

Report of the council meeting of 13 April 2005 , Paris

Present :

Robert Fox, President

Claude Debru, Past President

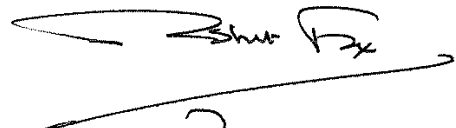
Christelle Rabier, Webmaster

Stéphanie Dupouy, Secretary

- *Discussion of the first draft of announcement proposed by Prof. Michal Kokowski (in March) for the Cracow conference.* Council Members made a number of observations on the draft. It was agreed to discuss with M. Kokowski the possibility of placing greater emphasis on substantive themes at the present cutting edge in the history of science. To this end, the council felt it desirable to make a clear distinction between sessions on research-oriented themes and those devoted to the state and present prospect of the discipline in Europe which should form the focus for a separate, specially assigned part of the conference program. Concern was also expressed about the size of the registration fee, currently 120 Euros for early registrants, and the proposed length of the conference. Council expressed its preference for a programme lasting no more than two full days (The Friday and the Saturday) plus an evening (Thursday) for a reception and plenary lecture. This would bring the Cracow conference into line with the one in Maastricht.
C. Debru and R. Fox planned to go to Cracow in June in order to discuss these different points with M. Kokowski.
- *Presentation of the Oxford Symposium (24-25 March 2006) to the council by R. Fox ; and of the successful contacts he had made with the ESHS's three partners in the venture : SFHST (Société Française d'Histoire des Sciences et des Techniques), and BSHS (British Society for the History of Science) and the Maison Française d'Oxford.*
- *C. Debru drew the council's attention on the grants of the European Science Foundation, to which ESHS could apply in order to raise funds for its projects.*
- *Presentation by S. Dupouy of the technical improvements required in order to establish an internet payment of the membership fees and to automate the day-to-day gestion of the data base of the members:* transfer of the existing data-base of ESHS members in an SQL database on the server ; establishment of an internet system which allows the members to join, pay their fees and renew them (possibly through PAYPAL); establishment of a private space for each member to enter personal information (address, current research, etc) and to actualize it. The council agreed to devote up to 750 Euros to this programming, for which the secretary and the webmaster need the help of a computer expert. This decision still have to be approved by the Treasurer.
- *Agreement of the council concerning the offer of Minerva to give ESHS member a free access to the journal for a period of six months. C. Rabier offered to make the journal available to members through a common password (the same for all the members).*

The same system shall be provisionally used to restrict access to the newsletter to the members.

- *News concerning « Centaurus ».* At the Maastricht ESHS general assembly, the proposal was made by Helge Kragh that Centaurus might be turned into the journal of ESHS, and this proposal received a highly favourable response, in the months following the Maastricht conference, from both the council and the scientific committee of ESHS, as well as from the journal's editorial board. Discussion by the council of the various possible forms that the subscription to the journal could take for ESHS members (included in the membership fees or separate, etc ?).
- *Discussion concerning the possible publication of papers arising from the Maastricht conference.* The journal Minerva might be interested in publishing revised versions of a selection of the papers given in Maastricht.



President

10 June 2006