

Michał Kokowski (ed.), *The Global and the Local:
The History of Science and the Cultural Integration of Europe.
Proceedings of the 2nd ICESHS (Cracow, Poland, September 6–9, 2006).*

CHAPTER 4 . / Round-Table Discussion 1.

Working together: History of Science Societies around the world

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INTRODUCTION BY:

Prof. Robert Fox *

Outgoing President of the ESHS

MY ROLE IS BRIEFLY TO INTRODUCE the chairmen for the next session, which is devoted to the question — a central one for the European Society for the History of Science — of the relations between, on the one hand, the many national societies of the history of science and, on the other, the various international bodies in our discipline such as the International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science, the International Academy of History of Science, and now our own European Society for the History of Science. Since the early exploratory meetings that led to the foundation of the ESHS, I have been conscious of the need for the society to define the position that, as an international body, it should occupy in this complex terrain. The national societies, of course, all have well-established functions, and the ESHS's highest priority has always been, and always will be, to ensure that it is seen as helpful collaborator and not as a force that might undermine or diminish existing initiatives. The discussion this morning will be devoted first and foremost to that problem, of how we can best create a framework for collaboration and cooperation between the national and international bodies in our discipline and avoid duplication. It will be chaired by two colleagues who have long experience of organizations of both types. Professor Ron Numbers, President of the Division of the History of Science and Technology of the International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science, has taken a leading role, along with the secretary of the DHST Efthymios Nicolaidis, in preparing this important session, and on behalf of the ESHS I thank him for his efforts. His co-chairman is Eberhard Knobloch, who is not only President of the ESHS but also President of the International Academy of History of Science. It is a pleasure to welcome them and to give them the floor.

Prof. Ronald L. Numbers **

President of the IUHPS/DHST

THANK YOU. BEFORE I SAY ANYTHING ABOUT this session I want to thank Robert Fox for inviting us to this program. Some of you may know that this is Robert's last month as an active historian of science, and I think we all want to wish him well.

I am very happy to see all of you with us here this morning. I think it is a unique event. I represent the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science / Division of the History of Science and Technology. Probably a number of you here have no idea what this organisation is or confuse it with the International Academy for the History of Science. If you look in the *History of Science Society Guide* under the "International Academy," it will refer you to the International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science. The divorce between these two organisation occurred, I think, over thirty years ago — and we have since reconciled — but in many people's minds, at least in North America, there is only one organisation. The international Union for the History and Philosophy of Science, especially their history division goes back to late 1920's when some giants in the field, including George Sarton, Karl Sudhoff, Henry Sigerist, and Aldo Mieli, got together to form an academy, which evolved over years into the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science, affiliated with UNESCO. Today the IUHPS has two divisions, which very rarely have anything to do each other: the Division of Logic, Methodology, and Philosophy of Science and the Division of History of Science and Technology. In history of science we have some two dozens active scientific commissions and about 60 national committees.

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Robert Fox

ABOUT 50.

Ronald L. Numbers

BUT WE WILL HAVE 60 very soon During the period of the Cold War, a primary function of the IUHPS was to try make sure the two segments of the world has some point of intersection. Today, I think the goal is more to be sure that the rich and poor countries have some interactions.

Now, to the point of the session: There are at least 24 active or semi-active history of science societies around the all world, on every continent except Antarctica. You have giants like the History of Science Society, which antedates even the International Union and the International Academy, and tiny organisations that are barely alive. Unfortunately, these organisations have almost nothing to do with one another. In preparing for this session, we could not even come up with a good list of the officers of these societies; and, I regret to say, we left out a few societies that are represented here today.

Our goal this morning is accomplish two important but modest goals. One is simply to get acquainted with one another; the other is to explore ways in which we may actually co-operate in the future.

INTERVENTIONS BY:

Prof. Eberhard Knobloch *

President of the International Academy of the History of Science

I AM HAPPY TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY to say a few words about the International Academy of the History of Science (Académie Internationale d'Histoire des Sciences = AIHS). It is not so visible but in the course of the year 2007 we will have an own home page so that it certainly becomes better known. It was informally established in 1928 by A. Mieli, A. Rey, G. Sarton, H.E. Sigerist, K. Sudhoff and officially recognized as AIHS in 1932. It had very close relationships with the International Congresses. Moreover the Academy played the crucial role in this respect. The members organized the congresses to a large extent.

Let me say a few words about its structure, memberships, and publications. The General Assembly takes place every four years on the occasion of the International Congresses. The last time that happened in Beijing, China, For the time being we have 137 effective and 217 corresponding members. The officers are elected according to the number of votes. In 2005 there were four candidates for the presidency. I am happy to say that I was elected. The three vice-presidents are Julio Samsó, Roger Hahn, and Alan Shapiro. The Perpetual Secretary is Emmanuel Poulle.

The language of the Academy is French. It is officially registered in Paris as a non profit organisation since about fifteen years.

What about the publications? There is an official journal "Archives Internationales d'Histoire des Sciences". The major European languages are admitted, not only English, but also French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Russian. It depends on us whether we are able to read them or not. We are an European community. I would like to emphasize this aspect. The journal covers all periods, all subjects regarding history of science. There are two book series: "De diversis artibus" (*On diverse arts*) published by Brepols, and "Explorations" (*Explorations*) published by Beauchesne.

The International Academy grants two prizes, the prize for young historians of science and the prize for established scholars, the so-called Koyré medal. In 2005 this medal was awarded to Vincenzo Cappelletti and the Enciclopedia Italiana for the eight volumes "Storia della scienza".

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Assoc. Prof. Ida Stamhuis *

HOW MAY ONE BECOME a member of the Academy?

Prof. Eberhard Knobloch

President of the International Academy of the History of Science

IT IS AN ACADEMY THAT MEANS a candidate must be recommended by at least two members. We have elections every two years. The statutes of the academy explain how the elections have to be held. One cannot apply for membership. Among us there are many members. Ronald Numbers, the president of the DHST, is one of them.

Ronald L. Numbers

OKAY, WE HAVE VERY LITTLE TIME today and lots of participants. We have representatives from at least ten societies with this morning. We have generously given them three minutes each to say what is on their hearts and minds.

Prof. Frank James **

President of the British Society for the History of Science

SINCE WE HAVE LITTLE TIME, in my talk I will concentrate on outreach activities and our international connections.

The British Society for the History of Science has taken a strategic view during the past couple of years to expand its outreach activities to engage the interest of a much broader audience for the history of science. We do this in a number of ways. We are concentrating outreach programmes on education, on getting the history of science into museums, on cultivating good relations with the media. For example we have an important meeting next weekend (15–17.09.2006) in London on “Scientists and Social Commitment: historical perspectives on the political, religious and philosophical ideas and activity of scientists” which Channel 4 TV has expressed strong interests. Another activity which we undertake is the Society’s Dingle Prize which awarded every other year for the best popular book written in the history of science. A recent winner was Deborah Cadbury’s book on dinosaurs.

Despite its name the British Society for the History of Science is an international society, with members from all over the world. The Society the formal adhering body of the International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science / Division of History of Science and Technology, and we send our representatives to the General Assembly every four years. Other major international activity is with the History of Science Society (see <http://www.hssonline.org/>) and the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy Science (see <http://www.yorku.ca/cshps1/>). For nearly twenty years we have organised a joint conference every four yours and next year it is the turn of the BSHS to host it. It will be held at Keble College, Oxford from 4–6 July 2008 (for details see http://www.bshs.org.uk/bshs/conferences/other_bshs_meetings/three_societies_meeting/).

The British Society for the History of Science is changing directions in terms of outreach activities but also retaining its core values of promoting high quality academic history of science and maintaining strong relationships with societies elsewhere in the world including now the new European Society for the History of Science.

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Ronald L. Numbers

NOW, I INVITE Professor Duda from Poland.

Prof. Roman Duda *

Vice-chairman of the Committee for the History of Science and Technology of the Polish Academy of Sciences

The Polish institutions acting in the area of the history of science and medicine

I AM NOT AN OFFICIAL representative of Poland but let me say a few words about institutions acting in the area of the history of science in my country.

There is the Committee on the History of Science and Technology of the Polish Academy of Sciences which consists of 40 elected members and meets regularly, publishing 2–3 books every year.

There is the Institute for the History of Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences employing ca. 50 scientists (Prof. Wróblewski is Chairman of the Scientific Council of this Institute). The institute publishes six series (*Modern medicine. Studies on the History of Medicine, Biographical Dictionary of the Polish Medical Sciences, Studia Copernicana, Dissertations on the History of Education, From the History of Cartography, Monographs on the History of Science and Technology*) and three journals (*Quarterly of the History of Science and Technology, Annalecta and Organon*). [Please, see the web site of the institute — <http://www.ihnpan.waw.pl>.]

There is also the Commission on the History of Science of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, which consists of ca. 50 nominated members and meets regularly, publishing the *Proceedings of the Commission* ... and some books every year.

Most topics treated in those books, series and journals are concerned with Polish contribution to the history of science and predominant language is Polish but there appeared a tendency to replace it by foreign languages in order to make them accessible to the world community.

There are also some specific organisations, like very active the Society for the History of Medicine, and commissions within specialised professional societies like the Commission of the History of Mathematics of the Polish Mathematical Society, which organises a conference on the history of mathematics every year.

Ronald L. Numbers

AND IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS about how we can increase international co-operation, they would be most gratefully received. I believe that next person is Dr. Anja Skaar Jacobsen.

Dr. Anja Skaar Jacobsen **

President of the Danish Society for the History of Science

THE DANISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE is a Copenhagen based society, but we have members from all over Denmark, about 90 all in all. The aim of the society is to act as venue for individuals interested in history of science in the Copenhagen area and to foster interest in and propagate knowledge of the history of science and its philosophical, social, cultural, and political relations. Until recently the emphasis of the society was on the history of the exact sciences. However, since 2002, the scope has been broadened considerably to cover the history of science and technology much more broadly. The members are mainly professional historians of science, scientists, and amateurs

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interested in the history of science. Our main activities take the form of six to eight meetings with evening lectures every year by distinguished scholars, both local and from abroad. The Society was established as early as 1949 by Olaf Schmidt, Kaj Barr, Mogens Pihl and Harald Bohr (Niels Bohr's younger brother).

More details on the Danish Society for the History of Science you may find at our homepage <http://www.math.ku.dk/videnskabshistorie/EnglishInfo.htm>.

Ronald L. Numbers

PROF. BERNARD JOLY IS not with us, but we do have a representative from France, Prof. Claude Debru.

Prof. Claude Debru *

**The French Society for History of Science and Technology,
The Société d'Histoire et d'Epistémologie des Sciences de la Vie**

I AM GLAD TO REPRESENT PROF. BERNARD JOLY, who is from University of Lille and is current President of the French Society for History of Science and Technology. I am also representing Professor Michel Morange who is President of a more specialised society the Société d'Histoire et d'Epistémologie des Sciences de la Vie, which is quite active in the field of the history of life sciences. So, I wish first to convey the greetings and wishes of Professor Joly, who is eager to foster co-operation with the IUHPST and also co-operation at a bilateral level. As was mentioned already by Robert Fox mentioned, a British-French meeting took place at the Maison Française of Oxford, involving the British Society for History of Science, the French Society for History of Science and Technology, as well as the ESHS. This meeting was well attended and quite successful. The French Society for History of Science and Technology has about 500 members. It is fairly representative. It organises regular congresses whose proceedings are published in a series of books and in a slightly different form by a private publisher. Regarding the Société d'Histoire et d'Epistémologie des Sciences de la Vie, it is a smaller but quite active society. It publishes regular issues of its *Bulletin*. As a sign of success the *Bulletin* is now published by a private publisher. So it gives a broader impact to this kind of publications. I think both Prof. Joly and Prof. Morange are eager to participate in this move towards a broadening of international co-operation under the auspices of the IUHPST.

Ronald L. Numbers

NOW, I INVITE BERT THEUNNISSEN from the Netherlands.

Prof. Bert Theunissen **

**President of the Gewina: The Dutch Society for the History of Medicine,
Science, Mathematics and Technology**

GEWINA WAS FOUNDED IN 1913, so we are approaching our first centennial. At the moment the society has some 400 members. It publishes a journal, entitled *Gewina. Journal for the History of Medicine, Science, Mathematics and Technology*, which focuses mostly, but not exclusively, on the Netherlands. The society meets twice a year. We try to make these meetings attractive for amateur

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historians of science, and we particularly try to keep the journal attractive for amateurs, although it has a tendency to professionalise more and more. On the other hand, the society has, over the last decades, lost something of its attraction as a meeting point for professionals, and we are trying to remedy this situation.

To begin with, ties with our colleagues in Belgium are getting closer and closer in recent years, and there is much to be said for a transformation of *Gewina* into a joint Belgian / Dutch association for both amateurs and professionals. Moreover, the borders between the history of medicine, science, technology and mathematics on the one hand and the history of the humanities on the other are slowly but surely disappearing. So we also try to team up with historians of the humanities, again in order to create a broader platform for professionals in Belgium and The Netherlands. If all goes well, we shall also broaden the scope of our journal *Gewina* to include the history of all forms of science and scholarship.

Finally, *Gewina* facilitates the ‘Circulation of Knowledge and Practices’ working group of Dutch and Belgian historians, whose aims are to stimulate cooperation in research and fund raising. Taking this development one step further: it would be nice if the ESHS would also be able to create a platform for European scientists who aim to work together — for instance on a theme such as the ‘Circulating of Knowledge and Practices, which is perfectly suited for such purpose — and thus to help us to obtain European funding for our research.

More details on the *Gewina*: The Dutch Society for the History of Medicine, Science, Mathematics and Technology, you may find at our homepage <http://www.gewina.nl/english/index.html>.

Ronald L. Numbers

THE PERSON WHO CAME the farthest distance — from the West Coast of North America — is Joan Cadden, President of the History of Science Society.

Prof. Joan Cadden *

President of the History of Science Society

THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE SOCIETY has been, from its beginnings, an international organization. Indeed, the Society and its two journals were founded by the Belgian George Sarton (1884–1956), and *Isis*, which has been published since 1912, is currently edited in Canada. More than half the members of our governing Executive Committee come from outside the U.S.

I was invited here, however, because the History of Science Society is based in the U.S., even though it is not a national society. Thus I would like to begin by saying that our organization is committed to opposing the recent drastic impediments to international scholarly exchange that have been created in recent years by the U.S. government. As many of you know, getting a visa to attend a meeting of the History of Science Society in the U.S. or to accept an invitation for a longer visit to a U.S. institution, involves new and serious political, financial, and bureaucratic barriers. Along with other scholarly organizations, we are voicing our opposition to these. If you have individual experiences with these new regulations and the problems they create, I would be very grateful to hear from you in person, by letter to the History of Science Society Executive Office, or by e-mail (jcadden@ucdavis.edu).

Two more general challenges will affect the future of the history of science as an international discipline and profession. The first is the need to create more opportunities for doctoral students and young researchers to travel to meet their peers and more senior scholars, and to engage in international cooperative undertakings. It is difficult even for those of us at this session (with an average age well over fifty) to find ways to collaborate with each other; our newer colleagues have particular difficulties making contacts and financing trips. Enhancing their opportunities is of crucial importance not only for them, but also for the renewal and vitality of our field.

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A second, related challenge is to make our field international not only in principle but also in practice. The leaders of this meeting invited their counterparts outside of Europe and North America to join us here, but, to my knowledge, we have only one representative of an institution outside of those two regions. We need to make the global community that we imagine and desire into a reality. Some of this can be accomplished by electronic means, but much must be done by organizations like the History of Science Society and the European Society for the History of Science. Intellectual exchange with colleagues from other continents is essential to the intellectual health and integrity of the field and to the scholarly opportunities of all who are committed to it.

For more details on the History of Science Society, see <http://www.hsonline.org/>.

Ronald L. Numbers

AND THAT IS A PERFECT SEGUE to our next speaker, Noah Efron, who represents the rest of the world!

Prof. Noah Efron *

President of The Israel Society for the History and Philosophy of Science,
Chair, Graduate Program in Science, Technology & Society, Bar Ilan University

Science and Technology Studies in Israel: Seeking comparative perspective

IN ISRAEL, THE DISCIPLINES OF history and philosophy of science (HPS) and science and technology studies (STS) are vigorous beyond reason. Over 500 students are now pursuing advanced degrees in the field, making HPS & STS among the largest graduate disciplines in the country. Israel's six universities all train graduate students in these fields and three have thriving programs dedicated to them (at Tel Aviv University alone, there are over 300 students studying for advanced degrees). Leading scholars from around the world attend conferences and colloquia devoted to HPS and STS; the most recent, in June 2007, was organized by Mordechai Feingold of the California Institute of Technology and brought to Israel fifteen preeminent Newton researchers from Europe and the United States. Tel Aviv University's Cohn Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Ideas sponsors an International Laboratory for the History of Science, jointly with Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, the Center for the History of Science at the University of Athens and the Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza in Florence. The journal *Science in Context* is edited out of Tel Aviv and published by Cambridge University Press.

Given the remarkable vitality of HPS & STS in Israel, it is perhaps no surprise that the Israel Society for History & Philosophy of Science has drawn more than 750 participants to each of its last annual conferences, held at the Bloomfield Science Museum on the campus of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. This number included most of the university faculty and many of the graduate students working in the field, but a great many others as well. Among the participants were experts in science policy, science journalists, science museum directors and curators, science teachers, and numerous scientists from different disciplines.

One can only hypothesize about why history, philosophy and sociology of science are of such great interest to so many people in Israel. Likely, this interest reflects in part the enormous esteem with which science and technology themselves are regarded in the country, and the sense that the fate of Zionist settlement of Palestine is tied up with science and technology; outsized regard for science and technology have pertained since long before the State of Israel was established in 1948. Science and technology fit snugly with many of the aims, ideals and ideology of Zionism. They were used to establish Jewish title to the land, sometimes explicitly, as by archeologists, and sometimes through a more complicated chain of reasoning. Science and technology made plain the notion that Jewish settlement of Palestine was, in the end, a Western project imbued with Western ideals and committed to advancing

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those ideals in the East. Science also served to link the promise of Zionism with the achievements of generations of Jewish scientists abroad, effectively appropriating for the new Jewish homeland the odd but popular notion that there is a particular brand of “Jewish genius”. And it served as well to dissociate Zionists from other, more religious, Jews they had left behind. By embracing science, then, some Zionists deliberately associated the Zionist project with the progressive West and with the great achievements of generations of Jewish scientists abroad.

For all these reasons and more, science and technology have a cultural preeminence in Israel that may be unrivaled elsewhere, and this interest in science and technology translates to an equally avid interest in the history, philosophy and sociology of science and technology. But the eccentric strength of HPS and STS in Israel make it especially important for the community of scholars here to forge links with scholars elsewhere, especially beyond the Anglo-American centers (with which significant ties already exist). Until recently, the work of HPS and STS scholars in Israel has focused almost entirely upon the core canon of Western science, with major works devoted, for example, to Kepler, Galileo, Newton, Whewell and Einstein. Only lately have Israeli scholars turned their attention to the history and sociology of science and technology in Palestine and Israel, and to begin to address politically-fraught issues such as the neo-colonial uses of Western science in the formation of Zionist ideology and policy. Or the place of science and technology in the development of Israel’s military. Or the role of science and technology in the occupation. To frame these questions properly and begin to answer them effectively, Israeli scholars can benefit immeasurably from increased contact with scholars addressing similar issues — science and colonialism, science and development, science in the periphery, science and conquest and many more — in very different contexts. The ISHPS seeks to craft stronger links with scholars whose perspectives on these issues differ from those of our own members, and seeks to enable our members to learn from the experiences of scholars from other places. To this end, we hope to forge ongoing research collaborations that will enrich our own abilities to carry out our own research in a comparative perspective. We seek, through these collaborations, to develop local scholarship into the history and sociology of Israeli science and technology. Further, we seek to advance the study of indigenous science and technology in other places as well; study that is now overlooked. Many recognized that there is a need now to expand the focus of HPS and STS beyond the canonical case of the growth of science in Western Europe and, with time, the United States and to examine the growth and spread of science and technology in different contexts. The ISHPS aspires to work together with scholarly unions in other societies outside the present mainstream of HPS & STS study, and together to expand the vision and purview of these fields as a whole.

Ronald L. Numbers

REPRESENTING THE GREAT NATION of Canada is Ernie Hamm, who has been deputized by the Canadians to speak on their behalf.

Assoc. Prof. Ernst P. Hamm *

The Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science

The history of science, technology and medicine in Canada

THERE ARE THREE SOCIETIES IN CANADA devoted to aspects of the history of science, technology and medicine.

The Canadian Science and Technology Historical Association is devoted to the history of science, technology and medicine in Canada, as is its journal, *Scientia Canadensis*, which publishes peer-reviewed articles in English or French. The CSTHA was founded in 1980 and meets annually (typically in Toronto, Ottawa or Montreal) and publishes a newsletter, *Dialogue*. The CSTHA website

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offers information on memberships, conferences, publications and other activities of the society: <http://www.cstha-ahstc.ca/>.

The Canadian Society for the History of Medicine, founded in 1950 and with roughly 280 members, is devoted to promoting study, research and communication of the history of medicine, broadly defined. In the first decades of its existence the CSHM membership consisted largely of practicing physicians interested in the history of medicine; more recently the society has become dominated by historians, librarians and archivists who are professionally involved with the history of medicine, though it is still happy to count many amateurs as members. Since 1984 the society has published a bilingual, peer-reviewed journal, *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History/Bulletin canadien d'histoire de la médecine*. The CSHM is not specifically devoted to Canadian topics, and its annual meetings, held each spring in conjunction with the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities, include papers covering the full range of medical history, from ancient times to the present without any geographic restrictions; the same is true of its journal, which publishes in all aspects of the history of health care. See: <http://meds.queensu.ca/medicine/histm/cshmweb/cshmhome.html>.

The Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, which I represent, brings together historians, philosophers, sociologists and scholars from any number of other disciplines interested in studying all aspects of the history, philosophy and social studies of science. It was founded almost 50 years ago and has the broadest scope of the three Canadian societies (though by membership it is smaller than the CSHM); most of its approximately two hundred members are evenly divided between historians and philosophers of science; information on joining is available at <http://www.yorku.ca/cshps1/>. CSHPS publishes *Communiqué*, a quarterly newsletter that accepts communications in English and French, but the society's main scholarly activity is its annual conference, which is held in conjunction with the Congress of Social Sciences and Humanities, usually at a time that overlaps with the CSHM meeting. Papers for the CSHPS conference may be presented in French or English; all paper proposals are blind, peer-reviewed. CSHPS has many international members and participants at its annual meetings, though, to be sure, most participation is Canadian. Although CSHPS does not have the finances to sponsor foreign visitors it has been able to offer small travel grants to graduate students whose papers are accepted for presentation at the annual conference. CSHPS does not have its own journal, in no small part because there has not been a strongly felt need for one, given that Canadian historians of science publish in all of the major international journals and publish books with major university presses such as Cambridge, Oxford, Chicago, Yale, MIT and Princeton.

It needs to be said that the three societies I have discussed do not give a full sense of the range of history of science done in Canada. There are Canadian historians of science working across the full temporal and geographic range of the history of science, covering topics as diverse as ancient Babylonian astronomy, the history of hormone replacement therapy, medieval mechanics, German romanticism and science, and popular science in Victorian England. Until recently the history of science in Canada was dominated by the University of Toronto, though there are now quite a few Canadian universities with undergraduate or graduate programs in the history of science, including the University of British Columbia, Université du Québec à Montréal, the University of Alberta, Dalhousie University and McGill University. The greatest concentration of historians of science in Canada is at York University, which has at least twelve historians of science; York University (which is located in Toronto) is also the editorial home of *Isis*, the world's largest circulation scholarly journal for the history of science. It is fair to say that over the past several decades Canada has earned a respectable international reputation for the history of science.

Ronald L. Numbers

DESPITE OF THE BEST EFFORTS OF some people, apparently some countries, such as the German-speaking ones, slipped through our net. Mitch Ash, could you just say a few words on behalf of the Germans?

Prof. Mitchell G. Ash *

President of the Gesellschaft für Wissenschaftsgeschichte

The societies for the history of science, technology and medicine in German-speaking Europe

AS CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THE “Society for History of Sciences” (*Gesellschaft für Wissenschaftsgeschichte*), one of the two societies for history of science in Germany, I am honoured to have been asked to make a statement in this context. Since I live and work in Vienna, I have allowed myself to add a few words about Austria and German-speaking Switzerland in order to complete a very brief overview of the situation in German-speaking Europe.

As just indicated, there are two societies for history of science in Germany, neither of which could be called a “national society” in the strict sense. By far the older of the two organisations is the “German Society for History of Medicine, Natural Sciences and Technology” (*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Medizin, Naturwissenschaft und Technik*), or DGGMNT, which was founded by Karl Südhoff in 1901.¹ The younger organisation is the above mentioned “Society for History of Sciences” (*Gesellschaft für Wissenschaftsgeschichte*), or GWG, which was founded in 1965 by younger members of the DGGMNT who were dissatisfied with the leadership and direction of the older society at that time.²

Until very recently the two societies differed in three major respects:

- (1) Intellectual scope. The purview of the DGGMNT encompasses the history of medicine, natural sciences and technology, as its name indicates. Though the work of its members has expanded to include recent trends in the social and cultural studies of science, its continued focus on particular fields of knowledge is indicated by its organisational form, with a governing board of representatives from each of the three subject areas given in its name. In contrast, the GWG bases its work on the German concept of *Wissenschaft*, which refers to all scholarly disciplines, and therefore includes members who study the history of the social sciences and humanities — including theology and law — as well as the natural sciences, medicine and technology.
- (2) Membership recruitment. The DGGMNT, with 532 personal members as of September 2006, is by far the largest history of science society in German-speaking Europe. It is open to all who wish to join, so long as their applications are supported by two existing members. Its annual meetings are correspondingly large-scale events. By contrast, membership in the smaller GWG, with 198 members at present, is achieved by nomination by two existing members, with corresponding documentation. Its wide-ranging interdisciplinary topical symposia are smaller in size than those of the DGGMNT and based entirely on invited presentations.
- (3) Organ of publication. The DGGMNT has had no journal of its own until recently. The journal *Berichte zur Wissenschaftsgeschichte* was founded in 1978 as the “organ” of the GWG and publishes a selection of the contributions to the annual symposia of the GWG along with separate papers.³ All members of the GWG receive the journal as a benefit of membership. The DGGMNT has now decided to establish a similar relationship with the journal *NTM: International Journal of History and Ethics of Natural Sciences, Technology and Medicine* (*NTM: Internationale Zeitschrift für Geschichte und Ethik der Naturwissenschaften, Technik und Medizin*).

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¹ For full data on the history of the DGGMNT, see the following, privately printed volume: *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Medizin, Naturwissenschaft und Technik 1901–2001. Aus Anlass des 100jährigen Bestehens herausgegeben vom Vorstand der Gesellschaft* (Freiberg / Sa. 2001).

² Anke Jobmann: *Familientreffen versus Professionselite? Vergangenheitsbewältigung und Neustrukturierung in der deutschen Wissenschaftsgeschichte der 60er Jahre* (Berlin: ERS-Verlag 1998).

³ Bettina Wahrig und Mitchell G. Ash, “Berichte zur Wissenschaftsgeschichte: Zum dreißigsten Jahrgang”. *Berichte zur Wissenschaftsgeschichte*, 30 (2007), in press.

The two societies usually meet separately, the DGGMNT in September and the GWG in May, but they have recently agreed to meet together every three years. The first common meeting occurred in September 2006 in Braunschweig; the topic was “Cultures of Science, the Sciences in Culture” (*Kulturen der Wissenschaft, Wissenschaften in der Kultur*). The conference format combined the approaches of the two societies, with parallel paper sessions and an invited symposium of plenary lectures. The outstanding attendance (over 200 participants and over 100 papers), the high quality of the papers and the lively discussion suggests that such common conferences have a bright future.

The German organisation that fulfils at least some of the functions of a “national society” is the Federal Republic of Germany’s National Committee in the International Union for History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS). This body meets every four years in preparation for the congresses of the Union, and organised until recently the publication of research reports on scholarship in the history of science in Germany with the support of the German Research Council (*Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft*, or DFG).⁴

There is no such national representative body in Austria, but there is a national society, the Austrian Society for History of Science (*Österreichische Gesellschaft für Wissenschaftsgeschichte*) founded in 1980 by Helmuth Grössing, who remains its president to this day. The range of interests of the society’s membership is similar to that of the GWG, and it also has a journal that is furnished to members as part of their membership,⁵ but membership is open to all who wish to join. There is no annual meeting; instead, members attend a series of about six or seven lectures per year held by the society. Further organisations for history of science in Austria include the Commission for History of Mathematics, Medicine and Natural Science of the Austrian Academy of Sciences — host to the next meeting of the ESHS in Vienna — the “Vienna Circle Society,” devoted to the history of philosophy of science in cultural context, and the Ignaz Lieben Society, dedicated to advancing research on the history of the sciences in the territory of the former Habsburg Monarchy.

The established organisation for history of science in German- and French-speaking Switzerland is the Swiss Society for History of Medicine and Natural Science (in German: *Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Medizin und Naturwissenschaften*), which was founded in 1921. The society’s journal is *Gesnerus*, which also publishes a monograph series. Also based in Switzerland is the “Society for University History and History of Sciences” (*Gesellschaft für Universitäts- und Wissenschaftsgeschichte*), founded in 1995. This group now has approximately 110 members from Switzerland, Germany, Austria and other countries. Like the GWG, this society’s work is based on the unified concept of *Wissenschaft* encompassing the entire range of systematic scholarship; in addition, it is committed to the unity of (higher) education and science. Its bi-annual conferences are therefore devoted to important topics in university history — most recently, financing higher education and universities in the public sphere. Conference proceedings are published in a series edited by the founder and president, Rainer Schwinges.

This array of organisations — alongside a number of others devoted to single fields, such as the “Society for History and Theory of Biology” (*Gesellschaft für Geschichte und Theorie der Biologie*) — indicates both the sheer size of the history of science community and the multiplicity of its national organisational structures in the German-speaking cultural region. Judging by publication output and intellectual intensity, scholarship in the history of science in German-speaking Europe is on a par with that of the English-speaking world in many respects. The language problem, though still noticeable, is far less serious than it may once have been. Many younger historians appear to have little difficulty in consulting literature or even publishing themselves in other languages. Unfortunately, the organisational splintering just described, and particularly the absence of a single society to which all or most scholars in the field might feel obliged to belong, has limited the international visibility of this scholarship to some extent. On the other hand, the Max Planck Institute for History of Science in Berlin has become the leading centre for research in history of science world-wide, while keeping its activities largely separate from those of the organisations mentioned above.

⁴ The last such report appeared in *Berichte zur Wissenschaftsgeschichte* 28 (2005), Nr. 1, pp. 5–94.

⁵ The journal began with the title *Mitteilungen der Österreichischen Gesellschaft für Wissenschaftsgeschichte*. Since vol. 19 (1999) it bears the title *Mensch, Wissenschaft Magie. Mitteilungen der Österreichischen Gesellschaft für Wissenschaftsgeschichte*.

Only once was it possible to make the size, the varied scope and the wide-ranging interests of the German-speaking history of science community visible in one place. The *Wissenschaftshistorikertag* held in Berlin in 1996 attracted over 800 participants. Sadly, it has not been possible to repeat this event, nor did it lead to the establishment of a common organisation for history of science in Germany, as its organisers may have hoped that it would. However, joint meetings among the societies, for example of the GWG with the ÖGW in Vienna in the spring and of the GUW and the GWG in the fall of 2005, respectively, as well as the above-mentioned joint conference of the DGGMNT and the GWG in 2006, indicate that forces for unity and common purpose may gradually be growing stronger than centrifugal ones.

Ronald L. Numbers

NOW EFTHYMIOS NICOLAIDIS will say something about our Division.

Prof. Efthymios Nicolaidis *

Secretary General of the IUHPS / DHST

The role and structure of IUHPS / DHST

THE LAST DECADES, HISTORY OF SCIENCE has grown with an unprecedented rhythm and the consequence of that has been the multiplication of professional societies, national, regional, or specialized.

In such a new context, the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science / Division of History of Science and Technology has to redefine its role. Being the only institution having an international structure (DHST members are National Committees of 50 countries all around the world), its aim during the cold war was to keep together East and West specialists beyond the geopolitical barriers of those times. Today, this role has change; the Union became an important forum for colleagues of developing countries beyond the new barriers North-South, an interface between scientific Unions of other fields associated with ICSU (International Council for Science) or CIPSH (International Council of Philosophy and Human Sciences), an active promoter of many sub-fields expressed by its various Commissions and the promoter of history of science to UNESCO, ONU and other international bodies.

Having 50 National Committees as regular members, the IUHPS/DHST constitutes a very important network which can be exploited by historians of science for scientific purposes as well as for educational purposes or for the promotion of our scientific field. In some countries, members are very important and active societies (for ex. BSHS in UK). A discussion has started in IUHPS/DHST in order to imply more colleagues to the live of the Union and make it more accessible and visible to the scholars society. Towards this aim the new website based on web2 facilities has been developed. As for the DHST Historical Commissions, they represent the real trends of the international society of history of science, as new ones are created regularly and non active ones disappear. Another characteristic which makes DHST a unique tool for the history of science are the Inter-Union Commissions which relate DHST to other international scientific societies.

Since now, the IUHPS / DHST had not inaugurated a discussion and collaboration with the various — and active — national or regional societies, some of them having also an international character. Although history of science has impressively developed the last twenty years, some important problems are to be faced: independent institutions of history of science are closing in some countries. In many cases history of science laboratories are integrated to more general structures losing their identity. We can notice that there are less and less teams with such a caliber capable to organize such an important event as the International Congress of the DHST. Indeed, we have more and more individual researchers or small teams and less and less more centralized (in a country scale) structures. Although in our days a lot of events such as specialized or national Symposia, Conferences and Congresses are organized by scholars or societies, the international Congress of DHST is a unique event where one can meet

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colleagues from all history of science fields and from a great number of countries. The growth of the profession together with the present problems, make the collaboration between DHST and the other societies essential in order to keep the dynamism of history of science going on.

Ronald L. Numbers

I WANT TO THANK ALL of the participants for these informative reports. Unfortunately, our time has expired, but I look forward to collaborating with all of you in the future.