Press. The citation from the selection committee noted: "The 2011 Susan Elizabeth Abrams Prize is awarded to Mark V. Barrow, Jr. for *Nature's Ghosts: Confronting Extinction from the Age of Jefferson to the Age of Ecology*. A synthesis of original research and wide reading across several bodies of scholarship, the book traces changing conceptions of extinction from the eighteenth century to the present, concentrating especially on the role played by American naturalists. Barrow writes about extinct species, and the naturalists who fought to save species from extinction, with pathos and panache. Readers come away with a vivid sense of what has been lost, and also of the long struggles to save threatened species and raise awareness of extinction as a real—and avoidable—possibility."

Established in 2003 by the University of Chicago Press, the nation's largest academic publisher, this prize honors the contributions made by the late Susan E. Abrams—as editor, mentor, critic, and friend—to the history of science. The prize is awarded to a book that exemplifies the standards that Susan brought to bear on publication within the field: originality, exceptional scholarship,

and well-crafted prose. The selection committee consisted of Gregory Radick, Michael Reidy, Neil Safier, and Andre Wakefield.

PACHS Newsletter

The December newsletter of the Philadelphia Area Center for History of Science is available at www.pachs.net/images/uploads/news2011fall.html. Please visit the site for news about fellowships, events, and collections. PACHS is helping with the 3-Society Meeting in Philadelphia in July 2012. Please come and support the history of science.

Margaret Osler Papers Open for Research

The Margaret Osler Papers at Oregon State University Libraries are now described and open for research. Osler (1942–2010), who spent the bulk of her career at the University of Calgary, was a historian of science and philosophy who published widely on the connection between religion and early science. In particular, she focused on the work of Pierre Gassendi, Robert Boyle, and Isaac Newton.

The Osler Papers include correspondence, manuscripts, research notes and photographs documenting Osler's scholarly activities and personal affairs. One highlight of the collection is Osler's extensive, though not complete, translation of Pierre Gassendi's *Syntagma Philosophicum*, a translation that was never published. The papers also include a large volume of correspondence between Osler and her parents, as well as a wide array of manuscripts and subject files related to Osler's scholarly interests. A large number of photographs rounds out the collection.

The Osler Papers are one of five Historians of Science collections housed at OSU Libraries. The papers of historians of science are among the collecting focuses of the Libraries Special Collections & Archives Research Center, which is best known as the home of the Ava Helen and Linus Pauling Papers.

Launch of Dissertation Reviews

In an effort to help scholars in all fields keep up to date on recent scholarship, *Dissertation Reviews*, a

new site, offers concise summaries and reviews of dissertations defended after 2009. The site seeks faculty, post-docs, and advanced graduate students to review recent dissertations in the history of science and related fields. Authors whose dissertations are reviewed receive private constructive criticism in addition to the published reviews. To become a reviewer or learn more about the project, please see the project website, <http://dissertationreviews.org/>.

History of Science Dissertation Abstracts Now Online

The latest list of recent doctoral dissertations harvested from the May 2010 issues of Dissertation Abstracts pertaining to the history of science can be viewed at: <http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/guides/histmed/researchresources/dissertations/index.html>.

France's Musée Associatif Histoire Naturelle Launches New Online Library

MAHN-84 is pleased to announce the opening of its Digital Library. The Digital Library includes 13,454 digitized documents (old and rare books, new books and reprints on: Zoology, Botany, Entomology, Caving, and Biospeleology). The new MAHN-84 website may be found at: <http://www.wix.com/lefhe3/mahn-84>.

Library of Alexandria Launches Supercourse of Science

The Library of Alexandria has collected nearly 180,000 lectures and made them available for free to help in the education of scientists worldwide. The project currently holds almost 6 million slides on health, environment, computer engineering, and agriculture for professionals to use in developing lectures. In the coming years the Library hopes to collect over 3 million lectures with up to 90 million slides. All resources are available online at the Supercourse of Science website: <http://ssc.bibalex.org/home/list.jsf>.

New Journal—*Almagest*

The Network of History of Science in Southeastern Europe has launched a new journal, *Almagest: An International Journal for the History of Scientific Ideas*, available through Brepols. The editors are Efthymios Nicolaidis and Constantine Skordoulis. Subscription information and an introduction to the aims of the journal are available at www.brepols.net/pages/GetFile.aspx?dlfi=39.

University of Calgary Graduate Program in the History and Philosophy of Science

The University of Calgary Department of History and Department of Philosophy now jointly offer programs leading to a Masters in the History and Philosophy of Science. The program builds on particular research and teaching strengths in philosophy, history and classics at the University of Calgary and also draws on course offerings in the humanities, the natural and social sciences. The University of Calgary HPS program emphasizes a broad understanding of the history of science and medicine as well as an understanding of the philosophical issues that underpin science, such as the nature of scientific explanation and the relation between evidence and hypothesis.

The HPS program seeks excellent students (from Canada and abroad), who are highly motivated and have a great interest in interdisciplinary subjects. The University of Calgary HPS program has strong links to the STS program, the History of Medicine and Health Care program and the Department of Greek and Roman Studies. For further information, contact Dr. Megan Delehanty in the Department of Philosophy (mdelehan@ucalgary.ca) and Dr. Frank W. Stahnisch in the Department of History (fwstahni@ucalgary.ca), or see the department website: <http://www.phil.ucalgary.ca/grad/hps.html>.

Search for a New Society Editor: Hercules Meets *Isis*

Bernard Lightman, Society Editor

According to Greek mythology, Atlas, one of the Titans, was condemned by Zeus to hold up the heavens for siding with the other Titans against the Olympians. He is sometimes depicted in sculptures as holding the earth on his shoulders. The burden was so great that Atlas tried to trick Hercules into taking his place. By trying to persuade members of the HSS to consider putting themselves forward as a candidate for Society Editor I do not intend to play the role of Atlas by tricking some poor Hercules into being my successor. I do not see the Society Editor as taking on a crushing burden. Editing *Isis* has been a great privilege and joy, and the support of the HSS has made the job quite manageable. Since the HSS funds a managing editor, a manuscript editor, and part of the course release for a book review editor, I have been able to concentrate on dealing with the manuscripts and charting the overall direction of the journal. I put in about a day and a half of work per week on the journal, on average. I receive a full year course release from my home institution, which also helps to ensure that my life is not completely taken over by my duties as Society Editor.

But for anyone who is thinking of becoming a candidate, another factor that should be considered is the beneficial impact on your students, your department, and your university. In my own case, the most visible impacts have been overwhelmingly positive.

The students hired to work for the journal have benefited tremendously from the scholarly atmosphere and from the increased funding they have received. Since the History of Science Society pays for the tuition of the graduate students, they are freed up from the need to find work outside the university and are therefore able to make good progress towards completing their degrees. The

students have also observed that unlike those with teaching assistantships, they can limit the number of hours they work each week. Through their work they also come into contact with the most important scholars in the history of science. As for the undergraduates who have worked on the journal, as one of them remarked, working on *Isis* is one of the few opportunities for undergraduates to be engaged in scholarly publishing.

Second, the faculty working on the journal have found that it increases their productivity. Conor Burns, our assistant book review editor, has asserted that working on the book review operation was helpful as he completed the research for his dissertation. He believes that, in general, it has given him a much more comprehensive perspective on the field, a perspective that he can draw on to enhance his work. Ian Slater, our managing editor, has said that he finds that the atmosphere at the journal acts as a stimulus to finish his research projects. Professor Anderson completed the work on her book on Victorian meteorology during the first year that the journal came to York. I finished my book on Victorian popular science while on sabbatical. I found that coming in to work on *Isis* did not inhibit my efforts to write the book.

Third, York University's profile in the area of the history of science has been boosted within the university, within Canada, and within the international community of scholars. Locating *Isis* at York in 2004 helped to bring together the scholars working in the field who were spread throughout the university. It encouraged faculty in different programs to create stronger, unified Science and Technology Studies programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. In the early 1990s, there were two distinct programs in two faculties—Atkinson and Arts—an inefficient and

History of Science Society Newsletter

frustrating situation. The Atkinson group moved to the Faculty of Science and Engineering (FSE) and a combined inter-faculty program was launched in 2006. It has been a resounding success that currently has 80 majors. Bringing together scholars from both FSE and Arts allowed for a much more fruitful collaboration and the introduction of a unified, more coherent curriculum. The creation of a new undergraduate program allowed us to establish a new STS graduate program in 2009. Having *Isis* here helped us to persuade university administrators that we were recognized outside York as a leading center in the field and therefore an appropriate site for the location of Canada's first STS graduate program. Currently we have 14 PhD students and 12 MA students in the program as we begin our third year of operation.

On the national level, having *Isis* at York has been important to Canadian scholars. Working together with other Canadian scholars led by Professor Gordon McOuat of Kings College, we were able to obtain a Social Sciences and Humanities Strategic Cluster Grant five years ago. The move of *Isis* to Canada featured prominently in the successful grant application. The funding has allowed us to establish a network of scholars in Canada centered on a series of regional nodes. Partly as a result of having the journal, York was designated as the node for Ontario. Our international reputation has been elevated due to having *Isis* at York. We are now seen internationally as a university where significant research in the field is being conducted. We have a particularly strong group of faculty in the area and having *Isis* has brought attention to our strengths.

Locating *Isis* at York has enabled STS scholars at York to create a more robust research culture in the field. Having a major scholarly journal is required to establish a research institute at York. In the summer of 2010 we opened a new research institute in Science and Technology Studies and we were able to point to *Isis* as evidence of our strength in research in the field. Over twenty faculty belong to the institute. The additional funding for the institute has allowed us to bring in

more guest speakers and to organize workshops and conferences. The institute has also helped faculty locate new sources of funding for their research.

History of science at York has benefited tremendously from the presence of *Isis*. It has allowed us to build first-rate undergraduate and graduate programs; raised the scholarly profile of our programs around the world; enhanced the educational experience of our graduate students; inspired the faculty working on the journal to be more productive; and allowed us to create a research institute. I am somewhat amazed at what we have been able to accomplish at York while *Isis* has been here. I look forward to an excellent successor to be chosen by the Committee on Publications, and no herculean tricks should be needed to entice qualified candidates.

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[Editor's Note: Preliminary proposals for the Society Editorship are due **1 March 2012**. Please go to <http://www.hssonline.org/publications/Newsletter2011/Oct-news.html> for further information.]

JOIN THE HSS

San Diego, CA

**15-18 November
2012**

AND

Boston, MA

**21-24 November
2013**

**As we celebrate the
centennial of the founding
and publication of *ISIS***

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

The George Sarton Memorial Lecture in the History and Philosophy of Science at the AAAS

Vancouver, 16–20 February 2012

Please join us at the 2012 American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia, 16–20 February. One of the highlights of the conference will be Robert Smith's Sarton Lecture: "Making Science Big: From Little Science to Megaprojects?" Registration discounts are available for HSS members. Contact the HSS Executive Office at info@hssonline.org.

Integrated History and Philosophy of Science (&HPS)

Athens, 15–18 March 2012

The 2012 &HPS Conference will be hosted by the Department of Philosophy and History of Science at the University of Athens, Greece, 15–18 March 2012. Keynote speakers will include Jed Z. Buchwald (California Institute of Technology) and Thomas Ryckman (Stanford University). For further information, and the full program of speakers, see the conference's website at <http://conferences.phs.uoa.gr/andhps/>.

CFP: STS Conference

Stockholm, 2–4 May 2012

The conference welcomes contributions from all STS-related fields, including history, sociology, and philosophy of science, technology, and environment, to provide the broadest spectrum of STS-related research in and beyond Sweden. Proposals (no more than 400 words and containing your institutional affiliation) are due by **15 February 2012**. For submission information,

please see the full CFP on the HSS website, <http://hssonline.org/profession/meetings/detail.lasso?-Search=Action&-Table=Events%20web&-Database=hssguides&-KeyValue=6750>.

CFP: Models and Simulations 5

Helsinki, 14–16 June 2012

The Finnish Centre of Excellence in the Philosophy of the Social Sciences is delighted to host the 5th Models and Simulations (MS5) conference in Helsinki from 14–16 June 2012. Abstracts of 100 words and extended abstracts of 800–1000 words will be accepted. The deadline for submission is **5 February 2012**. Full CFP available at <http://www.helsinki.fi/ms5>.

HOPOS 2012

Halifax, Nova Scotia, 21–24 June 2012

A call for papers has been issued for HOPOS (International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science) 2012, a conference to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, from 21–24 June 2012. Submissions should be sent as an email attachment directly, either as a Word document or PDF file, to hopos2012.submissions@gmail.com by **15 January 2012**. Keynote speakers will include Ian Hacking (University of Toronto), Penelope Maddy (University of California, Irvine), and Heinrich von Staden (Institute for Advanced Study). For full details, see the conference website at <http://hopos2012.philosophy.dal.ca/>.

Drugs and Drink in Asia: New Perspectives from History

Shanghai, 22–24 June 2012

The centenary of the Hague Opium Convention in 1912 marks a hundred years of the development of international controls on commercial flows in

psycho-active substances. This conference, hosted by Shanghai University, seeks to bring together those conducting new research on the origins and trajectory of that system in order to exchange recent conclusions and to address emerging questions. The focus will be on Asian contexts given that these were at the heart of the controversies that drove the emergence of the international drugs regulatory system.

Values and Norms in Modeling

Eindhoven, the Netherlands, 25–27 June 2012

VaNiM 2012 which will be held at Eindhoven University of Technology in cooperation with Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands, 25–27 June 2012. Conference themes include “values in modeling: foundational issues,” “values in engineering modeling,” “values in climate modeling,” and “values in operations research modeling.” For speaker information see http://w3.ieis.tue.nl/en/groups/pe/research/philosophyethics_of_technology/upcoming_events/values_and_norms_in_modelling_vanim_2012/.

Gender in Science Institutions and Knowledge Systems

Keele, UK, 27–29 June 2012



Photo by Mhannon, Wikipedia

and “science knowledge-making.” The Conference will be held at Keele Hall, a 19th century English mansion house at Keele University, Staffordshire, in Central England—the UK’s largest integrated campus university.

The purpose of the conference theme is to help advance understanding of how gender equality and scientific quality shape and are shaped by one another. Conference themes include “institutional processes and practices,” “human capital,” “legislation and compliance,”

The Jews and the Sciences

London, 27–29 June 2012

The annual conference of the British Association of Jewish Studies will take place at University College London from 27–29 June 2012. The conference theme will be “The Jews and the Sciences.” The 2012 BAJIS conference will immediately follow another conference at UCL on “Time, astronomy, and calendars in Jewish tradition,” from Monday to Wednesday, 25–27 June 2012. For further information, see <http://britishjewishstudies.org/category/conferences-and-events>.

Seventh Joint Meeting of the BSHS, CSHPS, and HSS

11–14 July 2012, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

The Seventh joint meeting of the British Society for the History of Science, the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, and the History of Science Society will take place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. Previous successful meetings were in Oxford, England (2008); Halifax, Nova Scotia (2004); St Louis, Missouri (2000); Edinburgh, Scotland (1996); Toronto, Canada (1992); and Manchester, England (1988).

The Philadelphia Area Center for the History of Science (PACHS) is helping with the arrangements. Dorm room accommodations will be available at the University of Pennsylvania, and a small number of hotel rooms will be reserved for the conference (individuals will need to call the hotel directly or visit the HSS website, <http://www.hssonline.org> for reservations). The program will include parallel themed sessions, education and outreach activities, and events at the American Philosophical Society, the Chemical Heritage Foundation, and the University of Pennsylvania. A more extensive social program is being developed by the local organizers. The conference schedule will offer delegates the opportunity to explore the many attractions to be found in the “City of Brotherly Love,” including Philadelphia’s extensive links to the history of science.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

CFP: Twenty-Third Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association

San Diego, 15–17 November 2012

Submission is now open for papers to be presented at the PSA2012 meeting in San Diego, CA on 15–17 November 2012. Contributed papers may be on any topic in the philosophy of science. The PSA2012 Program Committee will strive for quality, variety, innovation and diversity on the program. Full CFP and members of the PSA2012 Program Committee are listed at www.philsci.org. The deadline for paper submissions is **1 March 2012**.



Photo by BobbyProm, Flickr

ISHN-Cheiron Joint Meeting in Calgary

The joint annual meeting of the International Society for the History of the Neurosciences (ISHN) with Cheiron—the International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences, held at the University of Calgary and the Banff Center for the Arts (16–23 June 2011), was a major success. Over seven days, participants enjoyed five keynote lectures, five featured lectures, 130 presentations, posters and discussion contributions, as well as a dozen panel discussions, specialized workshops, film and student events. The full program may be found at: http://www.ucalgary.ca/ISHN_Cheiron/

Additional reports from the Joint ISHN and Cheiron Conference are available at: <http://historypsychiatry.wordpress.com/2011/06/29/report-on-the-joint-conference-of-ishn-and-cheiron-calgary-june-2011/> (by Elizabeth Lunbeck) and in the *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* (by Katherine S. Milar), “Report on the Annual Meeting of Cheiron, International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences.”

University of Michigan History of Nonlinear Optics Conference

On 26 October 2011 in Ann Arbor, the University of Michigan hosted a major symposium to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the birth of the field of nonlinear optics. The keynote speaker was German physicist Ted Haensch, winner of the 2005 Nobel Prize in Physics for work involving the nonlinear optical process of frequency comb generation. Complete conference details are available at <http://nlosymposium.physics.lsa.umich.edu/>.

JOB AND FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEBRUARY DEADLINES

Wellcome Trust Studentships in the History of Medicine—Cambridge, England

The University of Cambridge invites applications for a doctoral studentship funded by a Wellcome Trust strategic award in history of medicine. The University seeks outstanding candidates whose research would fall within the theme 'Generation to Reproduction.' The deadline for applications to be admitted in October 2012 is **15 February 2012** (*February 1 if online*), but since other funding deadlines are earlier, candidates are advised to make contact as soon as possible.

More information: Full details and requirements available at <http://www.reproduction.group.cam.ac.uk/studentships.html>.

CHF 2012–2013 Fellowships

The Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF), an independent research center and library in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, would like to encourage applications for long-term and short-term predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowships at CHF for the 2012–2013 academic year. These fellowships are for scholars working in any area of the history or social studies of science, technology, medicine, or industry in all periods and geographic areas. The deadline for applications, which are to be completed online, is **15 February 2012**. Outside reviewers will select fellows.

More information: To get a better sense of the kinds of research CHF supports, as well as the kinds of benefits fellowships offer, please visit the website: <http://www.chemheritage.org/research/fellowships-and-travel-grants/beckman-center-fellowships/index.aspx>.

Jerry Stannard Memorial Award for the History of *Materia Medica* before 1700

The Department of History at the University of Kansas announces the 2012 competition for the annual award in honor of the late Professor Jerry Stannard. The purpose of the award is to encourage research by young scholars in the pre-1700 fields that Professor Stannard made his own: the history of *materia medica*, medicinal botany, pharmacy, folklore of drug therapy, and the bibliography of these ideas. Entries must be received no later than **15 February 2012**.

More information: See the full award announcement on the HSS website, <http://hssonline.org/profession/support/detail.lasso?-Search=Action&-Table=Events%20web&-Database=hssguides&-KeyValue=6341>.

Bakken Research Travel Grants

Scholars and artists are invited to apply for travel fellowships and grants, which the Bakken Museum in Minneapolis offers to encourage research in its collection of books, journals, manuscripts, prints, and instruments. The awards are to be used to help defray the expenses of travel, subsistence, and other direct costs of conducting research at the Bakken for researchers who must travel to the Twin Cities and pay for temporary housing in order to conduct research at the Bakken.

More information: Next deadline is **17 February 2012**. Full guidelines and contact information available on the HSS website, <http://hssonline.org/profession/support/detail.lasso?-Search=Action&-Table=Events%20web&-Database=hssguides&-KeyValue=6531>.



Marc-Auguste Pictet Prize in the History of Earth Sciences

The “Société de Physique et d’Histoire Naturelle (SPHN),” in Geneva (Switzerland), invites applications for its 2012 Marc-Auguste Pictet Prize in the history of science. This prize, in principle intended for a young researcher, is awarded every second year for a significant contribution to the history of science, which is as yet unpublished or has only recently appeared.

The Prize is endowed with an amount of CHF 10,000, and may be shared. The Prize is open to both Swiss and foreign scholars. The applications should be sent before **29 February 2012** to the following address:

Président de la SPHN,
Muséum d’Histoire naturelle,
Case postale 6434,
CH-1211 GENEVE 6,
SWITZERLAND.

The work should be submitted in two copies and include a summary and a curriculum vitae. It may be written in French, German, Italian or English. In the last three cases, the summary should be translated into French and be approximately 12 pages in length, i.e. 4,000 words or about 20,000 characters.

One copy of the prize-winning work will remain the property of the SPHN. The theme selected for the 2012 Prize is “History of Earth Sciences.” The applications will be examined by a nomination board composed of professors of the University of Geneva and external experts in the field.

MARCH DEADLINES

Seminar for College and University Teachers: Health and Disease in the Middle Ages

Applications are being sought for a five-week Seminar for College and University Teachers—“Health and Disease in the Middle Ages”—which is being held June 24 through July 28, 2012, in London, England. Stipends of \$3900 cover travel and other expenses. Applications are due **1 March 2012**.

More information: For a detailed description of the program and the syllabus, please go to the Seminar website, <http://acmrs.org/healthanddisease2012>.

Call for Nominations: Cushing Memorial Prize in the History and Philosophy of Physics

The family, students, friends, and colleagues of Jim Cushing are pleased once again to solicit nominations for the James T. Cushing Prize in the History and Philosophy of Physics. A nomination should consist of a brief description of the significance of the nominated work and such information about the author as the nominator might think helpful to the evaluation committee (e.g., an abbreviated c.v.). The deadline for receipt of nominations is **15 March 2012**.

More information: Full nomination guidelines are available at <http://www.nd.edu/~cushpriz/>.

APRIL DEADLINES

American Association for the History of Nursing Grants Program

The AAHN is offering several grants for scholars at the masters, doctoral and early career level to support research on the history of nursing. The deadline for all grants is **1 April 2012**.

More information: Complete application information available at <http://www.aahn.org/grants.html>.

MEMBER NEWS

Mark V. Barrow, Jr. (Virginia Tech) has been selected as the winner of the 2011 Susan Elizabeth Abrams Prize, which is awarded biennially for the best book in the history of science published by the University of Chicago Press (See page 6).

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Peter Byrne published *The Many Worlds of Hugh Everett III: Multiple Universes, Mutual Assured Destruction, and the Meltdown of a Nuclear Family* with Oxford University Press in 2010. In 2012, Princeton University Press will publish *The Everett Interpretation of Quantum Mechanics: Collected Works 1956-1980 With Commentary*, edited by Jeffrey A. Barrett (UC Irvine) and Peter Byrne.

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Jamie Cohen-Cole (Harvard University) was awarded the 2011 Forum for the History of Human Sciences Article Prize for “The Creative American: Cold War Salons, Social Science, and the Cure for Modern Society,” which appeared in *Isis* Vol. 100, No. 2 (June 2009), pp. 219-262.

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Jim Fleming’s (Colby College) book, *Fixing the Sky: The Checkered History of Weather and Climate Control* (Columbia University Press), recently received best-book prizes in two separate disciplines: SHOT’s 2011 Sally Hacker Prize and the American Meteorological Society’s Louis J. Battan Author’s Award. Both prizes honor books reaching a large readership.

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Ed Gosselin has published *The Reformation* with HarperCollins, available in print and Kindle editions. He is currently working on another book

on the history of science from the Babylonians to Galileo.

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Gabriel Henderson, a PhD candidate at Michigan State University, received the 2011–2012 American Geophysical Union History of Science Fellowship to conduct research on the Papers of Helmut Landsberg at the University of Maryland Hornbake Library and corresponding collections at the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council.

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Sally Smith Hughes’s (University of California, Berkeley) book *Genentech: The Beginnings of Biotech*, was published in October 2011 with the University of Chicago Press.

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Claire Jones has been appointed Director of the new Museum of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine at the University of Leeds.

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Sally Gregory Kohlstedt (University of Minnesota) received the Ada Comstock Distinguished Women Scholar Award from the University of Minnesota Women’s Center, for which she delivered the Ada Comstock Distinguished Women Scholars Lecture, “Uncovering the Past, Charting the Future: The Rise of Women in Science,” on 12 October 2011.

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John Krige’s (Georgia Tech) essay, “The Proliferation Risks of Gas Centrifuge Enrichment at the Dawn of the NPT: New Light on the Negotiating History,” has won the prestigious

History of Science Society Newsletter

Doreen and Jim McElvany 2011 Nonproliferation Challenge essay competition. Sponsored by the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS), the McElvany Nonproliferation Challenge is an annual international essay competition now in its fourth year. The competition is designed to encourage innovative scholarship in the nonproliferation field.

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Pamela O. Long has published *Artisan/Practitioners and the Rise of the New Sciences, 1400–1600*, part of the Oregon State University Press Horning Visiting Scholars Publication Series, edited by Anita Guerrini and David S. Luft. *Artisan/Practitioners* offers an introduction to the history of science through a new discussion of the “Zilsel thesis,” which argues that artisans, craftsmen, and other practitioners exerted an important influence on the development of empirical methodologies in the Scientific Revolution, the “new sciences” of the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

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Craig Martin’s (Oakland University) *Renaissance Meteorology: Pomponazzi to Descartes* was published fall 2011 with Johns Hopkins University Press.

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Agustí Nieto Galan (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona) has published *Los públicos de la ciencia: expertos y profanos a través de la historia* with Marcial Pons Press in Madrid. An abstract, along with ordering information, may be found at the publisher’s website, <http://www.marcialpons.es/libros/los-publicos-de-la-ciencia/9788492820498/>.

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Heather Munro Prescott (Central Connecticut State University) has published *The Morning After: A History of Emergency Contraception in the United States*, available through Rutgers University Press.

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Robert Proctor’s (Stanford University) *Golden*

Holocaust: Origins of the Cigarette Catastrophe and the Case for Abolition has been published by the University of California Press.

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Norma Rosado-Blake has joined the AAAS as the new Archivist and Records Manager. Previously, she worked as the Archivist of the American Kennel Club and volunteered at the National Archives and Record Administration, where she indexed Native American Veteran’s Pension records. She started at the AAAS on 21 September 2011.

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Alexandra Rutherford (York University) has just published, with Ray Fancher, the fourth edition of *Pioneers of Psychology: A History* (New York: Norton, 2011). The fourth edition is significantly expanded, with new material on personality, applied psychology, women and gender in the history of psychology, and other topics.

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Emilie Savage-Smith (University of Oxford) was recently elected a Fellow of the British Academy. Dr. Savage-Smith’s *A New Catalogue of Arabic Manuscripts in the Bodleian Library*, Oxford, Volume 1: Medicine (Oxford University Press) was published in 2011.

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Robert Smith (University of Alberta) was appointed as a Killam Annual Professor for 2011/12.

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Laura J. Snyder (St. John’s University) delivered the 2011 Dibner Library Lecture at the National Museum of American History (See page 5).

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Frank W. Stahnisch (University of Calgary, Alberta) has co-edited a volume in German on the Polish-German philosopher of medicine Ludwik Fleck (1896-1961). The volume, *Ludwik Fleck - Denkstile und Tatsachen: Gesammelte Schriften und Zeugnisse*, is available through Suhrkamp Verlag. A

In Memoriam

recent review by Michael Hagner in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung may be viewed at: <http://www.faz.net/aktuell/feuilleton/buecher/rezensionen/sachbuch/ludwik-fleck-denkstille-und-tatsachen-wie-stimmungen-auf-die-dynamik-der-erkenntnis-wirken-11487729.html>. Between January and June 2012, Stahnisch will be a visiting professor at the Office for the History of Science and Technology at the University of California, Berkeley and will continue his work on a new book project, *The Making of a New Research Field: On the Pursuit of Interdisciplinarity in the German Neuromorphological Sciences, 1910-1945*.

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Liping Bu, **Darwin H. Stapleton** (University of Massachusetts, Boston) and Ka-che Yip, eds., announce the publication of *Science, Public Health and the State in Modern Asia*. Published by Routledge in January 2012.

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Dominique A. Tobbell's (University of Minnesota) book, *Pills, Power, and Policy: The Struggle for Drug Reform in Cold War America and its Consequences* is available through University of California Press and Milbank Books on Health and the Public.

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Conevery Bolton Valencius has started a new position as Assistant Professor of History at University of Massachusetts, Boston, teaching environmental history, history of American medicine and science, and the U.S. Civil War.



Per Fridtjof Dahl

1 August 1932–1 October 2011

Per Fridtjof Dahl, a physicist, artist, and historian of modern physics died on 1 October 2011 after a two-year struggle with lung cancer.

Per Dahl was born in Washington, D.C., on 1 August 1932. His parents were Odd Dahl, from Drammen, Norway, and Anna Augusta Vesse, from Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Dahl was born while his father was working at the Carnegie Institution in Washington, D.C. In 1936, his father saw the war coming and decided to take his family back to Bergen, Norway. He returned to Norway in 1937 to oversee science in Norway during the war.

Dahl grew up in Bergen, Norway, from the age of 4 until he was 17. He then came to the U.S. and served three years in the U.S. Army, including two years stationed on Guam in the Pacific. Like his father, Dahl was interested in science and physics from an early age. He studied science during his Army years, and after leaving the service he entered the University of Wisconsin, obtaining his PhD in Physics in 1960. His post-doctoral work was done at the Niels Bohr Institute in Copenhagen, Denmark.



Superconducting Super Collider, Texas

Per Dahl came to Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) in 1963. He arrived at a time when superconductors were beginning to move from laboratory development to industrial production. At this time, development of accelerator magnets using NbTi and Nb₃Sn began. Per became involved in the design of these magnets early in his BNL career and acquired a good understanding both of the materials and their use in magnets. He put this knowledge to good use later in his BNL career when he became the principal person writing about magnets and superconductors for technically-oriented audiences. This work also provided him with an opportunity to display his skills as an artist. His drawing of all the critical components of a superconducting cable is still used in talks for visitors to Brookhaven.

Per began working on the larger stage of the (SSC) in 1987, where he continued work documenting the magnet program. When the SSC effort moved from the design location, Berkeley, to the laboratory location in Texas, Per expanded his work to include both the documentation of the conventional construction effort and preparation of information in support of the SSC mission (e.g., as publisher of the *SSC News*).

Following termination of the SSC project in 1993, Per moved to the Accelerator and Fusion Research Division at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (LBNL). During much of that time he was on leave working for the Office of High Energy Physics, where he was Program Officer for a number of university grants. He also consulted with BNL about the nascent RHIC magnet system. He retired

from LBNL in 1996 but kept contact with the lab through a visiting scientist appointment and work at the Office for the History of Science and Technology at UC-Berkeley until 2005.

Dahl is the author of numerous scientific papers and several books: *From Nuclear Transmutation to*

Nuclear Fission, 1932–1939 (Institute of Physics Publishing, Co., Bristol, England and Philadelphia, PA, USA, 2002); *Heavy Water and the Wartime Race for Nuclear Energy* (Institute of Physics Publishing, Co., UK, Bristol England and Philadelphia, PA, USA, 1999), which was featured in the NOVA TV-production, *Hitler's Sunken Secret*, DOX Production, London, 2004; *Flash of the Cathode Rays: A History of J.J. Thomson's Electron* (Institute of Physics Publishing, Co., UK, Bristol, England and Philadelphia, USA, 1997); *Superconductivity: Its Historical Roots and Development from Mercury to the Ceramic Oxides* (American Institute of Physics, New York, 1992); *Ludvig Colding and the Conservation of Energy Principle: Experimental and Philosophical Contributions*, The Sources of Science N. 104 (Johnson Reprint Corp., New York and London, 1972).

Throughout his life, Dahl was able to pursue his love for physics, art and his family. While at Brookhaven, he was a president of the South Bay Art Association (1967–1968), and he was also the president of the Brookhaven National Laboratory Art Society for several years. He was a fellow of the American Physical Society.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 45 years, Eleanor, and two sons: Erik of Pebble Beach, CA; and Thomas, and two grandchildren, Emily and Alex, of Westford, MA.

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Please send notices of members who have passed away to infomanager@hssonline.org.

Learning Another Language: Goals and Challenges

[Editorial note: The Modern Language Association recently adopted a statement on language learning. MLA's president, Russell A. Berman, asked that we share this statement with our members.]

In recent years language programs in the United States have been closed, and the federal government has reduced its support for language education. Because of the fundamental importance of language learning, it is urgent to resist these cutbacks.

It is the obligation of educational institutions to provide all students with opportunities to acquire fluency in a second language. Studying a nonnative language gives students the tools to appreciate other cultures. It enables students to recognize how languages work and to gain a more thoughtful understanding of their native language: by pursuing a second language, students learn how to use their first language with greater precision and purpose. In addition, knowledge of a second language serves students well in the interconnected world: a second language opens the door to job opportunities in the global economy and makes more media accessible, enriching public discussion of current issues. Finally, language knowledge is critical to humanistic inquiry into the cultures and histories of the world.

The Modern Language Association has supported the teaching and study of languages for more than a century. The MLA's 2007 report *Foreign Languages and Higher Education* called for a transformation of university language curricula. In 2009, the MLA issued a survey report on language enrollment, documenting continued increase in student enrollments in college language courses and testifying to strong student interest in all the top ten languages studied in the United States.

Yet despite student demand for language courses and public recognition of the opportunities of globalization, many college language programs have been reduced, closed, or threatened with closure. These actions deny students critical learning opportunities and impoverish their education. Preventing students from participating in college-

level language learning does them a profound disservice, diminishes our cultural capacities, and isolates the American public from the conversations of the rest of the world.

The MLA calls for the development of programs to provide every American college graduate with advanced fluency in a nonnative language. American monolingualism is an impediment to effective participation in a multilingual world. More than 80% of Americans are monolingual, while 50% of Europeans over the age of fifteen can carry on a conversation in a second language. The European Union has set the goal of having all students learn two nonnative languages. Other advanced industrial countries, such as Canada, have been able to provide widespread education in more than one language. Enabling all students in the United States to achieve advanced fluency in a second language is a realistic goal, but it will require building strong language programs, beginning in the elementary schools and continuing with higher level learning opportunities in college.

The MLA is prepared to consult with colleges and universities on strategies to strengthen their language programs. We call on higher education leaders to demonstrate creativity in envisioning better language programs that reach ever more students. Instead of shutting language programs, let us keep the door of learning open to the languages and cultures of the world.

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Statement adopted by the MLA Executive Council, May 2011, www.mla.org/ec_language_learning

Pox and the City: A Digital Role Playing Game in the History of Medicine

Lisa Rosner and Laura Zucconi, Stockton College; Ethan Watrall, Michigan State University; College of Physicians of Philadelphia

We are currently embarked on an exciting enterprise, boldly going where no one has gone before: creating a 3rd person, isomorphic digital role playing game (RPG) for the history of medicine. Affectionately known as Pox and the City, and funded with a Digital Start-Up Grant from the Office of Digital Humanities, a division of the National Endowment for the Humanities <http://www.neh.gov/odh/>, the game is set in early 19th century Edinburgh. When completed, it will allow players to adopt one of three roles. The first is a newly-graduated physician, intent on setting up a paying medical practice by using the recent discovery of vaccination for smallpox. The second is an Irish immigrant, just arrived in Edinburgh's West Port and hoping to establish himself in a market stall in the Grassmarket. And the third is a smallpox virus, "intent" on replicating and spreading throughout the city. Each role has a home base in the city, and a distinct set of tasks he/it must perform in order to move to the next level.

If we lived in a world of unlimited resources, we would design an MMO, a massive multiplayer online game, the history of medicine answer to World of Warcraft. But such a game would require millions of dollars, and as our start-up grant is for \$50,000, we are designing a single player game with three episodes. During the current development cycle, we will be implementing the first episode, in which players take on the role of the physician. This will give the player the best opportunities to learn about the city, about medical history, and about game mechanics.

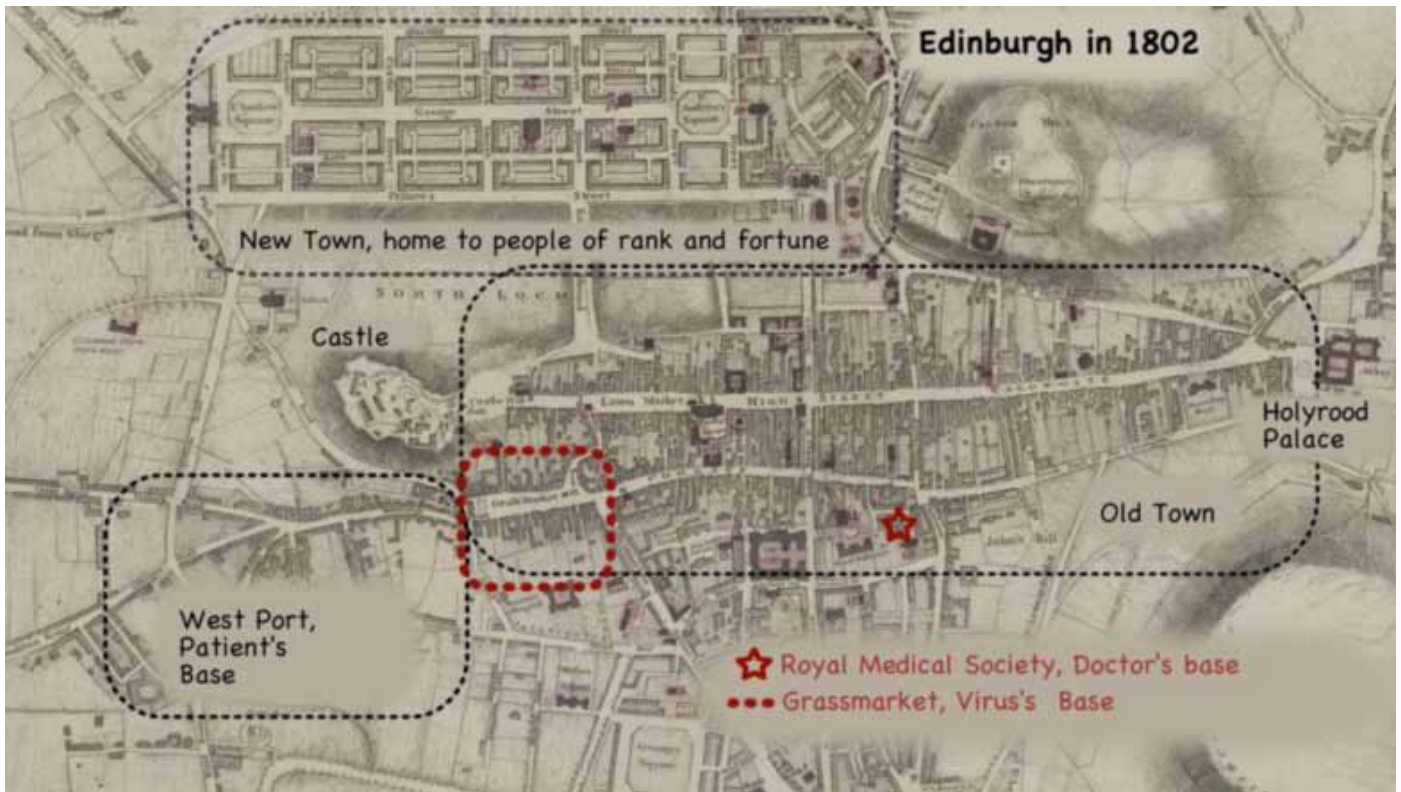
As the game opens, the player is introduced to the physician character, Dr. Alexander Robertson, newly graduated from the University of Edinburgh medical school in 1799, having written his thesis on the new technique of smallpox vaccination. He starts off at the Royal Medical Society area, which



Edinburgh Royal Vaccine Dispensary

Based on an engraving by J. Storer

remains his resource base for the game. His goal is to set up a charity vaccine dispensary in the city, and for that, he has to amass two types of social capital, which will appear as meters in the game. The first comes from persons of rank and fortune, who will donate money to pay for the dispensary, and the second comes from professional contacts, who will help him get patients. His first choice is where to locate the dispensary: either in Edinburgh's Old Town, closer to poor people who will be his patients, but further from the rich who will support him, or in Edinburgh's New Town, with the reverse initial conditions. He has a nefarious rival, another recent Edinburgh graduate, who is an NPC (non-player character). The NPC will take whichever location the player does not choose, and will pop up sporadically with his own, computer-generated metrics. The player wins the game when the Lord Advocate of Scotland awards him a charter from the King to call his institution the Royal Vaccination Dispensary. The game will be played in four areas, The Royal Medical Society, The Grassmarket, the High Street, and the New Town. The designs for these areas are based on over 400 public domain images of 19th century Edinburgh.



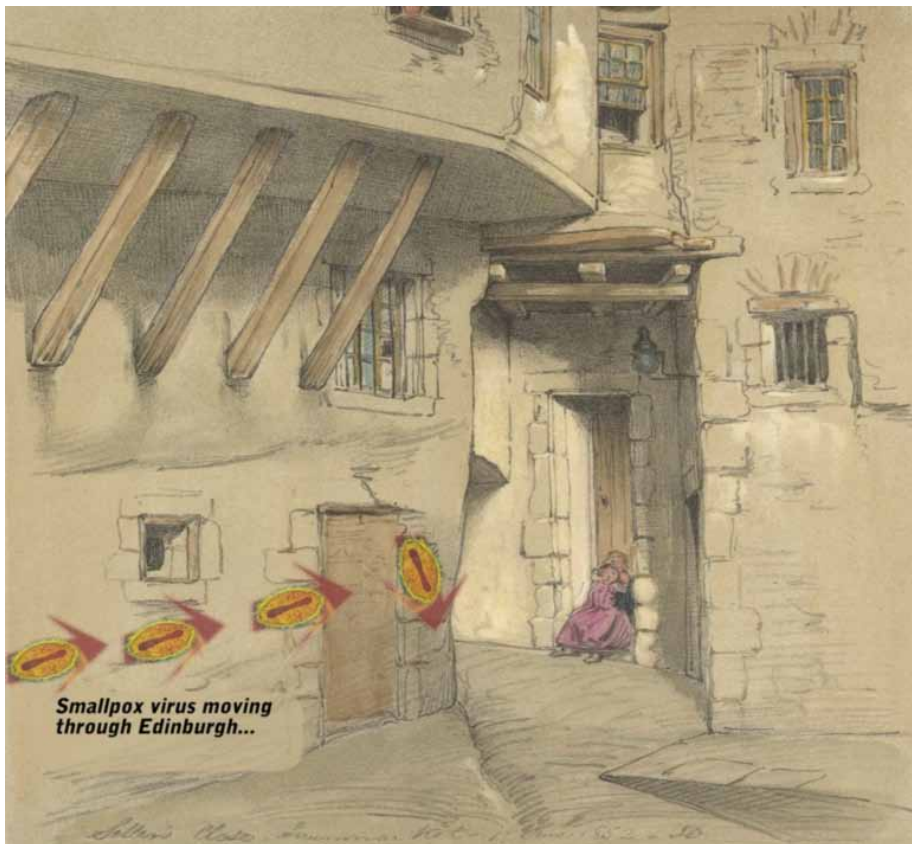
Pox and the City will be programmed in Flash to play through a standard computer browser, but will also be compiled to enable it to be played on iPads and iPhones. We are planning for alpha launch in

March 2012, and beta in September 2012. Our play testers include a high school Anatomy and Physiology class, history of medicine students at the undergraduate and masters level, library

professionals, and game design specialists. Advisory committee members include Joe Amoroso, St. Rose School, Janet Golden, Rutgers University Camden, Russell Maulitz, Drexel University, Stacey Peeples, Pennsylvania Hospital, John Pollack, University of Pennsylvania, and Karie Youngdahl, College of Physicians of Philadelphia. We have begun a complementary project with Hannah Ueno, Stockton College, an artist with expertise in virtual world design.

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For more information and updates, please refer to our website, poxandthecity.blogspot.com



Tennis and the Scientific Revolution

Watson Seminar on the Material and Visual History of Science 2012

Museo Galileo—Florence 15–16 June 2012

Organized by Marco Beretta and Alessandro Tosi

In the autumn of 1463 in the town of Orvieto, the German philosopher and astronomer Nicolò Cusano completed his treatise *De ludo globi*, in which he used the rules of a novel game played with a ball to describe a new vision of the universe. The impetus and movement of the ball became a metaphor for the complex design regulating the destiny of a new cosmos, from the orbit of the planets to the exercise of free will in men's actions.

A few decades later a new game, the *gioco della palla corda* (or *jeu de paume*), was embraced with enthusiasm by aristocrats at the principal courts in Renaissance Italy, gaining many devotees and becoming a significant cultural and social phenomenon.

Soon the Medici in Florence, the Sforza in Milan, the Este in Ferrara and the Gonzaga in Mantova were ordering the construction of tennis courts on their sumptuous estates and a new fashion was created that rapidly spread across Europe. By the end of the 16th century, Paris counted more than two hundred and eighty *jeu de paume* courts—exceeding the number of churches in the French capital, as an ambassador from the Doge's court in Venice noted with amazement.

The game became so popular that in 1585 an Aristotelian philosopher, Antonio Scaino, wrote the first treatise laying out the principles of the game. Like his predecessor Cusano, however, Scaino could not resist engaging in a few digressions of a purely scientific nature. In particular, he noted the complexity of the tennis ball's motion and its relevance to the emerging science of ballistics, thus drawing a connection between the game and the fundamental principles of natural philosophy.

We do not know whether Galileo ever had occasion to read Scaino's treatise or to watch the students at the university in Padua (where he taught mathematics



A game of palla corda being played by the students of the Studio of Padua (1610, private collection).

from 1592 to 1610) when they played a game of *palla corda* between lessons. But it is certainly striking that in his most important work, *Dialogo sopra i due massimi sistemi del mondo* (1632), Galileo chose an example that he knew would be familiar to all of his readers—the curved trajectory of a ball hit by an expert gamesman—to explain a scientific concept in his second dialogue—the combined rotational and translational motion of a mobile. And it is no coincidence that Cardinal Francesco Barberini, the nephew of Pope Urban VIII, had two *palla corda* courts constructed on the grounds of his palace in Rome. Galileo counted on these two powerful prelates, and on Ferdinando de' Medici in Florence (who was passionately fond of the game), to support him in the dissemination of his revolutionary scientific ideas.

Galileo's use of the image of the tennis ball in a scientific text should not be considered a mere *captatio benevolentiae* directed toward his high-born patrons. It represented the fruit of serious reflections on the physics of a game that would provide him with an effective model to explain the phenomenon of combined motion, while at the same time



Frans Francken the Younger, *Cabinet of a Collector*, London, Royal Collection.



Jan Breughel, *The Vanity of Human Life*, Turin, Sabauda Gallery.



Jan van Kessel, *Europe*, Munich, Alte Pinakothek (with an enlarged detail of the central panel above).



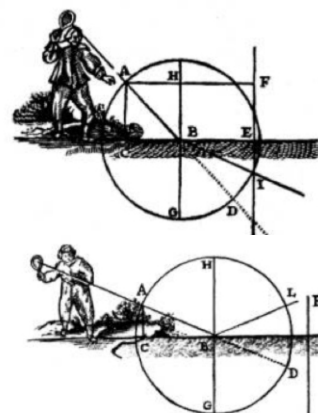
furnishing implicit corroboration of Copernicus' theory of the earth's double motion. Furthermore, the irregular movement of the tennis ball, with its often unpredictable trajectory, demonstrated clearly the limitations of Aristotle's theory of motion.

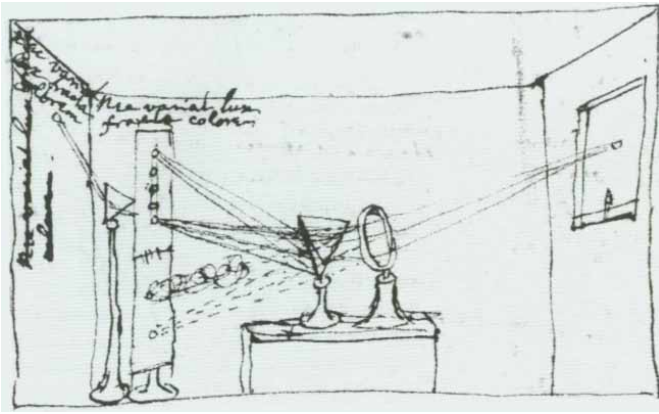
Thus, to communicate his ideas Galileo found a metaphor of extraordinary immediacy, a visual image drawn from the collective imagination that provided a lucid translation of his scientific language.

It is interesting to examine in this context a painting by the Flemish artist Frans Francken the Younger, which provides confirmation of the modernity of Galileo's approach and of his prose. Francken's *Cabinet of a Collector* (1617)—one of the earliest works in a genre that would gain great popularity among Flemish artists, that of the *cabinet d'amateur*—catalogues in exquisite detail the objects in a collector's private museum and includes—in a small scene depicting 'iconoclastic donkeys' destroying artworks, books, and scientific and musical instruments—two tennis racquets.

From this moment onward, tennis would occupy a permanent place in the symbolic universe of European culture and taste. Works by artists from Jan Breughel to Jan van Kessel, with intimations of Caravaggio along the way, testify to the popularity of the motif, and images of racquets, balls and game courts would be used by other protagonists in the history of modern science to illustrate a surprisingly wide variety of concepts.

The importance of Galileo's reference in the *Dialogo* and, as a consequence, the scientific value of the game of *palla corda* as a device to explain innovative scientific concepts, would be recognized by René Descartes. In his work *Dioptrique* (1638), the French philosopher and physicist included a number of curious engravings that show various possible movements of a tennis ball.





“Letter of Mr. Isaac Newton ... Containing his New Theory about Light and Colors”, Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, no. 80 (19 February 1671/2), pp. 3075-3087.

The game of *palla corda* or *jeu de paume* would later serve to illustrate the mechanics of phenomena such as reflection and refraction, by means of images that any layperson could recognize and understand. The different angles of incidence of light rays, for example, were analogous to the oblique hits (referred to as “cutting” or “slicing”) used by players to put a particular spin on the ball. In addition, the almost infinite number of ways in which the tennis ball could bounce offered a model to explain the physical phenomena involved in the science of optics, thus allowing scientists to bypass the abstract and outdated notions of traditional optics.

Not many decades later, when Isaac Newton sought to describe his groundbreaking discoveries regarding the refraction of light in a rainbow, he wrote:

Then I began to suspect, whether the Rays, after their trajection through the Prisme, did not move in curve lines, and according to their more or less curvity tend to divers parts of the wall. And it increased my suspicion, when I remembered that I had often seen a Tennis ball, struck with an oblique Racket, describe such a curve line. For, a circular as well as a progressive motion being communicated to it by that stroak, its parts on that side, where the motions conspire, must press and beat the contiguous Air more violently than on the other, and there excite a reluctancy and reaction of the Air proportionably greater.



School of Caravaggio, The Death of Hyacinth, Cherbourg, Musée des Beaux-Arts Thomas Henry

In this celebrated passage the English mathematician focused on yet another aspect of the motion of the tennis ball—the fact that, due to the laws of fluid mechanics, the trajectory of the ball will be modified by the fluid (i.e., the air) through which it is traveling.

The practitioners of early modern science could not remain indifferent to the authoritative influence of Galileo, Descartes, and Newton, and the motion of the tennis ball, like the complicated rules of the game itself, would continue to be used to illustrate the most disparate ideas, from probability theory to iatromechanics. During the 18th century the Académie Royale des Sciences de Paris included the *Jeu de paume* in the monumental *Description des arts et metiers* (1767) and in several scientific textbooks (Jean Nollet’s a.o.) the game was still taken as a model for the explanation of natural phenomena.

History of Science Society Newsletter

The Neale W. Watson Seminar on the Material and Visual History of Science will explore these ideas. The preliminary program is as follows:

- Annarita Angelini (University of Bologna): *Praecisio* and Conjecture: Cusanus's Ball Game and the 'Learned Ignorance' of the World (Commentator: Antonio Clericuzio—University of Cassino)
- Marco Beretta (University of Bologna—Museo Galileo): Training Tennis Players with Natural Philosophy. From Scaino's *Trattato* to the *Art du paumier* (Commentator: Claudio Pogliano—University of Pisa)
- Concetta Pennuto (University of Tours): *Jeu de la paume*: Health of the Body and of the Mind in Early Modern Medicine (Commentator: Maria Conforti—La Sapienza)
- Michele Camerota (University of Cagliari): 'Cutting the Ball.' How Galileo Played Tennis in the *Dialogue* (Commentator: Stefano Gattei—IMT Lucca)
- Alessandro Tosi (University of Pisa): Tennis in Early Modern Visual Culture (Commentator: Claus Zittel—Institut für Deutsche und Niederländische Philologie, Berlin)
- Fokko Jan Dijksterhuis (University of Twente): *Jeu de Paume* in Dutch Culture: Descartes, Van Schooten and the Huygenses; Images, Moves and Models (Commentator: Larry Principe—The Johns Hopkins University)
- D. Graham Burnett (Princeton University): Keep Your Eye on the Ball: Optics and the Metaphors of the Court (Commentator: Dario Tessicini—Villa I Tatti, Firenze)
- Edith Sylla (North Carolina State University): Jacob Bernoulli on Conjecturing the Outcomes of Tennis Matches (Commentator: Niccolò Guicciardini—University of Bergamo)



Graduate &
Early Career Caucus
HISTORY OF SCIENCE SOCIETY

Advancing the interests of graduate students and early careerists

hss.gecc@gmail.com

<http://hssgecc.wordpress.com/>

HSSmentorshp@gmail.com



New San Francisco Foundation is Telling the Story of Biotechnology

The Life Sciences Foundation (LSF) is a San Francisco-based public charity established in 2010 by historian of science Arnold Thackray, founder and Chancellor Emeritus of the Chemical Heritage Foundation. LSF's mission is to record, preserve, and make known the history of the life sciences and to share that history with institutions and organizations engaged in complementary heritage projects. LSF's initial project is focused on the history of biotechnology.

The Foundation is collecting oral histories from pioneers in the biotechnology industry. The oral history initiative is spearheaded by Sally Smith Hughes, well-known for her work with the Regional Oral History Office of the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley.

LSF is also locating and rescuing original documentary materials, including personal and professional correspondence, company records, laboratory notebooks, regulatory filings and notices, photographs, and audio and video recordings. Collected materials will be made available to scholars, journalists, educators, and the general public in a digital archive.

The LSF website (www.biotechhistory.org) offers a rich collection of historical resources to students, teachers, scholars, policymakers, and the general public, including articles, videos, and a digital archive of oral history transcripts and major academic institutions.

LSF is also preparing a range of publications (e.g., a



quarterly magazine, scholarly articles, white papers, and books) focused on the emergence and evolution of biotechnologies in pharmaceutical discovery and development, agriculture, energy production, and environmental remediation.

In November, LSF hosted a reception and book signing celebrating the release of Sally Smith Hughes' book *Genentech: The Beginnings of Biotech* by the University of Chicago Press. More academic events including lectures and conferences are planned in 2012.

LSF works in close affiliation with the Chemical Heritage Foundation. Other academic affiliations include Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Library, HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Smithsonian Institution, UC Berkeley Regional Oral History Office, UCLA, Johns Hopkins University, University of California, San Diego, and Wellcome Trust.

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For more information visit www.biotechhistory.org

REFLECTIONS FROM CLEVELAND AND THE 2011 ANNUAL MEETING

Thanks from Nuria Valverde

Nuria Valverde was unable to attend the prize ceremony, but offers the following thanks to her friends, colleagues, and family. Her article, "Small Parts: Crisóstomo Martínez (1638–1694), Bone Histology and the Visual Making of Body Wholeness," won the 2011 Derek Price/Rod Webster Prize for the best article in Isis.

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First I want to thank you, the History of Science Society, for giving me the chance to express my gratitude. It is a high honor to be awarded with the Price/Webster Prize, and it is also flattering, but above all it is encouraging. I speak as a woman, as a female researcher, as a Hispanic citizen and member of a culture that is still considered to be part of an academic periphery. In a sense, "Small Parts" represents an effort to introduce some of the objects and specific problems of the Spanish tradition in a broader context, but at a personal level the prize has added new meanings to it. It is now also a trophy and, despite so many hours of lonely work, a collective one. Institutions including the European Social Fund, the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science and the National Council for Scientific Research are behind it.

I also have had great professors and colleagues whom I would like to acknowledge for their support: first, I wish to thank my thesis supervisor and friend Antonio Lafuente for the time we spent discussing history and philosophy of science; I also thank Juan Pimentel for his encouragement, and Miruna Achim for her complicity. I won't mention the full list of friends to whom I am, in one way or another, in debt. But the main person who helped me in becoming a historian of science is, beyond question, my daughter, Raela.

Post-Meeting Survey for 2011

Greg Macklem, Society Coordinator

It's been nearly two months since the 2011 HSS Meeting in Cleveland, and most of the post-meeting work is winding down in the HSS Executive Office, while preparations accelerate for the 3-Society Meeting in Philadelphia and 2012 HSS/PSA Meeting in San Diego. We tried to apply some of the hard-learned lessons from the meeting in Montréal, and many of the changes we made helped the meeting work better for both staff and attendees. Many of the changes were made because of the responses in the meeting survey after Montréal, and the 150 responses we received for the 2011 meeting survey will help us to make more improvements in 2012 and beyond.

We received several compliments from meeting attendees while on-site, and we certainly appreciate the kind words. Much of the credit for whatever success we had belongs to our graduate students, Manuela Fernández Pinto and Laura Bland, as well as numerous volunteers. Without their hard work, we would not have been able to manage all of the meeting details, and I am grateful to them for their prodigious efforts.

In reviewing the survey responses, it was clear that satisfaction with most aspects of the meeting was generally high. The meeting hotel had some critics, but the overall response to the Renaissance Cleveland was positive. This extended to the meeting rooms, audio-visual services, and book exhibit as well. There were still some concerns voiced, and although some of those related to issues beyond our control, we will work to improve those things that we can. Other general aspects of the meeting, including registration and transportation between the hotels, received generally positive responses. Regarding the program, responses were positive, but there were several complaints about the lack of sessions on particular

fields and periods. We certainly encourage attendees and other interested parties to submit proposals for the 2012 meeting in San Diego, and we will be creating a forum for people to find scholars with similar interests to submit session proposals.

The Thursday evening joint reception with SHOT and 4S at the Great Lakes Science Center also received good marks from survey respondents. The venue came in for a lot of praise, although a few people felt it was too big for meeting friends and acquaintances. Food and beverage service was also rated highly, although not as universally as the Great Lakes Science Center itself. Overall, the survey indicated that the reception was a successful one.

This brings us to the Saturday evening dinner, which has been alternately labeled by some as a reception or simply a Saturday snack. Many of the attendees were unhappy about the event, in particular the insufficient amount and variety of food, the lack of water at the tables, and inadequate staffing for the number of people. The Executive Office has also fielded several emails regarding the dinner. It is reasonable to expect some changes in the future to this part of the meeting, although the nature of those changes can't be easily predicted at this point. On the bright side, numerous attendees commented that they liked the ability to meet and socialize, and we were gratified to see lots of people stay in the ballroom well after the food was gone to chat with friends and colleagues.

Looking toward future meetings, the two most commonly cited reasons for attending meetings in general were the program and the opportunity to visit with colleagues. The host city came in a distant third. The cities in which respondents were most interested included Seattle, San Francisco, Philadelphia (come to the 3-Societies Meeting in July!), Portland, and New Orleans. As we determine future hosts for 2015 and beyond, these results will be an important factor in our search.

Once again, thank you to all of the attendees of the 2011 HSS Annual Meeting in Cleveland, for, in essence, you are the meeting. We hope that your overall experience was positive, and we hope to see you in Philadelphia in July and again in San Diego in November.

If you are interested in the detailed results of the meeting survey, you will be able to find them online at www.hssonline.org/Meeting/2011meetingsurvey.html.

Sights from the 2011 Annual Meeting

(photos courtesy of Darin Hayton)



HSS Distinguished Lecture

Above: Program Chair, Michael Gordin (right) embraces Silvan (Sam) Schweber after introducing Sam.

Below: Sam Schweber delivers the 31st Distinguished Lecture of the HSS





Committee on Education workshop on National History Day

“Copernicus Crosses the K-12/University Divide”: Left to right: John Lynch, chair; Kavya Ravichandran and Connie Miller of the Birchwood School, Cleveland OH; Owen Gingerich; Bob Westman discuss Kavya’s creation of her award-winning website on heliocentrism.



Nathan Reingold Prize for best graduate student essay : “Fighting Chance: The Science of Probability and the Forecast Controversy between the Blue Hill Meteorological Observatory and the U.S. Signal Service in the Late 1880s.”

James Bergman and Paul Farber, HSS President



Joseph H. Hazen Prize for excellence in education in the history of science

Pam Henson receives congratulations from President Farber



The Watson Davis and Helen Miles Davis Award for the best book in the history of science for a popular audience: Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming, by Naomi Oreskes and Erik M. Conway.

Above: Naomi Oreskes is congratulated by HSS President, Paul Farber.

Below: Erik Conway and Naomi Oreskes, Davis Prize Winners

The Margaret W. Rossiter History of Women in Science Prize: Reproducing Women: Medicine, Metaphor, and Childbirth in Late Imperial China. Yi-Li Wu receives congratulations from HSS President, Paul Farber



Society Coordinator Greg Macklem reacts to the news from Paul Farber that an additional 200 people will be attending the Society dinner.





George Sarton Prize for a lifetime of excellence in scholarship

Above: Bob Richards accepts the Sarton Medal from HSS President, Paul Farber

Below: Bob Richards, Sarton medalist



The Pfizer Prize for best scholarly book in the history of science: Mathematics in Ancient Iraq: A Social History

Top: Eleanor Robson, John Santoro (Pfizer), and HSS President, Paul Farber

Above: Eleanor Robson, Pfizer Prize winner





Above Left: Jane Carlson (SHOT) and Jay Malone (HSS) prepare to receive guests for the reception at the Great Lakes Science Center.

Above Right: Local Arrangements Co-Chairs, Alan Rocke and Molly Berger, at the Great Lakes Science Center.



Left: Sweet victory. From left, Emily Richens, Elizabeth Baber, Pablo Ruiz, and Sean McGovern show off the mega bag of candy they won for stuffing the most packets.

Below: Notre Dame students and friends preparing the meeting packets in the HSS project center at Notre Dame. Clockwise from left Manuela Fernández, Sean McGovern, Emily Richens, Pablo Ruiz, Elizabeth Baber, Meizhen Dong, Laura Bland, and Richard Oosterhoff

