

ESHS General Assembly

The General Assembly took place during the Prague Conference, on Saturday, September 24th, 2016, between 5:30pm and 7:30pm, at the Charles University, in room Aula P131, with the following

Agenda

- 1) Award of the Neuenschwander Prize
- 2) President's report
- 3) Election of three auditors
- 4) Election of two scrutinizers
- 5) Vice President's report: a six year commitment
- 6) President Elect's report and plan of action
- 7) Editor of *Centaurus*' report
- 8) Secretary's report
- 9) Treasurer's report
- 10) Report on the Neuenschwander prize's procedure
- 11) Public Relation Officer's report
- 12) Web Manager's report
- 13) A preliminary assessment of the Prague Conference
- 14) Towards the London 2018 Conference: vote
- 15) Presentation of the candidates for the New Council: vote
- 16) Discussion on ESHS's statement
- 17) Presentation of the recipients of the early scholars grants
- 18) Discussion, proposals of the members
- 19) Closure by the new President

The following officers of the ESHS are present: K. Chemla, A. Malet, F. Bevilacqua, E. Neuenschwander, E. Luciano, F. James, L. Gariboldi, I. Stamhuis (she left the Assembly at 6pm). Webmaster of the ESHS, M. Husson, also takes part in the General Assembly; the following members of the Scientific Board are present: Olga Elina, Efthymios Nicolaidis, Emma Sallent Del Colombo, Ana Simões, Annette Vogt, Bǎichūn Zhāng; 98 members of the ESHS are present; the President K. Chemla chairs the Assembly.

1) Award of the Neuenschwander Prize

The President Karine Chemla announces that the Neuenschwander Prize has been awarded to Nancy Siraisi and reads the laudatio. Unfortunately Nancy Siraisi has not been able to attend the Prague Conference and give her plenary lecture, because of a recent bereavement in her family. However, it is played a message recorded by Nancy Siraisi, who expresses her great appreciation for such an important award and for the fact that it is granted by a European Society such as the ESHS.

The President shares with the Assembly the sorrow for the colleagues who passed away in the last two years and invites to direct their thoughts to Giuseppe Castagnetti (commemorated by Roberto Lalli), Giorgio Israel (commemorated by Erika Luciano, on behalf of the Italian Society of History of Science and the Italian Society of History of

Mathematics); Masanori Kaji (commemorated by Sona Strbanova); Faidra Papanelopoulou (commemorated by Ana Simões and Maria Paula Diogo); Éva Katalin Vámos (commemorated by Sona Strbanova). The Assembly respects a minute of silence in their loving memory.

2) President's report (Karine Chemla)

During my term as President, the ESHS council has focused on **improving the Society's service to its members**. In particular, we have sought every possible opportunity to involve our members in ESHS activities and make them contribute to the life of the Society.

Let me first describe how this concern has guided our work and the actions that we have taken. In a second part, I will outline how I think ESHS could develop to improve even further this aspect of the life of the Society.

Thanks to the generosity of our Treasurer Erwin Neuenschwander, one of the main actions of ESHS is the biannual attribution of the **Neuenschwander prize**. It has become a tradition that all ESHS members are invited to nominate possible recipients, whereas the selection is made according to a voting procedure described by our statutes. The Council and Scientific board have established an informal rule for this vote, namely, to avoid attributing the prize to Past Presidents. I have supported this rule, which I consider as excellent for the transparency of the Society's actions.

Centaurus is the scientific journal of the Society, and Editor Ida Stamhuis' Report on the last two years will be presented at the General Assembly. Since 2015, ESHS has established a yearly call, inviting colleagues to submit **proposals for special issues** to be published in the journal. Each submission had to include a theme, a presentation of the issues addressed, and a list of contributors, with short résumés. To improve the transparency of our action and involve our members in ESHS activities, the Council has worked with the Editorial Board of the journal to appoint, through a nomination and voting procedure, an **independent Committee**, composed of four members of the Editorial Board and four ESHS members. Its task was to select the best issues among those submitted, for publication in the journal. I want to thank the Editorial Board and the members who have served on this committee wholeheartedly for their most important contribution to the selection of *Centaurus*' special issues. In the future, such calls might be extended to other types of publications in the journal.

Hopefully, problems that members had to **access the journal** online have been solved. In case you still have any problem, please write to Erica Cove (Wiley): ecove@wiley.com and put the ESHS secretary in cc: Erika Luciano <erika.luciano@unito.it>.

In the last two years, the Council has established a **new type of plenary lectures** during the ESHS conferences. Our intention was that these lectures aim at presenting an **overview of a sector of history of science** in which there were many important publications significant for the field as a whole in the last ten years. A **call** was sent to **all ESHS members**, inviting them to point out such sectors and nominate colleagues who could present an overview of that kind in a 30-minute plenary lecture. In addition to involving the greatest possible number of our members in an exercise useful for all of us, we also wanted this to be an action in favor of excellent **early career colleagues**. We thus strongly suggested that our members should think of nominating younger scholars (less than 10 years after PhD) for these plenary lectures, as a way of giving the younger generation a greater visibility and bringing younger scholars to ESHS. I am convinced that

similar actions in **favor of the youngest scholars** among us should be implemented, since ESHS should be a Society where all of us find possibilities to develop further.

The **Committee** that selected the two talks that you will have heard during the Prague conference was also **composed of ESHS members**, and I also want to thank them wholeheartedly for their contribution. Finally, our intention is that **written versions of these lectures ("State of the art in ...") be published** in a special section of *Centaurus*, and I hope that this type of publication can be useful for the whole field.

Through these actions, and others, we have aimed at improving democracy and transparency in the life of the Society. We have also involved a greater number of members, to send nominations or to sit in committees to select among the nominations. I hope that this process goes on in the future.

Since 2014, when I stepped in as President, we had to redo our **website** entirely. Konstantinos Skordoulis, who had been re-elected web master in 2014, resigned in 2015 from this position. Matthieu Husson has accepted to step in, and he has since then cooperated with Public Relation Officer Leonardo Gariboldi to offer our members information on the Society and on the history of science in Europe and beyond. Matthieu Husson's Report on our web site will also be presented during the General Assembly, but I want to express my gratitude to him for having accepted this mission for ESHS. He has recreated the website, moving it from a Greek server to another server, on the website of the Ecole Normale Supérieure, rue d'Ulm. A key reason for this choice is that this institution already hosted a **back-up** of what was on the Greek server. The ESHS web site will be more specifically based in an institution within the ENS, titled CAPHES, whose purpose is to organize archives for the history and philosophy of science and to help historians and philosophers of science with digital humanities (<http://caphes.ens.fr/presentation/article/presentation-de-l-unite>). We have thought that there was an opportunity for ESHS there. The director of CAPHES has accepted that our website be taken under the umbrella of this institution (remaining 100% under the responsibility of the ESHS). Thanks to this, we have a permanent server, with back-ups in other places, and we also have computer scientists adapting our web site to changes in the web world, in addition to technical help. Our website has nevertheless kept its address: www.eshs.org <<http://www.eshs.org/>> . The web site is now fully operational, and Matthieu Husson and Leonardo Gariboldi have done an excellent job to post news and information on it. It is still to be done to establish an official agreement with the Ecole Normale Supérieure, so that this is a permanent service the Society receives from this French Institution.

I urge our **members to send** the Public Relation Officer **news of general interest, including forthcoming workshops and conferences, postgraduate programs and fellowship opportunities**, so that ESHS website gives them a greater visibility worldwide, and in particular across Europe.

The Council and Scientific Board have also worked conjointly with the Local Organizing Committee to organize the **Prague Conference**. An important effort has been made to improve the quality of the contributions to the general ESHS Conferences through more severe evaluation. This effort must be continued to guarantee that participants in our meetings will hear good-quality talks. Despite this policy, the Prague Conference represents a quantitative success with the participation of over 500 scholars from more than fifty countries. For this meeting, the Council has taken the decision to include the **ESHS two-years membership fees for 2017 and 2018** into the registration fees, with fees at a reduced price of 30 EUR for two years (including the online access to

Centaurus). This measure reduces the fees to a minimum for colleagues who take part into our meetings. Naturally, other colleagues can still become members through the traditional subscription. This measure also encourages members to take part in meetings that remain the most important activity of ESHS. Finally, it creates a scholarly collective in Europe and beyond, which includes those who *de facto* feel that ESHS meetings are meaningful to them.

Moreover, in 2015, I have organized a smaller-scale “**presidential meeting**”, on the topic “**Reflecting on the fragmentation of the field of the history of science and technology. Perspectives from Europe**” (see rationale, program and abstracts at: <https://eshs2015.sciencesconf.org>). Most members of the Council and the Scientific Board took part in this conference, and I think this theme has proved quite suitable to offer a fruitful perspective from which to compare the situation of our field in different countries, mostly European. I think that such an issue is important to increase the degree of integration of our field within Europe, and beyond, and I thus hope that the reflection on this issue continues in the years to come.

Another important action taken by the Council has been to **establish contacts with other scholarly societies in the field**, with the intention, in particular, of creating **joint membership programs**. In addition to representing a new service that ESHS implements for its members, our hope is that this action would establish a network of societies in Europe and more widely, which would connect an ever greater number of local communities.

ESHS has welcomed representatives of other societies in its Council meetings, and has appointed representatives to take part in Council meetings of other societies, starting from the History of Science Society (HSS). The Council has also begun discussion with the History of Science Society (HSS) to find ways of benefiting both sets of members.

ESHS members have been invited to take part in a survey that HSS and the Max Planck Institut fuer Wissenschaftsgeschichte have launched. As President Angela Creager formulated it, the aim was to “select a reader of history of science, technology, and medicine essays (in English) to be translated and published in Chinese by the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, our partner in this venture”. ESHS has attempted to widen the scope of the survey, by suggesting that English should not be the only language considered in the poll. However, we fail to convince our interlocutors about this point.

Other projects that we have considered include: organizing joint meetings HSS—ESHS, and making ESHS join the group of three societies (HSS, BSHS, CSHPS) to organize four-society meetings.

Discussions between Angela Creager (Past President of HSS) and Janet Browne (President of HSS), on the one hand, and me on the other, about joint memberships have not yet been concluded, but they are in progress. However, the idea of such joint membership programs should be explored more widely, and ESHS intends to get in touch with other societies in the field, to discuss about joint agreements that would benefit our members and theirs. A small step has thus been made in this direction. Fabio Bevilacqua’s Report, two years ago, was already pointing out that this was a key concern. We must all work for this to happen as quickly as possible.

Last, but not least, ESHS members are also offered a cut-price subscription to **Notes and Records of the Royal Society**. Efforts should be made to develop other types of programs in this direction. With these remarks, I have already entered into the prospective part of this report. Let me outline what I consider as being possibly **fruitful actions for the future**.

ESHS **Income** is for the moment limited to membership fees. They were already quite low (25 euros per year) for the members who do not participate in the meetings. However, for participants in our Prague Conference, they were further reduced, and the payment is also simplified to allow members to be part of the community easily. Most of these membership fees go to *Centaurus*. ESHS has no other source of income, except for the Neuenschwander prize. Action should be taken to look for other sources of funding, so as to develop the Society. At the moment, the future of ESHS depends on the Officers' voluntary work. It would be an excellent turn, if the Society managed to get enough funding to hire staff that will help it develop.

To attract a greater number of members of younger generations to ESHS, and to help them in their careers, ESHS could consider **opening young scholar prizes**, whether for the publication of a paper or for PhD dissertations.

Other actions towards the same group of members among us could include **summer schools**, or self-organized **post-graduate meetings**.

Finally, **open access** to information is essential for historians of science. Sources are our wealth, and easy and free access to them would significantly change our methods of work further. Historians of science publish in all kinds of venues that are not always visible for colleagues working in other corners of the field. Organizing **free access to these publications** would make an important difference. This, in my view, is the most important fieldwork for the future, one that would make ESHS contribute the very best to the development of our field in Europe and beyond.

I cannot conclude this report without mentioning what a pleasure it has been to work with every single member of the Council and the Scientific Board, and also with all our ESHS members. I will not name all of them in person, since they are too many, however, do believe that I have appreciated my cooperation with each of you, and I am grateful to you to have made my task so easy and rewarding. This experience has also been quite enriching for me, and for this, it is my greatest pleasure to thank you all. I hope that such cooperation will continue in the future, even if in other ways.

The President's report is unanimously approved.

3) Election of three auditors

Hermann Hunger, Annette Vogt and Han Qi are designated as auditors. They approved of the accounts as presented to them by the Treasurer. Petr Svobodný also checked the accounts.

4) Election of two scrutineers

Arianna Borrelli and Petr Svobodný are elected as scrutinizers for the ESHS Elections 2016.

5) Vice President's report: a six year commitment (Fabio Bevilacqua)

I had the honour and the pleasure to participate in the foundation of our Society in Paris in 2003. From 2004 to 2008 (Maastricht, Cracow) I was part of the Scientific Board and in 2010 voted "President Elect". Over the six years since (Barcelona 2010, Prague 2011, Athens 2012, Florence 2013, Lisbon 2014, Paris 2015, Prague 2016), our Society has enjoyed great success, both in quality and quantity. A number of "good practices" (and especially the Neuenschwander prize) have been established, and cooperation with officers, council and general conference organizers has been positive and productive. I

wish to emphasise my admiration for the excellent Presidency of Karine Chemla and I am sure that the new President, Antoni Malet, will do an equally excellent job! Thanks to all of you, I have had a very rewarding and stimulating time.

The Vice President's report is unanimously approved.

6) President Elect's report and plan of action (Antoni Malet)

First of all, I express my full thanks to the organizers of the 7th ESHS Conference, to Petr Svobodný as Head of the Local Organizing Committee, to Milada Sekyrková and to the rest of members of the Committee, for all their work, which has been doubtless all the more complex by having to host almost 500 people.

We have been successful in attracting young people and in reaching scholarly communities outside Europe, particularly in China. I think we all must thank Karine for all the efforts and initiatives she has taken towards these goals. They are also among my priorities and therefore I engage myself to push ahead with them. We will continue offering early career talks in our general conferences and early career grants, and — finances permitting— we will increase the number of grants. I feel it is important early career scholars be offered venues and opportunities to be heard and to participate in the life of the ESHS.

To this end I would like to further two initiatives. The first is to find ways to collaborate with some institution(s) offering them our support to organize a yearly European postgraduate and early career workshop. Two, to set up a prize awarded every two years at the general Conference for early career scholars' articles.

We all know that education is crucial for the future of the discipline. I think we are far, in the many countries of Europe, from having a common approach to graduate education, which encompass master and PhD degrees. I think it would be important to share detailed information about graduate programs from around Europe, paying particular attention to those that are particularly successful. If necessary this may lead to a written report containing a set of recommendations. I will propose to set up a committee on education that would be responsible for these tasks.

I think one of the main functions our Society must play is to further communication and scholarly discussions. Until now this takes place essentially in our conferences. I think we should find ways to facilitate exchanges of ideas on a more permanent, regular basis. I would like to explore with the Council and the Scientific Board how to use the website for this purpose, along with the option of bringing back the Society's newsletter. The traditional purpose of newsletters (news and information) is largely over, as this function has now been translated to the website. Yet the HSS newsletter is the venue for short, not too formally elaborate pieces on very many questions—bibliographical, methodological, institutional, ... They also publish comments on, and rejoinders to, them. It would be worthwhile considering the possibility of using again this format.

The website, in my opinion, has improved enormously. I would like to thank Leonardo Gariboldi and Matthieu Husson for all the work and dedication they put on it. On my dreams, the ESHS website is something close to the «Guide to the History of Science in Europe», containing the complete and reliable information about anything relevant for the profession—graduate programs, job market, post docs, doctoral fellowships, short-terms fellowships, prizes, It will be my concern to work with the PR Officer and the Webmaster to achieve a still more performing site.

As already mentioned, the ESHS opens now a reform of the statutes, which I consider one of my priorities.

Finally, financially ESHS is not well off. There is little that we may offer (prizes, fellowships, and so on) without more consistent revenue other than the members' fees. We need to explore possibilities for extra funding by ways of foundations, charities, etc.

To conclude, let me remind you that on October 5-6, 2017 I am organizing a meeting in Barcelona for the Council and the Scientific Board that will focus on

REACHING A WIDER AUDIENCE FOR HISTORY OF SCIENCE: THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

Venue: Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Departament d'Humanitats, c. Ramon Trias Fargas, 25 (Campus Ciutadella, Bdg. Jaume I), Room TBA

Proposal: History of Science is probably one of the most rapidly growing fields in the humanities. Intellectually and methodologically it has been undergoing permanent renovation for the last 25 years if not more. History of Science is now present in many more ongoing interdisciplinary debates than in any time before. Topics that have been articulated by our field are now relevant to other disciplines. Books that might be qualified as pop history of science may turn into international bestsellers. History of Science has a great potential to reach wider audiences outside its disciplinary boundaries. However, one may argue that historians of science are ill equipped to further strategic developments such as these. Scholars who might be interested in assuming the challenge of writing for non-specialist audiences, may find themselves lacking the necessary tools and skills to do so. Institutionally, it is not easy to break traditional boundaries that put disciplines in different schools and Faculties and separate them in official curricula. On the other hand, a strong case can be made for us to take seriously the question of how to reach out to wider audiences - both public, non-scholarly audiences, and our colleagues from other disciplines, including scientists.

With important exceptions, the media (written and audiovisual) present history of science subjects in ways that most historians of science find poor, whiggish, and even factually wrong. In undergraduate and master degrees in political studies there is a growing interest in the management of big scientific centers and institutions. Not to mention pure science, philosophy, and history degrees, one may argue that history of science should find its place in those degrees.

The meeting aims, firstly, at sharing information from different countries about the status of history of science (HS) as a university discipline. It is relevant to know how HS is present in different degrees in different countries, what rationale underwrites the present situation, and what are the perspectives for the future.

Secondly, we would like to find ways to promote general interest in history of science among educators at all levels and the public. It is therefore relevant to hear about successful initiatives that have already developed in Europe. It would be useful to gather comprehensive information (such as a guide-like report) about scholars and centers or departments that have been already working in these lines, and may have developed successful teaching tools.

An important issue here is the place and role of HS in secondary education. It would be extremely useful to articulate a common set of principles concerning it to be promoted in different countries.

Thirdly, we may explore ways of establishing links with scholars that share our interest in pluridisciplinary approaches. Likewise, it would be useful to listen to what journalists and publishers interested in HS literature have to say to us.

Fourthly, we should consider in which ways we might help scholars to find opportunities to expand their audiences and make them more effective in widely communicating their work. The meeting should take into serious consideration the issue of the writing skills involved in reaching the general public. How can the ESHS facilitate access to these? Is it to be recommended that learning them be part of the graduate education in HS? Some specific debates on these matters are potentially very pertinent in an educational context—for instances, the role of technicalities in historical narrative. More deeply, consider the following article about the case some people made for using whiggish interpretations in luring general audiences <https://www.theguardian.com/science/the-h-word/2012/oct/03/history-science>.

Finally, I would suggest the meeting (probably in a concluding panel) to start discussing two possible future initiatives for the Society to take on.

There are a numbers of tasks outlined in the points above that to be pursued efficiently would require some supervision and someone responsible. The ESHS should consider the establishment of a Committee on Education and Communication (or any such name), which would report to an Officer or to a member of the SB and which would be responsible for such initiatives.

Finally, we could consider in which ways we may honor and encourage work (books, articles, movies, exhibits) that takes HS beyond its ordinary scholarly audiences. Of course in doing so we should take advice from our colleagues from the BSHS (who award the Dingle Prize to the best book "accessible to a non-expert readership") and from the HSS (which awards the Watson Davis and Helen Miles Davis Prize "to the best books for general readers").

The President Elect's report is unanimously approved.

7) Editor of *Centaurus*' report (prepared by I. Stamhuis, read by Raf de Bont)

As a reaction on the decrease of normal submissions, it was decided in Lisbon, September 2014, to have an annual Call for Special Submissions. This was executed two times and was very successful. The first time, in 2015, 10 proposals were submitted and the second time, in 2016, 5 proposals were submitted. Especially at the first time the proposals were considered very strong and four were selected. The second time two of the submissions were selected.

This helps the journal to remain high quality at the one side and at the other side to have enough submissions. It also contributes (now and then) to the European profile of the journal.

Two thematic issues have appeared:

- Vol. 57 Issue 3 (August 2015) 129-228 *Electricity and Imagination*, edited by Koen Vermeir
- Vol. 56 Issue 4 (November 2014) 203-358 *Russian Scholarship on the History of Science in Russia*, edited by Ida H. Stamhuis

In 2015 and 2016 Calls for Submissions for Special Issues were announced. The results are:

- Vol. 58 Issue 1&2 *On Recovering Mathematical Practices from Sources of the Early Astral Sciences*, edited by Matthieu Husson and Richard Kremer, 5 of 6 papers ready.

- Last paper and intro almost ready “*Scoops, Scams and Scuffles. The Construction of Prehistoric Knowledge in Newspapers*”, edited by Miquel Carandell, Clara Florensa and Oliver Hochadel. 3 papers ready. 3 in several stages of progress. Four more are in the pipeline.

In *Centaurus* also the Presidential Address and the Neuenschwander Lecture, which were presented at the Lisbon conference, have been published.

A number of original articles on various aspects of the history of science and its cultural aspects have been published as well as around 20 book reviews per year.

Other information on *Centaurus*

The other members of the Editorial Team are the book review editor Raf de Bont, the associate editors Peter Barker, Matthias Heymann, Ana Simoes, and the assistant editor Claire Neesham.

Recently, in August, the publisher announced that *Centaurus* would get a new style. I took the opportunity to propose again another change of style, namely the inclusion of footnotes and no references between brackets in the text. I tried this unsuccessfully several times before. Now the publisher consented! There is still consultation needed about the exact realization. I hope it will smoothly be put into practice.

It is possible to publish Open Access articles in *Centaurus*. The author (or her/his institution has then to pay. The publisher informed me that of September 2016, the Open Access Article Publication Charge for *Centaurus* will decrease from \$3,000 to \$2,500.

Use the Calls for Special Issues to submit your proposals. Contact me directly for the other formats: Spotlight; Essay Review, Article with Comment. Use the opportunity to give meaning to the European character of the journal. You can find my email address on the *Centaurus* website

I am, of course, eager to publish regular good quality papers. Regular submissions will remain the backbone of the journal. They may deal with any aspect of the ‘history of science and its cultural influences’. Don’t hesitate to submit your good papers and please prompt your colleagues and pupils to do the same. For further information please visit the *Centaurus* website, or contact me directly.

The book review editor Raf de Bont takes care that around 20 book reviews per year will be published. The selection of the books, in addition to their potential significance, tries to reflect the European character of *Centaurus*. Please convince your publisher to send in review copies!

The Editor of *Centaurus*’ report is unanimously approved.

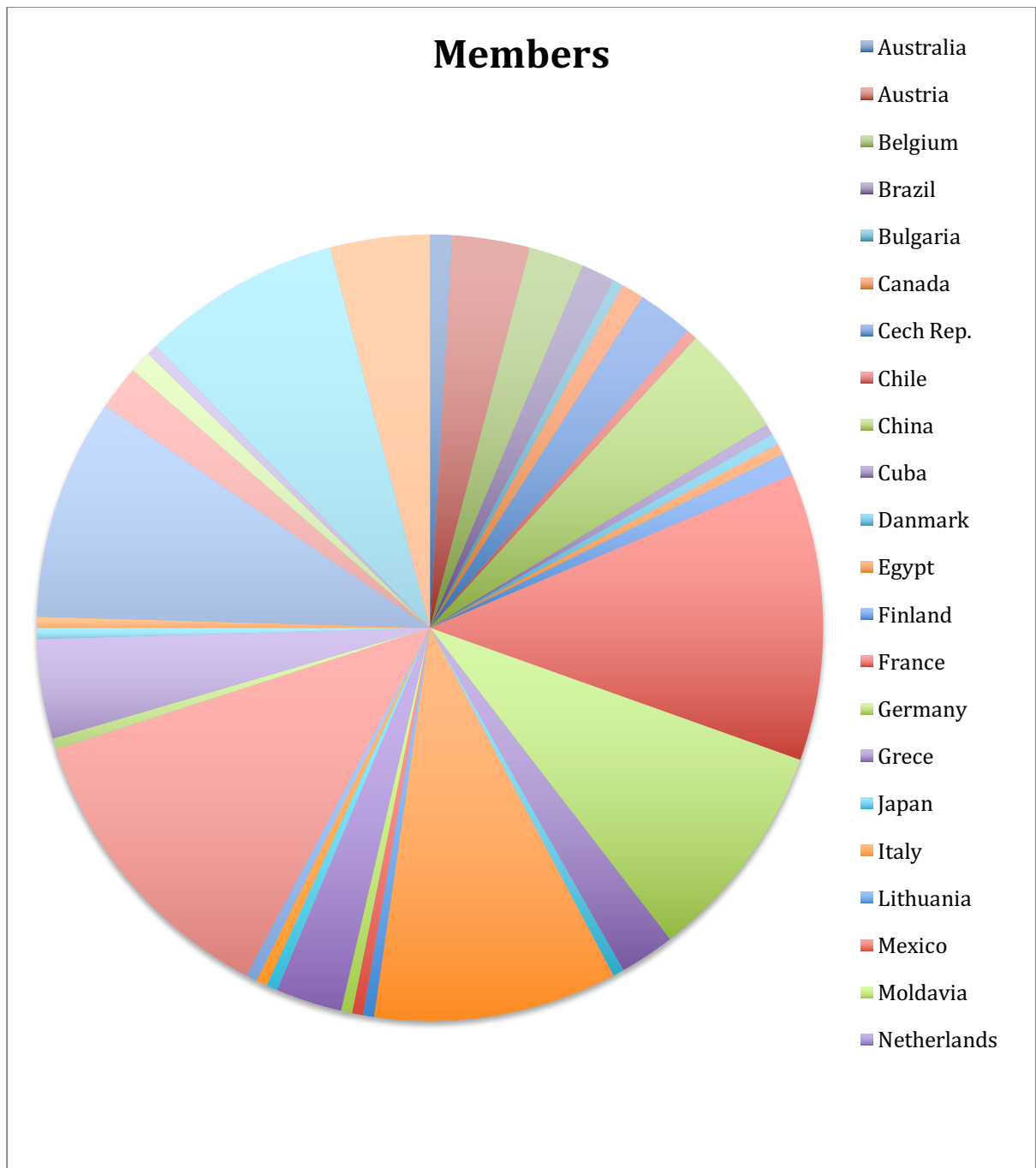
8) Secretary’s report (Erika Luciano)

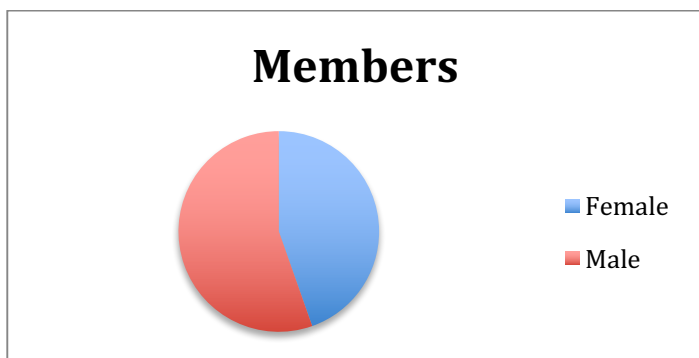
During my term as Secretary, I collaborated with the Council in **improving the Society’s service to its members** and in **involving them into the life of the Society**. Such concern, directly inspired by the President and the Council’s orientation policies, guided all my work, whose main issues I will briefly illustrate to you hereafter.

First of all, let me give you some basic data concerning the **membership**, a really challenging issue for our Society. Before the Lisbon Conference (September 2014), the Society counted 72 members (56 subscriptions to *Centaurus* on-line, and 16 to *Centaurus* print and on-line versions). Through the inscription to the Lisbon Conference, 126 new members joined to ESHS.

As a result, the need was felt to create a mailing list of our members. With the kind collaboration of Maria Rosa Massa Esteve and Leonardo Gariboldi, between October 2014 and January 2015 I thus constructed a Society's database. It proved to be very useful inasmuch as it permitted us to appraise the scholarly, professional, geographical, and gender distribution of our members, in addition to offer an efficient instrument to trace new subscriptions, payments of fees, ...

A more detailed analysis of ESHS membership emerges from the following two maps of distribution of ESHS members.





Country (of activity)	Members
Australia	2
Austria	7
Belgium	5
Brazil	3
Bulgaria	1
Canada	2
Cech Rep.	5
Chile	1
China	10
Cuba	1
Danmark	1
Egypt	1
Finland	2
France	26
Germany	20
Grece	5
Japan	1
Italy	22
Lithuania	1
Mexico	1
Moldavia	1
Netherlands	6
Norway	1
Poland	1
Poland	1
Portugal	27
Rumenia	1
Russian Fed.	9
Serbia	1
Slovenia	1
Spain	20
Sweden	4
Switzerland	2
Turkey	1
UK	18
US	9

I limit myself to call your attention to the tiny but constant increase of the ranks of our Society along these last two years, and to the presence of representatives from different cultures and identities (US, East Europe, China, Islamic world), among whom many young and/or early career scholars. Today the Society counts 228 members.

As a result of such considerable expansion of the ESHS membership, we recognized the importance of monitoring the registration of payments with particular frequency and attention. This also led to the ‘unpleasant task’ (*ingrato compito*) of pressing our members with no less than a dozen of reminders about the renewal of their membership. I am really sorry for the overload of mails devoted to this issue! The list of members in line with their fees was regularly updated, thanks to the collaboration of Erwin Neuenschwander, Robert Fox and Frank James, and it was sent by me to Erica Cove, in order to ask her to activate the Wiley Online Library login.

Unfortunately, in relation to membership and access to *Centaurus* on line, we had to deal with two quite serious **technical problems**. Between October 2014 and June 2015, in fact, some colleagues informed us that they had failed in joining the Society through the on-line application form, or that they had not received the access-code to *Centaurus* on line, despite being regular members of the ESHS. With the precious help of Matthieu Husson and Erica Cove the malfunctioning was definitely overcome from November 2015 onward.

The organization of some **voting procedures** was strategic in improving the transparency of the ESHS action and in actively involving our members. In more detail, during my term I supervised four ballots:

1. Independent Committee appointed to assess the proposals for special issues in *Centaurus* 2016 and 2017. The nomination and voting procedure were completed in April 2015. The following scholars were appointed to serve in this Committee: Hermann Hunger (6 votes); Francesca Bray (3 votes); Veronica Gavagna (3 votes), Ladislav Kvasz (2 votes). In July 2016, the Committee has been confirmed for selecting the best issues among those submitted for publication in *Centaurus* 2017 and 2018 volumes.
2. Scientific Committee of the Prague Conference. The officers and members of the Scientific Council of the ESHS were invited to propose names of scholars of different provenance and expertise willing to serve on the Scientific Committee of the Prague Conference and then to vote for 20 names among those nominated. The ballot for the Scientific Committee of the Prague Conference was completed in September 2015.
3. Neuenschwander Prize. According to the voting procedure described by our statutes, I invited all ESHS members to nominate possible recipients and supervised the selection procedure. The votes were scrutinized in Turin by me, Silvia Roero and Livia Giacardi. The results were sent to the Council in February 2016. The awardee was awarded the prize with 8 votes over 10.
4. New type of plenary lectures to be held in Prague. I sent a call to all ESHS members, inviting them to nominate colleagues who could present an overview of a sector of history of science in a 30-minute plenary lecture. In May 2016 I supervised the nomination process. The Committee in charge of the selection procedure was composed of Arianna Borelli, Ladislav Kvasz and Ana Simões; they selected two out of three proposed talks (Leong and Badino).

In addition to voting procedures, members of the ESHS were kept informed on various initiatives for the history of science (forthcoming workshops and conferences, postgraduate programs and fellowship opportunities, ...) patronized by individual ESHS members. This kind of **dissemination activity**, in conjunction to the above-mentioned actions, gave me the opportunity to establish a large network of relationships with our members, all over Europe and beyond (more than 1300 mails exchanged during the two years of my term). I have particularly appreciated this kind of networking, which was very enriching both for me, and the Society.

As a part of this dissemination activity I had the pleasure to promote the activity of the ESHS in some Italian and European Societies (Società Italiana di Storia della Scienza, Società Italiana di Storia delle Matematiche, International Group for the History of Mathematics Education, Unione Matematica Italiana, ...) and to represent ESHS in the Conferences and in the Councils of these Institutions (Cagliari 2014, Siena 2015, Torino 2015, Bologna 2016).

The **meetings of the ESHS** represented very fruitful contexts to work conjointly with the officers and our members. In particular, I cooperated with our Council and the Local Organizing Committee of the **Prague Conference** to update our members on call for contributions, submissions of symposia, deadlines, elections, the agenda of the General Assembly, and I contributed to the preparation of documents (Statements by the candidates running for Elections, Reports, voting sheets, etc.) useful for the present General Assembly.

Specially intriguing was the '**presidential meeting**' held in Paris in November 2015, and focused on the theme *Reflecting on the fragmentation of the field of the history of science and technology*. This meeting offered me new interesting insights on the international situation of our field of studies. I reported on the main issues emerged in this

meeting (and of course on the preparation of Prague Conference) in the milieu of the Italian Societies of History of Science and of Mathematics.

Last but not least, I mentioned a somewhat by-product of my commitment as Secretary of the ESHS. We all know that the ESHS was created in France, more than 10 years ago. However, when I started my term, official documents concerning the life and activity of the Society (Statutes, statements about the changes in the Council, Minutes of Council meetings, Receipts, Grants, etc.) were preserved only in a paper **archive** (7 folders, now kept at the Department of Mathematics of the Turin University). Some of these important documents were even in a bad state of conservation. I thus proposed to do a digital copy of such sources, in order to assure their preservation.

This action has proved to be useful in at least two occasions: in October 2014, when our President should state the Society and the changes of officers in front of French authorities (Prefecture de police) and in Summer of 2015, when the website was enriched with the Minutes of the general assemblies and other official documents related to the first decade of life of our Society.

Finally, I cannot conclude my report without thanking all the colleagues in the Council, the Scientific Board, and the members of the Society for the so much enriching and friendly exchanges that accompanied all my term and that I hope will continue in future.

The Secretary's report is unanimously approved.

9) Treasurer's report (Erwin Neuenschwander)

August 2014–September 2016 - Checking Account with Sparkasse Hochrhein (D)

Total amount in the account at 27 th Aug. 2014	Euro 7'298.71
Membership fees collected in Lisbon	Euro 790.00
Closing and Transfer of Savings Account Sparkasse Hochrhein	Euro 5'671.48
Membership fees transferred by Congress in Lisbon	Euro 3'150.00
Membership fees collected 2014	Euro 240.00
Membership fees collected 2015	Euro 2'200.00
Membership fees collected 2016	Euro 400.00
<i>Total earnings</i>	<i>Euro 19'750.19</i>
16 ESHS Member subscription to <i>Centaurus</i> 2014 (online and print)	Euro 480.00
65 ESHS Member subscription to <i>Centaurus</i> 2014 (online)	Euro 650.00
Account fees, banking charges etc.	Euro 106.72
126 ESHS Member subscription to <i>Centaurus</i> 2015 (online)	Euro 1'260.00
19 ESHS Member subscription to <i>Centaurus</i> 2015 (online and print)	Euro 570.00
Payment for ESHS Internet site, gandi.net Paris	Euro 104.11
<i>Total expenses</i>	<i>Euro 3'170.83</i>
<u>Total amount in the account at 20th Sept. 2016</u>	<u>Euro 16.579,36</u>

Savings Account Sparkasse Hochrhein (D)

Savings account at 27 th Aug. 2014 with interest payments	Euro 5'525.52
Total amount in the account at 28 th Oct. 2014	Euro 5'671.10
Account closed and transferred to Checking Account	

with Sparkasse Hochrhein in October 2014

Euro 0.00

Sterling Account (GB) (established by Robert Fox)

Total amount in the account at 20th Sept. 2016 according to F. James £ 1'231.70

The accounting documents having been checked by the elected auditors, the Treasurer's report is unanimously approved.

10) Report on the Neuenschwander prize's procedure

Chemla reminds that, according to the voting procedure described by the Society's Statutes, all members were invited to nominate possible recipients of the Neuenschwander prize. The votes were scrutinized in Turin by Erika Luciano, Silvia Roero and Livia Giacardi. The results were announced to the Council in February 2016. Nancy Siraisi has been awarded the prize with 8 votes over 10.

The report on the Neuenschwander prize's procedure is unanimously approved.

11) Public Relation Officer's report (Leonardo Gariboldi)

Databases: databases on the ESHS website containing information and/or links to:

- history of science societies in Europe;
- national committees attached to the DHST;
- relevant journals in the field;
- museums and science centres by country.

Archive: the society's archive (hosted on the ESHS website) with minutes of the meetings held starting from the first ESHS conference (Maastricht 2004) up to the last one (Lisbon 2014).

News: information about meetings, job positions, fellowships, call for papers can be found on the ESHS website from the Events & News page.

Leaflet: the society's leaflet, which you found in your conference bag, has been updated. The standard part contains the main information about the Society, membership, subscription to *Centaurus*. The current leaflet furthermore contains information about the Prague conference, the last Neuenschwander Prize awarded to Jürgen Renn, and the ESHS official declaration. The leaflet can be downloaded from the ESHS website.

ESHS pages on *Centaurus*: in the last two years the ESHS pages reported the main information about the Society's life and future events. Starting from the next issue, the ESHS pages will host an interview to two scholars from a selected European country. The first two interviews concern the Russian Federation (Simon Ilizarov and Alexey Sobisevich) and Romania (Dana Jalobeanu and Mihnea Dobre).

ESHS conferences: the announcements and calls were sent to the Society's members, the IUHPS/DHST committees list and the main international mailing lists of history of science and philosophy of science.

The Public Relation Officer's report is unanimously approved.

12) Web Manager's report (Matthieu Husson)

I have had the pleasure to serve the ESHS as webmaster since June 2015. During this year, in collaboration with ESHS officers, my first task was to create a new website using SPIP technology. This open source technology based on a large community of users

and developers offer a wide range of options that the ESHS will be able to use as the needs for them appears. We have also started a collaboration with the ENS and the CAPHES in order to have our main server hosted in an institution with an IT team able to maintain it on the long term. Potential improvements are constantly envisaged and prepared on these fundamental technical aspects in order to react shortly and efficiently to any new expressed need of the ESHS.

Once this basic work was done we have started to use the website in the service of the ESHS. With the help of the Public Relation officer, I have published around a hundred articles on the website since its creation especially in the “news and events” section. The website has a fair audience, with an average of 130 visits per day. Apart from the home page, the “news and events” section is the most popular with an average of 100 visits per day. Both the online inscription registration form and the contact form are used and functional (although most inscriptions were made through the congress website in recent months). In the very last weeks, the web site was put to a new use with a petition that I moderate on a daily basis. This is an important public relations exercise for the society.

The Web Manager’s report is unanimously approved.

13) A preliminary assessment of the Prague Conference

Petr Svobodný briefly illustrates a preliminary assessment of the Prague Conference. 472 scholars, coming from all over Europe and beyond, attended the meeting. In addition to the plenary lecture by the President Elect, T. Malet, to the two early-career scholars’ plenary lectures by E. Leong and M. Badino, and to the plenary lecture given by R. Fox, awarded of the Koyré Prize, 51 symposia and 29 sessions for stand-alone papers have been organized. The Local organizing committee, the Scientific committee, the Officers of the ESHS and the representatives of GUARANT International have worked in an atmosphere of authentic solidarity and collegiality. The emergence of a European community in the History of Science, and the development of an enthusiasm for it, have been clearly felt by people attending the Prague Conference. According to all the presents, the conference was very successful and productive.

14) Towards the London 2018 Conference: vote

On behalf of the British Society for the History of Science (BSHS) Gregory Radick and Patricia Fara present the proposal to host the 8th International Conference of the European Society for the History of Science at University College London in September 2018.

London has not hosted a large international meeting in the history of science since the second International Congress in 1931. After such a long gap, the BSHS feels that now is the appropriate time to mount a large international meeting in London. The BSHS, which has a large international membership, is the lead society for the subject in Britain. It has successfully hosted a number of large meetings before, most notably the Three Societies meeting in Oxford (2008) and the International Congress in Manchester (2013).

Theme: The theme we propose for the meeting is **"Unity and Disunity,"** interpreted very broadly and inclusively. Sessions and talks might address, among other topics, unity and disunity within and across diverse sciences, nations, periods, and historiographies; unity and disunity as ideals and realities; and unity and disunity as characterizing relations between the sciences and politics, technology, economics, and the

arts. We see this theme as at once a timelessly interesting one as well as an extraordinarily timely one, given current concerns in the field about fragmentation within and without – concerns well captured in the ESHS’s recent declaration in favour of fostering “cooperation between, and integration of, scholarly communities across Europe and beyond.”

Venue: The main venue would be **University College London (UCL)**, which in its Department of Science and Technology Studies (STS) has one of the largest groups in Europe devoted to the history of science, and certainly the largest in London. It is also intended to hold at least a reception in the Science Museum – where the 1931 Congress was held – and it is possible that a plenary lecture might be held in the Royal Institution.

Organising team: The meeting would be organised by a team drawn from the BSHS and UCL STS, including Patricia Fara (BSHS President), Greg Radick (BSHS Vice President), Miles Parker (BSHS Treasurer), Adam Mosley (BSHS Conferences Committee Chair), Lucy Santos (BSHS Executive Secretary), Joe Cain (UCL STS) and Frank James (UCL STS). The local organisers at UCL would thus be supported by the BSHS infrastructure which routinely runs annual meetings attracting 150-200 delegates, and which also organised the Three Societies Meeting at Keble College, Oxford in 2008 (c. 400 delegates), and the 24th International Congress of History of Science, Technology, and Medicine at the University of Manchester in 2013 (c.1500 delegates).

BSHS conferences are typically run by liaising with host institutions providing meeting spaces, catering, and venues for special events, whilst retaining responsibility for the conference programme, conference registration, production of delegate packs, publishers’ exhibits, publicity, and overall financial oversight. Costs are held down by utilising the event management experience of the BSHS Office (BSHS Executive Secretary and associates) as well as the labour of the local organisers and BSHS Conferences Committee, and by recruiting a team of student volunteers to assist with production of delegate packs, marshalling, preparation of conference rooms, and other necessary tasks. We propose to run the ESHS meeting using these same tried-and-tested methods.

Date: Owing to the UCL calendar cycle, the only practical date is the third week in September (approximately the same time of year as the Prague meeting). We would propose the core days of the meeting should be **Saturday 15 to Monday 17 September 2018** (note the reception at the Science Museum needs to be held on a weekend day).

Timetable: On this basis we would anticipate the following timetable:

Submission of symposia proposals:	30 November 2017
Meeting registration opens:	1 February 2018
Symposia decisions announced:	7 February 2018
Submission of individual papers:	28 February 2018
Individual paper decisions announced:	30 April 2018

Location: It is intended that most of the meeting will be held at UCL, possibly in its Institute of Education which has some very pleasant rooms and facilities. UCL is centrally located in London with convenient links to air and rail transport (e.g. UCL is only a ten minute walk from the Eurostar terminal).

Accommodation: London has an enormous quantity of accommodation in all price ranges. What the city offers is flexibility and plenty of choice, along with the possibility of finding accommodation that is both central and good value for money.

UCL is very close to a number of large and fairly inexpensive hotels. Two examples are the Tavistock Hotel (<https://www.imperialhotels.co.uk/en/tavistock>), and the Royal

National Hotel (<https://www.imperialhotels.co.uk/en/royal-national>) which STS has used in the past to host academic guests. A list of hotels would be provided and each person attending would be left to make their own reservation.

The University of London accommodation offers various solutions for short stays in central London. Most of the halls are at walking distance from UCL. (<http://staycentral.london.ac.uk/accommodation/>)

In addition to a broad range of hotels and bed and breakfast, the Airbnb network works particularly well in London and provides affordable accommodation in the city centre. This option is particularly good for groups of people willing to share an apartment for a few days. (<https://www.airbnb.co.uk/>)

Catering: Teas and coffees would be provided as part of the registration fee. A view will be taken later on the provision of lunches, and there will be a conference dinner as a separate item on the registration form.

Visits: London has long been one the world's major scientific cities and consequently it possesses resources and places which are well worth a visit by historians of science. Such sites would include the Grant Museum, British Museum, British Library, Wellcome Building, Royal Society of London, Royal Museums Greenwich, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew etc. It is intended that visits would be arranged to these and other locations and, in addition, arrangements will be made to run walking tours of scientific London. All these would be optional and charged separately.

Collaboration: As with the 2013 International Congress in Manchester, the BSHS would co-ordinate collaboration and support from the wide range of societies and groups devoted to the various areas of the history of science, technology and medicine.

Budget: Please note that this is very rough at the moment. It includes a substantial discount for the meeting being arranged through STS and all AV requirements, but does not include a projected 10% increase in UCL's charges by 2018. Also, the VAT situation will need to be clarified.

Core costs

For an attendance of	300:	500:
Rooms for nine parallel sessions	£7020	
Rooms for fourteen parallel sessions	£10920	
Plenary lecture room x 2	£3000	£3000
IT Support	£2000	£2500
Contingency	£1500	£2000
Total core costs	£13520	£18420
Core cost per person	£45.07	£36.84

Individual costs

Teas and coffees, 3 per day	£45.00	£45.00
Reception at Science Museum	*****	*****
Admin fee	*****	*****
ESHS membership	*****	*****

On this basis, we would estimate that the registration fee would in the range of £120-£160 (excluding ESHS membership). If lunch was provided, an extra £45 would need to be added for the three days.

The General Assembly unanimously votes in favor of hosting the next ESHS conference in

London in 2018.

15) Presentation of the candidates for the New Council: vote

Chemla projects the Statements of the candidates for the New Council and the Scientific Board of the Society. Some copies of the Statements are circulated through the people attending the Assembly. The procedure for Elections is thus opened. Hereafter are reported the texts of the Statements.

Candidacy for President Elect (2016-2018): Ana Simões

Presentation:

Ana Simões is full professor of history of science at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon. She is founder and co-coordinator of the Interuniversity Center for the History of Science and Technology (CIUHCT), ranked as exceptional (highest mark) as a result of the last evaluation of Portuguese research units led by the European Science Foundation. Her research interests include the history of quantum chemistry, and history of science in the European Periphery, with emphasis on science in Portugal, 18th to 20th centuries. She is a founding member of the international group Science and Technology in the European Periphery (STEP) and of the e-journal HoST (<https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/host>). She authored and edited more than 120 publications, participates in research projects and networks, and regularly organizes meetings, both nationally and internationally.

Statement:

According to the ESHS Statutes, besides being the executive head and legal representative of the society, the President, together with the Council, is due to organize the next regular scientific congress, and is also in charge of organizing the in-between meeting. If I will be elected president of the ESHS for the 2018-20 term, and according to the statutes I plan

- to dedicate the in-between meeting, to be held in 2019 in Lisbon, to the following topic “Diversity and modernity(ies) in shaping European science”, exploring the role of circulation of scientific ideas and practices within Europe, involving both centers and peripheries, and connecting Europe to the world, in order to discuss how the evolving European identity is grounded on diverse cultural scientific upbringings. This will be done in practical terms, having in mind the mission of the ESHS. However if it is necessary to dedicate the in-between meeting to a discussion of the ESHS affairs this topic will be chosen as the umbrella for the first summer school (see below).

Additionally, I plan to act along the following directions with the help of the Past President, President and Council. They include fundamentally the support to young scholars and the strengthening of ties with other societies and networks. As such I plan to:

- find ways to support research of young scholars which may include: 1) the creation of a biennial prize for a paper published in the past two years by a early career scholar (doctoral students, or scholars within five years of being awarded their doctorates) in *Centaurus* (the prize may be a subscription to ESHS and *Centaurus* for 2 years) or alternatively a call for a biennial prize for a paper by a early career scholar to be published in *Centaurus*; 2) the creation of the ESHS young scholars’ programs. Any ESHS member can nominate a scholar. Selected candidates (2-3) will have their travel expenses paid to attend two successive meetings and will be in charge of organizing a session, round-table or deliver a special lecture at the meetings; 3) the creation of summer schools to be attended by 15-20 young PhD or Post-Doc students, in the days



before the ESHS meetings or the in-between meetings. I plan to organize the first summer-school eventually together with 2019 in-between meeting.

- articulate the activities of ESHS with those of other networks and societies, especially STEP, Tensions of Europe, SHOT, and HSS, by organizing, for example, sessions in the other societies' meetings, invite lecturers to ESHS summer schools, and so on.

Candidacy for Public Relation Officer: Matteo Valleriani

To: General Assembly of the European Society for the History of Science

Matteo Valleriani

Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin. Germany

valleriani@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de

Berlin, August 12, 2016

Dear President, Dear Members of the General Assembly,

With this letter I would like to express my availability for the position as Public Relations Officer of the European Society for the History of Science.

My permanent academic affiliation is at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin as a Research Group Leader in the frame of Dept. 1 (Prof. Dr. Jürgen Renn).

My research focuses on the relation between practical and theoretical knowledge, on processes of transformation of knowledge, on mechanisms of diffusion of innovations and on globalization of knowledge in history. The research ranges from history of hydromechanics in classical antiquity to Medieval cosmology and seventeenth-century mechanics. My research is moreover increasingly dedicated to the development of new tools of digital humanities in order to initiate a quantitative approach in history writing and, specifically, in the frame of emergence of semantic networks.

As Public Relations Officer I would continue the ongoing projects and specifically the intensification of the work with the journal of the society as well as the completion or expansion of the database of the institutions concerned with history of science. I would also like to promote a closer information exchange eventually by implementing, together with the webmaster, a Content Management System, such as CiviCRM.

Finally, I would make use of my own network to retrieve and distribute relevant information. As a member of the German National Committee for the History of Science and as a scholar stably related also to the Cohn Inst. for the History of Sciences and Ideas at the University of Tel Aviv, Israel, I hope to be able to support the growing process of the society both quantitatively and qualitatively. Cordially, Matteo Valleriani

Candidacy for Webmaster: Matthieu Husson

Matthieu Husson (CNRS, SYRTE-Observatoire de Paris)

September 2016

I have had the pleasure to serve the ESHS as webmaster since June 2015. During this year, in collaboration with ESHS officers, I've created a new website using SPIP technology. With the help of the Public Relation officer, I have published around a hundred articles on the website since its creation. The website has a fair audience, with an average of 130 visits per day. Apart from the home page, the "news and events" section is the most popular with an average of 100 visits per day. Both the online inscription registration form and the contact form are used and functional (although most inscriptions were made through the congress website in recent months). Through the web site I also moderated a petition, an important public relations exercise.

However, the website can become an even more efficient tool for the society. Some of the possible directions of progress which the ESHS officers and the scientific board could discuss include:

- Improving the presentation of the site, especially of the homepage.
- Using the website to network a community in various European countries, supplying news of the field from their own country. The SPIP technology allows several authors to contribute to the site (each with his own login and password, and restricted access to the interface). Thus young scholars in each country could serve as correspondents and contribute to the site's visibility. I could provide the appropriate training. Navigation in the news section would occur through a map of the European countries and a cloud of keywords. Engaging this community of young scholars could be very important for the future of the ESHS.
- Using the website as an administrative tool for the officers: through the private area of the website, some documents (count, list of members, etc.) could be shared and email could be exchanged. This would centralize the information in one place, in the long term saving time and labor for the officers.
- The website could also interact with classical social media platforms like "Facebook" or "Twitter", gaining visibility and reactivity for the Society.

Finally I want to express my strong commitment to the values of the ESHS, and my conviction that the efforts we are making to shape a strong and open European space for our research field are essential. It is thus an honour to be a candidate for webmaster officer of the ESHS.

Candidacies for Scientific Board Mitchell G. Ash

Brief biography:

PhD Harvard University 1983; taught in the Department of History, University of Iowa (USA) 1983-1997); Professor of Modern History, University of Vienna since 1997. Publications: 16 authored or edited books, 180 articles, chapters and essay reviews in English and German in the following topic areas: political, social and cultural relations of the sciences during the 19th and 20th centuries; history of German and Austrian universities; history of human-animal relations; history of the human sciences.

Statement:

The ESHS has proved its value as a site for intellectual exchange in our field and a meeting place for historians of science from all over Europe and beyond. I would be honoured to assist the Society in continuing this fine record as a member of the Scientific Board. One area in which I might be of help is maintaining and intensifying existing linkages of the ESHS with the American History of Science Society. An addition, I have extensive experience in inter- and multidisciplinary research as Speaker of the PhD Program "The Sciences in Historical, Philosophical and Cultural Contexts" at the University of Vienna since 2006. Previous leadership positions: Board Member and then President of the „Society of History of Sciences and Humanities“ - Gesellschaft für Wissenschaftsgeschichte (President from 2002 through 2008); Board Member of the Austrian Society for History of Science since 1997; Head, Working Group in History of Science, Department of History, University of Vienna since 1997.

Dimitri Bayuk

PhD S I Vavilov Institute for the History of Science and Technology (Russian Academy of Science), *Voprosy Istorii Estestvoznaniya i Tekhniki*, (VIET: Studies in the History of Science and Technology)

We live in a crisis time. One can argue it was always so, but, I'm convinced, the crisis now is different from all others except that one which gave birth to the modern European civilization itself. Even though it reveals in different countries in different ways, it has common roots. And under these circumstances the important role of cultural institutions, ESHS among others, consists more in conservation and development of European cultural legacy, European cultural values, rather than in simply promoting them. Thus, I see the major task of the Society in creating and sustaining the cooperative atmosphere within the community despite destructive activity of some governments and degenerative societal trends. I believe in my capacity to take part in this activity by propagating the ESHS mission to some parts of the former Soviet Union, mostly in Russia. For this purpose I can use both my personal connections and my position as the editor of the VIET: Studies in the History of Science and Technology journal. Also I can apply for the benefits of the Society my knowledge of Internet technologies.

I graduated from Lomonosov University of Moscow, the School of Physics. My basic education was in theoretical physics, or more precisely in quantum field theory, my master thesis being devoted to the mass dependences of quark charges in the quantum chromodynamics. During five years after the graduation I had a research position at Keldysh Institute for Applied Mathematics, numerically calculating defenses of atomic piles and propagation of polarized optical radiation released in a surface detonation atomic bomb. At that time I started writing popular science papers for various general interest periodicals and it ultimately defined my further steps. In the end of 1989 I left Keldysh Institute for doctoral studies at the Institute for the History of Science and Technologie which later admitted Sergei Vavilov's name.

My first advisers there were Vladimir Kirsanov and Ashot Grigorian. Among those with whom I was especially close at that time were Adolf Yushkevich, Miriam Rozhanskaya, Elena Mirskaya, Vladimir Vizgin, Viktor Vizgin, Sergei Demidov, the names familiar to many of you. I chose Galileo's writings of Pisan and Paduan periods for my doctoral dissertation, which gave me an opportunity to get acquainted with a great number of brilliant journal papers and monograph books, leave aside original Galileo's works and correspondence. Simultaneously I was invited to editing of the VIET quarterly journal, initially as book review editor, and my life has being tied with this edition since then. I continued to write popular papers, this time they were mostly biographical: in middle 90s, soon after defending my doctoral these, I wrote biographical articles for the *Historical Lexicon*, edited by Akademizdat publishing house, then for several encyclopaedias. In the same period of time I was happy to participate in updating of the exposition in the collection of musical instruments at the Deutsches Museum, and to spend six months at the Observatory of the Blue Beach, dwelling upon *De motu* subject in scientific tradition of the Renaissance together with Pierre Souffrin. Our cooperation introduced me into still lasting activity on Leon Battista Alberti and served a prologue for the celebration of Vasili Zubov's centenary in Moscow in 2000. On this occasion we closely collaborated with Francesco Furlan, executive director of the "Société Internationale Leon Battista Alberti", without whom this phantasmagoric Congrès de Zoubov could never happen.

In 2001, after a year in the USA as Fulbright fellow, I became deputy chief-editor of the VIET. And taking into account the mostly public functions of the chief-editor, who

almost never got engaged into editorial work itself, my obligation as editor took more time than ever before. However I tried to mold the journal into a more up-to-date shape. In particular, I applied considerable efforts to create for it an Internet site. At the same time I prepared several new translations of Galileo and Kepler into Russian. Most of them are not yet published. Since 2007 I joined an international group focused on editing Leibniz's texts. Soon after that I was elected as a corresponding member of the International Academy of the History of Science.

As it may be clear from this short presentation in the beginning of my career I was closely connected with military projects of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. I am very sad to see that some countries now step back to the paradigms of that time, that the modern world is getting more and more separated again. But I see also the opposite examples: one of them is the installing of Russian Society of Philosophy and History of Science, the founding meeting of which I had a chance to attend and to the bureau of which I was in this meeting elected. And I am inclined to believe that the cooperation of these two organizations will help to reach their common objectives.

Emilia Calvo

Tenured Professor at the University of Barcelona. Effective Member of the *International Academy of History of Science* and former vice-president (2010-2013) of the *Commission on the History of Science and Technology in Islamic Societies* (CHOSTIS) of the IUHPS, I have been carrying out research on History of Science in Medieval Islam for 28 years.

As a member of the Scientific Board of the *European Society for the History of Science* I would like to contribute to improve the development of the History of Science as a discipline in our countries. I respectfully ask for your support and thank those of you who cast your vote for me. Emilia Calvo

Helena Durnová

It is with great pleasure that I accept the nomination as a candidate for the Scientific Board of the ESHS. I consider myself a historian of mathematics and computing, although my undergraduate training is in mathematics and English language and literature. In my own research, I try not to separate the purely scientific thinking of mathematicians or computer scientists from their political and cultural settings. In the former Czechoslovakia, history of science and of mathematics has been marginalised, and I see the European Society for History of Science as a place where historical questions about the development of mathematics can be nurtured and brought to a higher level. I believe that societies like ESHS, through their regular meetings, help to cultivate the field of history of science. That is also why I am involved in the activities of the Czech Society for the History of Science, Society for the History of Technology, and the Commission for History and Philosophy of Computing. Helena Durnová, Masaryk University in Brno, Czechia

Leonardo Gariboldi

Dear ESHS member,

I attended all the ESHS international conferences from the very beginning (Maastricht, 2004). At that time, I thought that the mere existence of a society for the history of science on a European level was a fact to be taken for granted. Many well known recent political events instead remind all of us that European unity is still something we must work for. Working for the ESHS is therefore an activity, which we should feel with

increasing responsibility of a new kind.

I am willing to offer my services to the ESHS as a member of the Scientific Board with a particular objective in mind. An important step in the future history of the ESHS is gaining the strictest possible collaboration with the national societies and other local institutions. With the next president, I commit myself to the project of finding the ways to get to a useful form of joint memberships with national societies/institutions to both institutional and individual levels, and of cooperation in the organization of conferences, events, research projects, teaching projects, dissemination of historical-scientific cultural and preservation of the scientific heritage.

In the past I worked for the ESHS as a secretary (2006-2010) and as PR officer (2012-2016). In all these years, the councillors and the scientific board made a lot of work in building the ESHS under the precious guidance of the society's presidents: the organization of the international biannual and of the in-between conference, the publication of the official journal *Centaurus*, etc.

In the last years, with the web master, I worked in gathering plenty of information in order to make the ESHS website more attractive to students and scholars: resources about the history of science societies in Europe, the national committees attached to the DHST, lists of journals in the field, lists of museums and science centres. All this information is at your disposal on the ESHS website. Information about events and news can also be found as for meetings and conferences, job positions and fellowships, call for papers. Last but not least, from the next issues of *Centaurus* you can read interviews about the current status of our discipline in one European country, with the replies to questions I asked to a young and a senior scholar from the given country under consideration. I am confident you will find these interviews very interesting.

More important: working for our Society helped me to know in detail the structure, the statutes and the activities of the ESHS. This knowledge of mine could be therefore used for the benefit of the future life of our Society to reach the targets I have submitted above to your attention. Leonardo Gariboldi

Dana Jalobeanu

is Reader in Philosophy, and director of the Institute of Research in Humanities, University of Bucharest. She was trained in physics and philosophy, and her work on the emergence of experimental philosophy combines the HPS perspective with history of science, and history of philosophy. She is co-editor of the *Journal of Early Modern Studies*, executive editor of *Society and Politics* and co-organizer of the Princeton-Bucharest seminar in early modern philosophy. She is co-editor (with Charles Wolfe) of the *Encyclopedia of Early Modern Philosophy and the Sciences* (Springer, forthcoming 2018). Recent publications: Dana Jalobeanu, *The Art of Experimental Natural History: Francis Bacon in Context*, Zeta Books: Bucharest (2015), Dana Jalobeanu and Peter Anstey (eds.), *Vanishing matter and the laws of nature: Descartes and beyond*, Routledge: London (2011).

Some thoughts and plans regarding ESHS:

In these troubled times, we need an increased public awareness towards the role played by history of science in the emergence and development of modern Europe. Being an early modern scholar, I also think we badly need a better integration of (early modern) science and (early modern) philosophy, a deeper understanding of the origins, development and foundations of European Modernity. Conditioned by my education and degree in science, I envisage better and stronger lines of cooperation between scientists,

historians and philosophers, leading, perhaps to the building an integrative, third culture. I see ESHS as an important actor, with a decisive role to play in shaping the future of academic discipline(s) across Europe. I also believe that ESHS should have an impact outside academia, raising the public awareness towards science and our common European heritage.

What I would wish to do, as a member of the ESHS steering committee:

1. Promote and encourage interdisciplinary projects and cross-disciplinary discussions among philosophers, scientists and historians. What I have in mind are scientific projects and collaborations (such as European collaborative grant applications, workshops and conferences), collaborative teaching projects (Erasmus Mundus masters and collaborative PhD programs) but also collaborative projects directing towards communicating science and “science for the public”.
2. Propose and discuss measures to extend ESHS membership towards the East – and encourage scholars from Eastern Europe to join and become active members of ESHS. In order to do this, I would propose the introduction of a system of scholarships similar to the ones recently established by the European Philosophy of Science Association (short-term research scholarships dedicated to scholars from Eastern Europe), and a system of travel grants for young researchers and students (to attend the ESHS conferences).

Elaine Leong

Elaine Leong leads the “Reading and Writing Nature in Early Modern Europe” research group at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin. She gained her doctorate in Modern History from the University of Oxford and has held research fellowships at the University of Cambridge and the University of Warwick. Leong's research is centered upon early modern medical and scientific knowledge transfer and production and her interdisciplinary projects use theories and methods in the history of the book and the history of reading to elucidate quotidian knowledge practices. She is working on two book projects. The first, *Treasuries for Health: Making Recipe Knowledge in the Early Modern Household* is the first major study of informal “science” and medicine in early modern English Households. The second, *Reading Rivière in Early Modern England*, uses the story of Lazare Rivière's bestselling *Praxis medica* (Paris, 1640) and *The Practice of Physick* (London, 1655) to explore the production, transfer and codification of vernacular medical knowledge in early modern Europe. Leong has strong interests in digital humanities. She is the co-founder and editor of The Recipes Project Blog and a member of the Early Modern Recipes Online Collective - an experiment in research-led pedagogy and citizen transcription.

Birgit Nemec

Dear Karine Chemla, Dear Toni Malet, Dear Fabio Bevilacqua, Dear Members of the *ESHS General Assembly*,

When I learned about the suggestion of my nomination as a candidate for the *Scientific Board of the ESHS* I was much delighted and thankful for the trust and confidence that is expressed thereby. I read the duties and functions of the *ESHS Scientific Board* carefully and can say that I would be very much looking forward to work in this team and for the society and the special targets of the board.

I am experienced in the co-organization of scientific congresses and the publication of proceedings. Moreover, I would be very much looking forward to support the society in the promotion of research initiatives and activities.

The ambitious aims of the Society to foster European integration, to name one and presumably the most pressing in our difficult times, seem to me as a perfect example of how our field, History of Science, can become a site of critical reflection. I believe that we, historians, can and should participate in speculations about a better future for Europe and beyond. We certainly have the tools in our hands to provide suggestions in more concrete terms, as well.

I worked in the past years mostly in the area of History and Philosophy of Science – as a student of history and cultural studies in Vienna and in Rome, and as a pre- and postdoctoral fellow in a number of highly inspiring institutions in the field of History of Science in mostly Germany, Austria, the UK and North America. But besides my academic career it was always also my goal to reach larger audiences and to target more general debates in society. Before I studied history I acquired a degree in cultural management and worked in the arts and museum sector. In 2014 I was part of a historian's commission that evaluated the Vienna street name corpus, especially in regards to problematic aspects such as anti-democratic, inhuman, anti-Semitic, xenophobic and fascist elements. The project was particularly rewarding as we managed to trigger public discourse, I participated in round table discussions and held discussions with contemporary witnesses and descendants of which not all were too easy. However, I was always prepared to dedicate my time and work to this project as we were without capable to contribute in a profound re-evaluation of dominant memory politics.

In my view research can and should very well contribute to societal debates, foster community building, tolerance and democracy – and thus bring research and realities of life closer together. This is why I fully support the society's activities in this direction.

I promise that, in case of my election, I will do my best to strongly support the Society's aims and the duties of the *ESHS Scientific Board*.

Dr. Birgit Nemeč (Heidelberg, August 29)

Institute for History and Ethics of Medicine

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Emma Sallent Del Colombo

Independent researcher, Barcelona, <https://emmasallentdelcolombo.wordpress.com/>

I am president of the Catalan Society for History of Science and Technology (<http://schct.iec.cat/>). During my 15 years commitment with the Society, I have been scientific secretary, vice-president, and, from 2013, president. I was member of the organizing and program committee of the 4th Conference of the ESHS held in Barcelona in 2010. I have been member of the scientific council of the ESHS in the last two years.

If I am reelected my main goals will be to work towards a bigger allocation of the society resources for young researchers and to the attempt of creation of "groups of interest" on historical interesting trending topics in order to reinforce links between society members.

Baichun Zhang

Dear Karine, and dear Erika,

Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute for the History of Natural Sciences and other institutions in universities are promoting the internationalization of studies in the history of science in China. Therefore, I fully understand and support the internationalization policy of the ESHS. I think that Chinese historians of science will contribute to the increasing influence of the ESHS upon international communication. You know that many Chinese scholars have been encouraged to prepare for participating in the ESHS Conference Prague 2016.

Supported by the CAS institute, I shall continue promoting the Chinese scholars' contributions to the ESHS in the future.

All my best wishes, Baichun Zhang

Simone Turchetti

Brief biography:

PhD University of Manchester, 2003. Researcher at the University of Bristol (2005-2006), Lecturer at the University of Leeds (2007-2009) and Manchester (2009- to date). I have published articles on several international peer-reviewed history and history of science journals and I am the author of one monograph, 2 edited collections, and a number of chapters and book reviews in English and Italian. I research on the history of 20th century science and technology; the history of the geosciences; and the history of international scientific relations. I am a previous holder of an ERC starting grant and the winner of the 2003 BSHS Singer Prize.

Statement:

I have been deeply impressed by your statement (which I signed) regarding political developments threatening collaboration across Europe and the efforts of your society to countering them by keep working towards integration projects. This further convinced me that I would like to play a role in furthering your ambitious goals. I also believe that benefits could derive from my presence especially since the society is showing an interest in actively countering disintegration processes in Europe. I am based in the UK, where I lived for more than ten years and I was deeply saddened by what happened with Brexit. I contributed to a number of important initiatives in the history of science community in the UK and elsewhere including the 2013 International Congress in Manchester (of which I was a local organizing committee member). I have also contributed to the organization of a number of symposia during the past two ESHS annual meetings and I was a contributor to the journal *Centaurus*. I should probably stress that in the context of my research and these meetings the problem of partnership building across Europe and the need to overcome the centrifugal forces of nationalism has always come to the fore as a dominant theme. I have also been a member of the Young Academy of Europe, which is similarly pursuing integration projects among young scholars. I would certainly be delighted to put my experience and interests at the service of the society and work towards cooperation projects as deemed suitable.

The General Assembly votes. Voting slips had been distributed at the entrance to the Assembly, only to those who were members of the ESHS in 2016. The scrutineers withdraw to count the ballots.

16) Discussion on ESHS's statement

The Past President Fabio Bevilacqua informs the members that an official

declaration by the Society on recent tragic events has been published on the ESHS website www.eshs.org. He also reminds that members have been invited to sign this declaration, in order to express their support. The text of the official declaration, projected during the Assembly, is the following:

Dear members of the European Society for the History of Science, friends and colleagues,
Tragic events are taking place in and around Europe and are shaking our democratic and cosmopolitan values: terrorist attacks in France, Belgium, Germany and beyond, suspension of human (and academic) rights in Turkey, failure of a policy for the asylum seekers escaping war, war in Ukraine, assassination by the Egyptian state intelligence of a Cambridge University (Italian) doctoral student, Brexit and other anti-UE movements, visa difficulties that limit the right of many East Asian colleagues to participate in our conferences.

Certainly we all know people who have been seriously affected. The general outlook is not positive. Academic freedom and international cooperation are at risk.

As an international society aiming to foster cooperation between, and integration of, scholarly communities across Europe and beyond, the ESHS is deeply concerned by those threatening political developments. The ESHS feels therefore the need to publicly denounce political violence, authoritarianism, xenophobia and chauvinism while reaffirming its commitment to our basic, shared values of democracy, openness to the world, and European integration. We solemnly proclaim the need to preserve freedom of research and teaching, international cooperation and transcultural understanding.

Our Society is open to and reaches not only all the European countries (not just the EU) but also researchers from all over the world. Our best answer to the current dramatic situation is to make the Prague Conference another outstanding example of international cooperation and professional research.

After discussion on the formulation of the Statement, it is put to vote, and is approved with one abstention.

17) Presentation of the recipients of the early scholars grants

Milada Sekyrková informs the members that the ESHS offered to fund a competition for 10 early career scholarships attending the Prague Conference. The competition has been organized by the Local Organizing Committee. She is proud to announce the Early Career Grant winners: Danielle Sanches de Almeida (Brazil); Ewelina Drzewiecka (Bulgaria); Robert Frühstückl (Austria); Lif Lund Jacobsen (Denmark); Réka Krizmanics (Hungary); Dimitris Petakos (Greece); Elena Sinelnikova (Russia); Ignacio Suay-Matallan (Portugal); Marta Velasco (Spain); Hongchen Wang (China).

18) Discussion, proposals of the members

Fabio Bevilacqua calls attention to the convenience of gathering photos and pictures of the Society's meetings. Victoria Yemchenko will put at disposal the photos of the Prague Conference. The contribution of all members, and especially of those who attended the first meetings of the Society, is asked, in order to construct such iconographic archive.

Annette Vogt and Robert Fox kindly offer their help in order to implement the paper archive of the ESHS, putting at disposal documents concerning the first years of activity of

the Society.

On behalf of the two scrutinizers, Petr Svobodný announces the

Elections Results

Fifty four (54) voting sheets were consigned.

M. Loskutova voted by proxy, delegating T. Yusupova, regular member of the ESHS.

The following Officers were elected:

President Elect: Ana Simões	49 votes
Treasurer: Erwin Neuenschwander	50 votes
Secretary: Erika Luciano	50 votes
Newsletter Editor: Frank James	48 votes
Public Relation Officer: Matteo Valleriani	46 votes
Webmaster: Matthieu Husson	50 votes
Blank voting sheets	3

The following candidates to the Scientific Board were elected:

Leonardo Gariboldi	43 votes
Mitchell G. Ash	41 votes
Dana Jalobeanu	39 votes
Baichun Zhang	35 votes
Dimitri Bayuk	34 votes
Elaine Leong	32 votes
Emma Sallent Del Colombo	32 votes
Emilia Calvo	30 votes

The candidates Simone Turchetti, Birgit Nemeč and Helena Durnova received, respectively, 24, 23 and 21 votes.

The Election procedure was completed at 7.45 pm.

19) Closure by the new President

The new President, Antoni Malet, extends his thanks to the colleagues who will no longer be members of the Scientific Board and welcomes the new officers. In particular he expresses his profound gratitude towards the past-president Karine Chemla and the vice-president Fabio Bevilacqua, whose action for the Society has allowed ESHS to develop in a remarkable way. Malet restates that the next “in between” conference 2017 will be in Barcellona and says goodbye to all the members in London.

The General Assembly is closed at 8.15 pm.

In witness whereof

the President (2016-2018)
Antoni Malet

the Secretary
Erika Luciano

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Erika Luciano'.

Turin, November the 2nd, 2016