

Report of the ESHS General Assembly in Maastricht, 6 November 2004

President's introductory remarks :

After reviewing the general purposes of the society, R. Fox came back to the conditions of the election of the council at the society's first General Assembly in October 2003. Since the normal duration of a council is supposed to be two years, whereas in this case the council had been elected only one year before, the President asked the General Assembly to extend the various mandates for two more years (until the next General Assembly). This would allow the next council for 2006-2008 to be elected during the General Assembly due to be held in 2006. He also asked the members to approve the creation of three new offices in the council which were not initially included in it: a webmaster, an editor of the newsletter, and a public relations officer. The General Assembly elected to these new positions C. Rabier (Webmaster) and S. Werrett (editor of the newsletter).

Treasurer's report :

Proceeds:

German Account: 459.48 € (deducted 0.52 € bank fees)

Swiss Account: 225 €

English Account: 146.02 £

Membership fees collected in Bologna: 18x20= 360 € (cash)

Membership fees collected in Maastricht: 1680 €.

Expenses

40 € for the payment of the announcement of the founding of the society in the „Journal Officiel de la Republique Francaise“

450 € for the Webdesigner for our Logo.

100 € to Stephanie Dupouy for different small expenses (stamps, paperware etc.)

Property of the Society after the Conference in Maastricht:

German Account: 459.48 €

Swiss Account: 225 €

English Account: 146.02 £

Cash: 1450 € (to be deposited in the German Account)

+100 Euros (entrusted to S. Dupouy)

Total resources: ca. 2.335 € + 146.02 £

Secretary's report :

- Report on the current state of membership : 60 Members at the end of the Maastricht Conference.
- What do the members get for their membership at the moment ? The newsletter.

- What would we like to offer to our members in the future? Discount for ESHS conference ; travel grants for students participating in ESHS conferences ; a website ; and a journal

Webmaster's report:

In Spring 2004, C. Rabier had been asked to take charge of the future ESHS's website. During the following 6 months, she launched a provisional site on the domain www.eshs.org, which includes information about the Society (statutes and members) and the two first numbers of the ESHS Newsletter. She also asked the Council to approve the commissioning of a professional designer to create a visual identity for the Society. The logo and graphic chart are now completed.

In the coming year, she hopes to develop an internet interface in order to allow any future member to join the Society via the Web.

As far as planned developments of the website are concerned, she is convinced—and wishes to convince the General Assembly—that the website could become an extraordinary tool for the Society and for the European community of historians of science.

First, it can prove very useful from the professional point of view, as it will centralize and present in an organized way important information, now scattered, about grants, prizes, job positions, etc. Further, it will map the existing institutions for the history of science, i.e. laboratories, departments and national societies, in Europe. In a more distant future, it can also supply a database of individuals, either members or professionals and a list of PhD in the field.

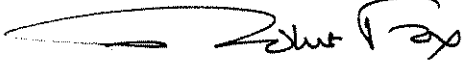
The ESHS website may also become a core instrument for research in history of science. One idea was raised in the Council, which is to develop for European history of science, the same tool that the mathematicians have been using for the past few years (Mathematics ArXiv) — supported by the National Science Foundation and other sponsors— in order to publish preprints of papers submitted to a scholarly journal. As the mathematics experience has proved, such database will foster and accelerate intellectual intercourse within the community. Last but not least, the Society may be interested to promote a European e-journal for the history of science. Even if such a format is not yet well valued by professionals in the field, the electronic journal offers many advantages in terms of cost, access, indexing, search engines, which will not last underrated for long. Both the preprint database and the journal will be showcases for research in European history of science.

To conclude, she would like to invite any member interested in promoting those or new projects, or would like to help in finding sponsors, and in discussing contents, to join the informal Website committee.

Discussion by delegates to the General Assembly :

- Prof. Helge Kragh suggested that, instead of creating its own journal, the ESHS might simply take over an existing journal. He mentioned that Centaurus may be interested in this possibility in the future, including some appropriate modification to its content.
- What is exactly an institutional membership? Does it mean that all the persons belonging to the institution will get the newsletter, for example? R. Fox's answer was that in the case of an institutional membership only the institution, and not the members of this institution, become ESHS members, so that the latter would not receive the newsletter individually.

- The council agreed on the importance of integrating the historians of science of the countries of the former Eastern block and inviting representatives from these countries to join the scientific committee.
- The same question was raised concerning the integration of historians of technology in the committees of ESHS.
- Vote on the location of the next ESHS conference. There was a single proposal for Cracow by Michal Kokowski, which was accepted by the General Assembly.

 (President)

10 June 2006

Report of the council meeting of 28 September 2005 *Paris*

Present :

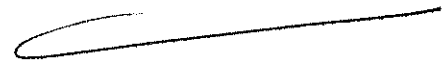
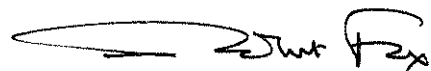
Robert Fox, President

Claude Debru, Past President

Christelle Rabier, Webmaster

Stéphanie Dupouy, Secretary

- *Elaboration of a strategy in order to advertize the Cracow Conference and the Oxford Symposium.* The council decided to ask one ESHS member in each country to spread the announcements in her or his own country.
- *Discussion of the possible creation of student grants for the Cracow conference financed by ESHS.* The purpose of these grants would be to reduce the cost of the Conference for students whose proposals have been accepted. Students would be selected on the basis of a summary of their talk and of a letter justifying their application. The Council decided to devote a maximum of 1000 Euros to these grants but did not fix their amount and number. This decision has still to be approved by the treasurer.
- *Planning of a next council meeting in Paris in February or in Oxford in March.*



President

10 June 2006

Report of the council meeting of 13 April 2005 , Paris

Present :

Robert Fox, President

Claude Debru, Past President

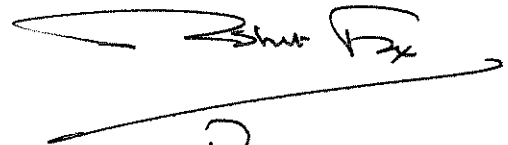
Christelle Rabier, Webmaster

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 programme. 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