WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

By Joan Cadden

When Lenin posed that question a little over a century ago, he was worried about the Marxist transformation of Russian Social Democracy. Luckily, the concerns that face me as incoming President of the HSS are on a more modest scale. They are, however, the kind of challenges that can only be met collectively, hence I appeal to the solidarity of the membership in support of the Society's continuing contributions to the on-line HSTM Research Database.

Materialism: Endow the position of Society Bibliographer

As previous Newsletters have reported, late in 2003 the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded one of its highly coveted Challenge Grants to the History of Science Society. This grant established an HSS Bibliographer's Fund, designed as an endowment to secure the future of the Isis Current Bibliography and of the Society's continuing contributions to the on-line HSTM Research Database. In making this award, NEH challenged the Society to match its offer (of up to $125,000) on a 3-to-1 basis so that, for HSS to receive the grant's full amount, it has to raise $375,000 in matching funds. As of the end of November 2005, over 200 members and friends of the Society, and several family foundations, have contributed ca. $125,000 toward this match. Although income from these donations (and from what NEH has paid of its grant to date) is already providing partial support for our Bibliographer, HSS must still raise an additional $375,000 by NEH's deadline of July 2008 if it is to receive the full benefit of the award.

Our successes to date derive from the efforts of the members of the Council-appointed HSS Development Committee (whom we acknowledge by name at the end of this note) and of the Society's Executive Committee. We all owe these individuals much for their work on behalf of all of us.

To continue this campaign, the Society is about to launch Phase II of its effort to fully endow the HSS Bibliographer's Fund. In doing so, it will both continue and expand previous efforts that have met with some success.

For example, HSS officers and Development Committee members continue to meet with potential major donors, including some who have had long-standing relationships with the Society, and others who are just now learning about the field, the Society, and the bibliographies. Several even had ties with the Society 40 or 50 years ago that had long since faded, and they have welcomed the chance to catch up with the Society's current programs.

(Continued on page 3)
University of Oklahoma

Andrew W. Mellon Travel Fellowship Program

Augmented by a recent $300,000 endowment by the Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Travel Fellowship Program assists scholars outside the central Oklahoma region to make use of the History of Science Collections. Proposals from scholars at both predoctoral and postdoctoral levels are welcome. Deadlines for applications are October 15 (for research conducted between January 1 and June 30) and February 15 (for research conducted between July 1 and December 30), with decisions announced within one month.

For information, please contact:
The University of Oklahoma
The Andrew W. Mellon Travel Fellowship Program
Bizzell Library
401 West Brooks, Room 521
Norman, OK 73019-0528
E-mail: kmagruder@ou.edu or mogilvie@ou.edu.

Application materials and additional information can also be obtained at our Web site:
librariess.ou.edu/etc/histsci/mellon.asp

OSIRIS ADDED AS NEW MEMBER BENEFIT!

Beginning in 2006, the History of Science Society will add a new benefit to all memberships: the latest volume of Osiris. Founded in 1936 by George Sarton, and re-launched by the HSS in 1985, this annual thematic journal highlights recent research on significant themes in the history of science. The paper edition of Osiris, Volume 21, “Historical Perspectives on Science, Technology, and International Affairs,” will mail late summer 2006.
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News and Inquiries

2005 HSS Honorees

From left to right: Duncan Porter (accepting a special citation on behalf of Frederick Burkhardt), William R. Newman (Pfizer Prize), Janet Browne (distinguished lecture), Alan M. Kraut (Watson Davis and Helen Miles Davis Award), Pamela Mack (Joseph H. Hazen Prize in Education), A. I. Sabra (Sarton Medal), Lawrence M. Principe (Pfizer Prize). Not present: Marc J. Ratcliff (Derek Price/Rod Webster Prize), Kathleen Broome Williams (Margaret W. Rossiter History of Women in Science Prize)

Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences Announces Special Issue


New M.A. Program at Bielefeld University

The Master’s Program “History, Philosophy and Sociology of Science” will be offered at Bielefeld University beginning with the winter semester 2005/2006. This program is offered at the Institute for Science and Technology Studies (IWT) and is carried out in cooperation with the Department of History, Philosophy and Theology and the Department of Sociology of Bielefeld University. http://www.uni-bielefeld.de/iwt/studierangs/pps/.

Help Clemson’s Developing Program in History of Science and Technology

Clemson University went through a long struggle to develop revised general education requirements and the History of Science and Technology department now needs to move 3,000 students a year through courses that meet STS requirements. For more information on the developing STS program at Clemson, please see http://www.clemson.edu/sts. Professor Pam Mack would be interested in any syllabi, case studies, or other material about teaching STS in general education courses. http://people.clemson.edu/~pammack/.

Update of Dictionary of Scientific Biography

The new DSB has added recent scientists; now it tackles updating old articles. Charles Scribner’s Sons plans to publish eight new volumes of the Dictionary of Scientific Biography. Also planned is an electronic version of the original DSB that will be integrated with the e-version of the new volumes. The eight new print volumes and the combined electronic version are scheduled to appear in 2007. More information can be found at the Web site: http://www.indiana.edu/~newsdsb/.

APS Library Map Guide Available Online

Realms of Gold: A Catalogue of Maps in the Library of the American Philosophical Society is now available online in its entirety at http://www.amphilsoc.org/library/mss/catalogue.htm. This project was made possible by a grant from the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation. Please address feedback to Richard Shrake at rshrake@amphilsoc.org.

A Summary of AAAS’s Aid to the Scientific Community Affected by Katrina

A summary of AAAS’s efforts to help the scientific community affected by hurricane Katrina can be found at http://www.aaas.org/katrina/. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to those whose lives have been so dreadfully disrupted.

Endowing Our Bibliographies (continued from page 1)

Talks with these prospects also reveal that the Society would benefit from being named a legatee in their wills—a step that even those of us with modest means can take—and will begin to emphasize the advantages (for them and for the Society) of Charitable Lead Trusts and Charitable Remainder Trusts.

Phase II of this campaign will also seek a greater involvement of all HSS members, based upon the broad dissemination (through personal contact) of appeals designed to respond to individual members’ particular goals. Alumni of major graduate programs, for example, will be given the opportunity to pay tribute to their major professors through individual or pooled donations in their honor. These appeals will also highlight the importance of multi-year pledges—such as those already made by several especially generous donors—and thus will call on members to express their commitment to the bibliographies and the Society and the field in a tangible form. Past donors will also be asked to renew their commitments in this way and, as noted, even members without substantial resources can take steps to name the Society in their wills.

Even in the 21st century, the CB and the online HSTM Research Database remain essential tools for historians of science, no matter where they might be located or what their institutional affiliations might or might not be. Even as other organizations propose other web-based resources, to date none offers the specific focus and other value-added features (such as attention to the periodical literature, careful editorial review and coverage of much non-English material) of the HSS bibliographies. And if Phase II of our campaign proves successful, we will have secured their continued effectiveness for the foreseeable future.

Members of the HSS Development Committee include: Mary Louise Gleason, Frederick Gregory, Judith R. Goedstein, Richard L. Kenner, Edward J. Larson, Kenneth M. Ludmner, Darwin H. Stapleton, and Spencer R. Weart.
History of Science Society Newsletter January 2006

Security Measures at the National Library of Medicine

Security has been increased at the National Library of Medicine and the entire National Institutes of Health campus in Bethesda, Maryland. For details of current NIH security procedures, go to: http://www.nih.gov/about/visitorsecurity.htm.

‘Einstein’s Big Idea’ Available on DVD and VHS

In time for the 100th anniversary of the formation of the world’s most famous equation, E=mc² WGBH Boston Video has just released NOVA’s newest docudrama, “Einstein’s Big Idea.” To order any DVD or VHS release from WGBH Boston Video, including Einstein’s Big Idea, call 1.800.949.8670 or visit http://www.shop.wgbh.org/.

Eighteenth-Century Pennsylvania Manuscripts Available


Susquehanna University Medical Humanities Initiative

Susquehanna University is pleased to announce the launch of its Medical Humanities Initiative. For details, please see http://www.susqu.edu/mhi/.

Science and Culture in Nineteenth-Century Britain

Picking up where Chatto left off, a major new series of scholarly works on nineteenth-century British science and its cultural and social contexts, Proposals may address any aspect of nineteenth-century British science, for example disciplines such as geology, biology, botany, astronomy, physics, chemistry, medicine, and mathematics. The Editor and the Editorial Board invite proposals for new books for publication in the series. Although this will be primarily a monograph series, they are also willing to consider edited collections. Send proposals to: Bernard Lightman, 509 Bethune College, York University, 4700 Keele St., Toronto, Ontario, Canada M3J 1P3 (lightman@yorku.ca).

In Memoriam: David Dibner

D avid Dibner died unexpectedly at his home in Wilton, Connecticut on September 28, 2005. David, who was 78 years old, was the Chairman of the Dibner Fund, a philanthropic foundation, and former Chairman of the Burndy Corporation, a leading multinational manufacturer of electrical and electronic connectors and tools.

David had a long, distinguished career. After serving in the navy during WWII, he trained as an engineer at Columbia University and continued with post-graduate studies at the London School of Economics and, later, the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University. In his more than 30-year career at the Burndy Corporation he rose from engineer to Chairman of the Board.

In 1989, following the death of his father, David assumed responsibility for the Dibner Fund and the Burndy Library, one of the world’s outstanding collections of rare books, manuscripts, incunabula, and instruments in the history of science and technology. Together with his wife Frances Kesner Dibner and with the support of the Dibner Fund, David then established the Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology, dedicated to advanced study in the field, and relocated the Burndy Library from Norwalk, Connecticut, to join the Institute in the newly renovated Dibner Building on the campus of MIT. Since then, with David as President, the Burndy Library has more than doubled the number of volumes it houses, including the long-term deposit of the Grace K. Balson and the Vito Volterra collections.

David was Chairman of the Board of the Dibner Institute from its inception until 2002, when he turned that responsibility over to his son, Brent Dibner. David, however, remained an active member of the Board until his death. The Dibner Institute received its first group of Senior Fellows in the Fall of 1993. Since then more than 250 individuals from 27 different countries have been either Senior or Postdoctoral Fellows at the Institute, together with more than 90 Graduate Student Fellows from its three consortium schools, MIT, Harvard University, and Boston University — all through the support of the Dibner Fund. The Dibner Institute also held workshops every year, out of which have come nine volumes in the Dibner Institute Studies in the History of Science and Technology, published by MIT Press, with several more in press or preparation. For 15 years the Dibner Fund and the Dibner Institute have sponsored the one-week seminar in the history and philosophy of biology held annually at the Marine Biology Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Under David’s leadership, the Dibner Fund joined with the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation in 2000 to sponsor the Web-based project, the History of Recent Science and Technology (hrst.mit.edu), aimed at drawing scientists into partnerships with historians to begin recording for posterity their own research.

David left the daily management of the Institute and Library to their Directors. Nevertheless, his presence was felt all the time, especially his preoccupation with excellence. His personal sense of excellence shows up in countless details of the layout and furnishings of the Dibner Building, the renovation of which he oversaw. At the door of the Institute is a bust of Bern Dibner which David had personally sculpted. Most important of all, however, was his insistence that the Institute represent a standard of excellence in the field of history of science and technology. The Dibner Institute, in a real sense, became a direct extension of his personality.

In 2004, when the affiliation agreement with MIT neared its end, David devoted considerable energy to finding a home for the Burndy Library where it would be readily accessible to scholars and would never have to move again. Although he did not live to see the Burndy in its new home at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, David’s last day was spent at a meeting working out details of the move, reassuring everyone that the Dibner Fund would continue to support the history of science and technology.

David leaves his wife of 55 years, Frances; his sons and daughters-in-law, Brent and Kelly (Welsh) Dibner, Daniel and Victoria (Clark) Dibner, and Mark and Rachel (Zax) Dibner; and eight grandchildren, Gil, Tal, Carmel, Aurora, Avalon, Ben, Sage, and Skye. David’s late parents were Bern and Barbara Dibner also of Wilton, Connecticut. Bern, who founded the Dibner Fund, was himself a historian of science, and was the sole recipient of both the Society for the History of Technology’s Leonardo da Vinci Medal (1974) and the History of Science Society’s George Sarton Medal (1976). The Dibner family legacy in the history of science and technology, which began with David’s father in the 1940s, will live on at the Huntington Library due in large part to David’s and Frances’ efforts and commitment.

— George Smith and Bonnie Edwards
National Science Foundation Changes
In recent months the National Science Foundation's Science and Technology Studies Program (STS) has undergone some changes. That program has now merged with a separate, but closely related program, the Societal Dimensions of Engineering, Science and Technology, to form a new program called Science and Society. The new program retains all components of the two previous programs, as well as the separate program officers and advisory panels. The Web site address is http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5324&org=SES&from=home.

New Journal in the History of Science
The Yearbook for European Culture of Science (YECS) is a peer-reviewed international journal which publishes original research on the processes forming the European culture of science. The main focus is on developments from the 18th century onwards. The next issue (vol. 2) concentrates on the history of evolutionary theory in the 20th century in all its aspects, including the impact of evolutionary theory on social sciences and interconnections between evolutionary theory and social-political history.

H-Adjunct: H-Net Network for Adjunct, Part-Time and Temporary Faculty
Announcing H-Adjunct: H-Net Network for Adjunct, part-time and temporary faculty at universities, colleges and community colleges. H-Adjunct is an open, inter-disciplinary forum for issues. Logs and more information can also be located at: http://www.h-net.org/~adjunct.

New Program in History of Ocean Sciences
Sea Education Association's new Marine Environmental History Semester offers students the opportunity to intellectually and physically explore the ways that humans have shaped this region. Taking the eastern equatorial Pacific as a regional case study, Sea Education Association's Marine Environmental History Semester will explore the linkages between human activities, environmental concerns, and changing understandings of nature. For more information, please contact Matthew McKenzie, mmckenzie@sea.edu, or go to http://www.sea.edu/academics/programs.asp.

Durham University Accepting Applications
Durham University's Department of Philosophy, Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease (CHMD), and School for Health are now accepting applications for the 2006/07 class of their M.A. Program in the History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine (HPSM). For further queries visit: http://www.dur.ac.uk/hipsma or http://www.dur.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply/.

Catalan Museum of Medical History has New English-Language Web Site

Funding for the Center for Nanotechnology at UCSB
The National Science Foundation recently announced that the University of California, Santa Barbara, would receive funds for five years (renewable) to host a national Center for Nanotechnology in Society. News about the award is available at: http://www.ia.ucsb.edu/ps/display.aspx?key=1348.

In Memoriam: Marshall Clagett

Marshall Clagett, one of the world's leading historians of medieval science, passed away in Princeton, N.J. on 21 October 2005. He was 89. Dr. Clagett was Professor Emeritus in the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study, his academic home for the past four decades. The author of more than a dozen volumes on the history of science and mathematics, Professor Clagett was one of the dominant scholars in the field of medieval science in the 20th century.

Dr. Clagett had a long association with the History of Science Society. In 1960 the Society presented him with the Pfizer Award for his book The Science of Mechanics in the Middle Ages; he was president of the society in 1965 and 1964; and in 1980 he was awarded the Sarton Medal for lifetime achievements in the history of science. Dr. Clagett was also involved in the Medieval Academy of America, the American Philosophical Society, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Medizin, Naturwissenschaft und Technik, and the International Academy of the History of Science, where he was vice-president from 1968-1971.

Dr. Clagett was born in 1916 in Washington D.C. He began his undergraduate years at the California Institute of Technology, but then moved to George Washington University. In 1941 he received his doctorate in history from Columbia University. During World War II, he served in the navy, reaching the rank of lieutenant commander. After military service he returned to Columbia University and taught history and history of science.

He moved to the University of Wisconsin in 1947, and remained there until 1964. From 1959 he was director of the university's Institute for Research in the Humanities, and played a critical role in making the University of Wisconsin a center for the history of science.

From the University of Wisconsin, Dr. Clagett moved to the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. Most recently, he was professor emeritus in the School of Historical Studies at the Institute.

Dr. Clagett's scholarship ranged from antiquity to the medieval and Renaissance West, and he received many awards for his work over the years, including the Alexandre Koyré Medal of the International Academy of the History of Science in 1981 for Archimedes in the Middle Ages. He was also awarded the John Frederick Lewis Prize of the American Philosophical Society for volumes II and IV of the same book. In 1995, he was awarded the Giovanni Dondi dall'Orologio European Prize in the History of Science, Technology, and Industry, also a lifetime achievement award. In 1996 he won the International Galileo Galilei Prize.

At the time of his death Dr. Clagett was working on the fourth and final volume of Ancient Egyptian Science, the first volume of which also won the John Frederick Lewis Prize of the American Philosophical Society.

He will be missed.
Future HSS Meetings

Vancouver, BC
(Joint Meeting with PSA & i5, 2-5 Nov. 2006)

Washington, DC
(1-4 Nov. 2007)

Pittsburgh, PA
(Joint Meeting with PSA, 6-9 Nov. 2008)

The American Philosophical Society Library
Library Resident Research Fellowships

The American Philosophical Society Library offers short-term residential fellowships for conducting research in its collections. The Society’s Library is a leading international center for historical and anthropological research with over 8 million manuscripts, 250,000 printed volumes, and thousands of maps and prints. Among its more prominent collections are the papers of Benjamin Franklin, Charles Darwin, Charles Darwin, and Franz Boas; and is noted for the depth and importance of its collections in: History of science, technology, and medicine; Anthropology, particularly American Indian history, culture, and languages; Early American history and culture to 1840.

The Library does not hold materials on philosophy in the modern sense.

The fellowships, funded by a number of generous benefactors, are intended to encourage research in the Librury’s collections by scholars who reside beyond a 75-mile radius of Philadelphia. The fellowships are open to both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals who are holders of the Ph.D. or the equivalent, Ph.D. candidates who have passed their preliminary examinations, and independent scholars. Applicants in any relevant field of scholarship may apply.

The stipend is $2,000 per month, and the term of the fellowship is a minimum of one month and a maximum of three. Fellowships are usually of one month in duration, and seldom exceed two months. Fellows are expected to be in residence at the Library for four to twelve consecutive weeks, depending upon the length of their award.

Complete application information and forms are available at our website: http://www.amphilsoc.org/grants/resident.htm. The receipt deadline is March 1.

History of Science Society Newsletter January 2006

University of Leeds Accepting Applications

The Division of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Leeds welcomes applications for the 2006/07 class of their M.A. Program in the History and Philosophy of Science. Apply either through the School of Philosophy, or online at http://www.leeds.ac.uk/students/apply.htm. To apply for scholarships, contact: Katie Lanoyle, Postgraduate Secretary, School of Philosophy. Phone: 44.11.3343.3263, E-mail: philkah@leeds.ac.uk.

Founding of the Bulgarian Society for Chemistry Education and History and Philosophy of Chemistry

On 29 September 2005, the Bulgarian Society for Chemistry Education and History and Philosophy of Chemistry (CE&HPC) was formed with the objective of fostering interest both in chemistry education and history and philosophy of chemistry with their social and cultural dimensions and influences. For information on membership, please contact: Professor B.V. Toshov, University of Sofia, 1 James Bourchier Blvd., 1164 Sofia, Bulgaria. Phone: 359.2.8629049; e-mail: toshov@chem.uni-sofia.bg.

Darwin at the American Museum of Natural History

The American Museum of Natural History presents “Darwin,” the most extensive exhibit ever dedicated to the naturalist and his theory of evolution. The exhibit is part of a continuing series on great thinkers and explorers; past exhibitions have been dedicated to Einstein, Da Vinci, and Shackleton. The exhibit continues until 29 May 2006. For more information, visit http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/darwin/?src=h_h.

The American Museum of Natural History

In Memoriam: Kiran Van Rijn

An athlete and scholar, Kiran died suddenly of cardiac arrhythmia while training for the sport he loved most - rowing - on Burnaby Lake, B.C., on September 21, 2005, at the age of 29.

A doctoral candidate at the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, University of Toronto, Kiran was the only son of Carol and Dr. Theo van Rijn of Vancouver. He was a graduate of both the University of British Columbia (B.Sc. 1998) and Victoria University (B.A., 2001). He also held an M.A. from the University of Toronto as part of his work toward his Ph.D.

A student at the Institute since 2001, Kiran was deeply interested in the history of medicine, and at the time of his death was engaged in thesis research concerning the growth and marketing of medical imaging technology, focusing on a cluster of hospitals in British Columbia. His work had attracted interest from several quarters and he had twice received fellowship support from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. He had also been an Ontario Graduate Scholar.

Popular and well-liked by both his student colleagues and the faculty, Kiran was a member of Canada’s national rowing team and was a finalist in the senior men’s singles sculls at the Canadian Henley Regatta in Port Dalhousie, Ont. this past summer.

Call for Proposals – History of the Canadian Space Agency

The CSA is undertaking a project to write the history of the space agency. The call for proposals for the project has now appeared on the MERX Public Tenders Web site. To see details, go to http://www.merx.com/Services/AboutMERX/English/MK_SiteMap.asp. In the “Free Search” box, enter the tender # 115807. More information may be obtained by calling 1.800.964.6579.

Two New Exhibits at the National Library of Medicine


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Grants, Fellowships, and Prizes

The following announcements have been edited for space. For full descriptions and for the latest announcements, please visit our Web site (http://lhhsonline.org). The Society does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of any item, and potential applicants should verify all details, especially closing dates, with the organization or foundation of interest. Those who wish to publish a grant, fellowship, or prize announcement should send an electronic version of the posting to newsletter@hhsonline.org.

Bakken Library
The Bakken Library and Museum offers Visiting Research Fellowships and Research Travel Grants for research in its collection relating to the history of electricity and magnetism with a focus on their roles in the life sciences and medicine. For further information: Elizabeth Ihrig, Librarian, The Bakken Library and Museum, 3537 Zenith Avenue So., Minneapolis, MN., 55416, tel (612) 926-3878 ext. 227, fax (612) 927-7365, e-mail Ihrig@thebakken.org. Web site: http://www.thebakken.org; click on “Library” or “Research.”

The Victor and Joy Wouk Grant-in-Aid Program
California Institute of Technology Grants-in-Aid offers research assistance of up to $2000 for work in the Papers of Victor Wouk in the Caltech Archives. The Maurice A. Biot Archives Fund and other designated funds offer research assistance up to $1500 to use the collections of the Caltech Archives. Applications will be accepted from students—working towards a graduate degree—or from established scholars. Please consult the Archives’ Web page: http://archives.caltech.edu. Applications are reviewed quarterly: on January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1 of each year.

The University of Oklahoma Travel Fellowship Program
The Andrew W. Mellon Travel Fellowship Program helps visitors to make use of the University’s History of Science Collections. Proposals from scholars at both predoctoral and postdoctoral levels will be evaluated continuously upon receipt, and funds awarded shortly after the decision is made. For information, please contact: University of Oklahoma, The Andrew W. Mellon Travel Fellowship Program, Bizzell Library, 401 West Brooks, Room 521, Norman, OK 73091-0528, e-mail: kmagnuder@ou.edu or mogilvie@ou.edu. Web site: http://libraries.ou.edu/etc/histsci/mellon.asp. (Please see ad on page 2.)

Grants in Aid for History of Modern Physics
The Center for History of Physics of the American Institute of Physics has a program of grants-in-aid for research in the history of modern physics and allied sciences and their social interactions. Grants can be up to $2,000 each and will be given only to reimburse expenses for travel and subsistence to use the resources of the Center’s Niels Bohr Library in College Park, Maryland, or expenses including travel and subsistence to tape-record oral history interviews or microfilm archival materials, with a copy for deposit in the Library. Applicants should either be working toward a graduate degree in the history of science (please include a letter of reference from a thesis adviser), or show a record of publication in the field. To apply, send a vitae, a letter of no more than two pages describing your research project, and a brief budget showing the expenses for which support is requested to: Spencer Weart, Center for History of Physics, American Institute of Physics, One Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD 20740. E-mail: weart@aip.org. Phone: (301) 209-3174. Fax: (301) 209-0882. The deadlines for receipt of applications are 15 April and 15 November of each year. http://www.aip.org/history/.

Chemical Heritage Foundation
BECKMAN CENTER FOR THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY 2006–2007 Fellowships

Academic Year 2006–2007 Opportunities
Deadline: 15 January 2006

Gordon Cain Fellowship
The Cain Fellowship is open to Ph.D. scholars who plan to conduct historical research on the development of the chemical industries. The outcome of this research should further public understanding of the relationship between technology, policy, management, and entrepreneurship and shed light on the complex development of modern society and commerce. The Cain Fellow will also organize a one-day conference.

John C. Haas Fellowship
The Haas Fellowship is open to Ph.D. scholars whose projects will enhance public understanding of the chemical industries in relation to societal, environmental, health, and safety issues. Two Fellowships offered.

Charles C. Price Fellowship
The Price Fellowship is open to scholars pursuing research on the history of the chemical sciences and technologies. Preference is given to applicants with projects on the history of polymers; however, scholars interested in other fields are also encouraged to apply. The Charles C. Price Fellowship was created by friends and admirers of Professor Price.

Summer 2006 Opportunities
Deadline: 15 February 2006

Roy G. Neville Fellowship
The Roy G. Neville Fellowship is open to historians of science, technology, and allied fields, as well as to historians of the book and print culture, bibliographers, and librarians, who will make use of the Roy G. Neville Historical Chemical Library. The Neville collection contains approximately 5,000 titles dating from the 15th to the 19th centuries and covering all aspects of the history of chemistry and allied fields. Two Fellowships offered.

Société de Chimie Industrielle (American Section) Fellowship
The Société Fellowship is designed to stimulate public understanding of the chemical industries. Applications are encouraged from writers, journalists, educators, and historians of science, technology, or business. The fellow will spend three months in residence at CHF during the summer of 2006.

Glenn E. and Barbara Hodsdon Ulliot Scholarship
The Ulliot Scholarship sponsors historical research that promotes public understanding of the chemical sciences. Applications are invited from scholars, graduate students, science writers, and journalists. The fellow will spend a minimum of two months in residence at CHF during the summer of 2006.

Research Travel Grants
The Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry offers travel grants for research in CHF’s Othmer Library of Chemical History and CHF’s historical archives and instrument and art collections. See our Web site or contact travelgrants@chemheritage.org for details.

Send inquiries and applications to: Fellowship Coordinator, Chemical Heritage Foundation, 315 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106-2702 Phone: 215-925-2222 Fax: 215-925-6195 E-mail: fellowships@chemheritage.org http://www.chemheritage.org/research/research.html
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INA Grant-in-Aid Program
The International Neuropsychopharmacology Archives (INA) announces the availability of grants of up to $1,500 to support research at the INA at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Archives, Nashville, Tennessee, U.S. Applications must include a hard copy of: a one-page description of the project, with specific reference to the archival collections to be consulted; detailed budget; applicant's CV; one letter of recommendation from a scholar familiar with the applicant's work. Grants will be given four times a year. Deadlines: 1 March, 1 June, 1 September, 1 December. Completed applications should be sent by the deadline to: INA Grant-in-Aid Program, c/o CINP Central, Office, 1608 17th Avenue South, Nashville, TN, 37212, U.S.A.

The Marc-August Pictet Prize

Student Essay Prize in the History of Medicine and Public Health
The New York Academy of Medicine invites entries for the second annual New York Academy of Medicine Student Essay Prize for the best unpublished essay by a graduate student in a medical, public health, or nursing program in the U.S. The winner will receive $500, and the winning essay will be reviewed for possible publication in the Journal of Urban Health. Essays should be approximately 2,000 to 3,000 words long, and should follow the guidelines in the journal's instructions for authors at http://www3.oup.co.uk/jurban!instrauth. The postmark deadline is 4 April 2006. For more information, please visit http://www.nyam.org/grants/studentessay.shtml.

Jerry Stannard Memorial Award Competition for 2006

The Department of History at the University of Kansas announces the 2006 competition for the annual award in honor of the late Professor Jerry Stannard. Each year a cash award will be made to the author of an outstanding published or unpublished scholarly study. In 2006 the award will be $1,000. The competition is open to graduate students and to recent recipients of a doctoral degree (the Ph.D. degree or an equivalent) conferred not more than five years before the competition deadline. Entries must be received no later than 15 February 2006. The award will be announced on or about 15 May 2006. All correspondence should be addressed to: The Stannard Award Committee, At: Professor Victoria Bailey, Department of History - University of Kansas, Wescoe Hall, 1445 Jayhawk Blvd, Room 3001, Lawrence, KS 66045-7598, U.S.A.

Wellcome Trust's Annual Master's Award and Doctoral Studentships Competitions

The Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Cambridge (U.K.) invites applicants in any areas of history of medicine who would like to be nominated for the Wellcome Trust's annual master's award and doctoral studentships competitions. The Department also invites applications for two doctoral studentships funded by a Wellcome enhancement award in history of medicine. Deadline: 15 February 2006. For information: http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk. For details of the studentships, http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/studying/funding.html.

Wellcome Trust M.Sc. and Ph.D. Studentships

The Centre for History in Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) invites applications for nomination for the annual Master's award in the History of Medicine. The award is open to a student accepted for the M.Sc. in Public Health who agrees to follow an 'historical pathway' through the M.Sc. Deadline: 31 March 2006. For further information: http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/history. Details at http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/prospects/howto. Information about studentships: informal enquiries to Professor Berridge at virginia.berridge@lshtm.ac.uk.

Krumbhaar Award in Medical History

The Award, offered by The College of Physicians of Philadelphia, the Francis C. Wood Institute for the History of Medicine, and the Section on Medical History, is a medical history essay contest for Philadelphia area medical students. Essays must be based on new original research in primary sources and are due 3 April 2006. First prize is $300. More than one prize will be awarded at judges' discretion. For further information contact: Sofie Soreda, Assistant to the Director, Division of Museum and Historical Services, The College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South 22nd Street, Philadelphia PA 19103. E-mail: ssoreda@collphysphil.org.

American Meteorological Society Graduate Fellowships

The American Meteorological Society is offering an array of graduate fellowships and undergraduate scholarships to help further the education of outstanding students pursuing a career in the atmospheric and related oceanic or hydrologic sciences. For more information, please visit: http://www.ametsoc.org/amsstudentinfo/sof/hd/docs/index.html#4.

Student Essay Prize in the History of Medicine and Public Health

The New York Academy of Medicine invites entries for the second annual New York Academy of Medicine Student Essay Prize, awarded to the best unpublished essay by a graduate student in a medical, public health, or nursing program in the United States. Essays should address topics in the history of public health or medicine as they relate to urban health issues. The winner will receive $500, and the winning essay will receive expedited review for possible publication in the Journal of Urban Health. The contest is open to students in accredited professional degree programs in medicine, nursing and public health. Essays should be approximately 2,000 to 3,000 words long, and should follow the guidelines in the journal's instructions for authors at http://www3.oup.co.uk/jurban!instauth. The postmark deadline is 4 April 2006. For more information, please call 1.212.822.7314, write historyessay@nyam.org, or visit http://www.nyam.org/grants/studentessay.shtml.

Student Prize for an Essay in the History of Australian Science

The National Museum of Australia, the Australian Academy of Science and its National Committee for History and Philosophy of Science have established two essay prizes, to be known respectively as The National Museum of Australia Student Prize for the History of Australian Science and The National Museum of Australia Student Prize for Australian Environmental History. Each prize will be a certificate and $2,500. The prizes will be awarded for original unpublished research undertaken whilst enrolled as a student (postgraduate or undergraduate) at any tertiary educational institution. Essays must be written in English and fully documented following the style specified for the Australian Academy of Science's journal, Historical Records of Australian Science. The prizes will be awarded in alternate years in May. Deadline for the initial prize, a history of science prize, is 30 April 2006. Entries should be sent to: Librarian, Australian Academy of Science, GPO Box 783, Canberra, ACT 2601, Australia, to be received by the closing date. Inquiries should be sent to: rosanne.walker@sci.org.au.

Lawrence Memorial Award

The Award Committee of the Lawrence Memorial Fund invites nominations for the 2006 Lawrence Memorial Award. The annual Award ($2,000) is given to support travel for doctoral dissertation research in systematic botany or horticulture, or the history of the plant sciences, including literature and exploration. Major professors are urged to nominate outstanding doctoral students who have achieved official candidacy for their degrees and will be conducting pertinent dissertation research that would benefit significantly from travel enabled by the Award. The Committee will not entertain direct applications. Letters of nomination and supporting materials, including seconding letters, should be received by the Committee no later than 1 May 2006 and should be directed to: Dr. R. W. Kiger, Hunt Institute, Carnegie Mellon University, 500 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3850 USA. Tel. 1.412. 268.2444.
**Awards, Honors, and Appointments**

**Susan Jones** joined the Program in History of Science and Technology at the University of Minnesota in fall 2005 as an Associate Professor.

The National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) is pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Clayton D. Laurie** to the position of NRO Historian and as Chief NRO History Staff within the Center for the Study of National Reconnaissance (CSNR). Dr. Laurie brings 19 years of federal history experience to his new position, having previously served at the U.S. Army Center of Military History with the CIA History Staff, and as Deputy NRO Historian.

**Tom Misa** has been appointed Director of the Charles Babbage Institute, effective 1 July 2006. He will also serve as Engineering Research Associates Land-Grant Professor in History of Technology in the Program in History of Science and Technology at the University of Minnesota.

**Ricarda Riina**, a student of Professor Paul E. Berry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is the recipient of the 2005 Lawrence Memorial Award. For her dissertation research, Ms. Riina has undertaken a study of *Croton* (Euphorbiaceae). The proceeds of the Award will help support her travel to Brazil for field research.

**Ruth Rogaski** has won a Guggenheim Fellowship for her research on the role of the biological sciences in the formation of Asian empires. The Fellowship will enable Rogaski to complete her current book project, *Cold Utopia: Nature, Science and Empire in Manchuria, 1700-2000*. This project explores how Asians studied the flora and fauna of a contested northern frontier of China – Manchuria – in order to illuminate the role that nature, science, and the imagination played in the formation of non-Western regimes.


The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine is pleased to announce that **Dr. Sonu Shandasani** has been appointed to a Readership in Jung History, which he will take up early in 2006. Sonu has edited several volumes, and is the author of *Celt Fictions: C. G. Jung and the Founding of Analytical Psychology*.

**Emily Thompson**, of the University of California, San Diego, was named a MacArthur Fellow for 2005. MacArthur Fellows are given $500,000 in “no strings attached” support over the next five years. Fellows are selected for their creativity, originality, and potential.

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**Reminder:** The *Isis Bibliography* from 1975 to the present is available online with the Research Libraries Group (RLG). Members of the Society may access the RLG Web site and the History of Science and Technology Database (HST) through the HSS homepage at http://hssonline.org. RLG has assigned us “Y6.G19” as a “User Name” and “HSSDEMO” as a “Password.”

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**History of Science Society Newsletter January 2006**

**Jobs**

The following announcements have been edited for space. For full descriptions and for the latest announcements, please visit http://hssonline.org. The Society does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of any item, and interested persons should verify all details. Those who wish to publish a job announcement should send an electronic version of the posting to newsletter@hssonline.org.

The faculty of humanities at the California Institute of Technology, in collaboration with the Huntington Library, invites applications for the annual Eleanor Searle Visiting Professor at Caltech in the field of history of science. The position is for a full academic year (September 2006 – June 2007). This is a half-time teaching position (two one quarter courses) at Caltech and a half-time research position at the Huntington Library. All applicants must currently hold a Ph.D. and a full-time tenure track appointment at another university. In your application include details of the research you wish to carry out at the Huntington Library; c.v.; a recent sample of writing, copies of teaching evaluations, and a list of references. Review will begin 15 February 2006. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Caltech is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Women, minorities, veterans, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply. Contact: Sanja Ilic, administrative assistant for the Eleanor Searle Visiting Professorship, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences, MC 101-40, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125. E-mail: sanja@hss.caltech.edu.

The Department of History at Carleton University invites applications for a tenure-track position in Medieval History at the Assistant Professor level commencing 1 July 2006. The university seeks an historian of Medieval Britain or Europe able to offer instruction and supervision aimed at expanding graduate offerings in the Medieval and Early Modern eras. Applications, together with a c.v.; graduate transcripts, teaching evaluations, and evidence of published work should be sent as paper copies (not electronic attachments) to: Prof. A.B. McKillop, Chair, Department of History, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1S 5B6. Candidates should arrange to have three referees familiar with their work send supporting letters to the above address. The deadline for receipt of all materials is 1 February 2006. For more information, visit the university's Web site at http://www.carleton.ca. Also, visit the Department of History's site at http://www.carleton.ca/history.

The Department of History at the University of Southampton would like to hear from potential applicants for a Wellcome Trust University Award in the History of Medicine. We are looking for an energetic and committed scholar who will complement and expand the department's current interests in the history of medicine, and who will contribute to its undergraduate and postgraduate courses and research degrees. Expressions of interest are invited for any period or area, but a focus on the middle ages, the early modern periods, the U.S.A., or on Jewish history and culture would be particularly welcome. Informal enquiries may be made to the Head of Department, Professor Anne Curry (a.e.curry@soton.ac.uk) or Dr. Waltraud Ernst (wer@soton.ac.uk).
Workspace: Facets of Islamic Science

Jamil Ragep to Deliver the George Sarton Memorial Lecture to the AAAS

By Michal Meyer

The month after 9/11, Jamil Ragep found himself on the national stage. The medieval historian, more used to old libraries and ancient manuscripts, was thrust onto the pages of The New York Times and into National Public Radio's airwaves, not to mention the many speaking invitations from Kiwanians and Rotarians. Islamic scholars, used to small niches and great obscurity, found themselves the object of interest. "Before September 11, hardly anyone ever wanted our opinion on anything," says Ragep. "All of a sudden we were put into the spotlight and asked all kinds of things, some of which we knew about and some of which we didn't."

Over a two-year span, Ragep, who is a professor of the history of science at the University of Oklahoma, gave dozens of talks to groups who wanted to know all about Islam. Over and over, he was asked, 'How can Muslims today be doing this sort of thing?' "Why does science today seem at such a low ebb in Islamic countries, when in medieval times their scientific reputation was glorious?" This incompatibility between past and present struck many of the people Ragep spoke to. While questions of modernity, the creation of the scientific tradition in Islam and its transmission and transformation, had previously bubbled through the community of Islamic scholars, few people outside that world showed interest. "In the last few years it has become a burning issue. What my audiences had half learned in college and high school didn't jibe with the popular image of Islam that seemed so unidimensional—a civilization that never really got out of the dark ages."

He learned to speak to a general audience, to give a little complexity when his listener thought the situation simple, to give a little coherence if they were overcome with incomprehension. His audiences, he says, were in the main relieved by his words. "The idea that there is a multiplicity of voices that can't be reduced to simple answers, that really resonates. It's a funny dichotomy. On the one hand we as human beings like to reduce things; it allows us control, and if we can reduce other cultures then we feel in control. As historians we are all guilty of this at one time or another. On the other hand, we also rejoice in complexity and multiplicity."

Ragep, who is president of the Commission of History of Science and Technology in Islamic Societies, says "That is the message—there are different Islamic societies." Spain in the 13th century was not the same as Egypt in the 10th century, nor was 15th-century Iran the same as 16th-century Spain. The circumstances that create an Islamic society in the 21st century are very different from those which created a certain society in the 13th century. "We wouldn't use Jerry Falwell to analyze Thomas Aquinas. Yet there is a book out that tries to analyze medieval Islam through Khomeini."

These days public demand for Ragep's knowledge has waned. "I think one of the nice things people have figured out is that a medievalist might not be the best person to sort out our present-day problems."

Even in the history of science, Islamic science has endured a low profile. Ragep's position at the University of Oklahoma is the only history-of-science position in the U.S. for Islamic science within a history-of-science department. It is important to know such history, says Ragep, not only for European early modern science but also to understand the scientific tradition in its own right, one that will give people a more expansive view of science. It is an uncharted world, one where less than five percent of original documents have been read, where fractured infrastructure slows research, and where, says Ragep, historians of Islamic science have not done a good job in conveying their world to a broader audience.

Ragep is taking Islamic science to the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in February. For his 2006 George Sarton Memorial Lecture, Ragep carries the concept of big science back to the Middle Ages. He wants to surprise the scientists with his talk "What Can the History of Islamic Science Teach Us About Science," where big science begins with the grandchildren of Genghis Khan. After the Mongol conquest of Baghdad, the victors began a massive building program of an enormous observatory in Iran. "The idea of gathering lots of people to do observations and scientific work under the Mongols—maybe we should expand our notions of science and how it came about." Ragep would also like to broaden the idea of an experiment by taking into account Abūsīn's work in optics.

The story of scientific transmission, reception, and appropriation is one that fascinates Ragep. The mixed origins of trigonometry is a perfect example. An Islamic invention whose origins date to the Babylonians, followed by the derivation of the chord by the Greeks, then taken up by the Indians who came up with the half-chord function; the jaya (transformed into Arabic as jayb, which can also mean pocket or opening). Then comes the trip to the Latin-based world (where jayb was translated as sinus), which gave us sine. There is a wonderful intersection of culture, religion, and scientific traditions here, says Ragep. Only spherical triangles could deal with the directional problems of the shortest distance on a sphere, a vital problem in finding Mecca's direction, and the tangent function comes into play for the afternoon prayer, which should occur when a person's shadow is the same length as themselves. "We get our sine, cosine, and tangent from this mix of Greek and Indian sources, and Islamic religion. It gives us a broader sense of what we take for granted. It enriches us to know these things."

Originally, though, Ragep was far more interested in modern science. An undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan gave him some exposure to history of science. But his historical reading developed a sense of kinship with the past that could not be shaken. "When I heard about Claudius Ptolemy in Alexandria, he seemed like someone I could have a conversation with. There is a part of being rational that allows us to speak across centuries, despite who we were or where we lived." He was drawn to China's history but defeated by language difficulties. Arabic would be easier. Ragep went to Harvard to study with A. I. Sabra and found he couldn't get through the first sentence of the first text that Sabra put before him. Time, good teaching, and
two years spent in Syria and Egypt in the Seventies working with manuscripts first hand helped. "In those days it was like going to a medieval school. There were orange trees, a reading room, manuscripts that would be brought to me. It was a love affair. There is something about being with a manuscript that is almost like a transcendent experience. When I go into a manuscript library I have this incredible sense of wellbeing and contentment — a sense of being as close as I can ever get to these people."

The duties of the modern world do drag Ragep back to the present. Until recently, his co-directorship of the Center for Peace Studies (CPS) made him responsible for mediating among groups of Iraqis, Syrians and Turks and their arguments over the quality and ownership of water flowing through their countries. "I had to be a good listener and try to figure out why people are saying what they're saying." Historical training helped, he says, as did keeping the conversation going through the frustrations and failures.

Water woes and Turkish environmentalists offered a lesson in change, says Ragep. In the Eighties, Turkish environmental groups formed in response to large-scale dam building and the dislocation of towns and villages. The human equation, everything from raising the standard of living to the role of women, slowly began to change in the least developed part of Turkey as these groups gradually became strong enough to take on government. "You multiply this through Turkish society and you realize change happens through little steps put in place a generation ago, rather than simply through the European Union pressuring Turkey. It taught me small steps are important and sometimes they are invisible. It's a good lesson for us historians that to understand dramatic change we have to understand what came before."

Though he has now swapped water worries for the position of acting chair of his department, his experiences with CPS are proving valuable in his current work with Rivka Feldhay and Lorraine Daston on the 15th-century background to the Copernican Revolution and the religious and social changes that made Copernicus possible. Other projects include the Islamic Science Manuscript Initiative, which involves putting all available information on the Islamic exact sciences into a database with the collaboration of his partner, Sally P. Ragep. Jamil Ragep has also been working with Tzvi Langermann and, before his death, David Pingree on editing the Greek, Arabic, and Hebrew text of The Planetary Hypotheses of Claudius Ptolemy.

In November 2001 Ragep was interviewed on NPR's Talk of the Nation for "The Role of Religion in the Current Conflict." In October of that year The New York Times' Dennis Overbye interviewed him as part of a long article, "How Islam Won, and Lost, the Lead in Science." The question was always 'What happened to Islamic science.' Overbye ended his article with a unifying and universal vision of science, and a quotation denying the existence of such a thing as Islamic science. Ragep has a different message for an audience interested in a broader view of science. While there is no essence of Islamic science and civilization, there are varieties. That message, says Ragep, came in a talk given by A. I. Sabra at the HSS meeting in Minneapolis 10 years ago. "We don't have that many examples of science to think about, and this is a thousand-year-old tradition. As historians of science we should know something about as many of these traditions as possible, because our goal should be to understand science in its many varieties."

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Special NSF Employment Opportunity
Program Director for Science and Society Program

The National Science Foundation invites applications for a two-year temporary appointment to the position of Program Director, to begin by July 2006. This is a research administration position.

The Program Director represents the program to colleagues in NSF and other Federal science agencies and to the Administration. The director would be in charge of two of the four components of the Science and Society Program: History and Philosophy of Science, Engineering and Technology, and Social Studies of Science, Engineering and Technology. Those components support research and educational projects pertaining to the historical, philosophical and social dimensions of science, technology and engineering.

The Program Director provides intellectual leadership and is responsible for all aspects of program administration and development. He or she manages the proposal review process and active NSF grants, maintains regular contact with the relevant research communities, and provides advice and consultation about the fields. The program budget is about $3.0 million.

Applicants must have a Ph.D. in a relevant discipline, and be active in a relevant research area. They should show evidence of initiative, administrative skill, and ability to work well with others. While the Foundation is interested in individuals with research interests in history, philosophy, and social studies of science, program areas, such interest is not essential. Six or more years of research experience beyond the Ph.D. is desirable. Salary is negotiable, and is comparable with academic salaries at major US institutions.

The National Science Foundation is located in Arlington, Virginia, immediately across the Potomac River from Washington, DC. The metropolitan Washington area, besides being the seat of the U.S. Government, is noted as a cultural center and as a growing center of high-tech industry. A wide variety of types of housing is available within close proximity to the NSF offices.

Please direct inquiries and expressions of interest to Dr. Richard Lempert, Director of the Division of Social and Economic Sciences (SES), phone: (703) 292-7391; rlempert@nsf.gov; Dr. Ronald Rainiger, phone: (703) 292-7283; email: rainiger@nsf.gov; or Dr. John Perhoni, at (703) 292-7727; jperhoni@nsf.gov. They are located in Suite 995, National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22230. The fax number is: (703) 292-9068.

Qualified persons who are women, ethnic/racial minorities, and persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply. The National Science Foundation is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to employing highly qualified staff that reflects the diversity of our nation.
History of Science Society Newsletter January 2006

An Appropriate Life
A. I. Sabra Wins Society's Highest Honor

By Michal Meyer

During the recent HSS meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota, A. I. Sabra took the time to hear some of the papers. The quality of the younger speakers impressed him, but what, he wondered, will become of such people taking their first steps into an uncertain academic future. "There is no shortage of intelligence and enthusiasm," he said, "but the question is what do we do so that they don't go astray? I've come to the conclusion that luck is often what allows people to get what they like; personally I was very lucky."

Sabra was in Minneapolis to receive the Sarton Medal. The award, established fifty years ago, recognizes superior scholarship in the history of science. The conference also provided a time to see colleagues and friends, and in the hallways Sabra was often surrounded by people. He easily remembers the debts to others—his teachers in Alexandria and Ernst Gombrich at the Warburg Institute. Others remember his kindness to them, such as the professor who spent his graduate years at Harvard and was once taken out to lunch by Sabra, who kindly inquired into the studies and interests of a student not even his own.

Sabra's acceptance speech at the awards presentation was peppered with recognition of those—both known and unknown—who directed and helped him through his student years and after. His career has spanned two continents and an island—Africa, England, and North America. In 1996 he retired as Professor of the History of Arabic Science at Harvard University's History of Science Department, in order to focus more on his research work.

Sabra's career, beginning in the fifties, intersects with many of the great names of history of science. In 1952, while studying for a Ph.D. on 17th-century optics, Sabra met Alexandre Koyré in London and they spoke about Newton and the Scientific Revolution. Since then, Sabra has spent much of his working career proving Koyré wrong in his prediction that the student fascinated by the Scientific Revolution would "always remain in the 17th century." It was the Middle Ages and Islamic Science that soon grabbed the young scholar's attention. Of course, he says, chance played a major part.

Nineteen fifty-two was a significant year; it was the year Gamal Abdel Nasser came to power in Egypt. Egypt was changing, and the old dispensation under which Sabra had studied was fading away. In the forties, as an undergraduate at the University of Alexandria, Sabra heard lectures in Arabic, English, and French, and wrote his papers in all three languages. Professors from Egypt and Europe taught at the university and, like many other early historians of science, Sabra studied philosophy. After graduation in 1947, the Egyptian Government offered him a scholarship to study under Karl Popper at the London School of Economics. He was lucky, he says. Philosophy quickly changed to philosophy of science after Sabra heard Popper lecture on Einstein. A greater change came when Sabra met his future wife, Nancy, a Fulbright scholar from the U.S. who also studied with Popper. In 1955, PhD in hand, Sabra returned to Alexandria to teach. Having left the research facilities of the British Library behind, he cast about for an area of study that would fit his current circumstances. As luck would have it again, Mustafa Nazif, a retired professor of physics at Cairo University, had developed a deep interest in history of science and published a two-volume book on Alhazen's optical works in Arabic. Sabra found himself drawn back into history and the movement of scientific knowledge across cultures, especially the flow from Hellenistic cultures into the Islamic world.

In 1961, the resources of the British Museum beckoned and Sabra returned to England, with plans to stay for just a year, followed perhaps by another year in America. But then fate in the shape of a friend intervened by suggesting to Sabra that he apply for an advertised three-year fellowship at the Warburg Institute. He applied after a meeting with the institute's director, Ernst Gombrich, and was successful. There was only one fellowship, says Sabra, and if he had been in London a year earlier or later the fellowship would not have been available, and his future would have been different.

It had been difficult to leave Egypt in 1961, says Sabra, and as time went on a return looked less and less inviting. After two years at the Warburg, Sabra was offered a one-year visiting associate professorship at Princeton. When he asked for leave, Gombrich told him he would have to give up the fellowship, but the Warburg was willing to offer him a permanent position. After the Princeton year, Sabra quickly settled back into the Warburg. It was a love affair, says Sabra of his relationship with the Institute, which allowed him much time for research. There he learned new perspectives from conducting a constant seminar regularly attended by some of the Institute's senior faculty, such as Frances Yates and P.D. Walker, as well as others from outside, such as Richard Walzer. "I have never forgotten that ten-year experience," says Sabra, "and the longer I live the more I feel connected to it. The Warburg is a unique place, and when I say I have been lucky I mean it literally." It was at the Warburg, where Sabra ended up as Reader in the History of the Classical Tradition in Science and Philosophy, that he finally learned to do history. The shift from philosophy to philosophy of science and then to history of science made sense, says Sabra. "One gave way to the other because it added something, it did not delete."

One thing the Warburg could not give Sabra was graduate students. In 1972 Harvard University interested in a man who combined the skills of an Arabist, a philosopher and a historian with strong interests in Islamic science, offered Sabra a permanent position, and gifted graduate students.

Sabra's philosophical background gives him a commitment to scientific reasoning and to rationalism. His main field is optics, an interest that has continued since his first published paper in 1954, written on Newton for the British Journal for the Philosophy of Science. He is passionately interested in the transmission of knowledge, though transmission is too neutral a word for Sabra. Appropriation is far better, a word that allows the movement of scientific knowledge and the taking of that knowledge by other peoples for their own intellectual ambitions. "This is what the Muslim Arabs and Persians did when they took over Greek science and philosophy, and what the Europeans did later, a creative process of making their own something originally useful for them in their context."

Sabra's career has intersected with many of the great names of history of science. The conference also provided a time to see colleagues and friends, and in the hallways Sabra was often surrounded by people. He easily remembers the debts to others—his teachers in Alexandria and Ernst Gombrich at the Warburg Institute. Others remember his kindness to them, such as the professor who spent his graduate years at Harvard and was once taken out to lunch by Sabra, who kindly inquired into the studies and interests of a student not even his own.

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It had been difficult to leave Egypt in 1961, says Sabra, and as time went on a return looked less and less inviting. After two years at the Warburg, Sabra was offered a one-year visiting associate professorship at Princeton. When he asked for leave, Gombrich told him he would have to give up the fellowship, but the Warburg was willing to offer him a permanent position. After the Princeton year, Sabra quickly settled back into the Warburg. It was a love affair, says Sabra of his relationship with the Institute, which allowed him much time for research. There he learned new perspectives from conducting a constant seminar regularly attended by some of the Institute's senior faculty, such as Frances Yates and P.D. Walker, as well as others from outside, such as Richard Walzer. "I have never forgotten that ten-year experience," says Sabra, "and the longer I live the more I feel connected to it. The Warburg is a unique place, and when I say I have been lucky I mean it literally." It was at the Warburg, where Sabra ended up as Reader in the History of the Classical Tradition in Science and Philosophy, that he finally learned to do history. The shift from philosophy to philosophy of science and then to history of science made sense, says Sabra. "One gave way to the other because it added something, it did not delete."

One thing the Warburg could not give Sabra was graduate students. In 1972 Harvard University interested in a man who combined the skills of an Arabist, a philosopher and a historian with strong interests in Islamic science, offered Sabra a permanent position, and gifted graduate students.

Sabra's philosophical background gives him a commitment to scientific reasoning and to rationalism. His main field is optics, an interest that has continued since his first published paper in 1954, written on Newton for the British Journal for the Philosophy of Science. He is passionately interested in the transmission of knowledge, though transmission is too neutral a word for Sabra. Appropriation is far better, a word that allows the movement of scientific knowledge and the taking of that knowledge by other peoples for their own intellectual ambitions. "This is what the Muslim Arabs and Persians did when they took over Greek science and philosophy, and what the Europeans did later, a creative process of making their own something originally useful for them in their context."
not theirs.” Greek doesn’t automatically turn itself into Arabic nor Arabic into Latin, says Sabra. The process requires resources and work and deep reasons. Pockets of Greek learning within the Muslim empire, including scattered Christian monastic schools and pagan Sabirans with interest in Hellenistic astronomy, astrology, and mathematics, provided a rich source on which scholars supported by the Abbasid rulers in Baghdad could base their first massive translations in the eighth and ninth centuries. “Greek thought was invited into Islamic civilization as a welcome friend, not an imposed burden,” says Sabra. “The acquired Greek legacy not only lingered but quickly permeated all forms of Islamic intellectualism.” That avidly imported learning, says Sabra, was appropriated by individuals acting at the intersection of three cultural influences: Arabism, Hellenism, and Islam.

Sabra entertains a tempered optimism about the increasing sophistication of the field. There is more and more attention to Arabic/Islamic science, and the subject is growing; in Europe (Germany, England and Spain) there are now three journals completely devoted to the subject, and others in the Islamic world (Syria and Iran), but nowhere enough, he says. Teachers must be trained and students exposed to the field and to Arabic. There is a lot to be done; “sometimes I feel we haven’t yet begun,” says Sabra. Many of those who work on Islamic science, are absorbed in the seemingly “mechanical” task of editing and translating. Getting texts out in scientific editions and exact translations is difficult and time consuming, he says, but it is the basis for everything else. “Without it we don’t really know what we are doing.” Sabra has been heavily involved in that project, including a critical edition and English translation of Alhazen’s large Optics. However, he does warn repeatedly against neglecting historical research and interpretation, and has published attempts in this direction himself. Editing and interpreting, he says, must go hand in hand.

Though returning to Egypt only infrequently over the years, in 2004 Sabra was in Alexandria to participate in a conference at the new Library of Alexandria. He was impressed by the many activities of the library and its institutional independence, but there can be no meaningful comparison between the burgeoning institution and his current home: “I have a study and a place in Harvard’s Widener Library, which is the best research library in the world.” But Sabra’s heart and many of his memories remain at the Warburg. When the invitation from Harvard arrived, one of his Warburg friends told him that if the chance came to do what he wanted in America, he should not hesitate. Sabra has of course made close friends in the U.S., some of whom he knew before leaving England, but he never lost touch with that earlier generation of the Warburg. They might perhaps be considered “old fashioned” in the minds of some younger people today. “But I like being old fashioned,” he says.
History of Science Society Newsletter January 2006

Notes from the Inside: The 2005 Minneapolis Meeting

Jay Malone, Executive Director

I just sent payment to the Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis for our annual meeting. When I mentioned to the grad students that the coffee bill alone was almost $6,000, they were aghast and encouraged me to share this and other tidbits with the membership.

Conference hotels do a fabulous job of handling our meetings, but there is a price for that service. Food is expensive. A gallon of coffee (3,785 ml) costs $46 ($2.88 per 8 ounce cup, 34% less coffee than the smallest size at Starbucks) and when you add the service charge and sales tax, a $2.88 cup of coffee actually costs $3.77. Such prices are typical at conference hotels, so I try to be careful with these expenses, recognizing that not everyone who registers for the meeting drinks coffee. But the urge to order more coffee can be overwhelming when there is a long line of caffeine-deprived delegates holding empty cups in front of empty urns. But replenishing the coffee urns meant that our five coffee breaks in Minneapolis came to $5,873 US (4,913 EUR).

As you would expect, alcohol is even more expensive than coffee, one reason why we decided to go with a cash bar for the two receptions at the 2005 meeting. This seems a fair way to keep registration costs down, but there is an even more important reason: litigation. Meeting experts tell us that hosting an open bar at our conference is begging for trouble.

Of course, the biggest expense associated with the annual meeting is labor costs. At least 25% of the Executive Office’s efforts are devoted to the annual meeting. That means that for the meeting to break even, we need to clear $31,000 after covering all other expenses. That means, $31,000 after paying the $29,000 hotel bill, the $4,000 bill for printing the program, the $3,000 fee for processing credit cards, as well as charges for transportation, xeroxing, meeting packets, program planning, and myriad supplies. When you add all of these expenses together you get over $80,000; if we relied solely on registration fees, everyone (including graduate students) would have to pay over $120 to cover costs (based on an attendance of 600, which was close to the Minneapolis numbers). So how were we able to offer regular members and graduate student members early meeting registration rates of $85 and $45 respectively?

Well, we employ several strategies. Income from the book exhibit and program ads help. Another tactic is to enlist sponsors for the meeting. This past year we drew on the support of the Bakken Library and Museum of Electricity in Life, The University of Chicago Press, The University of Minnesota (Office of the Dean, Institute of Technology and Program in History of Science and Technology), The American Council of Learned Societies, the California Institute of Technology and the Francis Bacon Foundation, the Gambrinus Company, and Summit Brewing Company. Altogether, these sponsors accounted for over $9,200 in donations, and we are grateful for their support.

Yet another cost-savings strategy is to use professional planners to help with the meeting. Many of our fellow societies in the American Council of Learned Societies, including SHOT, draw on such planners to assist them with their conferences. These planners offer advice on site selection, hotel negotiation, child care, airline discounts, and many other functions. Since many of these planners have worked in the hospitality industry, they could help us find the best value for our money. Groups in the AGLS that employ planners report meeting in nicer hotels, improved banquet services, and more professional meetings. And since planners provide hotels the lion’s share of their business and many planners have contracts that guarantee they will receive the lowest room rates, attendees should be able to save on accommodations.

But the principal reason for using a planning company is that they have clout with hotels. The annual meeting represents HSS’s greatest financial risk, and in these days of terrorism, hotel and transportation strikes, and natural disasters, having a large company assist you when you are trying to mitigate losses makes sense.

I hope that those who attended the 2005 meeting enjoyed themselves. Thank you for coming.

The HSS would like to thank the following donors for their generous support of graduate students at the 2005 annual meeting. Over $1,000 was raised to provide extra discounted rooms for students at the host hotel, as well as refreshments for the graduate-student lounge. Thank you!

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The International History of Science Society

As the graph to the right shows, the HSS includes members from around the globe. Almost a third of our membership is comprised of scholars residing outside the borders of the United States. Part of our international presence can be attributed to our Sponsor A Scholar program, and we are grateful for these scholars and for those members who sponsor them. If you know of individuals working outside of the U.S. who would benefit from HSS membership, please ask them to contact Jay Malone at the Executive Office at jay@hssonline.org.

HSS 2006 Annual Meeting: Call for Papers

Vancouver, B.C., Canada
2-5 November 2006
(joint meeting with PSA & 4S)

The History of Science Society will hold its 2006 Annual Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia. Proposals for sessions and contributed papers must be submitted by 1 April 2006 to the History of Science Society's Executive Office, PO Box 117360, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-7360; phone: 352-392-1677; fax: 352-392-2795; e-mail: meeting@hssonline.org.

Submissions on all topics are requested. All proposals must be submitted on the HSS Web site (http://www.hssonline.org) or on the annual meeting proposal forms that are available from the HSS Executive Office. We strongly encourage electronic submissions from the link provided on the HSS Web site. HSS members are asked to circulate this announcement to colleagues who are not members of the HSS but who may be interested in presenting a paper at the Annual Meeting. Particularly encouraged are session proposals that include: a mix of men and women; diversity of institutional affiliations; and/or a balance of professional ranks (e.g., mixing senior scholars with graduate students). Only one proposal per person may be submitted. For additional information concerning the 2006 meeting, contact the HSS Executive Office.

Before sending a proposal to the HSS office, we ask that everyone read the Committee on Meetings and Programs' "Guidelines for Selecting Papers and Sessions" (on the HSS Web site); these will be used in determining the acceptability of session and paper proposals. The 2006 program co-chairs are William Newman (wnewman@indiana.edu) and Keith Benson (kbenson@interchange.ubc.ca).

The History of Science Society would like to thank the following for their support of the Sponsor A Scholar program

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2005 Prize Winners

Pamela Mack (Hazen Prize)

Lawrence Principe (Pfizer Award)

Janet Browne (Distinguished Lecture)

A. I. Sabra (Sarton Medal)

Alan Kraut (Davis Prize)

William Newman (Pfizer Award)

The HSS would like to thank the following volunteers for their service to the Society. Without their work, their talent, and their dedication, the HSS would simply not exist. Thank you.

Michael M. Sokal  Joan Cadden

Past President (2004-2005)
John Servos

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Angela N. H. Creager, Lynn K. Nyhart, Michael A. Osborne, Diane Paul, Jole R. Shookelford

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Lisa Rosner, Joseph H. Hazen Education Prize, 2001-2005, Chair 03-05
Liba Taub, Joseph H. Hazen Education Prize, 2002-2004

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Lynn Nyhart
James Secord

Pamela Henson, Women’s Caucus CoChair 2003-2005
Pamela Mack, NASWAHA Fellowship Committee, 2000-2005
Paul Farber, AAS/Section I Delegate, 2002-2005
Request for Prize Nominations

(Nominations are due 1 April and can be made online at http://hssonline.org – click on Society Awards)

Nathan Reingold Prize (formerly known as the Schuman Prize) for the best graduate-student essay (deadline 1 June)

Margaret W. Rossiter History of Women in Science Prize for the best article on women in the history of science
(Articles published from 2002 to 2005 are eligible)

New Suzanne J. Levinson Prize (biennial) for the best book in the history of the life sciences or natural history, published 2002-2005

Joseph H. Hazen Education Prize for exceptional educational activities in the history of science

Watson Davis and Helen Miles Davis Prize for the best book in history of science intended for a broad audience, published 2003-2005

Pfizer Award for the best book aimed at a scholarly audience in history of science, published 2003-2005

Sarton Medal for exceptional scholarship over a lifetime
History of Science Society Newsletter January 2006

Future Meetings

The following announcements have been edited for space. For full descriptions and the latest announcements, please visit our Web site (http://www.hssonline.org). The Society does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of any item; interested persons should verify all details. Those who wish to publish a future meeting announcement should send an electronic version of the posting to newsletter@hssonline.org.

Calls for Papers

Joint Atlantic Seminar for the History of Biology will be held at Johns Hopkins University on 24-25 March 2006. Abstracts should be 300 words or less and must include a title and author name and affiliation. E-mail (pdf, rtf, or Word format) should be addressed to all three of the following: Nathaniel Comfort (comfort@jhmi.edu), Sharon Kingsland (sharon@jhu.edu), Daniel Todes (dtodes@jhmi.edu). Deadline 1 February 2006.

49th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Junto of the History of Science Society. University of Wisconsin-Madison, 28-30 April 2006. The Junto welcomes short papers (20 minutes) on any topic in the history of science, technology, and medicine, or the philosophy of science and technology. Submit your abstract (300 word max.) electronically by 1 March 2006, to junto@histsci.wisc.edu; http://www.histsci.wisc.edu/junto.

The Infinite Genealogy: Intercultural Approaches to New Media Art. Simon Fraser University Harbour Centre Campus, Vancouver, BC, Canada 17-20 May 2006; http://wwwsfu.ca/conferences/infinite_genealogy. Contact Laura Marks lmarks@sfu.ca.

The International Committee for the History of Technology's 33rd Symposium in Leicester, U.K., 15 - 20 August 2006, welcomes proposals for individual papers and sessions. Deadline: 1 February 2006. Send proposals by e-mail to James Williams, Program Committee Chair at techjunc@pacbell.net; http://wwwicohtec.org.

History of Science Society. 2-5 November 2006, Vancouver, B.C., Canada. (See the call on p. 15.)

Food Chains: Provisioning, Technology, and Science, 3-4 November 2006. The Center for the History of Business, Technology and Society invites paper proposals on the provisioning systems that supply our world with food. Deadline 31 March 2006. Contact Carol Lockman, Hagley Museum and Library, PO Box 3630, Wilmington DE 19807. Phone: 302.658.2400, ext. 243; Fax: 302.655.3188; e-mail: clockman@Hagley.org.

Upcoming Conferences

First Conference on History of Medicine in Southeast Asia. Siem Reap, Cambodia, 9-10 January 2006; http://www.khmestudies.org/.


Empire, Borderlands and Border Cultures. California State University Stanislaus, 16-18 March 2006.

The European Social History Association Conference will be held in Amsterdam, 22-25 March 2006; http://www.issgl/esshc/.


Race, Pharmaceuticals, and Medical Technology. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, Massachusetts, 7-8 April 2006.

Call for Participation: "Toward a History and Philosophy of Expertise" The Chemical Heritage Foundation will host a workshop, "Toward a History and Philosophy of Expertise" on 7-8 April 2006, as part of the 2006 CaIn Conference.

Mephistos 2006. The 24th international graduate student conference in the history, philosophy, and sociology of science, technology and medicine, University of Chicago 7-9 April 2006; http://mephistos.uchicago.edu.


Remaking Boston. The Massachusetts Historical Society conference on the environmental history of Boston to be held 4-6 May 2006.


Philosophies of Technology: Bacon and His Contemporaries. Frankfurt am Main, 7-8 July 2006.


Health and Medicine in History: East-West Exchange. Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 2-4 November 2006.

Philosophy of Science Association. 2-5 November, 2006, Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Joint meeting with HSS and 4S.
Dissertations List

The list below reflects information provided by Dr. Jonathon Erken (only dissertation titles placed in Dissertation Abstracts are included) and others and was current as of 1 August 2005. Please send any missing titles to info@hssonline.org.


Miron, Janet. "'As in Menagerie': The Custodial Institution as Spectacle in the Nineteenth Century." York University (Canada), 2004, 270 pages. N99211.


Widders, Evan. "Science, Medicine, and Criollo Culture in Late-Colonial New Spain." University of California, Santa Barbara, 2005, 247 pages. 3161540.


History of Science Society Newsletter January 2006

ISIS BOOKS RECEIVED

Prior to the publication of each Newsletter, the HSS Executive Office receives from the Isis Editorial Office a list of books received by that office for potential review. This list appears here quarterly; it is not compiled from the annual Current Bibliography. You may also view this list and prior lists online at http://www.hssonline.org/society/isis/mf_isis.html


Baker, Gregory L.; Blackburn, James A. *The Pendulum: A Case Study in Physics*. xii + 300 pp., figs., bibl., index.xford: Oxford University Press, 2005. $89.50 (cloth). 0198867645.


Fliigel, Helmut W. *Der Abgrund der Zeit: Die Entwicklung der Geschichte im 1760-1830. 250 pp., illus., bibl., index. Berlin: GNT-Verlag, 2005. 30 (cloth). 3928186779.


History of Science Society Newsletter January 2006


Ruston, Sharon. Shelley and Vitality. xii + 229 pp., index. New York: Palgrave, 2005. $74.95 (cloth). 1409318244.


Segal, Howard P. Reenacting the Machine Age: Henry Ford's Village Industry, xv + 244 pp., index. Athens: University of Massachusetts Press, $34.95 (cloth). 1588494812.


Visser, Rob; Touret, Jacques (Editors). Dutch Pioneers of the Earth Sciences. (History of Science and Scholarship in the Netherlands Volume 5). xii + 200 pp., index. Amsterdam: Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Science, 2004. $40 (cloth). 9006984397.


Yoder, Hatten S., Jr., The Geophysical Laboratory: (Centennial History of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Volume III) xiv + 270 pp., figs., tables, apps., index. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004. $107.95 (cloth). 052189080X.


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* Officers' Incentive Fund
+ In honor of Robert E. Schofield

Please send corrections to info@hsonline.org.
Who has Won the Reingold Prize?

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the HSS graduate-student essay prize, the formerly named Schuman Prize, the HSS Executive Office researched past winners and came up with some interesting facts. Given the preponderance of graduate programs in the U.S., it was not surprising that most winners have come from schools in the United States, but what did surprise us is that, judged by region, the northeastern U.S. has dominated the competition with a full 81% of winners coming from that area. Princeton has been the lion (or tiger, if you will), with 13 winners; followed by Harvard and Penn, with 5 winners each; and Johns Hopkins with 4. A total of 4 prize-winning students came from schools in the Midwest (University of Wisconsin and University of Chicago with 2 prizes each). Only 2 western schools (UCLA and Cal) have hosted winners. No school in the South has won and only two international schools (University of Toronto and Cambridge University) have claimed the prize.

Part of the explanation for the northeast influence could be the pattern of establishment of the graduate programs in the U.S., although a Princetonian was the last to win the prize. What is more important is the number of submissions.

Interestingly, the number of submitted articles has fluctuated widely. In the early 1990s, 16 and 17 entries per year were common. These numbers fell dramatically in the mid-90s with as few as 4 submissions and no more than 8 received each year. Heavy promotion of the prize among graduate students increased submissions significantly (22 in 2003), but this past year only 7 students entered essays, and none of these papers were judged as meeting the high standards of the Reingold Prize.

So, what is to be done? There are many things we can do. We have extended the prize deadline (from April 1st to June 1st) to give students extra time to polish their essays. Department chairs and dissertation advisers should send reminders to their students to take a chance on the prize (many chapters from dissertations have landed the prize). Delegates who attended the HSS meeting in Minneapolis should send an e-mail to students whose papers they considered especially interesting, encouraging those students to submit their paper for the competition. Finally, students need to submit their work, to be bold, and to make a bid for the prize. Such efforts elevate the intellectual field, paying dividends for the entire profession.

The Reingold Prize guidelines can be found on the HSS Web site at http://www.hssonline.org/society/awards/htm_awards.html.