

# Newsletter

## of the History of Science Society

Vol. 45, No. 1  
January 2016

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#### From the President: Janet Browne

*HSS President, 2016-2017*

Publication of this January 2016 *Newsletter* provides a welcome opportunity for the officers of the Society to wish members a very happy new year, and to thank our outgoing president Angela Creager most sincerely for her inspired leadership. Presidents come and go, but Angela has been special. She brought a unique combination of insight, commitment, and sunny good nature to every meeting of the various committees and phone calls that her position entailed and has been an important guide in steering the Society through a number of structural revisions and essential long-term strategic planning. Many of these adjustments were on view to members during the HSS meeting in San Francisco. And as president she has dedicated herself to making sure that every potential change is thoroughly justified, examined, and supported by consensus. The strategic plan is now completed and gradually coming into play through her tireless work on our behalf. It is a far-sighted and useful document that will truly help the Society to meet members' needs more effectively. It is a genuine pleasure for me to be able to thank her, in this public venue, for all that she has done for us—and for the gracious clarity she brings to even the most knotty of problems. On the officers' and council members' behalf, please join

me in congratulating Angela very warmly on a task carried out superbly well.

It is usual at this point in the cycle of Society business for the incoming president also to write a few forward-looking words. As I take up this role it is heartening to be able to say that I am the eighth female in this position since the Society's foundation, and the third in a row. The dramatic increase of women in HSS's structure and as speakers and organizers at the annual meeting, from the time I first attended a meeting, perhaps reflects a larger recalibration of the field as a whole. It is a pleasure and a huge honor for me to represent members of this Society—an international Society dedicated to understanding science, technology, and medicine in historical context. Founded nearly ninety years ago, it is the oldest such Society. It is also good to note (after researching the HSS list of former presidents) that I appear to be the first British person in this role and only the third non-North American. This must say something about the history of our discipline and the Society's current expressed wish to internationalize. The others were the Swiss medical historian Henry Sigerist, who was president in 1939, and Berthold Laufer, the German born émigré, a

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## From the President, *cont.*

great expert in Anthropology and East-Asiatic Languages at Columbia University. I hope everyone in the next few years will increasingly come to feel that the Society is more extensive in geographical scope and intellectual interests than these scant statistics indicate. Looking ahead, as we move forward into 2016, there are many business items on the Society's agenda that will help us in implementing the strategic plan and perhaps in mapping out a development campaign. We look to you, the membership, for input and counsel, and thank you in advance for your support. Last but not least, the Society's elected Council members and Officers

are very fortunate in the invaluable assistance given by the Society's Executive Office—Jay, Greg, Jessica, and our willing volunteer helpers, are each and every one a tremendous asset and work extremely hard on our behalf. You will hardly believe how much they do. They deserve our heartfelt thanks!

## Correction:

*Please note the following correction to the October 2015 Newsletter under Member News:*

Raffaele Pisano was awarded his Habilitation HDR—*Habilitation à diriger des recherches* (Accreditation to Supervise Research) by the University of Lorraine, France. He continues to serve as Vice President elected (2011-) of the

Inter-Divisional Teaching Commission (DLMPS/IUHST). He is also under contract (with Paolo Bussotti) for a full translation from Latin into English of four volumes of Newton's *Principia* Geneva Edition (2020, Oxford University Press).

### *Executive Office*

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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 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 (10 x 7"), \$625; Horizontal or Vertical Half page (5 x 7"), \$375; Quarter page (5 x 3.5"), \$225. The deadline for insertion orders is six weeks prior to the month of publication and should be sent to [info@hssonline.org](mailto:info@hssonline.org). Please send photographs in a jpeg format, with a maximum size of 1024 pixels and file size of 1 MB to maintain quality during sizing and printing. The deadline for news, announcements, and job/fellowship/prize listings is firm: four 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](mailto:info@hssonline.org).

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## Notes from the Inside: *What are we doing?*

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One of the more surprising findings from our strategic plan was discovering that our members are not exactly clear on what the HSS Executive Office does. I am trying to remedy that, in part, by providing regular updates on our activities and most significantly through an annual report—the latest version appears in this *Newsletter*. I expect that only the most die-hard members will bother to read the report, so please indulge me while I tout some highlights from the past year.

Most members know that the Executive Office runs the annual meeting so I'll begin there.

The 2015 conference in San Francisco proved a huge success (fire alarm notwithstanding). Over 86 percent of attendees indicated that they were “very satisfied” with San Francisco and, in line with our strategic goal to facilitate networking within the meeting, over 84 percent reported that they had sufficient time to network and share ideas. And although it is difficult to measure the strategic goal of creating “vibrant HSS meetings,” we believe that we are at least on the right track (please see more on the meeting survey in this issue).

An important part of each meeting is the administration of travel grants, which takes a significant slice of our time. We are now in the third decade of our NSF-funded grants, which

have allowed hundreds of graduate students, independent scholars, and recent PhDs to attend the conferences. For San Francisco we awarded eighty NSF-related grants, worth over \$22,000 (we will highlight the impact of these grants in a later report); but because the NSF grants are limited to U.S. citizens or those attending U.S. schools, and because the HSS is an international society, we also funded students and other scholars not eligible for the NSF awards (these monies came from prior meeting excesses—please note that the annual meeting always *loses money* but the HSS budgets for this loss so that meeting registrations remain affordable). These HSS funds, of over \$14,000, allowed 38 more scholars, many of them from outside the U.S., to come to the meeting. Thus, over 110 scholars (of the 785 attending) received some support to attend the conference, representing an important ingredient in the recipe for a vibrant meeting.

But hosting exciting conferences is just one of the six strategic goals and the Executive Office is intimately involved with the other five goals. Over this past year, and into the new year, we will continue to advocate for the history of science (on Capitol Hill and elsewhere), to refine the governance of the Society so that it serves you better, to publish and reward the best scholarship in the field, to explore ways that

we can help all constituents of the history of science (i.e. *those committed to doing, making, or advocating for the history of science, or who are learning to do so*), and to engage the public and educators so that they can use the history of science in their lives and in their instruction.

None of this would be possible without you, our members. Please join us as we carry the flag for our field.

Thank you for your membership.

Jay  
*Executive Director*

## Reflections on the Prague Conference: “Gendering Science: Women and Men Producing Knowledge”<sup>1</sup>

by Pnina G. Abir-Am (BWSRC, Brandeis University, [pninaga@brandeis.edu](mailto:pninaga@brandeis.edu)), Member of the Prague Conference Program Committee

Six historians of science and technology from the U.S.<sup>2</sup> (the largest delegation after that of the host country—the Czech Republic<sup>3</sup>) joined participants from 18 countries at this international conference, held on 4-6 June 2015. A group travel grant from NSF-STC,<sup>4</sup> enabled

1 See the conference program at <http://en.genderveda.cz/218-gender-science/past-conferences/gendering-science-2015>, which includes speaker names, titles, affiliations, abstracts, as well as information on the sponsoring organizations.

2 In alphabetical order: Pnina G. Abir-Am, Brandeis; Marilyn Bailey Ogilvie, University of Oklahoma; Amy Bix, Iowa State University; Sally Gregory Kohlstedt, University of Minnesota; Barbara Louis, University of Minnesota; and Donald Opitz, DePaul. Margaret W. Rossiter, Cornell; and Joy Harvey, Independent Scholar who were also on the program, but could not travel for medical reasons. (Both have since made good progress in recovery.) Further reflections by these, among other, participants will be posted on the conference website by Donald L. Opitz, who, together with Margaret W. Rossiter, has kindly commented on a previous draft of these reflections. For details on the conference’s plenary session and plans for the upcoming ICHST in Rio in 2017 see <http://hsonline.org/resources/publications/newsletter/October-2015>.

3 The speakers from the host country included the Chairperson of the local organizing committee: Milada Sekyrkova, Libuse Heczko, Milena Josefovicova, and Eva Kalivodova, all of the Charles University in Prague; as well as Katerina Cidlinska, Marcela Linkova, Sona Strbanova, (a former president of the European Society for the History of Science) and Katerina Zabrodská, all of the Czech Academy of Sciences (see note 1 for their topics). Most of the Czech speakers addressed historical and contemporary issues of gender and science in their country, further revealing a vibrant local community of scholars in gender and women’s studies. The largest delegations after the Czech Republic and the USA arrived from Austria, France, and Germany.

4 NSF-STC award (no. 1539767, see [http://nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD\\_ID=1539767](http://nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1539767)) covered the travel costs for the six U.S. participants. (Program Director: Frederick Kronz; PI: Donald L. Opitz). My own experience with prior difficulties in ensuring the participation of U.S. historians of science at **another recent international conference** was instrumental in locating this group travel grant as an optimal solution for all the U.S. participants at the Prague conference.

the participants from the U.S. to present their recent scholarship, contemplate transatlantic collaborations, and even lecture in additional European sites. Such a tool deserves to be better known since it is not only indispensable for ensuring the participation of U.S. historians of science at international conferences, especially those whose institutions do not cover such travel, those who work as “independent scholars,” and those who are in transitions of all kinds, but also because it requires a certain amount of coordination among the participants, especially those who may serve as PIs. Furthermore, the European Union’s policy of highlighting intra-European cooperation, has further reduced the opportunities for transatlantic collaboration. NSF may wish to address this situation more systematically, especially since European approaches to gender equality are of great interest for scholars in the U.S.<sup>5</sup>

5 For the European Union’s various initiatives on gender equality, see the Prague presentation of Anne-Sophie Godfroy, “Measuring and Monitoring Gender Equality in the Academia: A Comparative Approach of Recent European Gender Equality Plans,” which drew attention to the vast difference between institutional adoption of various gender equality plans, “tool kits,”

6 This Commission promotes international cooperation in the history of women and gender in science, technology, and medicine by holding every two years quadrennial symposia in various countries, e.g. Paris, 2011; Syros, Greece, 2007; Prague, 2003; and Cambridge, U.K., 1999, in addition to meetings which coincide with the quadrennial meetings of ICHST. Past Commission Presidents and their periods of service are: Margaret Walsh Rossiter, (1981-89) the late Éva Vámos of Hungary (1989-1997), Ida Stamhuis of Holland (1997-2005), Annette Vogt of Germany (2005-2013), and Maria Rentetzi of Greece. (2013-)

The Prague conference was organized by the International Commission on the History of Women and Gender in Science, Technology and Medicine.<sup>6</sup> This Commission has co-sponsored several biennial conferences since its foundation at the 16th International Congress for History of Science and Technology (ICHST), held in Bucharest in 1981, when Margaret W. Rossiter was elected as its first President.<sup>7</sup> The 2015 conference was held in the Carolinum,

indicators, and methodologies; and the occurrence of structural changes needed for gender equality to occur. See also [http://ec.europa.eu/research/swafs/pdf/pub\\_gender\\_equality/structural-changes-workshop-report\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/swafs/pdf/pub_gender_equality/structural-changes-workshop-report_en.pdf)

7 On the early days of this Commission see Daryl Hafter, “International Conference on the Role of Women in the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine... Veszprem, Hungary, August 15-19, 1983,” *Technology and Culture*, vol. 26, (April 1985) p. 262-267; and Sally Gregory Kohlstedt’s reflections on the Commission’s website. Founding members of the Commission from the U.S. include Margaret W. Rossiter, (a former Editor of *ISIS* and *Osiris*) Sally G. Kohlstedt (a former HSS President), Daryl Hafter (a former SHOT President), Joy Harvey, and Pnina G. Abir-Am, the latter two as doctoral students. All of the above continue to take part in the Commission meetings, including the Prague 2015 meeting.

## Reflections on the Prague Conference, *cont.*

([www.prague.net/carolinum](http://www.prague.net/carolinum)) a historic building of Charles University, the oldest (f. 1348) and largest university in the Czech Republic, which co-sponsored the conference together with the Czech Academy of Sciences and the Czech National Centre for Gender and Science.

The 2015 conference's theme sought to highlight relationships of collaboration and mentorship across genders, while extending the WGS scholarship beyond an earlier emphasis upon retrieving long-neglected contributions of women to science. Both themes happily co-existed in the program, further suggesting that future collective volumes inspired by this conference may well include a combination of these themes. Due to the prevalence of parallel sessions, as well as for reasons of space, only a fraction of the topics presented in Prague are mentioned below (see note 2 for additional sources). The session on women scientists in exile, chaired by Carola Sachse of Vienna University, stood out for me for both professional and personal reasons. Sonja Walch of the University of Vienna examined the role of war, gender, and emigration in tropical botany while comparing the exquisite case studies of Mona Lisa Steiner of Vienna and Marie-Helene Sachtel of Paris who emigrated to Manila and Washington, DC respectively. Barbara Louis, a recent PhD from the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis, compared the Viennese émigrés

Elsa Leichter and Gerda Schulman, whose socialist ideology and Jewish ethnicity compelled them to flee after the Nazi annexation, and who managed to carve for themselves new professional spaces in American social work, specializing in group therapy and family therapy, respectively. Christine von Oertzen of MPI-Berlin provided extensive evidence to the effect that German émigré women were committed professionals with real careers to manage, salvage, or lose, as well as major social responsibilities in supporting family members, often women relatives, especially mothers.<sup>8</sup> The session concluded with a lively discussion to which I contributed the suggestion that the émigré sister scientists Marguerite and Marthe Vogt, who pursued remarkable careers in the U.S. and U.K., respectively, be also researched in a comparative manner.<sup>9</sup>

The reason for my profound excitement at this session pertained not only to its novel case studies and analytical boldness but also to a gratifying sense of vindication. As a student, I protested

<sup>8</sup> Based on her recent book, *Science, Gender, and Internationalism: Women's Academic Networks* (London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2014).

<sup>9</sup> Marguerite Vogt was included in my presentation, "Women of the Phage Group" at the HSS Annual Meeting in Washington DC in 2007, as part of a session marking the 25th anniversary of Margaret W. Rossiter's first volume in her trilogy on *American Women in Science* (1982, 1995, 2012). The Prague conference may thus stimulate a potential transatlantic collaboration by revealing that Helga Satzinger of the U.K. (see below) is now interested in both sisters.

the lack of inclusion of émigré women scientists at a Smithsonian conference in the early 1980s (that protest did not endear me to the HSS elders, who were quick to conclude that I was a "trouble maker," a label which is not helpful to a junior scholar, yet somehow I survived it, though some might say barely so....) It is hoped that the superb session on women scientists in exile will soon become a special issue in a leading journal, or so it seemed at an impromptu "business meeting" with these speakers during a conference-sponsored lunch.

The session on cross-gender collaboration and mentorship which I organized and chaired was also rumored to have been a great session, despite general sadness at the absence of projected speakers Margaret Rossiter, Joy Harvey, and Helga Satzinger.<sup>10</sup> Their name plates to my right and to my left prompted me to publicly lament the absence of these pioneering scholars and valued colleagues. Marilyn Bailey Ogilvie's passionate presentation of the American

<sup>10</sup> On Rossiter see notes 7 & 9. Harvey is known for her *Almost a Man of Genius, Clemence Royer, Feminism, and 19th Century Science*, (1997) and together with Marilyn Bailey Ogilvie, for their biographical dictionary on women in science, (1999) which we put on display at the conference. Harvey is currently completing a book on French-trained American physician Mary Putnam Jacobi, while bravely and steadily recovering from a stroke. For Satzinger's illuminating perspective on gender hierarchy in German science see her *Difference and Heredity* (Cologne: Bohlau 2009) which is to appear soon in English translation with Palgrave.

## Reflections on the Prague Conference, *cont.*

ornithologist Margaret Morse Nice and her various, women and men collaborators, based on a book in progress, elicited many questions from the audience. Sona Strbanova's (see photo) on the British biochemist Marjorie Stephenson, one of the first women Fellows of the Royal Society, was also based on a forthcoming book. Stephenson's rare capacity for reparteeing with J.B.S Haldane in the mid-1920s so impressed a young J.T. Edsall (1902-2002) that he made a point of assisting women scientists long before affirmative action became the law of the land. Pnina G. Abir-Am (see photo) contrasted the careers of women molecular biologists at UC-Berkeley in the key decade of the 1970s, when women were hired in larger numbers as a result of the 1972 affirmative action legislation. The talk further inquired why male mentorship, which proved decisive in career making, was more available to "trailing spouse" Elizabeth Blackburn (who would share the 2009 Nobel Prize for the discovery of telomerase) than to unattached Ellen Daniell, a woman scientist who absorbed the independent spirit of the 1960s, but in the absence of such mentorship, joined the "leaking pipeline," further providing telling insights into the much debated under-representation of women in science.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> For further details see Pnina G. Abir-Am, "Women Scientists of the 1970s: An Ego-Histoire of a Lost Generation" in *Writing about Lives in Science, Auto/biography, Gender, and Genre*, eds.: Paola Govoni and Alice Z. Franceschi. (Göttingen: V&R Unipress, 2014) 223-261.



Left photo: Ida Stamhuis lectures in the final session; center photo: overview of Aula Minor during the opening session with Sona Strbanova showing her slides; right photo: Pnina Abir-Am lectures in the opening session. Photos courtesy of Nadezhda Strakova.

Helga Satzinger's (University College, London) paper on the substantial career opportunities for women technicians in the 19th and 20th century German science, stirred great interest in the audience when I read it, in her absence, as part of another session, which also included stimulating papers on wo/men geneticists and biochemists by Nurit Kirsh (Open University, Israel) and Robert Freedman, (Warwick University, U.K.) respectively. The concluding session focused on gender and statistics, including a comprehensive study of Czech women scientists since the 19th century by Milada Sekyrkova (note 3) who combined quantitative and qualitative methods;

a study of gender in Dutch statistical practices by Ida Stamhuis (Free University, Amsterdam, note 6, see photo below); and a study of a collaborative couple of émigré statisticians Emma and Wladimir Woytinsky, by Annette Vogt, (MPI-Berlin, note 6), which *Creative Couples in the Sciences* would have welcomed, had it been available by 1996.

The formal sessions, coffee breaks, a great lunch hosted by Charles University, a superb banquet in a historic Prague café, and a guided tour to the American Women's Club, (a center for progressive education and civic activism for Czech women since the 19th century) provided plenty of opportunities for professional interaction.

## Reflections on the Prague Conference, *cont.*

Particularly memorable was a group of French doctoral students who shared with us their struggle to create a community of gender-related research at Centre A. Koyré in Paris.<sup>12</sup> Still, the all important topics of the analytical distinctions between women's studies and gender studies in science, as well as strategies for mainstreaming both in the wider context of new scholarship in the history of STEM, did not receive sufficient attention; it is hoped that these aspects will be at the center of attention at the next meeting of this Commission at the upcoming ICHST in Rio, in 2017.

The Prague conference had a “spin-off” role by enabling participants from the U.S. to lecture in additional European sites, since it is much easier for European colleagues to justify a guest talk by a U.S. scholar who can be brought from another European city.<sup>13</sup> The Prague conference also enabled us to get acquainted with the cultural treasures of the host city, much remembered for the fateful days of August 1968. I was part of a small group which toured the 14th century

<sup>12</sup> The students included Valérie Burgos, Dalia Deias, Juliette Lancel, and Isabelle Lémonon. See the “Femmes et Savoirs” webpage is: <http://semdoccak.hypotheses.org/category/programme-des-seminaires/seminaire-femmes-savoirs>

<sup>13</sup> For example, after the Prague conference I gave talks in Madrid and Paris, sponsored by conference colleagues Maria J. Santemas, Isabelle Lemonon, and Anne-Sophie Godfroy, respectively. Other conference speakers were similarly able to give talks in other European sites.



Terezin Memorial Museum. Left: a commemorative statue; center: literature on Terezin in World War II still untranslated into English; right: the children's opera.

Betlemska chapel, climbed all the way to the Prague castle via the famed Charles Bridge, and enjoyed a farewell sailing under this majestic bridge. Everywhere I went I could not avoid thinking of Alice Teichova<sup>14</sup> (1920-2015) and her husband, the historian of science Mikulas Teich, who first introduced me to the spirit of Prague when, as a junior scholar seeking residential proximity to the Cambridge University Library, they took me as a sitter of their Prague-imbued house. Last but not least, some of us also managed to visit Terezin,<sup>15</sup>

<sup>14</sup> “Leading economic historian of Central Europe,” obituary in *The Times* (London) May 27, 2015.

<sup>15</sup> The 70th anniversary of Terezin's liberation was just marked in Boston by a performance of “Liberation: New Works on Freedom by Internationally Renowned

a large, village-style museum about an hour north of Prague, which commemorates a concentration camp (in)famous for its artistic productions, even a children's opera. To our surprise, much of the literature on Terezin in Czech and other European languages remains untranslated into English. In conclusion, Prague remains of interest to historians of science and will soon host the European Society for the History of Science meeting with the theme “Science and Power, Science as Power” on 22-24 Sept 2016.

“Poets,” sponsored by the Terezin Music Foundation, at the Coolidge Corner Theatre in Brookline, MA on November 17, 2015.

## Lone Star Historians of Science—2015

by Bruce Hunt, University of Texas at Austin

The Lone Star History of Science Group held its twenty-eighth annual meeting on 3 April 2015 at the University of Houston. The gathering was hosted by Ioanna Semendeferi of the University of Houston and Cyrus Mody, then of Rice University and now of the University of Maastricht.

2015's Lone Star meeting actually had two speakers. First, Laura Stark of Vanderbilt University spoke in UH's "Ethics in Science" series. Her talk, "Welfare, Work, and Witness: Why Clinical Research Can Survive the Death of a Healthy Subject," addressed how the growth of new relationships among American colleges, church organizations, and government agencies after the Second World War helped prepare the way for healthy people to serve routinely as "normal controls" in large-scale medical experiments—to the point that the occasional death of such a participant could be handled as a "routine tragedy." After a break for some refreshments and conversation, the group next heard from Alistair Sponsel, also of Vanderbilt, whose Lone Star talk, "Writing the *Origin* with Burned Fingers: Darwin's Penance for the 'Sin of Speculation,'" offered a fascinating new angle on why Darwin hesitated so long before publishing his "speculations" on evolution.

The key, Alistair suggested, is to be found in Darwin's misgivings not about evolution itself, but about writing a theoretical book at all, for he had "burned his fingers" years before when he had promised but never delivered a grand account of the history of the earth and its inhabitants inspired by his work on the formation of coral reefs.

After some lively discussion, the group went off to Eric's Restaurant at the Hilton Hotel on the UH campus and enjoyed a very pleasant dinner. Alistair, who grew up in San Antonio, had attended the 2002 Lone Star meeting back in his student days, and he said it had long been one of his personal ambitions to come back and speak before the group—an ambition the group was very happy to be able to help him fulfill.

Each spring, the Lone Star Group draws together historians of science, technology, and medicine from around Texas to discuss their shared interests



Left to right: Barron Preston, Laura Stark, Anthony Stranges, Cyrus Mody, Steve Kirkpatrick, Alistair Sponsel, Ioanna Semendeferi, Anna Fay Williams, Bruce Hunt, Tom Williams, John Lisle, Megan Raby, Karl Stephan, Eric Williams, and Mitch Aso.

Not pictured: Helen Hattab, Ioannis Pavlidis, Jimmy Schafer, and Pam Stephan.

and enjoy a friendly dinner. Its constitution, adopted over drinks in an Austin restaurant in 1988, provides that there shall be "no officers, no by-laws, and no dues," and the group remains resolutely informal. More information about the Lone Star group, including a list of past meetings and some photographs, can be found at <http://lonestarhistoryofsciencgroup.blogspot.com/>.

The next Lone Star meeting will be held in Austin in March or April 2016. Anyone interested in being added to the Lone Star e-mail list should contact Professor Bruce Hunt of the University of Texas History Department at [bjhunt@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:bjhunt@austin.utexas.edu).

## Lecturing on the History of Science in Unexpected Places: Chronicling One Year on the Road

by Edward J. Larson

Waking up near midnight with a need to visit the restroom, I decided to go on deck for a quick look about. For all I knew we were still sailing below the Antarctic Circle, but it was February 3, 2015, and so the midnight sun had passed and it was finally dark outside. I climbed to the chart room and went out the door onto the bow of the *National Geographic Explorer*, our expedition ship with 130 passengers and over half that many crew members aboard. As the history of science lecturer, I was part of the crew. The view that night took my breath away.

The ship was slowly cruising—one might better say gliding—through a shimmering sea salted with small icebergs, bergy bits, and growlers eerily illuminated by a full moon dead ahead about ten degrees above the horizon. Half the passengers—probably all that were awake—lined the ship's railings transfixed by the scene. No one spoke. It did not seem as cold as it was; I had not put on a coat and never thought to get one. The dark water created an absolutely flat, mirror-like surface that flowed ahead to a distant shoreline studded with jagged, glacier-covered peaks. Before us, the moon, nearby icebergs, and more distant mountains reflected so perfectly in the water that pictures taken that night looked the same up-side down as right-side up. This, I learned, was Crystal Sound, so named because British scientists once studied

the formation of sea-ice crystals on its surface. We were 66°23' South Latitude, eight miles north of the Antarctic Circle.

Earlier that day I had lectured at the old British Antarctic Station on Detaille Island 13 miles south of the Antarctic Circle. Built in 1956 as Base W for the British Antarctica Survey and manned—yes, there were no women—for five years, this station served as a year-around post for topographical mapping, geological research, and meteorological data collection. Each summer, dogsleds would carry the researchers hundreds of miles across the nearby Antarctic Peninsula. Quickly abandoned after ice prevented a supply ship from reaching the station with essential provisions in 1959, Base W has remained frozen in time with hundreds of artifacts left on the shelves, tables, and store rooms. It looks today just as it did in an earlier era of polar scientific research, which I was able to lecture about from behind a bar still stocked with 50-year-old Scotch bottles and adorned with an official-looking picture of a young Queen Elizabeth. So few and trusted are the visitors to this remote site that no one even locks the door when they leave.

So began a year of traveling widely to lecture about the history of science that took me to all seven continents and across all five oceans in

just one calendar year: 2015. Everywhere I went there was interest in our subject. The stars simply aligned and a sabbatical intervened to allow me to do it in a single year. A very quick plunge into the Great Southern Ocean off the Antarctic Peninsula—a dare accepted by about one in four passengers—would be the first of my dips that year into all the world's five oceans.

My 2015 Antarctica trip began in mid-January, when I flew to Argentina for the first of two consecutive trips from Ushuaia on the Beagle Channel at the southern tip of Argentina by ship to the Antarctic Peninsula. That meant four crossings of the Roaring Forties, Furious Fifties, and Screaming Sixties (all overrated at least on these trips) on a small but sturdy ship that once served as a Norwegian Hurtigruten ferry and was later converted for polar service by Lindblad Expeditions and adopted for its National Geographic Society partnership. The Beagle Channel also meant lectures by me in South America about Charles Darwin, Robert Fitzroy, and the kidnapped native Fuegian that Fitzroy called Jemmy Button (because he was allegedly bought for a button). From what I could tell, the Yaghan people scarcely have it better today than 180 years ago, when Fitzroy brought Button back to Terra del Fuego, where he promptly discarded his English clothes and religion.

## Chronicling One Year on the Road, *cont.*

March took me to Australia and then across the Indian Ocean to South Africa on the first of two trips around the world during the year. First stop was Brisbane, Australia, on the Pacific Coast where Peter Harrison had invited me to lecture at the University of Queensland on the modern creation-evolution controversy. One of that University's best known graduates is the Australian-American creationist Ken Hamm—founder of Kentucky's Creation Museum and the worldwide "Answers In Genesis" outreach program—so the topic was a perfect fit in sunny Brisbane despite the lack of any visible dinosaurs roaming among current students. We tend to think of young-earth creationism as a distinctly American product, but Australia can teach us otherwise. Queensland once even adopted a balance-treatment law for teaching creation and evolution in public schools, so it is at least up to date with Tennessee. I'll be back in Australia next July, and I'm hoping Peter will have me back despite these observations. Tennessee still welcomes me despite my remarks. Indeed, I was there this year for the 90th anniversary of the Scopes Trial—which remains America's most famous trial. (*Summer for the Gods*: the gift that just keeps giving.) Then it was on to Perth on the Indian Ocean in Western Australia and aboard a ship bound for Mauritius, Reunion Island, Madagascar, Mozambique, and South Africa. Here I lectured on nineteenth century

oceanographic research, the discovery of early hominids in South Africa, East Africa, and Indonesia; climate change; Darwin and Wallace; the dodo bird and problem of extinction in the region; and more from my books on early science in the Antarctica and Galapagos Islands. Islands are islands after all, whether they are in the South Pacific or Indian Ocean. Including various earlier talks and classes in the United States, that meant five continents, four hemispheres, and three oceans down before the vernal equinox—but who's counting.

April was reserved for travel in the United States focusing mostly on a book that I'd published last year about George Washington's retirement years. Scientific farming was part of this story, but so was nation building. During this month I lectured at the New York Historical Society, Mount Vernon, Baltimore's Mount Vernon Club, Hampton-Sydney College, the University of Georgia, and Los Angeles's elegant Jonathan Club (with historian Daniel Walker Howe). Then on May 8, I joined Janet Browne and others giving lectures in honor of Daniel Kevles at Yale University. Spring in New Haven—well, what can you say? The pizza was superb.

In May, it was back to Argentina for three weeks in Buenos Aires to teach a summer short course for my university and lecture at the University of Buenos Aires. The course and some lectures dealt

with the history of eugenics, scientific racism, and human rights in the twentieth century. Other lectures covered Darwin in Argentina. One political issue here: Should Darwin's time on what he called the Falkland Islands count? Argentina's new fifty peso note suggested that it should, as that bill celebrates the Falklands (or Isles Malvinas) as part of Argentina. But my trip to the Falklands suggested otherwise, as the 3000 people there seem determined to remain citizens of a British Overseas Territory. Of course, most of them are of British descent and collectively they enjoy the 10th highest per capita income in the world—tied with residents of the Arab Emirates and two-and-a-half times higher than Argentinians. Hoping to be foxier than the Falkland Islands Fox, which was already rare by the time of Darwin's visit and soon went extinct, I included the Malvinas when lecturing about Darwin in Argentina but spoke only of him on the Falklands when speaking on the islands.

Summertime and the living is easy, even in the Arctic where the sun didn't set for over a week of my stay. This speaking trip began on July 10 in Iceland, where I met with some of the genetic researchers investigating that island's human population. The small country is a high-tech haven and its people seem as interested in the history of science and technology as in indie rock music—well, maybe not quite as interested,

## Chronicling One Year on the Road, *cont.*

but close. Then it was back on board a ship, this time from Akureyri, Iceland, into the Arctic Ocean's Greenland Sea, Barents Sea, and White Sea to lecture on early polar exploration, the history of climate change research, and the future of geoengineering. Stops at Murmansk and Archangel brought me face to face with Soviet era Russian technology. The beauty of January in the Antarctic Peninsula was matched by the beauty of July in sailing the coast and fjords of Norway. Experiencing them in the same year strikes home how much warmer and greener it is at 70 degrees north latitude than 70 degrees south. Having taken my son along south, I now took my daughter along north. Both gained somewhat more admiration for having a historian of science for a parent. From Norway, it was one stop in England with Open University historian of science Jim Moore before heading back to the United States and the start of classes for the fall semester.

During my time in Europe I realized that I had already visited six continents and five oceans during 2015 with five months left in the year and an outstanding invitation from Noah Efron to speak in Israel. Israel may not be located in what most of us think of as Asia, but technically it falls within the continent's boundaries. October would complete a grand slam of the continents. Noah chairs the Graduate Program in Science,

Technology and Society at Bar Ilan University in Tel Aviv, but also has remarkably broad contacts with historians throughout the region. By the time I arrived, he had me scheduled to speak not only about science and religion at Bar Ilan and the history of modern creationism at University of Tel Aviv but also about the history of eugenics at Hebrew University.

Worries that a trip to Israel scarcely qualified as a visit to Asia became irrelevant in September, when organizers of the Beijing and Shanghai Literary Festivals offered to pay my expenses to speak in China on my latest book. That meant flying directly from Israel to China—there are three non-stop flights per week for those wanting to know, and my plane was packed. Going around the world in ten days, with stops only in Israel and China, disorientates any normal person's sense of time and place. At least it did mine, and I view myself as fairly normal. My body had no idea when to sleep or eat, but I got a lot of work done at odd hours. If the lectures did not go well, I would be the last to know. Everyone seemed happy enough and my hosts kept trying to feed me the oddest things at what seemed like the oddest times. Most of the meals seemed to involve fish with their heads still on. At least the fish were fresh, but I never feel quite comfortable when my dinner is looking back at me. In China, book festival organizers added lectures for me at

two colleges on, of all contrasting topics from my list of topics, science and religion at one and early Antarctic scientific research at the other—yet the lecture halls were equally full with over 400 students at each, all listening to me in English without a translator and many asking challenging questions.

Traveling all the way this time by air on three non-stop flights plus one high-speed train trip from Beijing to Shanghai, the world seemed sadly small. Taken upon my graduation in 1979, my first trip around the world was with a backpack and without a planned itinerary. Taking small hops here and there by plane, train, car, bus, and ferryboat, with the occasional hitchhike, I made that circuit in four months with stops in some twenty countries and only one lingering case of dysentery. I had never been out of North America before, and the world seem so very large and exotic. Now it seems small and homogeneous. Of course, that time I had lost all contact with home from the moment I left Seattle to the time I returned to it with long, shaggy hair. This time I checked my email daily and did not need a haircut. Spending Halloween on the Bund and at a college in Shanghai suggested just how much the world had shrunk in the past quarter century. Chinese students and young professionals were dressed in the same costumes that I would have expected to see in Los Angeles. When I first

## Chronicling One Year on the Road, *cont.*

visited that country, everyone dressed like Mao and rode a bike. Older men had white hair. Now most were dressed more stylishly than me, cars created monumental traffic jams, and I don't remember a gray hair.

Back home by November 2, I had visited seven continents and fifteen countries since January and no more foreign trips planned. My domestic lecturing continued, however. During autumn, George Washington reappeared for the Library of Congress's Madison Council, the Jamestown-Yorktown Historical Society, and the Morristown Book Festival. On behalf of the International Society for Science and Religion, I spoke at the World Parliament of Religions in Salt Lake City on issues in the history of science and religion. My lectures for the year concluded in December with one on Scopes Trial at the Minnesota Historical Society. By then, I will have done my best to spread the word of our profession—finding interest at every stop for the history of science. Every lecture had been invited with all expenses paid. People around the globe want to hear about the history of science so long as we package it well. After all, no topic is more important or relevant for the world's future.

The Madison Council event in October was especially significant for me. I owe my dissertation largely to work done with a stack-access pass into the bowels of Library of Congress, and

I welcomed the chance to return. The event itself—a semi-annual affair for large donors—was remarkable. Held in the Library's aptly named Grand Hall, it featured a private concert by Anne Akiko Meyers playing the Library's 300-year-old "Kreisler" Violin built by Giuseppe Guarneri, viewings of some of the Library's rarest holdings, readings by U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins, and my Williams College classmate Michael Beschloss, and me being interviewed by billionaire philanthropist David Rubenstein, who chairs the Madison Council, just gave a building's worth of money to my daughter's college, and seems to know an astonishing amount about everything. Pulling me aside before the interview, David asked about my background for his introductory remarks. When I said that I had both a PhD in the history of science from Wisconsin and a law degree from Harvard, he looked puzzled. After commenting on the money to be made in law, he observed, "You must have an understanding wife." Thinking back over the prior year, while agreeing that my wife is awesome, I replied that, except for grading papers and attending faculty meetings, I was doing precisely what I'd want to be doing even if I didn't need a job. Still, it will be nice to get back to more a normal year in 2016.

## A Renaissance in Medieval Medical History

by Monica Green (Berlin Prize Fellow, American Academy in Berlin) [monica.green@asu.edu](mailto:monica.green@asu.edu)

It may seem odd to take the metaphor of cultural rebirth—one that is usually used to contrast the medieval period with its successor—to describe the current state of medieval medical history. But the energy in this particular field, which draws on foundational work done in the first half of the 20th century by physician-historians like Karl Sudhoff, Henry Sigerist, and Ernest Wickersheimer, and cultural historians like Lynn Thorndike, Pearl Kibre, Loren MacKinney, Luis García-Ballester, and others in the middle decades and latter half of the century, has never been greater.

Several factors have contributed to this shift. First, an e-mail list, MEDMED-L (for “medieval medicine list”), founded in 2008, has connected close to 800 scholars throughout the world with comparable interests. This private list regularly sees traffic of more than 100 messages every month, and keeps subscribers informed of conferences, publications, and research resources (especially digital ones). It is also a forum in which people can pose nagging questions in their own work; these often generate some of the most lively and fascinating dialogues we see. This enhanced connectivity of the field has led to a consequent rise in sessions on medical history at conferences world-wide, which in turn generates new expertise in the field. At the upcoming **International Congress of Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo**



An example of how digitization of unique manuscripts is transforming the study of medieval medicine. Detail of a “phlebotomy man,” a standardized figure showing sites on the body where blood should be let to treat different bodily ailments. From London, British Library, MS Harley 5311, f. 10v, a physician’s almanac made in England c. 1406. The whole almanac is available in digital reproduction here: [http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?ref=Harley\\_MS\\_5311](http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?ref=Harley_MS_5311).

in 2016, for example, there will be at least ten sessions on medical topics.

Second, medieval studies in general are being transformed by the digitization projects of countless libraries around the world, which are making the pre-print cultural heritage available in ways never conceivable before. Every book produced prior to the development of the printing press in the 15th century was “manuscript”—

hand-written. The difference between manuscript and print used to be in number: all “manuscripts” were necessarily unique (there was literally only one); printed texts existed in whatever number the press run was. Digitization equalizes that number: there can be as many copies now of manuscript books as of print books. True, a fundamental difference remains: without any optical character recognition (OCR) of the words on a manuscript

## A Renaissance in Medieval Medical History, *cont.*

page, the substance of the text remains an image, needing individual human labor to read and interpret it. But with dozens of eyes all working on the same texts, that labor is greatly hastened. This technological development is especially important for the history of medicine, since so few medieval medical works received critical editions during the heyday of philological work in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Third, historiographical narratives that have presumed disruptions between the medieval and early modern periods are themselves being disrupted, meaning that it has never been more important to look at longer term trajectories and “roots” of modern phenomena. Climate history, for example, has drawn heavily on medieval records to create narratives of change covering two or more millennia. Disease history, too, is showing the importance of **long-term processes**. Even in book history we find more connections than previously imaged between the culture of manuscripts and that of the printed book. More projects, moreover, look across languages as well as across time to trace cultural traditions, endeavors which (again) are more readily pursued because of new digital technologies and access to original sources. The **Ibn Abi Usaybi`ah project at Oxford**, for example, will make available a wealth of information on a vast network of physicians in the Islamic world up through the 13th century. It is no surprise, therefore, that

we are seeing a consequent rise in synthetic work in the field, work that is also being read more widely as **open-access models** of publishing become more commonly used in the field.

Medieval studies has long seemed impenetrable to many non-medievalists because it has had to invest so heavily in philology, the laborious work of simply finding and then making usable the texts scattered in manuscripts at countless libraries throughout the world. That labor is still necessary, in both the history of science and the history of medicine. The kind of work that the great Marshall Clagett invested in his monumental *Archimedes in the Middle Ages* or that a large editorial collective has been investing in the equally monumental **Arnau de Vilanova project** (a series focusing on the medical writings of an extraordinarily prolific and influential Spanish physician who died in 1311) remains the foundation of our field. But because of surveying projects like the indispensable *eVK and eTK* edited by Linda Ehram Voigts and Patricia Deery Kurtz (which focus on medical and scientific texts in English, on the one hand, and Latin on the other), or the *Scientia.cat* project edited by Lluís Cifuentes in Barcelona (which focuses on works in Catalan), or countless other projects that are creating inventories of specific textual traditions or archival records, we have never had so much of the pre-modern cultural tradition immediately at our fingertips.



### Plan Ahead Future HSS Meetings

**Atlanta: 2016, 3-6 Nov.**

Joint meeting with PSA and the Society for Literature, Science and the Arts

**Toronto, Ontario: 2017, 9-12 Nov.**

**Seattle: 2018, 1-4 Nov.**

Joint meeting with PSA

**Utrecht, The Netherlands: 2019,  
Early August!**

(Our first meeting outside of North America)

## Member News

**Carlo Artemi** has published the paper “Giorgio Piccardi a forgotten but great Italian scientist” in *History Research*, Volume 3, Issue 2. March 2015. His book *Un corridoio chiamato scienza* (A passage named science) was presented at the Italian festival “Più libri, più liberi” held in Rome 4-8 December 2015.

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**Alexandra Bacopoulos-Viau** (McGill University) edited with Aude Fauvel a special issue of *Medical History*: “Tales from the Asylum. Patient Narratives and the (De)construction of Psychiatry.” This volume, which marks the thirtieth anniversary of Roy Porter’s seminal article “Doing Medical History from Below,” explores the varied ways in which patients’ voices have guided psychiatry’s construction, deconstruction, and reconstruction from 1800 to the present (see *Medical History*, vol. 60, no. 1: January 2016).

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**Joe Bassi** (Lt Colonel, USAF, Retired, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Worldwide) has published *A Scientific Peak: The Development of Boulder as a World Center for Space and Atmospheric Science* (American Meteorological Society Press, 2015).

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**Richard Beyler** was appointed Secretary to the Faculty at Portland State University, starting September 2015.

**Andreas W. Daum** (SUNY Buffalo) has published a volume jointly edited with James J. Sheehan and Hartmut Lehmann on *The Second Generation: Émigrés from Nazi Germany as Historians* (Berghahn Books, 2016). It deals with over 100 historians in North America, Great Britain, and Israel who escaped from the Third Reich, including Peter Gay, Walter Laqueur, Gerda Lerner, George L. Mosse, Fritz Stern, Gerald Holton, and Gert Brieger. In the book, historians reflect on the autobiographical testimonies, thus illuminating the moving life stories of these men and women, helping the reader understand these historians’ memories of Europe, the cultural capital they carried with them, and the role they played in modern historiography.

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**Brian K. Hall** (Dalhousie University) received an Honorary LL.D from The University of Calgary in June 2014. He has recently published a new book, titled *Bones and Cartilage: Developmental and Evolutionary Skeletal Biology* (Elsevier/Academic Press, 2015) which won a 2015 BMA Medical Book Award.

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**Marieke Hendriksen** (currently postdoc at the University of Groningen) will work as a postdoctoral researcher within Sven Dupré’s ERC project ARTECHNE at Utrecht University as of 1 Feb 2016. Her article, “Anatomical Mercury:

Changing Understandings of Quicksilver, Blood, and the Lymphatic System, 1650–1800,” *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* (2015) 70 (4): 516-548, is now available in print.

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**Pamela M. Henson**, Historian, Institutional History, (Smithsonian Institution Archives) has been awarded the 2015 Herbert Feis Award for distinguished contributions to public history from the American Historical Association.

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**Layne Karafantis** was recently appointed curator of the modern military aircraft collection at the National Air and Space Museum, after receiving her PhD from Johns Hopkins University in 2015.

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**Henk Kubbinga** (University of Groningen) edited volumes III and IV of *The Collected Papers of Frits Zernike (1888-1966)* (Groningen University Press, 2016) which feature English translations of Zernike’s papers, as published, 2012, in volumes I and II. He is preparing a fifth and last volume providing “Introductions” to those papers, “Bibliographies,” “Indexes,” and “Addenda.” He also worked on the first volume of a series on *Making molecularism* (Groningen University Press, 2016). This volume features an overview of the historiography of the (atomic and) molecular theory since 2001, together with a section of “Selected papers” (in English

## Member News, cont.

translation) and an exhaustive “Bibliography.” One of the outcomes of this balance sheet is a new deduction of Planck’s constant.

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Fresh from her labors as the 2015 History of Science Society Program co-chair with Florence Hsia, **Susan E. Lederer** (University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health) will spend spring 2016 in North Carolina. She will be the Nannerl O. Keohane Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University. In addition to co-teaching a course with UNC professor Rebecca Walker on the history and ethics of human and animal experimentation for both Duke and UNC undergraduates, she will deliver the Nannerl O. Keohane Lecture.

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**Yii-Jan Lin** (Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley) has published *The Erotic Life of Manuscripts: New Testament Textual Criticism and the Biological Sciences* (Oxford University Press, 2016). This is a critical history of the field of textual criticism (the study of ancient manuscript transmission) and its use of methodologies and metaphors drawn from the natural sciences from the 18th century to the present, including classification, natural selection, genomics, and phylogenetics.

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**Jemma Lorenat** recently began a position as an assistant professor at Pitzer College in the history of mathematics.

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**Keith A. Nier** co-edited the just-published two-part *Volume 9: Historical Perspectives of The Encyclopedia of Mass Spectrometry*. The two are: *Part A: The Development of Mass Spectrometry*, Keith A. Nier, Alfred L. Yergey, and P. Jane Gale, eds. Elsevier, 2015, and *Part B: Notable People in Mass Spectrometry*, Keith A. Nier, Alfred L. Yergey, and P. Jane Gale, eds., Elsevier, 2015.

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**Donald L. Opitz** (DePaul University), **Staffan Bergwik**, and **Brigitte Van Tiggelen** have published their edited volume, *Domesticity in the Making of Modern Science* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015). Its fourteen chapters challenge the historiographical opposition between science and the home through detailed analyses of developments in astronomy, chemistry, horticulture, engineering, meteorology, natural history, oceanography, physics, and radio technology.

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**Seth C. Rasmussen** (North Dakota State University) has published the edited volume *Chemical Technology in Antiquity* (American Chemical Society, 2015). This volume is part of the American Chemical Society (ACS)

Symposium Series (volume 1211) and is based on the popular symposium of the same name held at the National ACS Meeting in Denver this last spring. Topics include the history of mineral pigments, pottery, fermented beverages, metals and alloys, organic dyes, leather tanning, perfumes, soap, and glass.

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**Howard Segal**, Professor of History (University of Maine), received the Lyman Tower Sargent Award for Distinguished Scholarship at the annual meeting of the Society for Utopian Studies in November 2015.

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**Efram Sera-Shriar** began a permanent position as Lecturer of Modern History at Leeds Trinity University, in January 2016.

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**Carlos Eduardo Sierra C.** (Universidad Nacional de Colombia) has published the following articles: (1) “Cajal frente a la pseudociencia: su vigencia,” in *Serrablo*, Año XLV, N° 173 (Nov 2015); (2) “New articles on the history of astronomy” in *Circular de la Red de Astronomía de Colombia*. Nos 812, 814, 816, 818, 819, 821 and 823; (3) “La esencia del legado de Cajal en Latinoamérica,” in *Comarca (Asociación Promoción Integral de Ayerbe y Comarca, APIAC)*. N° 86 (Jul-Sept 2015); (4) (with Horacio Antonio Serna S.) “El Canon de Avicena como un precursor de la primera ley

## Member News, cont.

de la termodinámica,” in *Revista de Historia* (revistadehistoria.es), 13 November 2015.

He also serves as the Coordinator of the Laboratory of Thermodynamics, Faculty of Mines, at the National University of Colombia.

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**Mark Solovey's** (University of Toronto) book *Shaky Foundations: The Politics-Patronage-Social Science Nexus in Cold War America* (Rutgers University Press) has just been published in paperback (2015pb/2013hb).

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**Alain Touwaide** (research associate at the Smithsonian Institution and Scientific Director of the Institute for the Preservation of Medical Traditions) is a visiting professor at UCLA for the fall and winter terms. During the fall term, he taught one class on “The Legacy of Ancient Medicine” [<http://cmrs.ucla.edu/news/classics-88ge-ancient-medicine/>], while in January and February 2016 he will teach two classes: “Venoms, Poisons, and Medicines from Antiquity to the Renaissance” [[https://ccl.e.ucla.edu/pluginfile.php/1152039/mod\\_label/intro/Classics%2088GE\\_W16.png](https://ccl.e.ucla.edu/pluginfile.php/1152039/mod_label/intro/Classics%2088GE_W16.png)], open to all students across campus, at all levels, and “Books of Science/Science of the Book” [[https://ccl.e.ucla.edu/pluginfile.php/1170788/mod\\_resource/content/0/Flyer.pdf](https://ccl.e.ucla.edu/pluginfile.php/1170788/mod_resource/content/0/Flyer.pdf)] for graduate students.

Touwaide also wrote the entry “Medicine,” in the *Handbook of Medieval Culture. Fundamental Aspects and Conditions of the European Middle Ages*, edited by Albrecht Classen (Berlin and New York: De Gruyter, 2015, pp. 954-998) and, with Emanuela Appetiti, authored the article “Food and Medicines in the Mediterranean tradition. A Systematic Analysis of the Earliest Extant Body of Textual Evidence,” published in the *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, 167, 2015, pp. 11-29. doi:10.1016/j.jep.2014.10.035. He has also been appointed as an Associate of the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at UCLA.

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**Raf Vanderstraeten** (Ghent University, Belgium) and **Frederic Vandermoere** (University of Antwerp, Belgium) published the article “Disciplined by the discipline: A social-epistemic fingerprint of the history of science” in *Science in Context* (vol. 28: 195-214, 2015). On the basis of an empirical analysis of the HSS flagship journal *Isis*, they show how the process of discipline-building in history of science has led its practitioners to be socialized and sensitized in relatively strong intra-disciplinary terms, with minimal interdisciplinary openness. See <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayAbstract?fromPage=online&aid=9700884&fileId=S0269889715000058>

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**Scott A. Walter** recently joined the University of Nantes as Professor of Epistemology and History

of Science and Technology, and Associate Director of the François-Viète Center for Epistemology and History of Science and Technology.

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**Andreas Weber** (University of Twente, The Netherlands) will be a researcher in the four-year project *Making Sense of Handwritten Illustrated Archives*. The project develops an advanced and user-friendly online service to search and connect scientific heritage. The project is centered around one of the top collections of the Naturalis Biodiversity Center in Leiden: the archive of the “Committee for Natural History,” which contains a rich verbal and pictorial account of nature, cultures, and economics in the Indonesian archipelago (1820-1850). The project is financed by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) and the publishing house Brill in Leiden. It also involves natural history experts from Naturalis Biodiversity Center Leiden and computer scientists from the universities in Leiden (LIACS) and Groningen (ALICE). Learn more here: <https://www.utwente.nl/en/news/!2015/10/336279/university-of-twente-partner-in-research-on-handwriting-and-image-recognition>

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**Per Wisselgren** (Umeå University) has published a new book: *The Social Scientific Gaze: The Social Question and the Rise of Academic Social Science in Sweden* (Ashgate, 2015). <http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781472447593>

## Canadian Historian of Science, John Farley

23 April 1936 — 10  
November 2015

G. McOuat, the  
*History of Science  
and Technology  
Programme, University  
of King's College/  
Dalhousie, with material  
from the Dalhousie  
Department of Biology,  
the Chronicle Herald,  
and reminiscences from  
friends and family.*



Born in Leicester, U.K., in 1936, John Farley joined Dalhousie University's Biology Department as an Assistant Professor in 1964. Although trained as a parasitologist, and a teacher of invertebrate biology, John took a sabbatical leave at Harvard University in 1970-71 where he began his transformation into a leading historian of science. He soon turned his teaching to the history of science and the history of medicine in classes cross-listed across Biology, History, and Medicine at Dalhousie and at King's College. His passion for teaching—his way of bringing history alive—was reflected in the huge popularity of his classes. In his well-subscribed History of Medicine classes, for example, he took his biology, history and pre-med students into the lives and mindsets of medical practitioners and patients of various ages—pressing them to abandon our present knowledge and imagine

how they would experience disease and health. On his own account, his irreverent lectures on Darwin and the history of science delivered in the King's venerable "great books" Foundation Year Programme (FYP) got him repeatedly kicked out of the FYP lecture line-up (only to be asked to return again and again). His energy and total dedication to making history of science an essential part of the curriculum for both arts and science students became a catalyst for establishing the History of Science and Technology Programme at the University of King's College, although by the time the programme came into being in 2000 he had retired.

John's first forays into the history of science resulted in a collaboration with Gerald Gieson producing one of the iconic contextual studies in the history of science: "Science, Politics and Spontaneous Generation in Nineteenth-Century France: The Pasteur- Pouchet Debate," *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 48 (1974), pp. 161-198. John and Gerald took a classic case study of an experimental success (one of the key textbook examples of good science triumphing over darkness), namely Pasteur's defeat of Pouchet, and they completely dismantled it, revealing the formative political, social, philosophical and metaphysical underworkings of the debate. It was very radical for its time, and remains so, used as a classic case of the "indeterminacy of theory by data" thesis in the philosophy of science. This

was expanded in his first book *The Spontaneous Generation Controversy from Descartes to Oparin* (Johns Hopkins, 1977), which remains the best treatment of what John liked to call "Life Without Parents." His second book, *Gametes and Spores: Ideas about Sexual Reproduction, 1750-1914* (Johns Hopkins, 1982), contained important insights for biologists and historians into how our approach to and understanding of reproduction has changed over time.

After his work on spontaneous generation, John turned to the history of medicine, especially tropical diseases, starting with *Bilharzia: A History of Imperial Tropical Medicine* (Cambridge University Press, 1991). In 1995 John took early retirement to concentrate on writing but continued to teach. From his "retirement" two further books emerged: *To Cast Out Disease: A History of the International Health Division of Rockefeller Foundation* (Cambridge University Press, 2004) and a biography of the Canadian Brock Chisholm: *Brock Chisholm, the World Health Organization & the Cold War* (UBC Press, 2008), establishing his importance in the history of medicine and the developing interest in globalized history of health.

No mere one-sided academic, John continued his passion for competitive "master swimming" past retirement, winning numerous local and national awards and, in his last years, set provincial records in the 100 and 200m

## In Memoriam: John Farley, *cont.*

freestyle, the 50 and 100m breaststroke and the 100 and 200m individual medley in the 70-74 age group. He continued to be active, teaching English as a second language at the Halifax Public Library and as a volunteer patient at the Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie. In his last year John was developing a class for seniors on the history of medicine. John could be seen at his weekly gatherings at the “Henry House Pub” with his beloved wife, Grace, friends and family holding court about rugby, beer, politics, and the ridiculousness of academic life.

Although one of the key figures in our field, John was an immensely humble and self-effacing man. He never lost his playful side, nor his deflationary tactics in the face of pretention. John had little patience with abstract discussions of historiography or philosophy of science and he disliked history of science meetings. It was always frustrating for our more theoretically smitten students when they would fail to drag him into debates over his views of this or that methodological turn in the historiography or sociology of science. In light of this it is perhaps ironic that his early work became so important in support of the “Strong Programme” in the sociology of scientific knowledge, which didn’t interest him at all. He thought it was too abstract and maybe just too pretentious. He prided himself on his hard empirical work, and the importance of the taking seriously the intricacies

of the subjects he studied (albeit, of course, with a bit of a twinkle in his eye, perhaps knowing that what he said would have large theoretical consequences).

John passed away on November 10 at the age of 79. As per his final wishes, John’s body was accepted into the Body Donation Programme at Dalhousie Medical School. He is survived by his loving family, wife Grace, children Gael, Gyneth, James and Gilmour and his five grandchildren, and his colleagues and friends in Halifax, Canada and the history of science community worldwide. Our community has lost a great friend, colleague and inspiration.

## 'Triumph': A Remembrance of Hamilton Cravens

12 August 1938 — 24  
November 2015

David Seim, University  
of Wisconsin-Stout

Hamilton

Cravens should be remembered as one of his generation's finest intellectual historians.



I remember the last time that Hamilton and I attended a conference session together. It was November 2014, at the History of Science Society's annual meeting, in Chicago. While sitting outside the session room, I saw Ham as he walked up. I had expected that he would attend that session. He smiled big, and genuine. I so appreciated my chance to then settle into a seat alongside him. We visited a bit, yes even a few times quietly during the session. Especially we chatted for some good minutes afterwards. As I have known Hamilton since 1999, one bit of our time was to get caught up. Yet we did not need much of that, as we had already established our habit of meeting twice yearly for lunch. During that particular extended conversation in a hotel lobby, mostly we talked about ideas. I recall my quietly-held understanding of what, embodied in such complex thoughts and memories of my former advisor, was undeniably much accumulated and well-managed wisdom. Yet as I had also been a graduate student who

studied Hamilton's writings along with assorted responses to them, I understood that his wisdom, to some extent, arose from his ability to learn from experience. And included in some of those experiences—as really maybe only a graduate student would find them—were just a few small and mild missteps made through many years of professional engagement.

In August 1962, after completing his undergraduate studies at the University of Washington, Hamilton arrived at the University of Iowa. He went there in pursuit of the best. Hamilton, in his own words, selected "to take my PhD with Stow Persons," a renowned teacher and scholar who through a series of works had already helped lay much of our foundation of modern American intellectual history. Hamilton attended packed classes, moved well through his studies, got a dissertation in the works, and obtained a temporary teaching position at Ohio State University. While teaching many classes, Hamilton shortly completed his dissertation, which he hoped soon to publish.

In the fall of 1968, Hamilton arrived at his tenure-track job at Iowa State University, right at his thirtieth birthday. There he remained for 42 years, teaching wide-ranging courses for generations of grateful undergraduates, and supervising scholarly learning and professional development of dozens of graduate students—including my own doctoral work, completed in spring 2007.

Hamilton became a member of the American Historical Association, American Studies

Association, Organization of American Historians, and the History of Science Society. He was active, as well, with the Midwest Junto for the History of Science, and he occasionally even presented a paper or organized a session on behalf of the Society for the History of Technology. Many historians gained opportunities to meet and enjoy visiting with Hamilton. Hamilton also well represented himself, as well as our big group of historians collectively, when overseas. He was three times a Fulbright recipient—a Fulbright professor in 1988-89 (Göttingen University), Fulbright professor again in 1999 (Bonn University and the Max Planck Institute), and a Distinguished Fulbright scholar at the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg, The Netherlands, in spring 2007.

Over a long career Hamilton held himself, as well as all historians, to high standards. When he studied and assessed others' publications, these standards were such that Hamilton intended to calibrate his expectations as appropriate to where each person was in his or her career. While Hamilton and I were at that wonderful 2014 HSS session, we took time to process three papers each delivered by keynote-level scholars. Hamilton let me know just occasionally when he believed one of these fine historians had a worthy insight. He was capable too of noting (not just on that day) when he believed that some attainable, even if plainer, point of importance had been missed. And again, this latter care of critical commentary on Hamilton's part was something that he aimed

## In Memoriam: Hamilton Cravens, *cont.*

to pitch at a level proper for each recipient. Over the years that I knew him, the great majority of Hamilton's critical pitches went at least close to target. There were qualities of courage and service to how he did this.

Sometimes Hamilton's critical points could miss a target. And, sometimes these points probably went otherwise astray, perhaps because the target itself was a little bit misunderstood. Why do I say this? Well, it stands first to reason. Hamilton had a long professional career. He willingly, and at times candidly, offered guidance to help all of us historians be better at what we do – better for our individualized efforts at self-actualization, and better in our service to what Hamilton believed historians of social science should collectively undertake. Hamilton served to advance the history of social science in every way that he could envision.

There are other reasons why I figure that Hamilton might have missed an occasional target. One reason is that he pushed his own abilities; sometimes he tried for selected targets right at the edge of his own knowledge. And as to a final reason why I figure I know this, it's probably my best reason: I was one of his doctoral students. I read not only his books and major articles, but also reviews of his books. In fact, I even read some of his reviews of other historians' books.

Through all that Hamilton accomplished after arriving in Ames, Iowa, in 1968, he actually first

struggled a bit. Particularly he did not find it easy to publish that wonderful dissertation. It was a contribution that he so much believed in making to our modern values, and it was a contribution with which he must have so much wanted to please his own advisor.

Then Hamilton's scholarship came fully on the scene. It was 1978, he was forty years old, and he published *The Triumph of Evolution: American Scientists and the Heredity-Environment Controversy, 1900-1941*—a book later subtitled just slightly differently for subsequent reprinting. Drawing from ideas germinating at least as early as 1962, Hamilton had done what he could. He had paid the usual price as well, of family moves and family time lost. The book, today recognized as its own kind of triumph, significantly expanded our historical understanding of many complexities as well as ironies and lapses in an overall march of scientific sensibility: the favoring of powers of nurture over nature. The immediate reception of the book, as I silently learned while a graduate student, consisted of some really positive reviews by leading historians, and perhaps a review where it seems a reader at least fairly attempted to figure out what the mission was. (Hamilton later communicated to me how he intended that word 'Triumph' to carry intonations of wry irony, sarcasm.) And then there was one really severe review that I found—in my proper role as a graduate student—which it was not my business to ask about.

What any of us knows is this: If you work that long and hard on a project that you intend to be a great service, then it must be a shock—and unexpected betrayal—to be so hammered in a review. How did Hamilton respond? In highly complex ways I believe.

Just a few years later there was a fine book published, an important study of multiple fields of social science that just overlapped the timeframe and some subject matter of Hamilton's book. Yet this book differed too much in viewpoint perhaps. Or it simply neglected Hamilton's book. Hamilton reviewed that book, harshly. It is a good book. These things happen.

Hamilton mellowed. He kept motivated. He went through some health crises, issues that arose from years of stress and cigarettes. Then he quit smoking. His health came back. His family life changed, first a bit adversely, then again for the better, but then Hamilton went through yet another health crisis: cancer. He recovered well enough. Throughout this stretch of a series of personal challenges and events, Hamilton developed other manners of engagement with the profession. We know that during his last couple of decades Hamilton gained a reputation for being as helpful of younger historians as an elder can be. For his own students, his efforts turned simply indefatigable—not least of which was all those many recommendation letters. For junior-

## In Memoriam: Hamilton Cravens, *cont.*

level historians whom he met along the way, he did all he could to help, as well.

As to the timeline, it quickens. In 1993, following some fifteen years with many articles, Hamilton published his monograph, *Before Head Start: The Iowa Station & America's Children*. This book, extensively well researched, was again structured to prove the powers of nurture. It is simply a grand accomplishment as a work of synthesis and storytelling, by a keen and determined mind maybe at its best.

Then one year, there was a book that people talked about, Richard J. Herrnstein and Charles Murray's *The Bell Curve: Intelligence and Class Structure in American Life* (1994). When that book gained its press time, Americans heard about the return of an argument that it is nature that prevails over nurture—that born with little intellect, you amount to relatively little in life. Or if born from parents with high intellect, you receive high intellect at birth, and your chances of success in life are great. And, said the authors—which so distressed Hamilton and what all of his work aimed to show—there were policy implications. That "Bell Curve book" somehow advocated for policies to treat various racial and ethnic groups differently. All Hamilton would want me to say, I am going to believe, is that his response was to speak, on a few campuses at least, against that argument. He did this when he was still not in the best of health. Hamilton also brought his viewpoint back to scholarly meetings and conferences.

Hamilton was active especially in HSS. In recent years he served on the Finance Committee, he was an *Isis* advisory editor, and with some regularity he served on the Committee on Meetings and Programs. Most notable is Hamilton's many years of service supporting the Forum for the History of the Human Sciences. From 2002 to 2006, Hamilton served as chair of FHHS, during which time he was especially known for offering guidance to that struggling and modest group, as (in words from the succeeding chair of FHHS) "he infused us with his energy, challenging us to do a great deal more to raise the visibility of our group." During his time as chair Hamilton established the FHHS Distinguished Lecture at the annual meeting of HSS, and in 2009, Hamilton himself delivered that lecture. But Hamilton is remembered most of all, again, for how deeply he cared to bring in young scholars and to help them with their individual projects, as well as bring them into the group.

Hamilton published more articles and reviews. He edited or coedited a number of books, typically including quite a number of contributions by younger scholars and even graduate students. Included are these edited volumes: *Technical Knowledge in American Culture* (1996), *Health Care Policy in Contemporary America* (2002), *The Social Sciences Go to Washington* (2004), *Race and Science: Scientific Challenges to Racism in Modern America* (2009), and *Cold War Social Science* (2012).

Of all of his writings, the most influential on me is probably Hamilton's 25-page article in 1985, simply on "History of the Social Sciences." I find no broad survey of the history of the social sciences, from beginning to end, existing prior to this piece. Hamilton's broad-sweep analysis and framework, solicited by HSS for the inaugural volume of the revived *Osiris*, came from a scholar who by 1985 was still an intellectual historian. Yet with that piece, I believe Hamilton started on his road to being also a historian of social science. In that article he posed the question, "why anyone should be interested in the history of the social sciences in America"? This was a bigger question than he could fully answer. For to answer it would require a lifetime of careful analysis of a long history of "experts" employing "the ideas and techniques of the social sciences to resolve tensions between the group and the individual." Thirty years later, Hamilton was far along on this last project, a monograph on the history of the social sciences.

What did Hamilton do right? My response to such a question, is many things. But most of all he made friends. So many friends. By 2015, Hamilton was truly blessed with caring and devoted friends.

Hamilton Cravens died on November 24, 2015. In his obituary, a request—from his wife Carole Davis Kazmierski—is that if anyone wishes to donate in Hamilton's remembrance, donate to support democratic expression and process, including support of public radio.

## In Memoriam: Charles Gillispie in the Genesis of the History of Science

6 August 1918 – 6  
October 2015

We met Charles Gillispie—and each other—for the first time in the fall of 1960, when Princeton launched its Program in the History and Philosophy of Science. We were its first history entrants, and Charles (and John Murdoch, just appointed from Harvard) made up the history of science faculty. Charles was immediately a daunting personage: tall and rather imposing, with exceptionally closely cut hair, very uncommon in those days; formal in speech and manner, with a short dry chuckle his normal expression of amusement. It was not until we had been out on our own, teaching, for at least three years, at Duke and Chapel Hill respectively, before we could bring ourselves to call him “Charles” to his face. His personality was complemented by that of his warm and charming wife, Emily. Charles and Emily would have semester gatherings at their cozy house off campus; these are some of the most vivid and pleasant memories that we cherish.

We did not appreciate that he might have felt his new graduate students a little daunting, too, though for quite different reasons. He was an



exceptionally gifted undergraduate teacher, and the program had been built on the success of a Princeton undergraduate course in the history of science that he had begun to offer in 1956 and that had evolved into his just-published interpretative survey, *The Edge of Objectivity: An Essay in the History of Scientific Ideas*;<sup>1</sup> some of its anecdotes (Joule measuring the temperature of waterfalls on his honeymoon) are no doubt echoes from those lectures, and his manner had probably been honed on his undergraduates, with whom all his life he continued to maintain close ties, even after they had graduated. But graduate students were something new to him. As was the Program: what shape was it to have? There were still almost no other models—Harvard and Wisconsin, perhaps; Indiana began its HPS program that same year. Like Indiana, the Princeton program was one in history and philosophy of science, and it came into being as a result of Charles’ interest in training graduate students in history of science and his realization that good students were unlikely to come to work with a singleton (Murdoch’s appointment was in philosophy) in this field in a history department. The linkage with philosophy of science had little to do with any feeling on Charles’ part that historians of science needed training in it. Nor was it fostered by or in association with the distinguished Vienna Circle philosopher of science at Princeton, Carl G. Hempel.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1960.

<sup>2</sup> Rather, the agent in philosophy was the classicist philosopher, Gregory Vlastos, who had recently

In retrospect, we can sense that he was feeling his way, and that that first year was an experiment in which we were the unknowing subjects. He must have had in mind a series of three graduate seminars (there were then two years of graduate study before qualifying exams, followed by the dissertation; students were supposed to finish in four years [!]). The first of these seminars, given in spring 1961, addressed the seventeenth century: the class consisted of us and Bill Schuyler, who had just entered the philosophy side of the program (a fan of E. R. Eddison), plus two auditors a dozen years older than us: Gordon Fisher, a Junior Fellow in the Humanities and instructor in mathematics at Princeton, and Stanley Jaki (“Father Jaki,” as Charles punctiliously addressed him), a priest trained in philosophy, physics, and theology. We occasionally felt out of our depth. Secondary literature was sparse in those days, and copiers of course non-existent; we were each told to buy E. J. Dijksterhuis as a kind of textbook. We read the *Études Galiléennes* early on, but we spent most of the semester deeply engaged in sources, going first through Favaro’s twenty-volume edition of Galileo and then the ten-volume Dutch edition of Huygens’ complete works, instructed to give reports on individual volumes (one of us was assigned Galileo’s work on fortifications, the other gave a three-hour

become chair of the philosophy department. Charles C. Gillispie, “Apologia pro Vita Sua,” *Isis*, 1999, 90

[Supplement, Catching up with the Vision: Essays on the Occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the Founding of the History of Science Society], pp. S89-90.

## In Memoriam: Charles Gillispie, *cont.*

account of the *Horologium Oscillatorium*). The next year it was the Enlightenment (articles from the *Encyclopédie*), and finally the nineteenth century, bracketed by Gerhard Hennemann—in German—and J. T. Merz. Charles had not yet learned (if he ever did) to make allowances for a graduate student's possible limitations in science or in foreign languages.

We were trained as “internalists,” of course (not that the term then existed), in the sense that we wanted to understand why Arnald of Villanova or René-Just Haüy had thought as he had. Alexandre Koyré was a member of the Institute for Advanced Study for half a year in 1961 and 1962, and Charles made a point of driving us out to meet him there. But Galileo on fortifications, or Hennemann on *Naturphilosophie*, or the *Encyclopédie*—or Joule's honeymoon—should make it clear that Charles was well aware that wider social, technical, and personal factors had to play a part in any account of scientific development, and we willingly absorbed that lesson too.

Other students joined the program as we took our exams, and our contacts with Charles centered on his direction of *both* our dissertations, for at that point he was temporarily on his own: John Murdoch had gone back to Harvard in 1963, leaving the responsibilities of the graduate program entirely in Charles' hands until Tom Kuhn arrived in 1964, at just the moment when we were going out into the academic world. But by this time

Charles had become somewhat more comfortable with graduate instruction. When one of us came back in 1965 for his PhD final oral, the first in the short history of the program, Charles was at ease enough for a joke, saying, as he opened the exam, “I'm not sure whether today we are marking the birth of the Program's first child or the loss of its virginity”—with a smile, and the dry chuckle somewhat louder than usual.

Regarding his scholarly corpus, it is prodigious indeed, especially if one adds the monumental *Dictionary of Scientific Biography*, which Charles spearheaded and presided over as Editor-in-Chief.<sup>3</sup> At the risk of being presumptuous, we shall try to give a brief characterization of fifty years of prolific publication. A good point of entry is Charles' own account of his double undergraduate interest/formation: the study of chemistry (his “duty”) and of history (his “joy”).<sup>4</sup> What is noteworthy is his formation in *history* rather than philosophy or just science, as had characterized many of the notable historian-of-science precursors to the modern discipline. The time was, of course, propitious for him, since history of science was just emerging as a professional discipline.

Now, the practice of history of science can obviously relate to many different interests, activities and objectives. In Charles' case (and,

<sup>3</sup> 16 vols. (New York: Scribner [Under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies], 1970-1980).

<sup>4</sup> So characterized by him. Gillispie, “Apologia,” *Isis*, 1999, 90 [Supplement], p. S84.

we would suggest, those of Henry Guerlac, Allan Debus, and many other historians of science of the 1950s and 1960s), it meant complete immersion in voluminous sources<sup>5</sup> and, hence, in the society, culture, politics, institutions, etc.—and, of course, *science*—of the era when these sources were written. Beginning in the mid-1950s, under the influence of the great historian of the French Revolution, R. R. Palmer, for whose course on Revolutionary and Napoleonic France Charles was a preceptor at Princeton, his research interest became focused on just the time and place of this course: France, ca. 1770-1820.<sup>6</sup> This focus prevailed for the next half-century, climaxing in the publication of *Science and Polity in France: The Revolutionary and Napoleonic Years* in 2004,<sup>7</sup> when Charles was well up in his eighties! The result,

<sup>5</sup> He said as much about his own first major study, *Genesis and Geology*. In response to a highly laudatory characterization of this book by Nicolaas Rupke, which Charles paraphrased as “marking a new departure in the historiography of science” through use of a “novel methodology,” entailing primary scientific sources and published periodical literature, to produce a cultural and social contextualization of theory formation, Charles wrote (characteristically mordant and self-deprecating):

“I had no notion of anything of the sort. ....Nothing was further from my thoughts than methodology, something fit for Marxists and sociologists. All that we students of history were taught to do was to go look at the sources, all of them.”

Charles C. Gillispie, “A Professional Life in the History of Science,” Jed Z. Buchwald, ed., *A Master of Science History: Essays in Honor of Charles Coulston Gillispie* (Dordrecht: Springer, 2012), p. 17.

<sup>6</sup> Gillispie, “Apologia,” pp. S86-87.

<sup>7</sup> Princeton: Princeton University Press. This was the sequel to *Science and Polity in France at the End of the Old Regime* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1980).

## In Memoriam: Charles Gillispie, *cont.*

particularly in those two magisterial volumes, is something akin to the anthropologist, Clifford Geertz's "thick description." But this is not simply history for the sake of relating *wie es eigentlich gewesen*. As Charles pointed out in the second of these volumes, France ca. 1770-1820 was the time and place where the state, political and social ideology, and science all began to assume their modern (i.e., nineteenth- and twentieth-century) guises. Regarding science, the country and the era witnessed an unprecedented efflorescence of high creativity, which set the stage for development in all of science for the rest of the nineteenth century.

Charles related in extraordinary detail the activities of his scientists (often including their research), the developments of the institutions in which they came to be educated and employed, their professionalization, their activities with and for the state, and their intersections with politics. With all of this, Charles eschewed easy causality. Thus, as "one of the leading themes of this history," he delineated, for the overall period, two eras in which different modes of scientific research prevailed: science of the *ancien régime* was "encyclopedic," whereas in the nineteenth century it had become "positivist."<sup>8</sup> Although there was an obvious correlation between the two scientific eras and

<sup>8</sup> Charles gave pithy descriptions of what he meant by these terms at the end of second work: "encyclopedic" science was the "enterprise of classifying things in a natural order"; "positivist" science was enjoined "to determine the facts and then to act upon them." *Science and Polity in France: The Revolutionary and Napoleonic Years*, pp. 694-695.

the pre- and post-revolutionary eras, Charles did not attempt grandiose socio-political explanations or reductions; the nearest he came to explanation was to relate the scientific changes to the success of the institutions for technical education that emerged during and after the French Revolution, "which produced scientists, even though they were intended to turn out engineers and doctors, in large part because they were in keeping with the needs and forces of the future."<sup>9</sup>

Perhaps because of his quintessential "thick" *historical* perspective, Charles was less interested in some of the philosophical and sociological concerns that became important—even central—to the field by the 1970s: the nature of scientific change and the genesis ("production") of scientific knowledge.<sup>10</sup> However, although in his strictly historical studies he rarely addressed this subject directly, he did examine these concerns in one early work that has probably remained his best known and that we have already mentioned: *The Edge of Objectivity*. The context for the origin of this work was very different from his historical research: it was the undergraduate lecture course in history

<sup>9</sup> *Science and Polity in France: The Revolutionary and Napoleonic Years*, p. 112. In fact, on the final page, Charles did suggest "a complementarity between the science and the politics of the Revolutionary era....In both politics and science, the premium was upon effectiveness, on doing something rather than being someone. In both domains, the rules in principle depended upon the facts, and the point in determining the facts was to act upon them." p. 695.

<sup>10</sup> We might also add: their *problematization* and explanations in terms of socio-politico-cultural contexts.

of science that he inaugurated in 1956.<sup>11</sup> As its subtitle, "An Essay in the History of Scientific Ideas," implied, this was a much more "idealist" and even philosophical work than any of his other publications. It was also much more grandiose in its temporal scope, encapsulating the history of science from the beginnings of the Scientific Revolution down to Einstein. Charles' conception of "objectivity"<sup>12</sup> reflected the profound influence of Alexandre Koyré, and this conception was also associated with a "progressivist" historical view of scientific development, whereby more modern scientific methods, perspectives, and results were improvements on earlier ones.<sup>13</sup> While this view does not logically preclude external socio-politico-cultural explanations, Charles made no appeals to such in the book (although there was plenty of social, political, and cultural context provided). Rather, it was the extension of "objectivity" into new scientific domains that mediated scientific change. Darwinian evolution was a case in point:

<sup>11</sup> This came out vividly in the book's dedication: "To the Undergraduates of Humanities 304 Who in 1956, 1957, and 1958 responded with charm and forbearance to the presentation of this history by the spoken word, and who by discussion brought about its evolution to the present form...."

<sup>12</sup> "Modern science...is impersonal and objective. It takes its starting points outside the mind in nature and winnows observations of events which it gathers under concepts, to be expressed mathematically if possible and tested experimentally by their success in predicting new events and suggesting new concepts. Modern science... is first of all metrical and experiential." Gillispie, *Edge of Objectivity*, p. 10.

<sup>13</sup> We hesitate to say "truer" but that is implied by Charles conception of objectivity as stated in footnote 12.

In Memoriam: Charles Gillispie, *cont.*

For nothing is more arresting in the comparison of the biological to the Newtonian revolution than the reduction of the concept of natural selection to material atomism in the hybrid science of genetics, produced by the crossing of Darwinism and Mendelism. Just as the discontinuity of matter in atoms-in-the-void liberates motion from subjectivity, so biological objectivity was firmly seated in the discontinuity of the hereditary patrimony, where inheritance might be comprised in number.<sup>14</sup>

To the best of our knowledge, Charles did not deploy his philosophical apparatus of “objectivity” to explain scientific change in subsequent historical studies.

Explanation of scientific change in terms of the extension of objectivity also precluded the *problematization* of this process in ways that were soon to appear, most obviously, in Thomas Kuhn’s *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* of 1962. It is not necessary here to outline Kuhn’s model of scientific change, but we might point out that there were points where Charles’ and Kuhn’s views actually touched, one being the common patrimony of Alexandre Koyré, who was the first historian of science mentioned by Kuhn in the body of his text.<sup>15</sup> But the schema in *Structure*

of *Scientific Revolutions* was fundamentally antithetical to Charles’ progressivist view, and Kuhn explicitly cited the argument of *Edge of Objectivity* as the exemplar of the perspective that “the history of science records a continuing increase in the maturity and refinement of man’s conception of the nature of science.”<sup>16</sup> Many years later, Charles, for his part, reflecting on the “wonderful collaboration” with his erstwhile colleague at Princeton, noted that the one area of disagreement with Kuhn had been “of altogether trivial importance personally. It concerned merely the fundamental nature of science.”<sup>17</sup>

It was a tribute to the powerful argument of *The Edge of Objectivity* that it continued to be conjured with by the next generation of scholars who were developing schemas of scientific genesis/scientific change in the direction of social construction of natural knowledge. Thus, Barry Barnes and Steven Shapin chose for the title of a review that contained adumbrations of what would become SSK (Sociology of Scientific Knowledge), “Where Is the Edge of Objectivity?” However, the review itself had no discussion of the book or its thesis.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Kuhn cited *Edge of Objectivity* as its exemplar—“a brilliant and thoroughly up-to-date attempt to fit scientific development into this Procrustean bed.” Kuhn, *Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, p. 108 and footnote 11.

<sup>17</sup> Gillispie, “Apologia,” p. S90. In fact, Charles had written a rather sympathetic review of *Structure of Scientific Revolutions* when it first appeared. “The Nature of Science,” *Science*, 1962, 138, pp. 1251-1253.

<sup>18</sup> Barry Barnes and Steven Shapin, “Where Is the Edge of Objectivity?” *British Journal for the History of Science*, 1977, 10, pp. 61-66. This was a review of works of the anthropologist, Mary Douglas.

That was not the case with another essay, by the historian of science Carolyn Merchant, published a few years later. Titled “Isis’ Consciousness Raised,” it was a manifesto of a feminist perspective on science and its development. Merchant defined an “ideology of objectivity” as a hallmark of logical positivist philosophy of science, which she delineated in terms of a duality of masculine thinking subjects studying (and controlling) a feminine world of Nature. *The Edge of Objectivity* was taken as the epitome of this male-centered approach.<sup>19</sup>

We have no idea what, if anything, Charles thought of Merchant’s characterization of his conception of “objectivity” (and science and scientists). But we might venture that, given his own delineation of Napoleonic-era sciences in his last book as “moving toward quantification and control,”<sup>20</sup> he would by no means have completely disagreed with it, although he might have been puzzled by its gender ascriptions and objected to its negative moral tone.

<sup>19</sup> “For Gillispie masculine qualities of toughness and mastery are attributes of the scientific mind and technical tradition, that science is an aristocratic elite pursuit, that scientists are clearly male, and that a “feminine” quality such as delicacy will not lead to human progress and betterment. . . . This historical association of objectivity with masculinity not only reinforces the tendency for scientists to be predominantly male, but also supports the identification of nature as object with femaleness, emotion, soulfulness, and sentience.” Critiques and Contentions: *Isis’ Consciousness Raised*,” *Isis*, 1982, 73:pp. 401-402.

<sup>20</sup> Gillispie, *Science and Polity in France: The Revolutionary and Napoleonic Years*, p. 694.

<sup>14</sup> Gillispie, *Edge of Objectivity*, pp. 340-341.

<sup>15</sup> Thomas S. Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, 3rd ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996), p. 3.

## In Memoriam: Charles Gillispie, *cont.*

Charles commented on the general move towards social construction of science with its problematization of scientific advance in the second of his autobiographical essays. His comments were gracious and thoughtful—emblematic, indeed, of his personality. He ascribed the “seismic shifts in cultural attitudes”—and the associated distrust of scientific authority—to history of science’s turn from philosophy to sociology and even anthropology. Not only did he not disparage this turn; he offered it high praise and even suggested that his own scholarly development “might be seen as a set of responses to what was happening in the historiography of science at large.”

However, he did see drawbacks—namely, that the emphasis on the study of scientific practice led to a disinterest in scientific product (“content”); the concern with sociological dimension meant that “the fit, if any, with nature is often taken to be ancillary, while analysis of the quality of science under consideration is left aside.”<sup>21</sup> Later in the

21 “But with a few exceptions, the earlier generation never undertook much in the way of analysis of context. We produced little comparable to the fine-grained accounts that distinguish current work by recapturing the actualities of experiment; the life of a laboratory; the labor of field work in natural history and geology; the recalcitrance of instruments; the differences between what scientists say and what they do; the role of research schools; the place of patronage; the occasional cheating; the interplay of professional rivalries, of personal loyalties and hostilities, of institutional standing, of public reputations, of social position, of gender, race, material interest, ambition, shame, guilt, deceit, honor, pride. The practice of scientific research is currently shown to exhibit, in short, the springs of action that make people tick in all walks of life.” Gillispie, “A Professional

essay, he embroidered on this last drawback in stronger language—and ascribed the sentiments to “scientists”—when he discussed one of two “disappointments” regarding the discipline of the history of science: “the perception of science as socially problematic:”

While willing to agree that questions of power and advantage are factors both in the macro- and micro-politics of science, scientists resent any implications that their work serves no purpose larger than their own, that they are not in the last analysis investigators of the nature of things, that objectivity is an illusion and rationality a sham. There is the counter-cultural *casus belli* of what journalists have called the science wars.<sup>22</sup>

The second of Charles’ disappointments had to do with history and, if the theme of this memorial essay—that Charles was quintessentially a historian—is correct, he may have felt this one more keenly than the one concerning science and scientists. It centered on the failure of the history of science to secure in the history profession “a place comparable to that of politics, economics, religion, diplomacy, or warfare.” As he acknowledged, relatively few departments of history had a place for an historian of science (a

Life in the History of Science,” pp.19-20. The long quotation is p. 20.

22 Gillispie, “A Professional Life in the History of Science,” p. 23.

sentiment that we both feel particularly keenly!): “the famous, or infamous, two cultures problem may well be real.” But Charles ended his essay on a note of optimism: “Still, we work in hopes that it may be abated.”<sup>23</sup>

Charles’ long career in history and history of science spanned virtually the entire post-World War II era of science: the rise of government-funded “Big-Science” and the concomitant expansion of higher education and academic research; the development of industrial research centers and science-based start-ups; the leap into space; the development of biogenetic science and technology, of information science and technology, and so forth. The public valuation of science in this era has swung between extremes and, as this essay has tried to show, the work of historians of science has both mirrored these swings and (perhaps) influenced them a bit. When Charles initiated his career in history of science at Princeton and placed his first graduate students in academic positions in history departments, the prospects for history of science in history were very bright. Charles was undoubtedly correct about their dimming over the decades. But if we can get our colleagues in history to read the history of science that Charles wrote with such passion, wit, and scholarly depth, perhaps there will be hope yet.

*By Seymour Mauskopf and Michael McVaugh*

23 Gillispie, “A Professional Life in the History of Science,” pp. 23-24.

## HSS Annual Report

by Jay Malone, HSS Executive Director

Under the leadership of Angela Creager (HSS President), the Society accomplished a great deal in 2015. In addition to ongoing and important activities, such as the annual meeting, the prizes, the publications, and the website, the HSS undertook numerous initiatives. Here are some highlights, in no particular order:

1. Signed a new 5-year contract (2016-2020) with the University of Chicago Press, which gives us more pages and more money, two dreams of every society. The Society has been with Chicago Press since 1991, and we continue to value that relationship
2. Completed the first full year of our new editor, Floris Cohen, who oversaw the relocation of *Isis* to the lowlands, and who gave us a striking cover redesign for the journal, as well as a new format, to accommodate the best scholarship in the history of science.
3. Made many deliberative efforts to strengthen our ties with international groups, thanks largely to the efforts of President Creager.
4. Joined the Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, a Philadelphia-based organization with international reach and dedicated to promoting scholarly and public

understanding of the history of science, technology, and medicine.

5. Partnered with the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science and numerous other societies to create a Chinese reader for the history of science, technology and medicine.
6. Began the groundwork to establish a fundraising structure that will help the HSS secure its future.
7. Completely rewrote our bylaws, starting from the ground up, to incorporate our new strategic plan and further democratize the HSS.
8. Rewrote our Articles of Incorporation, on the advice of our attorney, to bring the HSS



Continuing its long association with the University of Chicago Press, HSS pens a new 5-year agreement. Seated (l to r): H. Floris Cohen, HSS Editor; Angela Creager, HSS President; Michael Magoulias, Director—Journals; Standing: Desiree Capel, Isis Managing Editor; Adam Gannaway, Publisher, Journals.

into line with new laws in the District of Columbia (where HSS is incorporated).

9. Administered NSF travel grants (SES-1058613) as part of an 8-society consortium that provides travel grants to hundreds of graduate students, independent scholars, and recent PhDs so that they can attend their professional meetings.
10. Revamped the conference in San Francisco, with a new emphasis on roundtables and posters.

## The Details

Since many HSS members interact with the Executive Office (EO) as a byproduct of the annual meeting, there is the perception that the office focuses solely on that event. And although we estimate that the EO spends approximately 50% of our time on the conference—handling duties that range from the call for papers, to abstract submissions, to assigning rooms, to ordering coffee—the other half of EO duties focus on myriad activities, all of them devoted to our charge to “foster interest in the history of science.” And that is just the EO. The Editorial Office, led by Society Editor, H. Floris Cohen, and housed at the Descartes Center in Utrecht, oversees the publications of the HSS, from *Isis*, to *Osiris*, to the *Current Bibliography*, as well as occasional

*Continued on Page 29*

## HSS Annual Report, *cont.*

publications. And given the wide range of activities pursued by both offices, neither the EO nor the Editorial Office could function without volunteers, those who give their time to furthering the history of science. Many of these volunteer hours are accounted for by the Society's officers.

The officers of the HSS—the President, Vice President, Editor, Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Director (*ex officio*, non voting)—comprise the Executive Committee. These officers contribute hundreds of hours to the business of the Society, overseeing the functioning of the HSS. They report to the Council, the ultimate authority, but the officers handle the heavy lifting. It is they who provide the EO and the Editorial Office with guidance and who are intimately involved in formulating the goals and priorities of the HSS.

The EO, run by Executive Director, Robert (Jay) Malone and staffed by our indefatigable Coordinator, Greg Macklem, our part-time (in name only) Director of Media and Engagement, Jessica Baron, and an ongoing rotation of students, focuses on a broad array of activities: the particulars (and the generalities) of the annual meetings; development work (from building infrastructure to finding friends for the Society); the HSS Web site, from content to functionality; the Society's financial accounts; continuity of programs; the standing committees and prize committees; the quarterly *Newsletter*; the administration of NSF

travel grants; member services; good relations with other scholarly societies and the public; the sponsor a scholar program, and many other activities.

What makes much of this possible is the stability of the EO, a stability that was enhanced by the establishment of the Executive Director's position in 1998. Before that time, volunteers served as temporary secretaries who handled the many administrative functions of the Society. And while the position of Executive Director is fixed, the location of the EO is not. In 1998, the office was housed at the University of Washington. In 2003, the Office and the Executive Director moved across the country to the University of Florida, where they remained through 2010. In August of that year, the office again relocated, this time to the University of Notre Dame, marking the beginning of an ongoing and fruitful relationship. Each relocation has benefited the Society by offering substantially more tangible support for the EO, and we are grateful for these partners. Indeed, university support of academic societies is a crucial component of their functioning and such support brings increased professionalism and research opportunities to a wide swath of disciplines.

### *Personnel*

Greg Macklem, our Society Coordinator who began in September 2010, just celebrated his

5th year with the HSS, our longest-serving coordinator. He is our “can-do person,” as evidenced by his work on the finances, the annual meeting, the website, student supervision, and creative name tags... in short, he is involved in all aspects of the EO's functioning. And he does it with wit, good humor, intelligence, and fierce determination—we are lucky to have him on our team.

Although much of their time is devoted to assisting with conferences, our two ND grad students help us with multiple projects, such as ordering books for the prize committees, helping with travel grants, and many other important activities, such as finding reviews of our prize-winning books (over 100 reviews) which are posted to the HSS web site.

Jessica Baron, our Director of Media and Engagement, is a Notre Dame PhD (dissertation on Florence Nightingale and public health in British India). She handles our social presence (Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr), along with many other duties. Her position is a quarter time, one we share with the Reilly Center for Science, Technology and Values here at Notre Dame. She brings creativity and flair to our engagement activities and has raised dramatically the Society's profile in the virtual world.

## HSS Annual Report, cont.

### Annual Meetings

As mentioned above, much of the EO's activities engage the annual meeting. The first step in planning the conference involves finding meeting sites. Because the gatherings are so large (650 - 850 attendees and 10-12 concurrent sessions), and we meet in the last quarter of the calendar year, when most schools are in session, we meet in conference hotels rather than on university campuses. Our members prefer downtown properties in interesting cities, but that combination usually means high hotel prices (something our members do not want). But the last recession provided an opportunity to negotiate reasonable room rates with hotels in the central districts of Chicago (2014), San Francisco (2015), Atlanta (2016), Toronto (2017) and Seattle (2018). Each of these site visits required multiple hotel stays, meetings with the cities' convention and visitors' bureau, contract negotiations and lawyer's review, and many other steps. And although we have no set geographic pattern, we try to meet at various locations to give all of our members an opportunity to attend the conference.

Since some 70% of HSS members live in the United States, the Society almost always meets in North America. But we also identify ourselves as an international society and to fulfill that identity the Society will hold its first meeting outside North America, in Utrecht, The Netherlands, in 2019.

And since U.S. members tell us they feel pressed for time when HSS meets in North America in November (it is a big continent), we are planning an August meeting for Utrecht, on a somewhat expanded timeline, to afford everyone a chance to experience the conference in a more relaxed atmosphere. Of course, we hope that European members will take this opportunity to attend.

### Strategic Plan

HSS will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2024 and 2025 (the articles of incorporation were signed in the District of Columbia by Florian Cajori, Davis Eugene Smith, Frederick E. Brasch, George Sarton, Lynn Thorndike, and others on 31 Dec 1924 and the articles were recorded (No. 17814) on 30 Jan 1925). With that anniversary in mind, we undertook a wide-ranging and, we hope, thorough strategic planning process in 2013-2014 (the plan is available on the HSS website at <http://hssonline.org/history-of-science-society-strategic-plan-2014/>). Involving over 100 members, the strategic plan was a byproduct of months of work and it will help us set our course into the future. Here are the 6 priorities identified by our volunteers:

1. Create vibrant regular HSS meetings and facilitate networking through other associations and venues.
2. Foster a publishing environment that

promotes top-quality history of science scholarship in diverse media for diverse audiences.

3. Support professional development of emerging history of science scholars in and outside the academy.
4. Promote general interest in history of science among educators at all levels and the public, in part by providing opportunities to scholars to expand their audiences and make their work more effective and relevant.
5. Promote history of science in the United States by advocating on behalf of the field and its practitioners to the public, to government officials, to universities, and to potential employers of historians of science; and support advocacy of history of science in other countries.
6. Produce a sustainable governance and financial system for HSS that will promote a welcoming, culturally and internationally diverse, and interdisciplinary organizational culture.

In addition to yielding 6 goals, the plan helped us revise our mission statement (*To foster interest in the history of science, promote discussion of science's social and cultural relations, and bring this understanding to others worldwide*) and to identify our constituents (*People committed to doing,*

## HSS Annual Report, cont.

*making, or advocating for the history of science, or who are learning to do so*). One of the surprising findings from the plan is how poorly we have conveyed to our members the range of our activities. So two objectives will be to broaden our communication to our members, as well as to our potential donors.

### *Program Continuity and Committee Oversight*

The HSS has reorganized our committee structure to help implement the strategic plan. We kept our Committee on Honors and Prizes (COHP), Committee on Publications (COP), Committee on Finance (COF), and Committee on Meetings and Programs (COMP) in their pre-plan configurations but we expanded the role of our Committee on Education, renaming it our Committee on Education and Engagement (COEE), and further democratized our Executive Committee so that the positions of Secretary and Treasurer are popularly elected, along with the President, Vice President, and the new position of Council delegate. Only the Editor and the Executive Director are now chosen by Council (our elected board of directors). We also added three new committees: Committee on Technology and Communications (COTT), Committee on Membership (COM), and the Committee on Advocacy (COA). Each committee runs primarily on the strength of volunteers, and in addition to

these governance groups are the prize committees, overseen by the Committee on Honors and Prizes, the Nominating Committee (elected each year), and the various interest groups and caucuses, again, all staffed by volunteers.

Here are some highlights from last year's activities:

### **Committee on Education and Engagement:** *(Chaired by Kristin Johnson)*

Discussed ongoing hopes for a History of Science Society session on the history of science and STEM initiatives in K-12 education, with a view toward future HSS activities within this area. Particular interest exists on this topic given the expansion of the CoE's responsibilities to Engagement, and Goal 4 of the Strategic Plan. Members reviewed and approved the nomination of Joe Dauben as Hazen Lecturer for 2015. The committee has been particularly interested in developing a long-term strategy for increasing the role of the society in building upon and taking advantage of STEM initiatives in K-12 education, and has good expertise in this realm represented on the committee. Discussions regarding eventual workshops for local educators at society meetings highlighted the need for strategic and careful long-term planning for the success of such initiatives. Committee members have also expressed interest in discussing encyclopedia writing and similar work, given the

increasing role of historians of science in such publications, both online and in print.

### **Committee on Finance:**

*(Chaired by Adam Apt, Treasurer)*

Created a gift acceptance policy for Council approval, reviewed investment policy, monitored HSS's endowment, and helped establish the Society's budget, along with other functions.

### **Committee on Honors and Prizes:**

*(Chaired by Sarah Igo)*

Instituted a new short nomination process for the Sarton Medal and for the Hazen Education Prize, resulting in a record number of nominations. For the Sarton Medal, the Committee requested 5 full nominations and then selected 3 individuals from this list to be sent to the Executive Committee. The 2015 Medal, which is decided by the Executive Committee, was presented to Robert Fox (Oxford University) at the annual meeting. The Hazen Prize went to former HSS President, Sally Gregory Kohlstedt, who received a standing ovation from her many colleagues, students, and former students when she received the prize in San Francisco. CoHP also monitored the many prize committees, and recommended that long-time member and publisher Neale Watson be given an Outstanding Service Award for his work on behalf of the Society, a recommendation heartily endorsed by the Executive Committee.

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## HSS Annual Report, cont.

### Committee on Meetings and Programs:

*(Chaired by Rachel Ankeny)*

Selected a program co-chair for the 3-Societies' meeting in Edmonton in June 2016; oversaw format changes to the annual meeting, including the addition of more roundtables, and will evaluate effectiveness; gave guidance to program chairs; examined other models for annual meetings; and began deliberations for choosing a program chair for 2017. Ongoing issues include: 1. An annual meeting outside of North America (and outside of the usual time period) in Utrecht; 2. Use of various technologies to enhance or augment our annual meetings; 3. Review of models for policies on meetings (e.g., AAHM bluebook); 4. Continued monitoring of the prize ceremony/reception format; 5. Fostering more and higher quality interaction with the Philosophy of Science Association and their co-located biennial meetings with HSS.

### Committee on Publications:

*(Chaired by Soraya de Chadarevian)*

With the new editorship now well in place, the most important issue on the CoP agenda this year was the planned tender for a publisher for *Isis* and *Osiris*. After reviewing the efforts and costs involved in a full tender (one bid came in at \$50,000 U.S.), Council in agreement with Floris decided to renegotiate the contract with Chicago that was already on the table. CoP has

unanimously supported this decision and has provided some input on Floris's "wish list" for the new contract. CoP will work with the new Committee on Technology and Communication to explore digital media opportunities and ways that the Society can support digital scholarship. The Committee is also working a process for appointing an interim editor in case the Editor cannot fulfill his or her duties.

### Committee on Technology and Communication:

*(Chaired by Stephen Weldon)*

The Committee, newly formed this past year, held an online discussion this past summer over three issues:

1. Assisting with a 1-paragraph publication statement (Strategic Plan: 2.1.A)
2. Finding ways to recognized outstanding digital products in the field (Strategic Plan: 2.1.B)
3. Studying costs and benefits of publishing more digital products (Strategic Plan: 2.2.B).

The Committee also met in San Francisco and will review the Society's social media policy.

### *Caucus and Interest Group activities:*

#### Four Caucuses—distinguished by their professional goals

- *Graduate Early Career Caucus (GECC)*  
Organizes mentorship programs, mixers, and informational sessions to help students

and those launching their careers. Also sponsors sessions at the HSS meeting.

- *HSS at Work*

Dedicated to helping those who love the history of science and who choose to pursue a career outside of the traditional structures of academe.

- *Joint Caucus for Socially Engaged Philosophy and History of Science*

This caucus, formed in 2014 and which is also an official caucus of the Philosophy of Science Association, works on ways to make the history and philosophy of science socially relevant. Its early activities have focused on helping historians and philosophers of science engage the public in broad ways.

- *Women's Caucus*

Our oldest caucus, it is dedicated to furthering the interest of women in the history of science and in promoting excellence in scholarship on the history of women in science.

#### Eight Interest Groups—distinguished by their intellectual interests

Our interest groups, listed approximately from oldest to newest, include the Forum for the History of Science in America, the Forum for the History

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## HSS Annual Report, *cont.*

of Human Science, the Forum for the History of Early Science, the Earth and Environment Group, the Forum for the History of the Mathematical Sciences, the Forum for the History of Science in Asia, the Forum for the History of the Chemical Sciences, and the Forum for the History of the Physical Sciences. Each group holds a business meeting at the HSS conference, sponsors sessions, and many of them offer distinguished lectures and prizes for work in their respective fields.

Also vital to our programs are our delegates and representatives who serve as liaisons for those groups with which HSS has a formal alliance. These relationships are a vital part of HSS activities, helping the Society to further its scholarship and engagement in multiple ways, and the Executive Director serves as the main contact person for all of these organizations. These groups include the following:

- American Council of Learned Societies,
- American Historical Association,
- American Association for the Advancement of Science,
- National Humanities Alliance,
- International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science,
- Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine,
- Consortium of Social Science Associations.

### **Web Site**

Using WordPress as our content management system, we try to provide a site that can be updated easily and can serve as a useful resources for our members and for the public. New features include an emphasis on member news, a continually updated main page, and a dedicated effort to make content more accessible.

### **NSF Travel Grants**

For over 20 years, the HSS has relied on the U.S.'s National Science Foundation to provide travel grants to support the research and work of graduate students, independent scholars, and recent PhDs in the history of science. And because of the stability and resources of the HSS Executive Office, we were able to expand the reach of the grants so that they benefited 7 other academic societies (NSF SES-1058613), helping them professionalize their students and increase the diversity of their conferences: Philosophy of Science Association (PSA); Society for the History of Technology (SHOT); the International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science (HOPOS), the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Study of Biology (ISH); the American Society for Environmental History (ASEH); the International Society for the Psychology of Science and Technology (ISPST); and the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA). Although these grants require a

great deal of work, much of it uncompensated, the HSS feels that the awards are important enough to devote HSS resources to them. The grants also benefit greatly our interactions and relationships with other societies.

### **Relations with Other Societies**

I continue regular contact with the secretaries and officers of numerous societies: Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), Philosophy of Science Association (PSA), American Association for the History of Medicine, the International Society for the History and Philosophy of Science (HOPOS), the Society for Literature, Science and the Arts (SLSA), the International Society for the History, Philosophy and Social Study of Biology (ISH) and many others. Much of this contact is facilitated by the NSF travel grant and the members of our grant consortium, which is dedicated to supporting the history and philosophy of science and technology around the world: PSA, HOPOS, ISH, SHOT, and SLSA.

### **NASA/HSS Space History Fellowships**

We are in the third iteration of our 5-year agreement with NASA to provide an annual fellowship to foster research in the history of space science. I am particularly grateful to NASA Historian, Bill Barry for his support and for the members of the fellowship committee who examine the applications and award the grants.

## 2015 HSS Meeting Survey Results

The 2015 HSS meeting in San Francisco will long be remembered as one of the better conferences. Approximately 785 people registered for the meeting, and we received 136 post-meeting survey responses. This feedback provides us insights on what we did well and what we might still improve.

The location of the meeting was a hit, with over 80% of respondents giving San Francisco the very highest marks and no one reporting dissatisfaction. The Westin St. Francis hotel won the approval of just over 80% of respondents, though we did hear that the two-towered hotel proved frustrating for those who needed to move quickly between sessions. We also understand the continuing challenge to pay for rooms plus incidentals and food in a city as expensive as San Francisco. We often struggle with how to balance the popularity and allure of big cities with their expense, especially as we see university travel funds dry up around the country.

Some 98% expressed satisfaction with online registration and preregistration, no doubt thanks to our infinitely patient office staff. 92.5% were satisfied with the book exhibit (with suggestions to make more space), 78% satisfied with audio/visual (and if you add those who felt “neutral” it goes up to 98%), and 85% respondents were pleased with the meeting space, though we heard

that attendees found the upper hallways to be narrow and crowded and areas for socializing too small and/or lacking sufficient seating.

Our receptions on Thursday and Friday evening were well-attended and satisfying to the vast majority of those who attended and responded. We sympathize with the responders who wished they could have been longer and the drinks either cheaper or free, but those changes would greatly impact the cost of registration.

Respondents were divided on the mixing of the poster presentations and the reception on Friday night. Many who mentioned the combination were in favor of separating the two events, which they felt ostracized the poster presenters and cut into important time needed for socializing with friends and colleagues. However, the poster presenters who responded reported good interactions and appreciated having the posters available during a well-attended event.

The conference program itself elicited many positive remarks this year with 88% of respondents finding it satisfying. We were also pleased to see that 92% of respondents found the presentations themselves to be of good quality, which is no doubt related to 75% of our responders reporting that they found the conference to be a motivational experience. Those who gave papers reported

helpful feedback from audience members (over 70% of that subgroup being satisfied with the response(s) they received).

The HSS plenary session was a big hit, with commenters suggesting more of these types of events and calling it a “highlight of the conference.” 84% of responders enjoyed the quality of the performance and 86% the unique format. Similar numbers were reported for Paula Findlen’s HSS Distinguished Lecture. The quality of the roundtables received an 88% satisfaction rate, though there was some dissatisfaction (~7%) with the facilitation of dialogue at these events as well as the number of them happening simultaneously (~17% dissatisfaction).

Once again, the Elizabeth Paris engagement event was a success, particularly Erik Conway’s Q&A after the showing of the film *Merchants of Doubt*. We are still working to address the concerns attendees had about it being effectively engaging for those not attending the meeting. Rest assured that we are always in touch with local venues to help us host and advertise these events and you are welcome to e-mail us with suggestions, especially regarding more inviting venues.

HSS is pleased to be able to offer resources such as a nursing mothers room, dependent care grants, and quiet rooms to all attendees. While

## 2015 HSS Meeting Survey Results, *cont.*

the majority of responders did not need to take advantage of them (though 20% expected to need them at some point), the feedback was overwhelmingly positive and it appears we are all in agreement about the importance of these resources in making the conference more accessible.

Technology has played a larger role in our meetings in recent years and it's clear that not everyone liked the ubiquity of electronic devices used to network and take notes during the meeting. Still, 64% of respondents were not at all bothered by the use of devices, and 68% reported using a device of some sort, with networking being the biggest factor in their use. And while many of us had smartphones, computers, and tablets at the ready, wifi access still proved a problem. 65% of responders supported folding in the cost of wifi to the meeting, but only 22% wanted to pay more than \$10 for such access, an amount that falls far below the cost the hotel would charge us. We received many positive comments during the conference on our new mobile app, Guidebook. However, 75% of respondents to the online survey prefer to use a printed copy or pdf.

Cost is still the chief impediment to attending the HSS meetings. While many attendees have at least part of their travel or registration expenses reimbursed, some pay entirely out-of-pocket

and are not eligible for grants. Also high on the list of concerns is meeting dates; these issues are closely related. San Francisco was a very popular meeting destination and we managed to secure a graduate students rate of \$99/night, somewhat of a feat. However, it was the dates (the weekend before the U.S. Thanksgiving) that allowed us to negotiate that rate. Cost will always be the chief concern of both HSS and those of us attending the meetings. While free wifi, abundant and free or low-cost coffee, beer, and wine, and open spaces with ample seating for socializing would meet the requests of our responders, they would also drive the cost of registration far beyond what many of us can afford. Rest assured we do work hard every year to negotiate with the hotel to keep costs down.

## News from the Profession

### “The History of Political Economy” Summer Institute

The Center for the History of Political Economy at Duke University invites applications for a Summer Institute on the topic “The History of Political Economy.” The three-week Institute is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and will take place from 29 May–17 June 2016 on the Duke campus. Discussions will be led by a distinguished set of faculty, and participants will receive a \$2700 stipend for attending. The deadline for application is **1 March 2016**. For further information and application instructions, visit the Summer Institute website at <http://hope.econ.duke.edu/2016%20NEH%20Summer%20Institute>

### Australian Research Council Grant Announcements

Recent grant announcements by the Australian Research Council include several history/philosophy of science projects including Prof Rachel Ankeny (Adelaide), Prof Michael Dietrich (Dartmouth), Assoc Prof Sabina Leonelli (Exeter), "Organisms and us: How living things help us to understand our world," Discovery Project, 2016-19: \$313,686. For more details see [www.arc.gov.au](http://www.arc.gov.au)

### NEH Public Scholars

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) invites applications for the 2016 round of the Public Scholar Program, which is intended to support well-researched books in the humanities that have been conceived and written to reach a broad readership. Books supported through the Public Scholar Program might present a narrative history, tell the stories of important individuals, analyze significant texts, provide a synthesis of ideas, revive interest in a neglected subject, or examine the latest thinking on a topic. Most importantly, they should present significant humanities topics in a way that is accessible to general readers.

The Public Scholar Program is open to both independent scholars and individuals affiliated with scholarly institutions. It offers a stipend of \$4,200 per month for a period of six to twelve months. The maximum stipend is \$50,400 for a twelve-month period. Applicants must have U.S. citizenship or residency in the U.S. for the three years prior to the application deadline. In addition, they must have previously published a book with a university or commercial press or at least three articles and essays in publications reaching a large national or international audience.

Application guidelines (including a full statement of the eligibility requirements) and

a list of FAQs for the Public Scholar Program are available on the NEH's website at <http://www.neh.gov/grants/research/public-scholar-program>. The application deadline for this cycle is **2 February 2016**. Recipients may begin the term of the grant as early as 1 September 2016 or as late as 1 September 2017. In the last cycle of the competition, the Endowment received 485 applications and made 36 awards. The press release announcing the 36 winners in last year's competition is available here: <http://www.neh.gov/news/press-release/2015-07-29>

### Winners of an Evening with Greg Macklem

Three lucky post-San Francisco survey responders have won a fun-filled evening with Society Coordinator, Greg Macklem. This enchanting encounter will include dinner at the Atlanta conference hotel's restaurant, the Sun Dial, a beautifully situated dining room, 72 stories above the streets of Georgia's capital, that rotates, giving these lucky respondents a 360 degree view. The names were drawn using a random number generator.

- Sylwester Ratowt
- James Hofmann
- Kristen Schranz

## News from the Profession, cont.

### Grad Student Book Giveaway at HSS—A Generous Success!

*Michelle Marvin, HSS Graduate Assistant*

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of our book exhibitors at #HSS15, this year's attending graduate students had the opportunity to go home with happy hearts and heavier backpacks.

Donations ranging from select distinguished titles to entire boxes full of books were offered as contributions by exhibitors at the end of the meeting for the first ever HSS "Grad Student Book Giveaway." Exhibitors, in collaboration with the HSS Executive Office, saw the giveaway as the chance to support emerging scholars by assisting them in obtaining valuable resources for their personal libraries which otherwise might be unaffordable on the graduate student budget.

Nearly two hundred graduate students attended the HSS meeting this year, and all of those students were made aware of the Grad Student Book Giveaway via email during the meeting. The giveaway took place at the close of the meeting, but a smaller selection of donations were made available to graduate students who were leaving prior to Sunday morning. This meant that almost all interested graduate students were able to pick up a couple of books before leaving for home. "I was amazed at the quality of books you were giving away," said Darren Hsiung, PhD student at U.C. Berkeley, in a thank you statement to exhibitors.

"It speaks to your generous commitment to a new generation of scholars."

Around fifty international and domestic graduate students from as far away as China and as nearby as Stanford gathered outside the exhibit room, eager to see the books that had been gifted to them on Sunday, November 22nd at 11:05. Instructions were given for a two-line, two-book selection process after which students could get back in line to make more selections. Doors were then opened and students dove into a flurry of hushed book selection excitement. "It was like Christmas arrived early!" said Emily Kern, PhD student at Princeton University. "Thank you, exhibitors, for the lovely opportunity to add new and much needed books to my research collection."

Students were given approximately twenty minutes to make their selections, which allowed for several cycles through the lines. Many students ended up with arms, or bags, full of books. "Thank you, dear publishers, for the books. And for not shaming me for bringing a duffel," remarked Anooj Kansara, PhD student at U.C. Berkeley.

Although the exact book donation count was not taken, an estimation based on groupings made just prior to the giveaway suggests that, including books given away prior to Sunday morning, there were around 450 books available to students.

At the conclusion of the giveaway, 44 titles remained unclaimed. These books were packed up

and flown back to the History of Science Society headquarters at the University of Notre Dame, where they have become part of the History and Philosophy of Science Library.

While we're not sure if they managed to squeeze all those books into flight bags without paying extra for luggage fees, we have heard back from the graduate students in an outpouring of gratitude. Exhibitors should know that they have the warm appreciation of the next generation of scholars. And to top it off, the grad students think the HSS meeting went well too! Ann E. Robinson, PhD candidate at UMass Amherst expressed the sentiments of many when she wrote "Thank you for the books! This was a wonderful bonus to a great conference."

### Three Societies Meeting, 22-25 June 2016

Register now for the Three Societies Meeting. This gathering 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 brings together historians of science every four years for a major international conference. This conference will take place 22-25 June 2016, at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Register at <https://uofa.ualberta.ca/arts/research/3-societies-meeting>

## News from the Profession, cont.

### Osiris Editor Opening for 2016

The History of Science Society solicits applications and nominations for the Editorship of *Osiris*. Published annually, *Osiris* is (with its quarterly twin sister *Isis*) one of the two journals of the History of Science Society. Each volume of *Osiris* comprises approximately fifteen essays on a specific theme and is printed on c. 350 pages (see also <http://www.press.uchicago.edu/ucp/journals/journal/osiris.html>). The editor's duties include soliciting, reviewing (with the assistance of the *Osiris* Editorial Board), and selecting proposals for each volume; working with guest editors to define the scope and content of the volume; overseeing the outside referee process; and working with the University of Chicago Press, a copy editor, proofreader, and graphic designer to coordinate the production of each volume. Time spent on the job may vary from c. 150 to c. 200 hours per year. The appointment is for five years. As a rule, HSS supplies funding for copyediting, proofreading, referees, editor travel to the HSS annual meeting, and an *Osiris* Board breakfast at the annual meeting, whereas the *Osiris* Editor's home institution covers staff secretarial help, mailing costs, a dedicated e-mail address, and phone costs; preferably also the costs of hiring a graduate student to take on the role of managing editor.

More detailed information may be obtained from the current Editor of *Osiris*, Andrea Rusnock ([osiris@etal.uri.edu](mailto:osiris@etal.uri.edu)). Interested individuals should submit three documents: a *curriculum vitae*; a letter indicating their reasons and qualifications for applying to the position, and a letter of commitment by the supporting institution; each to be sent to the Editor of the History of Science Society, H. Floris Cohen ([h.f.cohen@uu.nl](mailto:h.f.cohen@uu.nl)). Alternatively, nominations may also be submitted with the permission of the nominated individual. Nominations are not necessarily confined to historians of science in the United States. The deadline for nominations is the leap day of 2016 (**February 29**).

### HSS/NASA Fellowship

The History of Science Society Fellowship in the History of Space Science, supported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) History Division, funds a nine-month research project that is related to any aspect of the history of space science, from the earliest human interest in space to the present. The program is broadly conceived and includes the

social, cultural, institutional and personal context of space-science history. Proposals of advanced research in history related to all aspects of the history of space science are eligible. Sciences of space and sciences affected by data and concepts developed in connection with space exploration include astronomy, Earth science, optics, meteorology, oceanography, and physiology. The fellowship is open to applicants who hold a doctoral degree in history or a closely related field,

or students who have completed all requirements for the PhD, except the dissertation, in history of science or a related field.

For information on the 2016-17 HSS/NASA Fellowship, visit <http://hssonline.org/employment/fellowship-in-the-history-of-space-science/2015-16-hss-fellowship-in-the-history-of-space-science/>

## News from the Profession, cont.

### The 2016 George Sarton Lecture in the History and Philosophy of Science

**Sunday, February 14 at 12pm**  
AAAS 2016 in Washington, DC  
Marshall Ballroom East (Marriott  
Wardman Park)

#### “Einstein’s Legacy: Studying Gravity in War and Peace”

**David Kaiser**, Germeshausen Professor of the History of Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology



A popular image persists of Albert Einstein as a loner, someone who avoided the hustle and bustle of everyday life in favor of quiet contemplation. Yet Einstein was deeply engaged with politics throughout his life; indeed, he was so active politically that the U.S. government kept him under surveillance for decades, compiling a 2000-page secret file on his political activities. His most enduring scientific legacy, the general theory of relativity—physicists’ reigning explanation for gravity and the basis for nearly all our thinking about the cosmos—has likewise been cast as an austere temple standing aloof from the all-too-human dramas of political history. But was it so?

This lecture examines ways in which research on general relativity was embedded in, and at times engulfed by, the tumult of world politics over the course of the twentieth century.

### NSF Defends Research Targeted in GOP Waste Reports

(from *COSSA Washington Update*, 15 Dec 2015, v.34, issue 23)

Two reports released in recent weeks by Republican policy makers point to hundreds of federally-funded activities they deem to be wasteful and unworthy of taxpayer support. Included in the reports are peer-reviewed research projects supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Institutes of Health (NIH). Sen. James Lankford’s (R-OK) *Federal Fumbles* claims to identify “100 ways the government dropped the ball,” poking fun at six NSF grants and two NIH grants, among dozens of other projects. A second report was released just last week by Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ), *Wastebook: The Farce Awakens*. Flake’s report is said to be a continuation of retired Sen. Tom Coburn’s (R-OK) longtime efforts to bring public attention to wasteful federal spending. This report also identifies 100 projects, 16 funded by NSF and a handful from NIH.

NSF recently **commented** on the *Federal Fumbles* report, stating, “Each proposal submitted to NSF—including those deemed ‘wasteful’ and ‘out-of-touch’ in the ‘Federal Fumbles’ report—is reviewed by science and engineering experts well-versed in their particular discipline or field of expertise.” The NSF response goes on to explain the merit of each project called out in Lankford’s report, and cautions against using grant titles as the primary basis for understanding the merit of a project.

While not new, these efforts serve to misrepresent sound scientific research and belittle the work of respected scientists. COSSA and partners across the scientific community continue to object to this type of political interference into decision making around federal support for scientific research.

### Chicago’s New Website

As of January 4, 2016, subscription access to *Isis* & *Osiris* has moved to a new website at <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu>.

Access to subscribed content, currently on JSTOR, will remain in effect through 31 January 2016. After January 31, access will only be available on the new site at <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu>.

## News from the Profession, cont.

### How to Access Content On the New Site

Use the username and password associated with your University of Chicago Press account to access your subscriptions on the new site. If you do not know your credentials, you can retrieve them by submitting [this form](#). If you created a MyJSTOR account on JSTOR, your credentials will not work on the new site.

Active subscribers will continue to have access back to Volume 1, Issue 1, now on the new website which features a flexible, reader-friendly design. There will be no changes to your level of access, subscription format, or renewal process.

We are excited about the new site and we hope it will enhance your reading experience. For more information, please [review our FAQs](#) or contact [journalsupport@press.uchicago.edu](mailto:journalsupport@press.uchicago.edu)



# History of Science Society 2015 Prize Winners

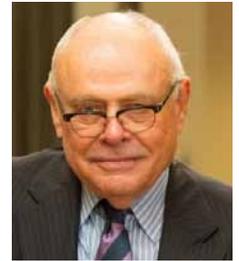
**Reingold Prize:** **Evan Hepler-Smith**, Princeton University for “A way of thinking backwards’: Chemists, computers, and a once and future method.” The **Nathan Reingold Prize** is awarded for best essay by a graduate student.



**Margaret W. Rossiter History of Women in Science Prize:** **Amy Sue Bix**, Iowa State University, for *Girls Coming to Tech! A History of American Engineering Education for Women* (MIT Press). The **Rossiter Prize** is awarded for best book on the role of women in science.



**Outstanding Service Award:** **Neale Wheeler Watson**, Science History Publications. The **Outstanding Service Award** is for “Society members who carry out HSS business with distinction.”



**Joseph H. Hazen Education Prize:** **Sally Gregory Kohlstedt**, University of Minnesota. The **Joseph H. Hazen Education Prize** is awarded for excellence in education.



**The Watson Davis and Helen Miles Davis Prize:** **Martin J.S. Rudwick**, Cambridge University, for *Earth’s Deep History: How It was Discovered and Why It Matters* (University of Chicago Press). The **Watson Davis and Helen Miles Davis Prize** is awarded for best book for a general audience.



**Sarton Medal:** The History of Science Society has awarded the 2015 **Sarton Medal** for Lifetime Scholarly Achievement to **Robert Fox**, Emeritus Professor at University of Oxford.



**Derek Price/Rod Webster Prize:** **Christopher Crenner**, University of Kansas Medical Center for “Race and Laboratory Norms: The Critical Insights of Julian Herman Lewis (1891-1989)” (September 2014). The **Derek Price/Rod Webster Prize** is awarded for best article in *Isis*.



**Pfizer Prize:** **Daniel P. Todes** from Johns Hopkins University for *Ivan Pavlov: A Russian Life in Science* (Oxford University Press). The **Pfizer Award** is for best scholarly book.



## Honors & Awards

The Society gives **several awards and honors**. Prizes recognize various outstanding contributions to the history of science. All Society sponsored prizes are announced and distributed at the Society’s annual meeting. Prizes are awarded by special committees, who consider nominations submitted by members, publishers, and the public at large. General deadline for nominations is **1 April 2016**.