

# NEWSletter

of the History of Science Society

Vol. 43, No. 2  
April 2014

## FROM THE HSS PRESIDENT: HSS INTERNATIONAL

Angela N. H. Creager (Princeton University)

In a few months our *Isis* Editorial Office will relocate to the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands, under the leadership of Floris Cohen. While the journal was founded by George Sarton in Belgium, it has been edited in North America for most of its century-long existence. A few months after *Isis* relocates, I myself will be moving to Berlin to spend a sabbatical year at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science. I suspect it is the first time that the President of HSS will be abroad for most of his or her term. Not that this kind of move is unusual; far from it. Many of my graduate students come from other countries, and most of those from the U.S. apply to postdoctoral or teaching posts beyond North America. Last summer's International Congress of History of Science, Technology and Medicine, held in Manchester, U.K., brought together 1,700 scholars from around the world. The program was stunningly successful in demonstrating the global reach and vibrancy of our field (<http://ichstm2013.com/reports/>). (Our colleagues in the U.K., including the leadership of the British Society for the History of Science and the historians of science, technology, and medicine at the University of Manchester, did an amazing job with organization and communication.) This conjuncture of events has me thinking about our Society's international reach, both current and potential.

How can we foster the intellectual connections that were so exciting in Manchester, and likely to be so important to our future?

In order to learn something from our membership on this issue, I surveyed those of you who live outside the U.S. and asked about your national and regional organizations in the history of science, where graduate students are trained, and where PhDs in history of science find jobs. You offered many suggestions for how the Society might serve our non-U.S. constituents better, and how we might be more geographically inclusive, both through our web presence and our meetings. Not surprisingly, international members value our publications, *Isis*, *Osiris*, and the *Newsletter*. In addition, many of you travel to attend annual meetings, although the heavy presence of North American graduate programs and job market can give our gatherings a provincial feel. Some suggested the value of nominating more Council members and officers from institutions abroad, or of considering publications in languages other than English for our prizes. The experiences (and successes) of other societies might embolden us. SHOT, 4S, and ISHPSSB, draw a good proportion of their leadership from beyond the U.S.



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and meet abroad regularly. The answers to my survey also stressed how similar the challenges faced by historians of science are in nearly every country—uncertain or flagging public funding of the field, too few academic jobs for new PhDs, and a felt need to educate the public about our field. American historians of science, and the Society as a whole, can learn from colleagues in other national contexts, and from the myriad other organizations that serve our members.

Needless to say, our Society should work in collaboration, not competition, with other national and regional societies devoted to the history of science. But given that we already have an active membership beyond the borders of the U.S., including our new Society Editor, the time seems opportune to be more intentional about our presence in the world at large. Already we have planned two events aimed at nurturing our worldliness, one small and one large. First, at this year's annual meeting I will host a breakfast meeting for our international members, at which I hope to hear more about how the Society could serve them better and think more imaginatively about reaching out across national borders. Second, the Committee on Meetings and Programs has endorsed the proposal to hold our first annual meeting outside of North America. In 2019, we will gather in Utrecht, the Netherlands, hosted by the Descartes Center, where the Editorial Office will be located. While our by-laws specify that we “ordinarily” meet in

the last quarter of the year, we feel this exceptional location justifies an abnormally early meeting, in late July or August. We have five years to plan for a successful meeting in Europe, during which time I will be in close communication with colleagues at the European Society for the History of Science (whose meeting I will attend this fall) and other regional organizations. For those of us who enjoyed the more relaxed pace of the Manchester meeting and our Three-Society meetings over the past decade, the opportunity to meet in the Netherlands in the summer will provide similar pleasures.

Clearly, it is not only national boundaries that can limit the imagination of our Society. My predecessor Lynn Nyhart reminded of us the value of involving historians of science placed outside traditional academic posts, working to make our Society more diverse, and engaging public audiences. I will keep our initiatives along these lines moving forward. But I am also keen to see how the History of Science Society could become more internationally-minded in our collective consciousness and communications. I hope you will join me in seeking to become more worldly these next few years.

## History of Science Society

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### Moving?

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

### EDITORIAL POLICIES, ADVERTISING AND SUBMISSIONS

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

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## NOTES FROM THE INSIDE

by Robert J. Malone

As the *Newsletter* goes to the designers (I would say “goes to press” but its preparation now consists solely of digital specialists who craft it for its electronic appearance) we are reaching the highpoint of our strategic-planning process. More than 40 members and supporters from around the world will convene in Chicago this weekend (29-30 March) to discuss the Society... its mission and its activities. I am grateful that these individuals would give up a weekend to help us examine these important issues, an exercise that will determine the Society’s future. These intense two days will be spent in an airport hotel, chosen so that we could gather dozens of people into one place as quickly and as cheaply as possible. We will spend our time talking about HSS’s current mission (to foster interest in the history of science, its social and cultural relations), about the people whose lives the Society changes, about what these people value, about our results (where we should concentrate our resources), and about our plan (a concise summation of our purpose and future directions). The next phase will consist of collecting all of these ideas and penning our goals—our long-range direction. As our process manual tells us, our goals should be overarching and they should be few in number: if you have more than five goals, you have none, since you will be spreading yourself too thin. We will then ask HSS Council to approve the plan at the annual meeting in November, in Chicago.

The Executive Committee once asked me, what are my priorities in the Executive Office. This is a difficult question because I do not believe it is my job to prioritize the HSS’s functions, and I immediately thought back to something Anna Freud said when asked what is the most important thing she does. Her reply? “Whatever I’m working on at the moment.” I gave a similar answer to the EC and they helpfully looked at all of the functions of the Office, from *Newsletter*, to Web site, to governance, and the thousands of details in running the HSS and then ranked activities according to their sense of priorities. Strategic planning (or self assessment as it is sometimes called) will recapitulate this prioritization but on a grand scale. Through in-depth interviews, multiple surveys, and the retreat in Chicago, we will look at what we do so that we can focus our efforts. My hope is that this will mark the rebirth of the HSS, a channeling of our strengths and advantages into ever-more productive avenues.

Thank you for your membership in the HSS.

- Jay  
*Executive Director*



MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
**HSS & PSA in Chicago**  
6-9 November 2014

## Response to Rodolfo John Alaniz's "Diversity in the History of Science Profession: Recent Doctoral Recipient Statistics," *Newsletter of the History of Science Society*, Vol. 43, no. 1, January 2014.

February 5, 2014

Rodolfo Alaniz's article in the January 2014 *History of Science Society Newsletter* provides some sobering statistics for our field with respect to diversity. I was most struck by the data on the last page, which showed that in the fields of History, Science and Technology and Society there was only one Black, one Hispanic, no Asian, and no American Indian scholars out of a total of forty-seven doctorate recipients in 2011. This is a significantly lower percentage than the field of History (the aggregated number for all sub-fields totaled 111). This should be cause for concern, as Alaniz rightfully notes.

However, I disagree with his explanations for the causes of the low numbers of racial/ethnic minorities in the history of science. I

do not believe that the absence of recruiting from community colleges or our field's lack of connection to pipeline programs that provide mentors and other support to this population of students are the most important factors. Rather, I would assert that our field's lack of scholarship and research on the history of the participation and contributions ethnic/racial minorities to the scientific and technical enterprise in the United States signals that such contributions are not valued or worthy of analysis. Most of the minority undergraduates I have taught have gravitated toward topics in the history of medicine precisely because within the history of medicine they will have the opportunity to work on topics that illuminate the origins of health problems in minority communities. There is no work on the history of racial/ethnic minorities

comparable to the scholarship on women and gender in science such as Margaret Rossiter's outstanding trilogy on the history of women's participation in U.S. science. As a result, there is little we can explain to our students about the persistent homogeneity of U.S. scientific fields. This is an important historical question for all scholars of U.S. science not just scholars who are racial/ethnic minorities. Until there is a more active and visible commitment to the important questions that the diversity of scientific fields raises about U.S. science we will continue to lose talented students to other fields of history.

**Evelynn M. Hammonds, PhD**

Barbara Gutmann Rosenkrantz Professor of the History of Science and Professor of African and African American Studies  
Harvard University

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### Rodolfo John Alaniz Replies

Evelynn Hammonds identifies the same statistics that prompted me to write my article. That we produced two history of science doctoral recipients from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds *for the entire nation* in 2011 is, indeed, a sobering fact. The statistics for previous years have been worse.

I agree completely with Hammonds' observation regarding a lack of diverse narratives within the history of science. However, unlike the other

history fields, the history of science has not conducted research on the retention of its scholars to explore this effect. To be clear, I do not believe that a lack of community college recruitment and adequate pipelines are the only factors affecting the lack of diversity in our profession. I am not sure whether they are even the most important. As Hammonds points out, retaining diverse scholars—as other academic disciplines are achieving—is a complex process. However, both recruitment and retention are essential. The

recruitment *and* retention statistics I provided represent the only statistically-supported potential causes for our unusual constituency. More than anything, I wish to show that there are institutional differences that science historians of color face in the academy and that those differences warrant more investigation.

**Rodolfo John Alaniz**

Doctoral Candidate  
University of California, San Diego

## Sarton Medal Acceptance Speech Dr. Simon Schaffer Boston, MA, 23 November 2013

(Editor's Note: Due to numerous requests, we have reproduced Simon Schaffer's comments at the 2013 annual meeting. We transcribed a recording of the speech and Dr. Schaffer kindly reviewed it. The only significant change was to remove his reference to the fire alarm that had sounded at the beginning of the ceremony.)

For obvious reasons, my initial emotions on learning of the award of the Sarton Medal have involved extreme gratitude and a sense of honor, combined with the embarrassed sense that one has been misrecognized, rather like William Boot in Evelyn Waugh's *Scoop*. I might imagine that someone of the same name has perhaps been awarded this prize, but presumably not me. In all seriousness, let me thank the HSS Executive Director Jay Malone, the HSS President Lynn Nyhart, and all the HSS members present and absent for this extraordinary generosity.

I'm exactly the same age as the Sarton Medal. It was the eminent Yale librarian Frederick Kilgour who then chaired the committee that persuaded Pfizer, to whom gratitude may also be expressed, to donate the \$1500 that funded the medal, and organized the award ceremony at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. in December 1955. Kilgour also went on, significantly, to found the organization that led to *WorldCat* and many of the key institutions of scholarship's current information

order. Looking back through the astonishing list of previous Sarton Medalists, and at a great deal of the work that's been celebrated here at the 2013 HSS ceremonies, these themes of information and scholarship have stayed consistently salient.

However, for those now aware of the identity of this year's Sarton Medalist, the first question that will have occurred to you is: Who is this person? And those of you who know the answer will ask: Why? In 1955 Sarton explained in his acceptance speech why he'd won the medal. "Scholars of a later age reviewing my life will sometimes wonder whether I was crazy. I was not crazy, but seemed to be." And that seems to me to be a key to the riddle. George Sarton *loved* medals. In May 1926, he announced the inauguration of a new series within *Isis*: "Each number of *Isis* will contain, as far as space permits," and there's the authentic Sartonian tone, "reproductions of a few medals of scientific interest. We hope, in this way, to constitute gradually a collection of medals which will gratify at once and the same time the scientific curiosity and the artistic cravings of our readers." The nouns are eloquent. To be scientific, is to be curious. To be artistic, is to crave. It is perhaps the combination of those two affects that has dominated *Isis* and its triumphs over the last century.

What particularly attracts me about Sarton's passion for medals is exactly this link with



curiosity, with open-endedness. As Krzysztof Pomian reminds us in his magnificent 1976 essay "Medals/Shells = Erudition/Philosophy," medals' fate entirely involved the fate of curiosity and its role in knowledge. Pomian's admirer Paul Ricoeur developed these reflexions in the case of medals' honorific function. Medals "assure the potentially universal exemplarity of the virtues engraved in gold. Praise comes to the name by the way of its exploits and its virtues." I won't continue the quote from Ricoeur, because he refers to the fall of absolute monarchy and the fact that the award of medals represents "a sacramental host of the power of the state." I'm probably wrong, but I *don't* think that's what's at stake in this particular medal and its award.

Rather, I assume that the award of the medal resonates rather more with another tradition of medalists and medal production, which is precisely their materiality, their capacity to embody skill, artfulness, and craft. As I've learned from a

## Sarton Medal Acceptance Speech, *cont.*

whole series of magnificent talks and sessions at this conference, the theme of materiality happily occupies renewed centrality in the concerns and the debate of our profession. In 1706, Isaac Newton, not known for cheerful relations with artisans, nevertheless licensed the coiners within the Tower of London to make their own medals. “It would very much contribute to the perfecting themselves in the Art and Mystery of graving, lest for want of exercise they should lose that skill they have.” Newton agreed that “good graving is the best security of the coin, and is best acquired by the graving of medals.” That’s perhaps an uncharacteristic Newtonian apothegm. Yet it reminds how for a long time, since classical ages and certainly since the Renaissance, such honorific medals embodied at least some of that labor that, as shown by the studies of materiality and skill honored this evening, is all about the central tasks of the sciences.

Like others who’ve already spoken on this platform, I have a great debt of gratitude to the people with whom I have worked with in the past four decades. In the house is the first person that taught me history of science in Cambridge, David Wilson, and I’d like to honor him. He was my first supervisor in 1974 and he’s here with us. Thank you, David. And the most recent people to whom I’m indebted are also here, some of the PhD students I’m working with at the moment. It’s from people of similar age and skill that I’ve

learnt so much. If the history of science teaches us anything, it teaches us the enormous importance of teaching-led research. We hear a great deal about research-led teaching, but here I want to emphasize, partly because in my country this is in crisis, the importance of preserving that entanglement between inquiry and pedagogy which is at stake for the future of the work of this Society and the work of the university institution which still puts me up and puts up with me.

There’s a passage that I’ve come back to a great deal in my recent work that proves to be astonishingly relevant for this evening. I’ll close by reading it. It comes from a universal history published in 1730 in Paris by the great Jansenist scholar, Charles Rollin, a cutler’s son who became rector of the University of Paris. Here, he lectured young Parisians on why medals matter. “I content my self with informing young persons, who are desirous to study history in all its extent, that the knowledge of medals is absolutely necessary to that kind of learning. For history is not to be learnt in books only, which do not always tell the whole, or the truth of things. Recourse must therefore be had to pieces, which support it; and which neither malice nor ignorance can injure or vary, and such are the monuments we call medals.” Thank you very much.

## The “Mozart of Molecular Biology” and Session Mates at the HSS 2013 Annual Meeting

By Pnina G. Abir-Am, Brandeis University

The “Mozart of Molecular Biology,” as Matthew S. Meselson is known, evoking the many crucial experiments he was part of, (by analogy with W.A. Mozart’s many musical compositions, in both cases at a young age), was the star of our session at the 2013 HSS annual meeting: “DNA at 60: (2013, 1953) New Sources, New Questions, New Historiographies.” One of the new points that the session attempted to convey was that DNA’s structure, whose 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary prompted the session, had begun to be digested by the scientific community only after the Meselson-Stahl experiment proved how DNA replicates,<sup>1</sup> (semi-conservatively) five years later in 1958. Therefore, 2013 marked not only the 60th anniversary of the better known discovery of DNA’s structure, by now a cultural icon, but also the 55th anniversary of the less well-known Meselson-Stahl experiment, called by many, including a former HSS President, “the most beautiful experiment in biology.”<sup>2</sup>

However, Meselson is not only eponimically famous for his role in devising the new method of density gradient for distinguishing between isotopes of nitrogen attached to DNA bases in successive generations of bacteria, which proved that DNA replicates semi-conservatively. He is also well

known as a leading analyst and adviser on biological and chemical weapons, whose views influenced the U.S. government’s decisions to sign international conventions for banning both types of weapons.

In addition to his roles as scientist and policy adviser, Meselson further took the brave stance of a public intellectual when he successfully contested official claims by both Superpowers with regard to their, or their enemies’, production or use of toxins as weapons. In the 1980s he proved that the “yellow rain” in Indochina, alleged by the U.S. to reflect the use of toxins on civilians by its enemies, were actually synchronized droppings of wild bees.<sup>3</sup> In the early 1990s, Meselson and six colleagues investigated the Soviet Union’s claims that an anthrax outbreak stemmed from contaminated cow feed, eventually concluding that the outbreak resulted from an accident in a facility for biological weapons.<sup>4</sup>

We were, thus, very fortunate to have Meselson among us as a speaker to provide a personal retrospective on the landmark experiment on DNA replication. Though Meselson proved to be a great raconteur, with a distinct sense of humor, who repeatedly elbowed those who wished to shake his hand on public health grounds, (a consciousness

he apparently acquired during a recent trip to Asia which endowed him with a persisting cold; that cold further required that he be supplied with hot tea, a demand that the head of the HSS staff was kind enough to meet). His cold, coupled with trouble with the microphone, meant that his voice did not project homogeneously, and I suspect that his most interesting remarks were likely missed by many members of the audience. This is why it would be useful to draw lessons here from Meselson’s remarks, as well as the session he was part of, for the benefit of our remarkably interactive audience, as well as those who missed the session of the molecular biological Mozart for other reasons.

Meselson began by responding impromptu to questions I had sent to him two months earlier, in my capacity as session organizer and author of his, his collaborator, and their joint experiment’s entries in the electronic *Encyclopedia of Life Sciences*.<sup>5</sup> Though he did not cover all the names of the old guard in whose views I was interested, he confirmed that his mentors at Caltech, his Ph.D. adviser Linus Pauling, the Chair of the Chemistry Division, as well as the Chair of the Biology Division, George W. Beadle, and Max Delbruck, the guru of the Phage Group, were supportive, each in his own way. Indeed, the

1 Meselson, M. and F.W. Stahl (1958) “The Replication of DNA in *Escherichia coli*,” *PNAS*, 44: 671-682

2 Holmes, F.L. (2001) *Meselson, Stahl, and the Replication of DNA, A History of “The Most Beautiful Experiment in Biology,”* New Haven, CT.: Yale University Press.

3 Bass, A.B. (1986) “One Scientist’s Crusade, A Portrait of Matthew Meselson,” *Technology Review*, April, 40-54.

4 Meselson, M. et al., (1994) “The Sverdlovsk Anthrax Outbreak of 1979,” *Science*, 266, 1202-1208.

5 [www.els.net](http://www.els.net), see entries A25056; (on Meselson) A25057; (on his collaborator Franklin Stahl) and A25093; (on the Meselson-Stahl experiment) all submitted in the summer/ early fall of 2013.

## The “Mozart of Molecular Biology,” *cont.*

immediate favorable reception of the Meselson-Stahl experiment in 1958 contrasted with the indifference encountered by the DNA structure in 1953. Though Meselson has developed an interest in the history of science he still attributes the good reception he encountered at the time to the experiment’s correctness and beauty. Could it be that his mentors may have had additional motives in sponsoring a three-year-long experiment, which further encountered two years of setbacks? Nor does Meselson suspect any “foul play” when he was asked why his experiment with Stahl became mainly known as a boost for DNA structure, instead of being evaluated for its unique ingenuity.

As to the question why those others who were much concerned with the problem of genetic replication (e.g. Crick, Delbruck, Doty, Levinthal, Schachman, Stent, Watson) did not come up with the Meselson-Stahl experiment, Meselson was too modest to say that they were not smart enough or that they did not have a perfect collaborator, as he did. He implied however that tools he learned from Pauling were crucial. Meselson’s single mindedness was equally crucial in overcoming Pauling’s lack of interest in DNA, or his demand that Meselson complete a Ph.D. thesis on an unrelated topic, of no interest to Meselson, which Meselson never published to Pauling’s chagrin. Pauling’s demand delayed the experiment on DNA replication for several years.

Last but not least, on the question of what was it at Harvard, where Meselson arrived in 1961, that

propelled him toward a long-term involvement with science policy on biological and chemical weapons, (having served as an analyst and adviser for the administrations of Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, and Reagan) Meselson mentioned the Vietnam War, his friendship with Henry Kissinger, and the influence of other activist molecular biologists there such as Paul Doty and John Edsall. It was particularly gratifying when a member of the audience posed a question on the relevance of Meselson’s science policy activities in the present, when chemical weapons continue to be a source of concern, as in the recent crisis in Syria. Such a question would have signaled to Meselson, who had been accused by (science) students that he cared more for science policy than for their future in science, that historians of science have a wider perspective and consider science policy to be of equal importance.

Meselson’s talk was perfectly introduced by the preceding speaker, William Summers of Yale University, whose talk “Not Quite a ‘Eureka Moment’: Reception of the DNA Structure by the American Phage Group” included the Meselson-Stahl experiment as a landmark in the history of molecular biology, (taught by Summers to many generations of science students) while pointing to Meselson in the first row. Summers argued, with the help of documentation from his recent archival study of the Personal Papers of Gunther Stent at the Bancroft Library in Berkeley, California, that at the time the reception of the discovery of

DNA structure was slow and far from enthusiastic. Summers’ findings, as he himself emphasized, contrast with the views expressed by scientists at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of DNA structure in 2003, according to which they immediately grasped the significance of that discovery.

This was an important point because the session revolved around the contrast between “history” and “memory,” while also highlighting how anniversaries help create collective memories that reflect social and political interests in the present. Summers, who also chaired the session, created a seamless transition to Meselson’s talk not only by mentioning two of Meselson’s famous experiments (the other one being the isolation of m-RNA on which Meselson collaborated with Sydney Brenner, a 2002 Nobel co-laureate, and François Jacob, a 1965 Nobel co-laureate) in his talk, but also by posing questions to Meselson, as well as to the other speakers.

Miguel Garcia-Sancho of the University of Edinburgh contrasted the well-known preoccupation with DNA structure with a parallel, and currently hot, topic of DNA sequencing, in his talk, “Narratives, Disciplines, and the Agency of Biomolecular Techniques: Or why Frederick Sanger shifted from protein to nucleic acid sequencing (1945-1977)” based on findings from his recent book.<sup>6</sup> Garcia-Sancho emphasized that

<sup>6</sup> Miguel Garcia-Sancho, *Biology, Computing, and the History of Molecular Sequencing; From Proteins to DNA, 1945-2000*. (London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2012)

## The “Mozart of Molecular Biology,” *cont.*

DNA sequencing began as an offshoot of protein sequencing, a fact often missed by practicing DNA sequencers, yet one perfectly illustrated by Sanger’s career. Pursued in the 1940s and 1950s in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Cambridge, U.K., and after 1962 in the Medical Research Council’s Laboratory of Molecular Biology, (MRC-LMB) Sanger’s career shifted smoothly from protein to DNA sequencing.

Sanger received a Nobel Prize within four years of each discovery: in 1958 for protein sequencing and in 1980 for DNA sequencing, the latter shared with U.S. molecular biologist Wally Gilbert. Garcia-Sancho interrogated Sanger’s shift by suggesting that sequencing was a “form of work” that suited Sanger’s outlook on science, while further refuting previous suggestions that Sanger shifted to DNA sequencing as a result of influence by Crick and Brenner, his would-be colleagues at the MRC-LMB. Garcia-Sancho also replied to a number of questions from the audience on Schrödinger’s and Crick’s respective ideas on the genetic code, as well as on how the conflation between information as sequence and information as code is affecting current New Generation Sequencing and systems biology.

Pnina G. Abir-Am’s talk “Why does the identity of the discoverers of DNA structure keep on changing” focused on some reasons for shifts in the publicly advocated number of discoverers, from two in 1953, to three in 1962, and four in 2003. Based on her forthcoming

book *DNA at 60, 50, 40, 21: History, Memory, and Cold War Legacies in Scientific Discovery*, which she hoped would be ready in page-proof form for the HSS Meeting were it not for a major surgery<sup>7</sup> (with a happy ending but lost time). Abir-Am argues that a spectrum of new sources, both primary and secondary, completely changes our understanding of this discovery, an understanding totally dominated by the endlessly advertised perspective of the so-called “winners.” Rather than being seen as the “rag to riches” story of two junior collaborators, (Crick and Watson) the talk suggested that those two were mere pawns in much larger games, pursued by several lab directors. The talk further argued that the latter’s power, interests and rivalries determined who would be publicly accepted as a discoverer. She also highlighted the key role of class, race, and gender bias prevailing at the time, which led to a minimalist designation of discoverers in 1953, (and a more inclusive one in 2003) while reminding the audience that the careers of all DNA scientists, not just Rosalind Franklin’s, were affected by the then prevailing societal biases on gender, race, but especially class.

Abir-Am concluded that neither the minimalist designation of two discoverers, nor the inclusive

<sup>7</sup> “My Medical Tsunami: Lessons from a Rare Patient’s Recent Ordeal in Two Boston Hospitals,” 22pp. (copies available upon request). This is part of a forthcoming collection on medical ordeals from the patient’s perspective. Those who wish to interrogate their own medical ordeal/s are very welcome to join by sending a draft. Guidelines for revision will be sent shortly after.

one of four, match the historical record, which has greatly expanded in the last decade. She also replied to several questions. Most revealed captivity to the “received view” according to which the discovery of DNA structure remains conflated with those who became most associated with it, without interrogating how such associations were socially constructed, or why they no longer match the newly available historical record. In this sense, the session was useful in confirming the urgent need for her forthcoming book, which hopes to put the “received view” to a much needed final rest.

This session included members of the audience who also attended the session “DNA at 50” organized by Abir-Am and Summers for the HSS Annual Meeting in 2003, which also included a panel composed of leading local DNA scientists (the 2003 Meeting was also held in Boston) Paul Doty, (deceased in 2011) Alex Rich, (MIT) and Wally Gilbert (Harvard, Biogen and Brickbottom Art Collective). It drew a good crowd but was difficult to duplicate ten years later for obvious reasons. Abir-Am wishes to thank HSS and its program organizers for the foresight to schedule the Annual Meeting in time for her to recover. She is also grateful for the unexpected opportunity the session gave to her to feel fully recovered, when a provocative question required a forceful reply, one she could not have delivered in the preceding two months.

## Wikipedia in the History of Science Classroom

By Sage Ross

In 2008, as a grad student just starting my dissertation, I wrote a piece of Wikipedia evangelism for this *Newsletter*: **“Wikipedia and the History of Science.”** I would talk about Wikipedia, a lot. I would try to convince people that Wikipedia is something that’s interesting and important and worth engaging with, and the default reaction was skepticism. That’s not an argument I have to make any more. At a late-night workshop at the Boston meeting—and even more so in halls throughout the weekend—folks wanted to jump straight into discussing the strengths and weaknesses of Wikipedia and how wiki editing might fit into their classes.

For the last few years I’ve been working for Wikimedia Foundation—the nonprofit that runs Wikipedia—trying to make it easier for Wikipedia and the academic world to work together. Scholars can rarely devote significant time to writing Wikipedia articles themselves. (N.B., I completed several Featured articles on Wikipedia, but no dissertation.) But \*Wikipedia assignments for students\* are great opportunities both to engage students and to improve Wikipedia.

Wikipedia now has a fairly robust support system for professors who want to run Wikipedia assignments. You can go through an online training course that covers best practices for

designing Wikipedia assignments, that walks through a sample syllabus for the type of writing project that can replace a term paper, and that shows you how to use the course page system, which lets you and the rest of the Wikipedia community follow the progress of your students. To try this online training, put “WP:EDUCATORS” into the search box on English Wikipedia. The course page system is also available in several other language versions of Wikipedia.

Several historians of science are using Wikipedia assignments in classes this term, and I’ve been keeping an eye on their students’ progress. One student just started a new article on Galileo’s “Discourse on the Tides.” If they get nominated soon after creation, new articles can have a turn in the “Did you know...” section of Wikipedia’s main page, where over the course of about six hours they will get anywhere from hundreds to tens of thousands of hits, depending on how compelling the featured blurb is. Another student is compiling a bibliography to expand the bare coverage of “Genetics” and the “*Origin of Species*.” And a group of students will be working together on improving the “History of Ecology” article. Combined, those two articles average more than 3,000 views per month, and right now they aren’t even very good.

Your first term running a Wikipedia assignment has a fairly steep learning curve, as you’ll need to learn enough about how Wikipedia works to help your students through the tricky parts. After that, it gets quite a bit easier and you’ll start developing a sense for which topics your students can fruitfully take on. There is no shortage of history of science articles to start or improve. And if anything, history of technology and history of medicine are even more underdeveloped on Wikipedia. The effort that you already put into teaching students about good sources and how to dive into the rich literature of our field will soon be reflected in Wikipedia’s content.

Although only a small fraction of the students themselves are likely to become long-term Wikipedia contributors, most will prefer a Wikipedia assignment in place of a conventional research paper—even though Wikipedia projects take considerably more work on their part. Having an audience beyond just their professor or TA, and a sense of broader purpose, motivates students to take their work seriously. And they are right to do so. During the first term of the Wikipedia Education Program pilot project that I was working on in late 2010, one student overhauled the rudimentary coverage of what he thought was a pretty niche topic: “National Democratic Party (Egypt)” (the ruling party of Egypt since 1978). A few months later, the

## Wikipedia in the History of Science Classroom, *cont.*

Egyptian revolution was underway and the article was being read thousands of times per day, forming the (unacknowledged) background for countless news reports and helping people all over the world understand the historical context for events in Tahrir Square and beyond. Another student was surprised to find herself assigned to read a Wikipedia article—the one she had written for another class the previous term, unbeknownst to the professor! Those are the dramatic examples, but good Wikipedia contributions from students can and do have a significant and sustained impact.

If you're interested in putting together a Wikipedia assignment and would like advice, or if you'd like to be part of a mailing list for teaching with Wikipedia in the history of science, please get in touch with me: [sage@ragesoss.com](mailto:sage@ragesoss.com).

## Teaching History to STEM Students: A Report from the 2014 AHA Meeting

*By Deborah R. Coen, Barnard College, Columbia University*

Motivated by the belief that the future of the historical discipline depends in part on demonstrating the value of history courses for all students, non-majors as well as majors, American Historical Association president Kenneth Pomeranz organized a panel at the 2014 meeting of the American Historical Association on teaching history to students in the STEM fields: science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The panelists he chose—Scott Sandage, Steven Usselman, Will Broadhead, Jenny Leigh Smith, and Susan Ambrose—are all historians who have had successful careers at elite engineering schools, where nearly all students go on to careers in STEM fields. Deborah Coen served as chair for the session.

### Why History?

Scott Sandage, an associate professor of American social and cultural history at Carnegie Mellon, recalled his initial impression of CMU in the mid '90s as a “bizarro” university. At that time, the campus was ruled by a “zero-sum mentality,” according to which any support for the humanities was understood to come at the expense of the sciences. CMU struck him as a “world-class community college,” blind to the value of a well-rounded liberal arts education. So Sandage began sharpening his arguments as a “missionary” for his field, until he finally hit on

a way to communicate the value of the study of history to his colleagues in engineering. “What I call change over time,” he now tells them, “you call innovation.” “We need to seize the innovation language,” Sandage said. He noted happily that times have changed, and in 2011 CMU received one of its largest gifts ever, a \$265 million grant for the humanities.

A common but far less effective strategy is to insist that history cultivates analytical reasoning. Any discipline can claim to do that, observed Steven Usselman, a professor of the history of technology at Georgia Tech and chair of their School of History, Technology, and Society. Instead, Usselman suggested, historians should make the argument that history “complements and enhances” a technical education. We as historians need to remember that engineering students are more than just number-crunchers; they are preparing to “engage with the broad challenges facing humanity.” It is to that end that a minor in a humanities discipline can be said to serve them well.

### Do STEM Students Have Special Needs?

According to the panelists, STEM students occasionally take history classes by chance rather than by choice: sometimes because a significant

*Continued on Page 12*

## Teaching History to STEM Students, *cont.*

other enrolled in the course, sometimes simply because the class was down the hall from a previous one. So do history professors need to do things differently for these students? Jenny Leigh Smith, an assistant professor of Soviet and environmental history at Georgia Tech, shared some tips for adapting to the quirks of STEM students. Since they're relatively "lazy readers," she assigns shorter, on-line sources. Since they're often "war nerds," she plays up military history. And she finds that they usually have the motivation to improve their writing skills, since they know that good communicators are highly valued in the engineering professions.

But Will Broadhead, an associate professor of ancient Greek and Roman history at MIT, finds that STEM students benefit from much the same lessons as history majors. He admits that he has the advantage of a certain "consilience" between his subfield and the interests of STEM students, who often take a keen interest in Roman aqueducts and the latest methods in archeology. Yet Broadhead continues to emphasize the same themes that have been central to Roman history for centuries, namely "rhetoric and consensus." Indeed, it's important to him to show MIT students that not all of the ancient world is "scientifically intelligible."

A crucial tactic in teaching STEM students, as Sandage and Usselman agreed, is learning to talk their talk. Thus Usselman emphasizes the

problem-solving aspects of historical work. He introduces history as the study of "dynamical systems with many variables that don't reach equilibrium;" and he makes frequent reference to quantitative data in order to convey the significance of historical phenomena to students used to numerical evidence. Another angle that appeals to STEM students is the role of the imagination in historical scholarship. Usselman recommends appealing to their interests in science fiction and thought experiments: "talk about alternate universes," he suggested. Laughing, he even recommended calling writing assignments "problem sets." Or one might follow Sandage's advice: don't assign an analytical essay, assign a "cross-functional analysis."

### Good News

Speaking from her perspective as an international consultant on engineering education, Susan Ambrose of Northeastern University was glad to offer an optimistic message. "We have allies," she informed her audience of historians. She was referring first to the National Academy of Engineering, and second to the employers who hire STEM students. Both groups see history as beneficial for several reasons. First, history teaches engineers how to analyze "systems" that include human as well as technical elements. Historical study demonstrates, for instance, how to contextualize success and failure, how to trace the social repercussions of technologies,

and how to identify the roots of innovation. Second, history teaches engineers about cultural diversity: it alerts them to the roles that the U.S. has played in the world—past and present—and teaches them how to think and communicate about conflicts of values. These are strengths that historians could perhaps do more to emphasize.

### Further Questions

Some questions raised in the discussion period concerned challenges faced by professors at non-elite institutions, which were not represented on the panel. How, for instance, should history professors address students with weak literacy skills? Another audience member asked for advice about teaching ethical lessons to future engineers based on the less noble aspects of the history of science and technology. Ambrose advised that instructors can prepare students for such lessons by warning them that they won't like what they're about to hear, but that they need to listen anyway. Surprisingly absent from the conversation were issues of gender and race in the classroom, which are typically central to discussions of STEM education. All in all, it is to be hoped that historians teaching STEM students will continue to trade tips and to raise questions about how it can be done better.

## History of Earth Sciences Society

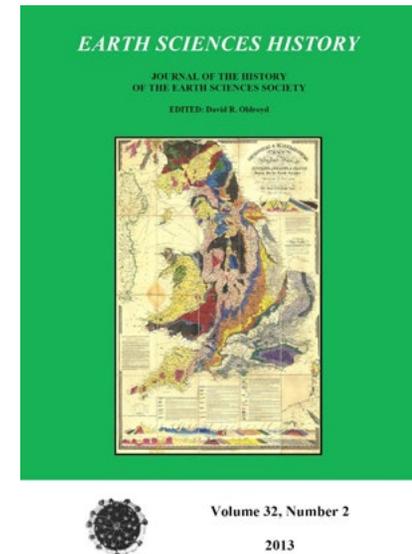
By Sandra Herbert, President, History of Earth Sciences Society; Greg Good, Treasurer; Warren Dym, Secretary

As scholars, historians of science have the advantage of an intellectual passport to the sciences as well as to the humanities and social sciences. The History of Earth Sciences Society (HESS), founded at a meeting of the Geological Society of America in 1982, brings together geologists (and other geoscientists with historical interests) with historians who focus on the earth sciences. The main goal of the Society is to provide an opportunity for publication. HESS publishes a journal entitled *Earth Sciences History*, which appears twice a year. The editor is John Diemer from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and our book review editor is Paul Lucier. Articles are peer reviewed and cover the full range of subjects in the earth sciences. One publishing advantage that the journal offers is the use of color images, which is important for reproducing geological maps and photographs of specimens. The online version of the journal is fully searchable back to 1982. We invite those writing in the history of the earth sciences to submit their work to the journal. A full listing of articles from the journal is available on our website: [www.historyearthscience.org](http://www.historyearthscience.org).

We also invite historians of science to join us, either as individual members, or through their universities. Membership fees range from \$25 for student subscribers to \$50 for regular individual subscribers (\$65 for both print and online versions of the journal). Information on how to join is

contained on our website. Our membership is international as is our list of authors and reviewers for the journal.

Historians of earth science tend to be a sociable group, and the HSS's Earth and Environment Forum offers a convenient meeting place at the annual History of Science Society meeting. In Boston this past November the room was full and the discussion, led by Fritz Davis, was lively. Another place where such historians congregate is at meetings of national disciplinary societies. For example, at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America in Denver in October, there were perhaps 50 historical papers delivered, and about the same number of persons attended the luncheon organized by the History and Philosophy of Geology Division. Societies of other countries also offer meetings, for example, the History of Geology Group (HOGG) in the United Kingdom. A third place where historians of geology congregate is at international meetings such as those organized by the International Commission on the History of the Geological Sciences (INHIGEO). INHIGEO, whose president is long-time HSS member Ken Taylor, will meet in California this July, at Asilomar: <http://community.geosociety.org/INHIGEO2014/home/>. For all of these groups *Earth Sciences History* serves a purpose by offering a place for publication.



For interdisciplinary groups the question of fish or fowl is ever present. Is one more a scientist or more an historian? I shall never forget the chagrin I felt when offering my first paper at a meeting of the Geological Society of America. As I mounted the stairs to the podium the organizer of the session said to me, “your slide carousel please.” I turned to him and said, “I don’t have any slides.” I shall never forget the look on his face: dumbfounded may be the word. I read my paper thinking to myself: gosh, I really don’t belong here. Lest you suffer second-hand from my embarrassment in my recounting of the story, I’ll report that everything turned out all right in the end. Dennis Flanagan, the editor of *Scientific American*, was in the audience, and approached me afterwards with the offer to publish my paper, which he did, and with graphics. In any case, there are undoubtedly bumps in the road to interdisciplinarity, but the road is well worth taking. We invite you to join us on it.

## The University of Chicago Press and HSS

By Jay Malone, *History of Science Society Executive Director*

As more and more people freely share their work and their lives with a world-wide audience, (e.g. Linked In and Facebook) many individuals now question the need and the value of publishers. Since the HSS is developing a strategic plan for the future, now is a good time to examine the various moving parts of the Society.

Traditionally, publishers served as information conduits to the world but in this age of a million points of access, what role do publishers play in current scholarship? HSS members sometimes ask me why the Society does not switch to self publishing or they suggest that we move toward variations of an open-access model. And although it seems that bypassing our publisher, the University of Chicago Press (UCP), and thus producing our work for consumption is straightforward, in fact, it is not. Self publishing would result in the loss of many valuable services—most of them not self-evident. This solitary path would also mean that the HSS staff would be tasked with subscription fulfillment, itself a monster-sized duty, in addition to the many other services that members of professional societies expect. Of course, we would not be paying UCP to publish our journals if we self published, thus freeing up resources, so it is prudent that we engage in a cost-benefit analysis and the first question should be “What does UCP bring to the table?” I asked our press representative, Teresa (Tess) Mullen this

question and she sent me a 15-page document, parts of which I excerpt below.

Like HSS, UCP is a non-profit organization, dedicated to the furtherance of scholarship. Some of the more visible benefits of our association with UCP, not necessarily in order of importance, include access to the complete run of *Isis* and *Osiris* through JSTOR; a high profile journal web presence (with full text HTML and PDF formats); e-Book editions of our journals; a 30% discount on Chicago books, as well as a 30% discount with select other publishers; customer support; and membership renewal campaigns (the current campaign includes free e-Books). But these aspects of our relationship touch only the tip of what UCP does.

### UCP As A Pragmatic And Intellectual Partner

In the “not self-evident” part of the equation, UCP’s managers are at the disposal of our editorial team to report on business operations, discuss day-to-day editorial matters or ideas for development, and to serve as a sounding board regarding any relevant editorial policy and legal issues. UCP provides regular reports on myriad matters, such as financial statements, online usage statistics, bibliometric analyses (ISI and other rankings); circulation, renewal, and access;

marketing; publishing industry trends; technology developments; contract review (UCP has offered HSS advice on several contracts); and licensing opportunities.

UCP’s publishing technology helps authors with the requirements demanded by funding and credentialing boards, including adherence to green open access (OA) requirements, hybrid Gold level policies for open access articles (OA from the time of publication), as well as generating an automatic e-mail of an article’s PDF to authors upon completion of *Isis*’s posting.

But far beyond simply posting *Isis* on a Web site in full-text HTML and PDF formats, UCP also creates mobile optimized articles and e-Book editions of entire journal issues. The Press handles the hosting of online article enhancements (audio and video files, color images, etc.); content crawled by all major search engines, returning results at the author, abstract, article, and journal level; metadata deposited with CrossRef and made available to appropriate abstracting and indexing services; content preserved in perpetuity, working from XML source files—the most generic, flexible format for storing content, allowing UCP to migrate to different technologies and platforms and to generate a variety of display formats. With a new “born digital” electronic edition, *Isis* will be able to include online-only enhancements that are

## The University of Chicago Press and HSS, *cont.*

impractical or cannot be rendered in print. These range from the simple—images published in black and white in the print version may be published online in color—to the complex: audio and video files and large data sets. This material is selected by the editors during the peer-review process and formatted for presentation by UCP's electronic publishing technology team. Online-only enhancements are referenced in the print version of the journal and promoted online through email and social media to motivate interested readers to visit the online edition.

Since online editions, unlike print copies, can face an uncertain future in the digital world, UCP's partnership with JSTOR (also a non-profit entity), provides the following benefits:

- Easy consolidated licensing to both current content and archival back content.
- Seamless access for users to the journal's current issues, back issues, and online-only material via a unified "publisher neutral" platform.
- State-of-the-art Web discoverability and reference-resolving technologies.
- Simplified license administration for institutional customers.
- Targeted, large-scale sales efforts to institutions.

And because the ways that we read continue to evolve, UCP collaborates with JSTOR to ensure that the hosting platform for our journals keeps

pace with changes in online format. JSTOR was recently redesigned using a responsive web-design model, meaning that the interface prioritizes displayed content so that the Web site's features adjust to the screen size of the user's desktop, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. No matter how journal content is accessed, the site adapts its format to provide the most streamlined reading experience possible.

### UCP and Subscription/Author Services

During our recent rebuilding of the HSS Web site, made possible through the assistance of volunteers, most notably Fred Gibbs and Alex Wellerstein, the Executive Office investigated the possibility of taking over membership management from UCP. Our member data is our most valuable asset and ready access to this data figures prominently in membership services. However, we quickly realized that in addition to the extra time it would take to handle subscription questions, Web site access, and other queries, we would immediately lose some \$12,000 US, which would be our costs for membership credit-card processing. So, in addition to the deep resources that the Press brings to bear on journal production and analysis, UCP also handles all the details involved with membership payment, provides additional help with association management, and offers assistance with fund raising, such as hosting our online donation pages. UCP also

warehouses back issues of *Isis* and *Osiris* (not a minor endeavor), provides design support for journal covers and interior, authorizes JSTOR to transfer files to Thomson Reuters Web of Science, sends issues to the printer for distribution, pays all manufacturing invoices, registers copyright for each issue, manages reprints and translations, ensures author's rights post publications, grants permissions, foreign authorizations service and much more.

Few of our members will have noted the passing of the economist Ronald Coase (at the age of 102). As a young man, Coase asked a fundamental question: Why do companies exist? After studying American automobile plants he concluded that price-setting mechanisms contained a flaw, that flaw being the cost incurred by buyers and sellers when trying to arrive at an agreed-upon price. Firms existed, he reasoned, because they could more easily (and more cheaply) coordinate transactions from a position of central authority. The same question may be asked of the HSS and UCP. Why do they exist? As the above UCP benefits demonstrate, large presses are better equipped than small academic societies (or individuals) to handle the multitudinous details that surround the transmission of knowledge, even in this age of knowledge wanting to be free. Likewise, the HSS will be asking why academic societies exist and what benefits the HSS brings to you. We hope to have a good answer.

## The *Isis* Research Platform: Curating Scholarly Knowledge in a Linked World

By Stephen P. Weldon, Editor, *Isis Bibliography*

Very good news from the *Isis* Bibliography office: in March, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation announced their support for a project that will propel the Bibliography to the forefront of digital research in the twenty-first century. Over the past year and a half, I have been collaborating with many different scholars on plans to build an innovative tool for collaborative research that uses the *Isis* data. This tool, the *Isis* Research Platform, will provide new ways of accessing information about scholarship in the history of science and the scholars who produce it. The \$350,000 grant from Sloan will support the first two years of development of this project to update and expand the research environment for historians of science.

The principal investigators on the project are me, Gavan McCarthy, the Director of the eScholarship Research Centre (eSRC) at the University of Melbourne, and Kerry Magruder, the Curator of the History of Science Collections at the University of Oklahoma (OU) Libraries. The project will be developed in collaboration between the eSRC and the OU Libraries. McCarthy has extensive expertise in building and developing scholarly resources of this kind, and the OU Libraries have just established a new open access repository where the *Isis* data will be housed. I will work with a small team who will help direct and manage the project over the course of the next couple of years.

Eventually, I expect to move the entire production of the Bibliography to the *Isis* Platform.

The *Isis* Platform plans contain several pathbreaking elements. First of all, it will be entirely open access, meaning that for the first time, all of the *Isis* data will be available to researchers around the world. The History of Science Society will be making a singular contribution to worldwide scholarship in the discipline by opening up this deep archive of citations to all researchers. Although the data is already freely accessible in PDFs of annual bibliographies as well as within the massive **WorldCat.org** database, the *Isis* Platform will provide something new: open access to over 300,000 *Isis* citations through a web portal dedicated to history of science and curated by historians, an Application Programming Interface (API) for direct access to the bibliographic data, and downloadable bibliographies.

Second, the tool will expand the dataset back to 1913, adding sixty years to the current dataset. By having the bibliography stretch over an entire century, we will gain a much better picture of the discipline's development. Moreover, the Sartonian vision of a complete cumulative Bibliography will be finally achieved in digital form.

These two changes alone—expanding the audience and extending the content—will add

significant value to the existing *Isis* Bibliography, but the project goes beyond this. These changes provide the foundation for a more innovative and visionary research tool, one that does far more than give researchers bibliographic citations. The *Isis* Research Platform will incorporate basic functionality expected of all twenty-first century research tools, including user accounts, social tagging, and linked data. In addition, it will take scholarly research into new areas with complex data analytics, and even full-text access where it is possible and feasible.

The *Isis* Platform will be designed to allow collaborative work of all kinds. Users will be able to create accounts so that they can save and share bibliographical resources, add public comments, and point out corrections. Users will also be able to add citations to their own personal account, make them accessible to others, and suggest they be incorporated into the curated dataset. The Platform will even give users the option to add their own tags to entries and create classification structures that organize the data better for their own research. All of these will be shareable on the system.

The collaborative nature of the Bibliography will make it possible to bring together a team of editors to help curate and build special subjects within the field. These subject editors will be able

## The *Isis* Research Platform, cont.

to manage areas of the dataset, using all of the tools mentioned above. I believe that by giving specialists and working groups more control over the data curation, it will be possible to make the tool more useful for all scholars, helping them build and sustain their own research and work with each other to strengthen the subfields.

The Platform will have the technical capabilities to do advanced analytics on the dataset itself. With a carefully designed interface, researchers will not only be able to better locate citations of material for their research, but that they will be able to better see where their results lie within the larger “data space.” In other words, it will give scholars new tools to understand the historiography of particular areas of study. This should make it easier to find similar results, understand the limits of the dataset, compare works more easily with each other, and see patterns in subjects, publication, and authorship that are often hard to detect in existing bibliographical databases.

The expectations of digital research are moving quickly, and most researchers want to have access to full-text resources. The Platform will have document storage and sharing capabilities so that, to the extent that it is legally permissible, users will be able to get access to works old and new. Where those works are not directly accessible, users will be pointed to sources where they can be purchased or borrowed.

One of the most important aspects of this project will be its integration with datasets of many different kinds. Linked open data is a growing movement in digital information curation. We will be taking full advantage of existing work in this area to make the *Isis* dataset compliant with library and preservation standards so that linking of this sort will be possible. We expect to be able to work with geographical databases, subject and person authority files, and even major open access content providers like Wikipedia and the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. We anticipate cross-linking among different sources.

One of the most important elements of the project is the standardization of the data into strict formats because those rigorous formats make it widely useable. We will make the dataset available to users via APIs. By doing this we give anyone with coding expertise the ability to interact directly with the dataset outside of the Platform itself. In other words, the data in the Bibliography can be utilized by others for purposes that we have not anticipated.

The Sloan grant has provided funding to encourage this sort of use. During the two-year term of the grant, we will hold a programming day (better known to many as a “hackathon”) at one of the HSS Meetings, a day in which we will invite historians and programmers to build tools or analytical instruments that make use of the *Isis* data. The hackathon will promote new kinds of

digital scholarship and encourage collaboration among people with different specialties to look for new ways to use the *Isis* dataset. We will be giving small grants to the winners of the day-long event so that they can develop the tool they have produced more fully and make it publically accessible.

Even as we develop the Bibliography in this new direction, there are no plans to stop producing the annual print Bibliographies. In fact, I am currently working on a way to make the annual print volumes more accessible to people who do not have *Isis* subscriptions. I am partnering with the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin and OU to use their open access publication platform, Edition Open Sources, for this new endeavor. Non-subscribers will be able to download and order their own copies of the Bibliography using a print-on-demand system.

Those interested in following the developments and in providing input along the way should visit the *Isis* CB website, which has a new web address: [Isisbibliography.org](http://Isisbibliography.org). Every week or two, my staff and I, along with occasional guest writers, will be providing news and commentary about the *Isis* Bibliography and the *Isis* Research Platform. Please join us.

## MEMBER NEWS

**Rachel Ankeny** has been promoted to Full Professor at the School of History and Politics at the University of Adelaide.

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**Carlo Artemi's** (Scientific High School "E. Majorana" Orvieto, Italy) book *Per capire qualcosa di Fisica contemporanea (To Understand Something on Contemporary Physics)*, has been published in Kindle format at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and is waiting for publication through a traditional press. It's practically a "trip," a popularizing book written for non-specialists as an introduction to physics from the basis of classic physics to the latest attempts to build a "theory of everything."

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**Harold Burstyn** (Syracuse University) completed a three-year term on the Advisory Committee to the Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation at The Smithsonian Institution last fall. He is about to begin his second (and final) three-year term as a member of the National Conference of Lawyers and Scientists, a joint venture of the American Bar Association and the AAAS. He co-edited the fall issue of *The SciTech Lawyer*, a publication of the Science and Technology Section of the ABA. The issue's theme: "Can the Courts Understand Science?". His review of Stuart Banner, *American Property: A History of How, Why, and What We Own* (Cambridge, 2011), appeared in the October/November issue of *The Federal Lawyer*.

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**Hasok Chang** (University of Cambridge) won the Fernando Gil International Prize for his book, *Is Water H<sub>2</sub>O?*, published by Springer Verlag in 2012. The announcement of the prize, with a description of his book, can be found at: <http://fernando-gil.org.pt/en/nominees/2013/winner/>.

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**Jamie Cohen-Cole** (George Washington University) has recently published *The Open Mind: Cold War Politics and the Sciences of Human Nature* with the University of Chicago Press.

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**Michael R. Dove** (Yale University) recently published *The Anthropology of Climate Change: A Historical Reader* with Wiley/Blackwell. It places the current debate about climate change in the context of five millennia of human thinking about the relationship between climate and society.

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**Jim Fleming's** (Colby College) new book *Toxic Airs: Body, Place, Planet in Historical Perspective* co-edited with Ann Johnson is now available from the University of Pittsburgh Press: <http://www.upress.pitt.edu/BookDetails.aspx?bookId=36392>.

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**Chris Graney** (Jefferson Community and Technical College) and Vince Heuser have organized a radio program "Science and Catholicism" on WLCR am 1040 out of Louisville,

Kentucky which includes stories on the history of science intended for a popular audience.

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**Luciana Martins'** (Birkbeck, University of London) new book *Photography and Documentary Film in the Making of Modern Brazil* (Manchester University Press, 2013) explores what is distinctive about the visual representation of Brazil in an era of modernization, also attending to the significance of the different technical properties of film and photography for the writing of new histories of visual technologies.

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**Jeff Oaks** (University of Indianapolis) was a visiting professor in March at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris where he gave several talks on medieval algebra. His book, co-edited with Mahdi Abdeljaouad, *Al-Lubāb fī sharḥ Talkhīṣ a' māl al-ḥisāb (The Essential Commentary on [Ibn al-Bannā' s] Condensed Book on the Operations of Arithmetic)* by 'Abd al-'Azīz ibn 'Alī ibn Dāwud al-Hawārī al-Miṣrātī was published in Tunis by the Association Tunisienne de Didactique des Mathématiques in 2013. It is a critical edition of an early 14th c. Arabic arithmetic book. An English translation and commentary will be published separately.

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**Abena Dove Osseo-Asare's** (University of California, Berkeley) new book, *Bitter Roots: The Search for Healing Plants in Africa* (University of Chicago Press, 2014), is now available.

**MEMBER NEWS,** CONT.

**Sandra Rebok** recently began research at the Huntington Library in California with an EU Marie Curie Grant for the next three years. Her book, *Jefferson and Humboldt: A Transatlantic Friendship of the Enlightenment* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2014) will be published in the Spring.

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**Grace Yen Shen's** (University of Toronto) new book, *Unearthing the Nation: Modern Geology and Nationalism in Republican China* (University of Chicago Press, 2014), is now available.

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**David Spanagel's** (Worcester Polytechnic Institute) forthcoming book, *DeWitt Clinton & Amos Eaton: Geology and Power in Early New York* from Johns Hopkins University Press will be available in April.

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**Hallam Stevens'** (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore) new book, *Life Out of Sequence: A Data-Driven History of Bioinformatics* (University of Chicago Press, 2014), is now available.

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**Jeff Sturchio** is now in his third year as Senior Partner at Rabin Martin, a Manhattan-based global health strategy consulting firm. Together with Lou Galambos (Johns Hopkins University), he recently co-edited a collection of essays on

*Noncommunicable Diseases in the Developing World: Addressing Gaps in Global Policy and Research* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013).

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**Richard Weikart** (California State University, Stanislaus) recently published three essays: "The Role of Darwinism in Nazi Racial Thought," *German Studies Review* 36 (2013): 537-556; "Die Rolle der Evolutionsethik in der NS-Propaganda und im weltanschaulichen NS-Unterricht," in *Ideologie und Moral im Nationalsozialismus*, eds. Wolfgang Bialas and Lothar Fritze (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2014), pp. 193-207; and "A History of the Impact of Darwinism on Natural Rights and Bioethics," in *Darwinian Science and Classical Liberalism: Biological and Political Theories in Tension?*, ed. Steve Dilley (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2013), pp. 197-213.

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**Michael Pettit, Mark Solovey, and Alexandra Rutherford** have recently been awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Connections Grant to hold a working conference entitled "Social Science, Ideology, and Public Policy in the United States, 1960 to the Present" in Toronto next fall. Together with invited scholars from Europe, the United States, and Canada, they will examine how social scientists applied their expertise to prominent issues including poverty, mental health, research ethics, educational reform, gender issues, sexuality,

race relations, crime, and economic growth. The workshop will illuminate how American social science became involved in ideological struggles and associated public policy controversies over the last fifty years.

**HSS Welcomes Dr. Jessica Baron**

Those of you who follow HSS on Facebook will have seen that the Society recently hired its first ever Director of Media and Social Engagement (aka Empress of Engagement): Jessica Baron <https://www.facebook.com/HistoryOfScienceSociety>.



Jessica recently completed her PhD in the History and Philosophy of Science Program at the University of Notre Dame with a dissertation on Florence Nightingale's public health and public works projects in British India (working with Chris Hamlin). She previously served as Managing Editor for the journal *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science* and is currently sharing her talents with Notre Dame's Reilly Center for Science, Technology, and Values.

Her position with HSS is a quarter-time slot (10 hours per week). She will help the Society develop a social media policy, foster public engagement, and generally serve as the master of HSS's

## MEMBER NEWS, CONT.

“Twitterverse” and Facebook nation. During the short time she has worked with us, our number of followers on Twitter grew by 70% after her first month and has swelled another 40% over the past two months (a total of 1044 followers as of early March). Our Facebook presence has also increased dramatically and more and more members (and nonmembers) are interacting with the Society. And even though these numbers are gratifying, we still are working on the “so what?” question, i.e. What does it mean to have more followers on Twitter and Facebook?, and we are thinking hard about ways to integrate social media into our annual meetings, seeing it as a complementary strategy and not as a substitute for face-to-face contact.

Jessica is deeply interested in science education (she has served on HSS’s Committee on Education and is currently teaching a course on medicine and public health in US history), communication, and gender issues and is also inordinately proud of her knowledge of science-fiction television shows. She hosts the Science Café in South Bend, Indiana and is actively engaged in the community. You can reach her at [jessica@hssonline.org](mailto:jessica@hssonline.org).

### The Forum for History of Human Science Announces 2013 Award Winners and Call for 2014 Nominations

The Forum for History of Human Science (FHHS), an HSS interest group, is pleased to announce the winners of its 2013 awards, presented at the HSS

meeting in Boston on 23 November 2013. Find further information, all prize citations, etc., at <http://www.fhhs.org>.

The 2013 FHHS Article Award went to Erik Linstrum (University of Michigan), for his article “The Politics of Psychology in the British Empire, 1898-1960,” *Past and Present* 215 (2012): 195-233.

The 2013 FHHS/JHBS John C. Burnham Early Career Award went to Peter Sachs Collopy (University of Pennsylvania) for his submission “Race Relationships: Collegiality and Demarcation in Physical Anthropology.”

FHHS has also issued the following call for submissions for this year’s prizes:

#### 2014 FHHS/JHBS John C. Burnham Early Career Award

The Forum for History of Human Science invites submissions for the FHHS/JHBS John C. Burnham Early Career Award for 2014. This award is intended for scholars, including graduate students, who do not hold a tenured position and are not more than seven years past the Ph.D.

Unpublished manuscripts dealing with any aspect of the history of the human sciences are welcome.

The winning article will be announced at the annual History of Science Society meeting, and can then be submitted to the *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* with FHHS endorsement,

to undergo the regular review process. When the article is accepted for publication, the publisher of JHBS will announce the award and issue a US \$500 honorarium. The manuscript cannot be submitted to any other journal and still qualify for this award.

Please send your manuscript and curriculum vitae (PDF format) by **30 June 2014** to Nadine Weidman ([weidman@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:weidman@fas.harvard.edu)).

#### 2014 FHHS Dissertation Award

The Forum for History of Human Science invites submissions for the 2014 FHHS Dissertation Award, a prize of US \$250 for the best recent doctoral dissertation on some aspect of the history of the human sciences. The competition takes place during even-numbered years. The winner of the prize will be announced at the annual History of Science Society meeting.

Entries are encouraged from authors in any discipline, so long as the work is related to the history of the human sciences, broadly construed. To be eligible, the dissertation must be in English and have been formally filed within the three years previous to the year of the award (2011, 2012, 2013).

Submit the dissertation and curriculum vitae (PDF format) by **30 June 2014** to the FHHS Dropbox. To get access to the Dropbox, email Nadine Weidman ([weidman@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:weidman@fas.harvard.edu)).

## MEMBER NEWS, CONT.

**Historian of Science in the House**

On 17 January 2014, **Robert Proctor** was invited to the White House to celebrate the release of the new U.S. Surgeon General's report, timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the original 1964 document. Robert was a Senior Scientific Reviewer for the report, which concludes that 21 million people have died from smoking since that first report, and that the tobacco epidemic "was initiated and has been sustained by the aggressive strategies of the tobacco industry, which has deliberately misled the public on the risks of smoking cigarettes."

Robert's work is cited over thirty times in the new report, including his conclusion that the cigarette "is not just dangerous but *unreasonably* dangerous, killing half its long term users." Robert has also continued to testify as expert witness against the industry in both in the U.S. and in Canada, where questions of "who knew what and when" is often at the center of what the court wants to learn. Robert has also finished a new book (with Gary Cross) titled "Packaged Pleasures: How Technology & Marketing Revolutionized Desire," to be published by Chicago later this year. A French edition of his *Golden Holocaust* is scheduled to appear later this spring.

**Ernst Homburg Wins Prestigious ACS Prize**

*Peter Morris*

The History of Chemistry Division of the American Chemical Society is pleased to announce Professor **Ernst Homburg** as the winner of its 2014 HIST award. This international award for contributions to the history of chemistry has been granted since 1956 under sequential sponsorships by the Dexter Chemical Company, the Edelstein Foundation, the Chemical Heritage Foundation, and the History of Chemistry Division.

The event, consisting of a monetary presentation, a plaque, a symposium honoring the work of Professor Homburg, and a lecture by the awardee, will take place on 12 August 2014 at the American Chemical Society's annual meeting in San Francisco, California. Homburg was born in 1952 in Venlo, The Netherlands. After studying at the Protestant Lyceum, he studied at the Municipal University, Amsterdam, where he received a M.Sc. in chemistry and at the University of Nijmegen where he received a Doctoral degree in History. From 1972 to 1993 he served at various posts in history and technology



at the Universities of Amsterdam, Groningen, Nijmegen, and Eindhoven. From 1993 to present he has served as Assistant Professor, then Professor, in the Department of History at the University of Maastricht, The Netherlands.

With his broad background, Dr. Homburg is one of the leaders in the history of modern chemical industry and technology. He has been involved as a co-organizer and writer in two multi-volume book series on the history of European technology in the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as a multitude of other books and papers. He has been president of a number of organizations that have promoted the history of technology and science throughout Europe and other parts of the world. As an influential speaker, Dr. Homburg is known for his conciseness and fresh viewpoints, with an ability to change viewpoints without any display of ego or discourtesy.

**HSS Sponsors Panama Canal Session at AHA 2014**

*Christine Keiner, Rochester Institute of Technology*

With the imprimatur of the History of Science Society, several HSS members had the opportunity to present their work at this year's American Historical Association meeting in Washington, D.C. The session, entitled "The Nature of a Transoceanic Route: One Hundred Years of Panama and its Canal," examined the history of the iconic waterway in relation to some of the diverse social and ecological landscapes of

## MEMBER NEWS, CONT.

the Isthmus of Panama. The panelists, a group of junior, mid-level, and senior scholars from disciplinary backgrounds that include history, anthropology, and science and technology studies, focused on the following questions: What happened to the region's human and non-human communities following the excavation of the canal and the subsequent transoceanic movement of water, ships, and organisms? Moreover, if the "conquest of nature" narrative that still prevails in popular conceptions of the Panama Canal is the hegemonic story of U.S. science and technology vis-à-vis the isthmian environment, what is the counter-story?

In light of the Canal's centennial anniversary in 2014, the panel examined four interrelated subjects linking cultural practices and ecological zones in Panama with the history of the United States: 1) naturalist exploration and social displacement in Panama in the context of U.S. ecological intervention; 2) the emerging field of tropical biology in the Americas; 3) U.S. leisure travel in the circum-Caribbean; and 4) nuclear and ecological debates in the age of Cold War geopolitics.

As the presentations demonstrated, the Panama Canal is much more than a "big ditch" carved out of the tropics, and the existing U.S.-based literature on the canal must transcend its narrow focus on the construction period. The first panelist, **Ashley Carse**, an NSF Postdoctoral

Fellow in Science, Technology and Society at the University of Virginia, introduced the new "waterworld" of the Panama Canal region that emerged as the waters rose between 1910 and 1914, forming the Canal's massive Gatun Lake reservoir. Carse provided an anthropologically-thick description of this changing world, where forested valleys became streams, rivers became sluggish swamps, hills became islands, and new ecological nuisances thrived within the hybrid ecosystem. The next speaker, Assistant Professor **Megan Raby** of the University of Texas at Austin, expanded upon this theme to explore how Barro Colorado Island, in Gatun Lake, became a wildlife sanctuary and destination for American biologists who wanted to study "untouched" rainforest. Ironically, scientists remade the island's landscape, even as their encounter with Panamanian nature altered their understandings of tropical ecology.

Building on Carse's and Raby's work, the third panelist, graduate student **Blake Scott** of the University of Texas at Austin, showed how changing social and ecological conditions on the Isthmus not only invited U.S. scientists and soldiers, but also leisure travelers. The route of U.S. imperialism through the Caribbean became a route of leisure for affluent tourists. Indeed, all of these interconnected particularities—the new hybrid environment of the Canal, the emergence of tropical biology, and the boom in tourism—depended on the U.S.'s unchecked power in the

region. RIT Associate Professor **Christine Keiner** concluded the panel by providing a glimpse of the decolonization of U.S. influence abroad. In the 1960s the U.S. government spent considerable capital investigating the possibility of replacing the aging canal with a non-lock waterway, but Smithsonian scientists and Panamanian nationalists succeeded in turning the emerging lessons of marine biotic interchange against U.S. foreign policy.

The presenters would like to thank the chair, Pamela Henson of the Smithsonian Institution Archives, for keeping the panel on track and, most importantly, for her years of generous guidance. All of us seek to emphasize unjustly-overlooked factors regarding the contested role of natural science, environmental knowledge, or environmentally-oriented perceptions in the century-long Panama Canal project. To that end, archival research on natural science and scientists on the isthmus, particularly those associated with the Smithsonian Institution—an organization with deep roots in Panama—is crucial. We are very grateful to Pam for facilitating these studies.

We would also like to thank the History of Science Society for sponsoring our session at the AHA, an important venue for expanding the appeal of our sub-discipline. This account is based on the panel's AHA abstract proposal, which Blake Scott authored and organized.

## MEMBER NEWS, CONT.

**AHA Session: “Curating the Anthropocene: Debate and Discussion” Discusses the Role of the Anthropocene in Museum Practice**

This roundtable discussion aimed to ground the diverse thinking, rhetoric, and arguments regarding the idea of the Anthropocene and how it plays out in museum practice. The session aimed at the question of when something called the Anthropocene began (the agricultural, industrial, or green revolutions) and how the idea relates to manipulation of the environment by humans. The session was organized and chaired by James Rodger Fleming (Colby College, Science, Technology, and Society Program) and included presentations by Roger D. Launius (Senior Curator, Division of Space History, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution), Nina Möllers (Curator, Deutsches Museum, Munich), and Jennifer Newell (Curator of Pacific Ethnography, American Museum of Natural History). Presentations were followed by a moderated discussion with the audience. Presentation titles and abstracts can be found below:

**“Telling the Story of the Anthropocene, or Not, in Major American History Museums”**

*Roger D. Launius*

One would think that the Anthropocene—a term characterizing the influence of human behavior on the Earth—would be a natural topic for historical

museums. In contrast to a major effort to tell the story of the Anthropocene at the Deutsches Museum in Munich, Germany, no corresponding effort exists among that museum’s closest counterpart, the Smithsonian Institution. Despite some efforts toward studying the Anthropocene, especially a scientific symposium dedicated to the subject at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History, the actual collection of artifacts and their display in an exhibition has not yet even been attempted. What might explain this situation? I will offer three possible reasons. First, the idea of the Anthropocene is a term of relatively recent vintage and it takes time to mount an exhibition on the subject. Second, funding for such an exhibition would be difficult to obtain from a myriad of sources both public and private. The need to raise something approaching \$10 million for any major exhibition requires considerable commitment and ingenuity in developing and carrying out such an effort. Third, what I call the Enola Gay Effect often hampers efforts to pursue cutting-edge, potentially controversial exhibitions. Anthropogenic climate change is one of the most controversial topics in modern America, and such an exhibition would require addressing this issue head on. It is not even a part of a current exhibit at the National Air and Space Museum, “Looking at Earth,” which by rights should discuss environmental history as contributed to by air- and space-based observation and measurement platforms.

**“Nature and Technology in the Anthropocene—Curating a Special Exhibition for the Deutsches Museum in Munich, Germany”**

*Nina Möllers*

The concept of the Anthropocene as geological era and new frame of thinking about humans’ role on Earth holds many opportunities, but it also challenges the way we think about museums and their role in society. Analogous to its calling for interdisciplinary sciences and research, the Anthropocene demands a new understanding of museum types and turfs, calling for a bridging of historically grown boundaries among museums of technology, history, art and natural sciences. On a practical level, curating the Anthropocene means that museum curators, collection managers, educators and designers need to tackle issues and topics on a vastly extended temporal and global scale. New concepts of collecting and exhibiting are needed in an age of globalization and digitalization, some of which are bound to meet with fierce resistance, as they seem to call for a complete reorganization of the museum landscape. The Anthropocene also “fluidifies” the boundaries among past, present and future and problematizes the museum not just as storage of knowledge, but rather as an active producer and negotiator of knowledge in the Anthropocene as an era of the here and now, connected to the geological past and future. Finally, for museums

## MEMBER NEWS, CONT.

of technology in particular, the Anthropocene opens up the discussion about the presentation of technologies in their full ambivalence—as part of many environmental problems and possible solutions. The contribution to the roundtable discussion focuses on these aspects by presenting the approach and concept chosen for a special exhibition covering 1,200 square meters (ca. 13,000 square feet), opening in October 2014 at the Deutsches Museum in Munich, Germany.

### “Collections and Communities—Voices from the Climate Changed Pacific”

*Jennifer Newell*

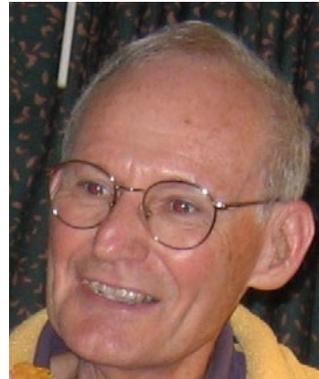
People across the Pacific have been using YouTube and other social media to ensure their concerns about climate change are heard internationally. While these expressions are ensuring islanders' perspectives are being noticed, museums have the capacity to bring these voices vividly, and in a cohesive way, to new audiences. This presentation outlines a community-based series of workshops created by the American Museum of Natural History and the Museum of Samoa around the cultural impacts of climate change. These workshops provide a forum for community members in remote Savai'i (Samoa) and in the Pacific diaspora in New York to discuss, document and disseminate responses, thus enabling audiences in places not yet experiencing obvious environmental change an opportunity to make useful connections of imagination.

## In Memoriam

### Clark A. Elliott

22 January 1941 –  
1 February 2014

Clark A. Elliott, a long-time member of the History of Science Society and a pioneer in the history of American science, passed away earlier this year. Having served for many years as Archivist at Harvard University and Librarian of the Burndy Library, Clark was also the co-editor of *Osiris 14, Commemorative Practices in Science: Historical Perspectives on the Politics of Collective Memory* (1999) as well as one of the founders of the Forum for the History of Science in America. Because **a recent edition of the HSS Newsletter** featured a profile of Clark's life and work, we asked HSS members to send us their memories of Clark, some of which appear below.



#### *Member Remembrances:*

“I first met Clark Elliott in the late 1960s, while we were both graduate students at Case Western Reserve University. Case Institute of Technology and Western Reserve University—whose campuses had abutted each other for over 50 years—had just merged, though cross-registration had long enabled students at each institution to benefit from what was available

on the other side of a not-very-well-maintained short fence. Clark had already completed two Master's Degrees at Western Reserve—one in American history and the other in Library & Information Sciences—and when we met he was well on his way toward completing his Ph.D. in Library & Information Sciences. But unlike many of his Library Science classmates, he was writing his dissertation in history of science, under the direction of Robert E. Schofield, one of the intellectual stars of the Case Program in History of Science & Technology, in which I was enrolled.

I was about two years behind Clark in my graduate career when we met, and the more I learned about Clark's bibliographic studies of the first generation of American scientists, the more impressed I was with them. His approach to his subject—enriched by his Library Science background—enabled him to paint a portrait of the earliest generations of scientific practitioners in what later became the United States. The expanded volumes that emerged from his dissertation—most notably his 1979 *Biographical Dictionary of American Science, The 17th through the 19th Centuries*, but also his 1990 *Biographical Index to American Science: The 17th Century to 1920*, and his 1996 chronology and research guide to the *History of Science in the United States*—all did much to suggest to his history of science classmates and colleagues just how valuable such a broadly-conceived approach to our discipline could be.

## In Memoriam

On earning his Ph.D., Clark became Assistant Professor in the School of Library & Information Science at Simmons College in Boston, but soon moved on to become Assistant (later Associate) Curator of the Harvard University Archives, a position he held with distinction for many decades. Speaking personally, one of the many reasons my wife Charlene and I were pleased to settle in Worcester was that our location allowed us to resume our friendship with Clark and his wife Priscilla. This warm relationship continued unabated until Clark's recent death, and of course we remain close friends with Priscilla. With Clark's death all historians of science have lost an able colleague, and many of us have also lost a good friend."

– *Michael M. Sokal*

"Clark was a stalwart treasure of a colleague, someone who was always thoughtful, steady, kind, and deeply dedicated to scholarship and to the broad education of those coming of age in the history of science... I recall when he came to HSS meeting with Priscilla at his side and stayed remarkably interested in all that the rest of us were doing as he went through the book exhibit. We have missed him in recent years and that last HSS visit is a memory that will stay with many of us."

– *Sally Gregory Kohlstedt*

"Clark was both a great archivist and a fine scholar in his own right. There are countless publications in the history of American science which rested, in one way or another, on his knowledge of the manuscript collections in the history of science. He was so supportive of the work of all of us, and not only through his publications. Tonight, the community is much poorer."

– *Marc Rothenberg*

"A great loss to the community. Clark was a good friend to many of us and loyal supporter of history of science. He will be missed."

– *Stephen Weldon*

"I met Clark in the late 80s at the very first HSS meeting I attended. As a new post-doc in history, not history of science, I didn't know anyone and was pretty much on my own. I delivered a paper that had generated no comment or question and I was feeling very uncertain as to whether this Society was a place I belonged. Then, Clark came up and spoke with me and I experienced as so many others have, his kindness, intelligence and his genuine interest in my ideas. That was the first of many conversations I had with Clark at annual meetings of the HSS and of the Forum for the History of Science in America and I can say unequivocally that I would not be involved in HSS today were it not for Clark.

In the early '90s, without a stable faculty job in sight, I was forced to look for alternatives to a traditional academic career. At that time, I doubted that I could fit in with the HSS or any learned society under those conditions. Clark showed me that you could be a historian of science and a librarian and also that you could be a librarian and an active member of the Society. With his encouragement, I followed his example in both respects and continue to regard his career as a model I wish I could emulate. I succeeded him as editor of the *Newsletter* for the Forum for the History of Science in America, a role I was doubly pleased to adopt because it entailed continuing Clark's work. It was my very good fortune to see Clark at an HSS meeting a few years ago (I think it was Montreal, 2010) and to reminisce about our twenty-year association; I took that opportunity to tell him how much his support and example have meant to me at critical times in my career."

– *Daniel Goldstein*

## NEWS FROM THE PROFESSION

### Wendy A. Naus Appointed Executive Director of COSSA

The Consortium of Social Science Associations (COSSA), with which HSS has been a long-time partner, has announced the appointment of Wendy A. Naus as the new COSSA Executive Director. Ms. Naus assumed her position on 1 January 2014, replacing Howard J. Silver, who retired from COSSA at the end of 2013 after 30 years of service to the social science community.



A seasoned federal relations professional, Ms. Naus comes to COSSA from Lewis-Burke Associates LLC, a Washington, D.C. lobbying firm where since 2004 she represented the federal policy and research interests of national scientific associations and leading U.S. research universities. Over the last decade, Ms. Naus has worked to promote federal policies and legislation important to social and behavioral scientists, advocated for sustained funding for social science research and training programs at the National Science Foundation, the

National Institutes of Health, and other federal agencies, and engaged with Congress, federal agencies, and the broader scientific community to promote the value of federally-funded social science. In addition to her policy expertise in social science, Ms. Naus' knowledge extends to federal policy and research programs related to biomedical research and environmental science across the federal government.

Ms. Naus has achieved several legislative, regulatory, and profile-raising successes on behalf of clients, including most recently the creation and funding of a new \$10 million training grants program at the Department of Health and Human Services aimed at increasing the number of competently-prepared health professionals working in the area of mental health. In addition, Ms. Naus has worked to engage scientists directly in the public policy process by facilitating grassroots advocacy campaigns and identifying opportunities for researchers to serve as experts, such as opportunities to provide testimony and serve on influential federal boards and committees. In addition, she has designed and implemented countless advocacy training programs focused on assisting researchers in developing messages that will resonate with policy audiences about the importance of their science.

"I'm thrilled to be joining COSSA at this critical point in time for social science," says Ms. Naus. "COSSA's greatest asset is its members, which

includes some of the best minds across social science fields. Advocacy for social and behavioral science requires that we harness that intellectual capital to make the best possible case for the value of our science to policy audiences." In her new role, Ms. Naus will represent the collective federal policy interests of COSSA's more than 100 member institutions and organizations before Congress, federal agencies, and the broader scientific community, and articulate to these audiences the value of social science in tackling issues of national importance. A native of Buffalo, New York, Ms. Naus holds a BA in political science and urban studies from Canisius College, graduating magna cum laude.

COSSA began in the late 1960s as an informal group of social science associations that met to exchange information and discuss common problems. In May 1981, the disciplinary associations, responding to disproportionately large budget cuts proposed by the new Reagan Administration for the social and behavioral sciences at the National Science Foundation (NSF), used the informal COSSA collaboration to establish a Washington-based advocacy effort. The HSS has been a member organization of COSSA for many years.

With strong support from the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) and from major universities, the Consortium was launched in May 1981. Recruited from the SSRC staff,

## NEWS FROM THE PROFESSION, CONT.

historian Roberta Balstad Miller led the defense of these sciences. Successful in mitigating the budget cuts, COSSA was incorporated in 1982 as a 501(c)(6) organization by ten disciplinary-based social/behavioral science associations. For further information, go to <http://www.cossa.org/index.shtml>.

### ANB Seeking Nominations

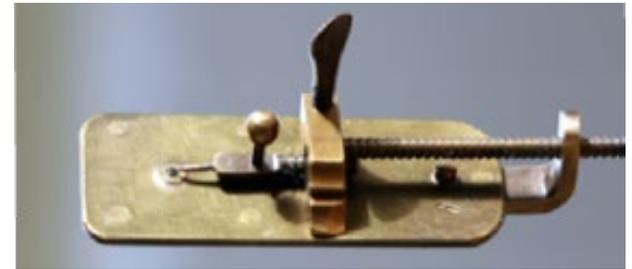
The *American National Biography*, published by Oxford University Press under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies, is seeking nominations of significant figures in United States history for inclusion in the online edition of the reference work. We would like to see nominations of scientists, and we wish to bolster the coverage of recently deceased figures as well as add people who were not included in the print volumes or recent online updates. We are particularly interested in including subjects who would increase the overall diversity of the ANB.

To express interest in writing an entry or to nominate subjects for potential inclusion in the ANB, please send an email to [anb@oup.com](mailto:anb@oup.com). In addition, if you have a field of expertise and are interested in writing an entry, let us know and we will try to find a suitable subject for you. To learn more about writing an ANB entry, please visit <https://www.anb.org/contributors.html>. If you do not have access to the ANB, you may search

here to find out who is already included: [http://oxfordindex.oup.com/browse?product\\_0=ANB](http://oxfordindex.oup.com/browse?product_0=ANB). To search for an individual, enter his or her name in the top right search field, hit return, and then update your results by scrolling down and checking the box for “American National Biography” on the right side of the screen.

### About the ANB:

The *American National Biography* offers portraits of more than 18,700 men and women—from all eras and walks of life—whose lives have shaped the nation. Published in 24 volumes in 1999, the *American National Biography* won instant acclaim as the new authority in American biographies. Winner of the American Library Association’s Dartmouth Medal as the best reference work of the year, the ANB now serves readers in thousands of school, public, and academic libraries around the world. The publication of the online edition makes the ANB even more useful as a dynamic source of information—updated semi-annually, with new entries and revisions of previously published entries to enhance their accuracy and currency.



### Top Five *Isis* Article Winner

Members may recall that Chicago Press asked us to name the top five articles in *Isis* in celebration of last year’s *Isis* centennial. UCP received many entries, which were eligible for a drawing to win a replica of a Leeuwenhoek microscope (in support of the Museum Boerhaave). We wish to congratulate Giancarlo Truffa of Milan whose name was chosen. To see which articles you voted as best, please go to: <http://www.press.uchicago.edu/journals/isis/topfive.html?journal=isis>.

### News from Darwin Symposium

Donald Forsdyke (Queen’s University, Canada) reports that the poetry of Charles Darwin’s research associate, George John Romanes, is now likely to receive more attention through the work of John David Pleins, a professor of Religious Studies at Santa Clara University (Bloomsbury Press, forthcoming). Forsdyke and Pleins both contributed to a symposium “Science and Seeking: Rethinking the God Question in the Lab, Cosmos, and Classroom,” held at Santa Clara on February

## NEWS FROM THE PROFESSION, CONT.

28th. Forsdyke spoke on “The Lineage of Evolutionary Biology and George John Romanes.” Pleins spoke on “The Loss of Unbelief and George John Romanes.” For details see: <http://www.scu.edu/ic/bannan/2013-14/winter.cfm?b=474&c=16625>. Video-tapes of the talks may be accessed at: <http://www.scu.edu/ic/publications/videos.cfm>.

descriptions of well-known individuals possibly affected by a disease may elucidate the medical basis for any characteristic features that they exhibited. Articles should therefore appeal to both a general medical and non-medical audience.

For this special issue, we invite submissions that deal with exciting

reports regarding genetic and non-infectious diseases. Topics include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Cases of genetic diseases and their occurrences amongst well known individuals or in literature and the arts
2. Early descriptions of genetic disorders, including presentation of index cases

3. History of genetic diseases, including reviews of early scientific literature

Please refer to the journal’s Guide for Authors for specific advice on how to prepare a paper. Papers must be submitted electronically via the Elsevier Editorial System (EES) site for the journal—

### IHPST Newsletters

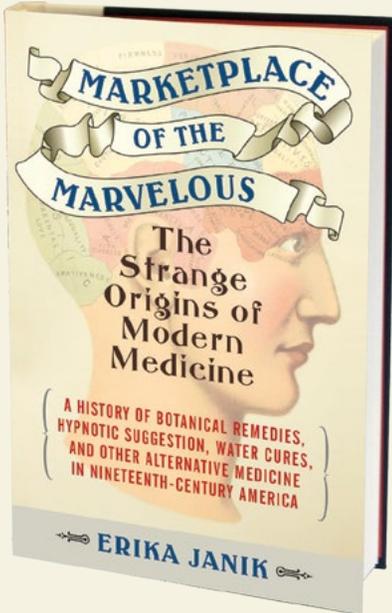
The International History and Philosophy of Science Teaching Group’s February newsletter is available online at <http://ihpst.net/newsletters/>.

### CFP: Special Issue of *Gene: Historical Medical Genetics II*

The history surrounding genetic disorders will always be of interest to both the medical community and the general public. It is important to appreciate how clinical discoveries were first made and reported, as this may provide insight into our current understanding of various diseases and conditions. Furthermore,

## BOTANICAL REMEDIES, HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION, WATER CURES, AND MORE

How nineteenth-century medical fads influenced modern medicine

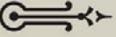


“Astronomy was preceded by astrology. Modern medical science was preceded by snake oil and homeopathy. **Janik tells a compelling story, in graceful prose, of what happens when error, greed, and fashion rule the marketplace of medical ideas.** What Lewis Thomas called “The Youngest Science”—medicine based on cell and molecular biology—is young, indeed, and this fine book reminds us of how far we have come.” —**GERALD WEISSMANN, MD**, author of *Epigenetics in the Age of Twitter*

“An engaging romp through more than a century of irregular medicine, from the kookiness of phrenologists and mesmerists to the excessive claims of snake-oil salesmen and Thomsonian botanical practitioners. Erika Janik explores these medical byways with both skepticism and respect, showing how their often-derided practitioners were pioneers (at times unwittingly) in the exploration of placebo effects, psychotherapy, the importance of exercise, disease prevention, and patient engagement in their own care—elements that have been gradually absorbed into mainstream medical practice. It’s a fun read and eye-opening from start to finish.” —**DAVID HELLERSTEIN, MD**, professor of psychiatry, Columbia University Medical Center, and author of *Heal Your Brain*




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## NEWS FROM THE PROFESSION, CONT.

<http://ees.elsevier.com/gen> as indicated in the timelines (select SI Historical Medical Genetics II). Closing date for submissions is **31 May 2014**. Any inquiries regarding the content of papers should be submitted to Dr. Christopher Murgatroyd ([C.Murgatroyd@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:C.Murgatroyd@mmu.ac.uk)).

### Call for Proposals and Manuscripts in History and Philosophy of Science

The University of Pittsburgh Press, in a partnership supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in an ongoing initiative to support innovative research, is seeking new books to significantly expand its list in history and philosophy of science: to amplify its strong backlist in philosophy of science and dramatically expand its list into fresh areas of promising historical research. Historical titles that are globally informed and that reach across traditional disciplinary boundaries are especially welcome. The Press invites proposals that explore scientific thought and practice in any culture during any era.

Funded by a major grant from the Mellon Foundation, this expansion is undertaken in partnership with Pitt's Department of History and Philosophy of Science and the Department of History's World History Center. In addition to producing books, the Press and its partners are cooperating in a number of activities to bolster

the acquisitions program, including guest lectures, conferences, and fellowships.

Both experienced and new authors are strongly encouraged to submit proposals for new books and potential book series. If you would like to make a submission, have suggestions, or need further information on the initiative, please contact Abby Collier, acquisitions editor, at [acollier@upress.pitt.edu](mailto:acollier@upress.pitt.edu) or 412-383-3174.

Additional information on manuscript submission is available on our website: <http://www.upress.pitt.edu/forAuthors.aspx>.

### New Book Series: European Studies in Philosophy of Science

*Editors: Dennis Dieks* ([d.dieks@uu.nl](mailto:d.dieks@uu.nl)), *Maria Carla Galavotti* ([mariacarla.galavotti@unibo.it](mailto:mariacarla.galavotti@unibo.it)), *Wenceslao J. Gonzalez* ([wencglez@udc.es](mailto:wencglez@udc.es))

This new series, published by Springer, results from a joint effort of EPSA—European Philosophy of Science Association—and PSE—Philosophy of Science in a European Perspective: ESF Networking Programme (2008-2013). It continues the aims of the PSE-Springer series “The Philosophy of Science in a European Perspective” and is meant to give a new impetus to European research in the philosophy of science.

The main purpose of the series is to provide a publication platform to young researchers working in Europe, who will thus be encouraged to publish in English and make their work internationally known and available.

In addition, the series will host the EPSA conference proceedings, selected papers coming from workshops, edited volumes on specific issues in the philosophy of science, monographs and outstanding Ph.D. dissertations. There will be a special emphasis on philosophy of science originating from Europe. In all cases there will be a commitment to high standards of quality.

The Editors will be assisted by an Editorial Board of renowned scholars, who will advise on the selection of manuscripts to be considered for publication. The books will be distributed both electronically and on paper.

All suggestions for possible contributions to ESPS will be highly appreciated by the editors. Perhaps you know of a very good dissertation, or know of a manuscript by a colleague (or perhaps you have a manuscript yourself)—please let us know!

### Dissertation Abstracts

You can view the latest batch of recent doctoral dissertations harvest from the January 2012 issues of Dissertation Abstracts pertaining to the history of science and medicine at <http://www.hsls.pitt.edu/histmed/dissertations>. Comments and corrections are always welcome.

## NEWS FROM THE PROFESSION, CONT.

### Dissertation Reviews— February 2014 from H-Sci-Med-Tech

by Leon Rocha

Dissertation Reviews (<http://dissertationreviews.org/>) is a window to recently defended and unpublished dissertations, as well as articles on archives and libraries around the world.

#### The following is a list of the February 2014 posts for the Science Studies, Medical Anthropology, and Bioethics series.

[Science Studies] Giuditta Parolini, “Making Sense of Figures’: Statistics, Computing and Information Technologies in Agriculture and Biology in Britain, 1920s-1960s,” (University of Bologna, 2013), reviewed by Dominic Berry (University of Leeds)

<http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/7247>

[Science Studies] Imogen Clarke, “Negotiating Progress: Promoting ‘Modern’ Physics in Britain, 1900-1940,” (University of Manchester, 2012), reviewed by Vivien Hamilton (Harvey Mudd College)

<http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/7256>

[Science Studies] Lisa Ann Robertson, “The Embodied Imagination: British Romantic Cognitive Science,” (University of Alberta, 2013),

reviewed by Markus Iseli (University of Neuchâtel)  
<http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/7281>

[Bioethics] Abbi Hobbs, “Vaccines Against Vice: A Constructive Technology Assessment of Immunotherapies for Addiction,” (University of York, 2011), reviewed by Adrian Carter (The University of Queensland)

<http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/6989>

[Bioethics, Gender] Eeva Nyrövaara, “The Feminist Transformation of Bioethics: An Analysis of Theoretical Perspectives and Practical Applications in Feminist Bioethics,” (University of Helsinki, 2011), reviewed by Alex B. Neitzke (Michigan State University)

<http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/7499>

[Medical Anthropology] Emily Freeman, “Older Adults’ Experiences of Aging, Sex, and HIV Infection in Rural Malawi,” (London School of Economics and Political Science, 2012), reviewed by Ramah McKay (University of Minnesota)

<http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/7638>

[Latin America, Medical Anthropology] Natalie Kimball, “An Open Secret: The Hidden History of Unwanted Pregnancy and Abortion in Highland Bolivia, 1952-2010,” (University of Pittsburgh, 2013), reviewed by Molly Geidel (Cornell University)

<http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/6818>

[Medical Anthropology, Russia] Michelle Parsons, “Death and Freedom in Post-Soviet Russia: An Ethnography of a Mortality Crisis,” (Emory University, 2011), reviewed by Cassandra Hartblay (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

<http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/6072>

[Latin America, Medical Anthropology] Whitney L. Duncan, “The Culture of Mental Health in a Changing Oaxaca,” (University of California, San Diego, 2012), reviewed by Jethro Hernandez-Berrones (University of California, San Francisco)

<http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/7261>

[Japan, Science Studies] Kathryn Tanaka, “Through the Hospital Gates: Hansen’s Disease and Modern Japanese Literature,” (University of Chicago, 2012), reviewed by Mika Endo (Bard College)

<http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/7025>

[Medical Anthropology, South Asia, Talking Shop] Claire Snell-Rood (University of Kentucky College of Medicine), “Safety in the Field”

<http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/7591>

[China, Economic History, Science Studies] Susan K. Mays, “Rapid Advance: High Technology in the Global Electronic Age,” (Columbia University, 2013), reviewed by Benjamin Gross (Chemical Heritage Foundation)

<http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/7574>

## NEWS FROM THE PROFESSION, CONT.

If you are interested in having your dissertation reviewed, please visit <http://dissertationreviews.org/reviewrequest>.

If you are interested in helping our team in some other way, please contact [info@dissertationreviews.org](mailto:info@dissertationreviews.org) and [sciencestudies@dissertationreviews.org](mailto:sciencestudies@dissertationreviews.org).

### High Resolution Images Available through the Wellcome Library

We are delighted to announce that over 100,000 high resolution images including manuscripts, paintings, etchings, early photography and advertisements are now freely available through Wellcome Images, <http://wellcomeimages.org/>. Drawn from our vast historical holdings, the images are being released under the Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) license.

This means that they can be used for commercial or personal purposes, with an acknowledgement of the original source (Wellcome Library, London). All of the images from our historical collections can be used free of charge.

The images can be downloaded in high-resolution directly from the Wellcome Images website for users to freely copy, distribute, edit, manipulate, and build upon as you wish, for personal or commercial use. The images range from ancient

medical manuscripts to etchings by artists such as Vincent Van Gogh and Francisco Goya.

### New Discussions Post: The Stuff of Science, Medicine and Technology, Collaboration with H-Material-Culture

Are you interested in objects, things, the stuff of science and medicine past and present, the materiality of technology? Then you will like this: we have been approached by the editor of our sister network, H-Material-Culture about a collaborative project, and we are more than happy to collaborate. We realize that we have much in common in HSMT and Material Culture Studies: both our fields are interdisciplinary, span the humanities and social sciences, and weave together complementary epistemologies and methodologies. On top of all that, both fields enjoy looking at things!

We have set up a page, The Stuff of Science, Medicine and Technology (SoSMT), where you will find contributions from H-Material-Culture's 1500 members and H-Sci-Med-Tech's 3800 members that engage with the materiality of science, medicine and technology. These might be discussion posts or queries on scientific instruments past or present, analysis of particular objects from the worlds of science, technology or medicine

along the lines of H-Material-Culture's Object of the Week, images, posts about collections and archives, CFPs, syllabi etc.

Soon we will be publishing the first responses to our call on HSMT Museums, which will appear on this page as well as a special HSMT Museums page which we will be launching shortly.

We encourage questions, comments, and discussion among the diverse groups this collaboration brings together. While many will find overlapping areas of interest here, we do not all do what we do the same way, or ask the same questions, or begin with the same presumptions. The editors of H-Material Culture and H-Sci-Med-Tech see in these differences the possibility of an enriching and informative cross-pollination of ideas in this collaboration.

Read more or reply here: <https://networks.h-net.org/node/9782/discussions/12129/stuff-science-medicine-and-technology-collaboration-h-material>.