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Editor of the Proceedings

Foreword

THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE of the European Society for the History of Science “The Global and the Local: The History of Science and the Cultural Integration of Europe” was held in Cracow, Poland, between September 6-9, 2006 and was organised jointly by the European Society for the History of Science, the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, Jagiellonian University and the Institute for the History of Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

It brought together about 250 participants from 25 European countries (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, Ukraine, and The United Kingdom) and 6 non-European countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Israel, Mexico, USA). During the conference, 5 plenary lectures, 21 symposia (with a joint number of 173 papers), poster session (with 5 posters), 3 round-table discussions (with a joint number of over 70 comments), and the plenary meeting of the European Society for the History of Science and the meeting of International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science / Division of History of Science were organised. (For further organisational details about the conference, see the home page of the conference: <http://www.2iceshs.cyfronet.pl>.)

The electronic proceedings of the 2nd ICESHS are being provided in two formats; as a CD-version (mainly for participants of the conference and libraries) and as a web-version: files to copy from the web site of the proceedings <http://www.2iceshs.cyfronet.pl/proceedings.html> (to give the quickest and widest distribution of the papers presented at the conference).

The fundamental idea of the proceedings was to publish the full texts of all conference papers (including texts consisting of a brief description of institutional organisers, texts for the opening and closing of the conference, plenary lectures, contributed papers, posters, and comments from the round-table discussions) in order to show the whole of the conference subject-matter. However, not to undermine the coherence of the proceedings, we are compelled to also publish also the abstracts of those papers whose authors didn't deliver full texts.

At the same time, we do encourage the organisers of the next international conferences of the European Society for the History of Science not to resign the future from the idea of issuing electronic proceedings with full texts of all the conference papers. Since this idea give us an opportunity to show the broad international community the jewels of Europe's cultural heritage seen from very fruitful points of view: different geographic places and different intellectual perspectives which reveal the dynamic connections of European thought with the thought of other parts of the world. A need of such reflection is very topic in the times of the cultural integration of Europe and globalisation of the world.

We would welcome any feedback on this proceedings — please send your comments to the editor.

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