Rare Book Treasures in Austin
Reception and Exhibit at UT's Ransom Center
By Bruce J. Hunt

The University of Texas will welcome the History of Science Society and the Philosophy of Science Association to a joint reception at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center on Friday, November 19, from 6:15 to 8:00 p.m. The Ransom Center, located on the UT campus about two miles north of the conference hotels, is home to one of the world’s leading collections of rare books and manuscripts. Its greatest strengths lie in British and American literature, but the Center also has important holdings in the history of science, a sampling of which will be on exhibit during the reception and throughout November. Among the items on display will be a first edition of Copernicus’s *De Revolutionibus* (one of two copies in the Center’s collection); a copy of Newton’s *Principia* with annotations reportedly by Edmond Halley; selections from a large collection of the papers of John Herschel, including a manuscript autobiography by his aunt, Caroline Herschel; letters from Charles Darwin, Bertrand Russell, and Niels Bohr; and the original manuscript of C. P. Snow’s “Two Cultures” lecture. The exhibit will also include materials from UT’s Center for American History, particularly from the extensive Archives of American Mathematics and the papers of mathematician and educator R. L. Moore.

Harry Ransom, a professor of English and later the president of UT, founded the Humanities Research Center in 1957; it was named for him in 1983. Since 1972 it has been housed in a large and – until recently – rather forbidding looking building on the southwest corner of campus. Renovations completed last year opened the building up, as great stretches of limestone were replaced by glass walls etched with images of manuscripts and photographs from the Center’s collections. A Gutenberg Bible is on permanent display in the lobby where the reception will be held, as is the world’s first photograph, a faint image of rooftops captured by J. N. Niépe in 1826. The Reading Room on the second floor is open weekdays and on Saturday mornings; more information on the Center’s holdings can be found at www.hrc.utexas.edu.

The reception will be sponsored by the Educational Advancement Foundation of Austin, which has done much to support the Archives of American Mathematics and many educational initiatives at UT and elsewhere. It is thus especially fitting that the HSS Committee on Education will hold a session on “Bringing the History of Science to Science and Mathematics Teachers” in the Ransom Center’s Prothro Theater from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m., immediately after the reception.

Attendance at the reception will be limited; tickets, which cost $5 and include bus transportation from the hotels, should be purchased as early as possible. The Committee on Education session will be free and open to all.
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HSS Newsletter

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The History of Science Society Newsletter is published in January, April,
July, and October, and sent to all individual members of the Society; those
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The deadline for news, announcements, and job/fellowship/prize listings
is firm: The first of the month prior to the month of publication. Long
items (feature stories) should be submitted six weeks prior to the month
of publication as e-mail file attachments or on a 3.5” disk (along with a
hard copy). Please send all material to the attention of Michal Meyer at
the HSS address above (e-mail or disk appreciated).

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

New Web Sites from the Science Museum in London

Two new Web sites have been launched by the Science Museum in London. Thirty thousand images of pictures and artifacts from the museum’s collections are contextualized at http://www.ingenious.org.uk/. An animated history of technology since 1750, with links to educational material for high school students, is available at http://www.makingthemodernworld.org.uk/.

New Dictionary of 19th-Century British Scientists

Thoemmes Continuum Press would like to announce the publication of the Dictionary of Nineteenth-Century British Scientists, edited by Bernard Lightman. This four-volume work contains more than 1,200 entries on both major and minor figures who had an impact on British science. Taking a broad interpretation of “science,” the dictionary covers traditional subjects, as well as the new sciences, to present a rich panorama of the development of science in the nineteenth century. For more information: http://www.thoemmes.com/dictionaries/science_dic.htm.

Information Commons Published

The Information Commons, recently published by the Free Expression Policy Project, is a groundbreaking report that links the vitality of 21st-century democracy to the creation of online communities dedicated to producing and sharing information. These “information commons” emphasize open access, sharing, collaboration, and communal management. The Information Commons gives an overview of the problem of enclosure, explains how theories of the commons have been adapted to the information age, and describes dozens of flourishing information communities. For the full report, see http://www.fepproject.org/policyreports/InformationCommons.pdf.

HOPOS Newsletter: Volume VIII, Number 1


Cities of Science

Cities of Science, a Web site for people living in certain cities or urban areas— including teachers and students in the schools and colleges of these cities—is available at http://www.citiesofscience.co.uk/go/about.html.

Anatomical Plates Available Online

RLG now has anatomical plates from the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library—spanning the 16th to the 19th centuries—available for online viewing. To learn more, please visit http://www.rlg.org/en/page.php?Page_ID=17921#article1.

The Bancroft Library to be Closed for Construction

The Bancroft Library of the University of California at Berkeley, which has many large and important book and archival collections in the history of science, will be closed the summer of 2005 to move its collections preparatory to a seismic upgrade of the building. For a few years thereafter, most but not all of the collections will be available by advanced request through temporary quarters elsewhere on the campus. For more information, check http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/info/more/. You may also call 510-643-3871 to hear recorded updates.

Sciences et Empires Listserv

The Sciences and Empires mail list is an interactive list operated by the Sciences et Empires Groupe, a Commission of the International Congress of the History of Science. This list is intended to serve as a major forum for discussions by historians, philosophers, and sociologists of science, technology, and medicine who study how these activities intersect with colonialism, imperialism, and postcolonialism. You may sign onto this list and set your preferences at this address https://secure.lsit.ucsb.edu/mailman/listinfo/sciemp/. If you have problems signing onto or off the list, contact the list manager at osborne@history.ucsb.edu.

A Link to British Doctoral Theses

A new Web site provides links to numerous British doctoral theses. The site is located at http://www.bshs.org.uk/.

Societal Implications of Nanoscale Science and Engineering Competition

The first deadline for Nanoscale Science and Engineering Centers (preliminary proposals) is on November 10, 2004, followed by Nanoscale Interdisciplinary Research Teams on November 12, 2004, and Nanoscale Exploratory Research on November 18, 2004. One major element in this year’s solicitation is in the thematic area: Societal and Educational Implications of Scientific and Technological Advances on the Nanoscale. The solicitation announces the competition for a center in this area. The title of the center will be “NSEC: Center for Nanotechnology in Society (CNS).” It is expected that this Center will involve a collaborative effort or partnership among a number of institutions in order to meet the goals articulated in the solicitation. Further information is available at the Web site: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/ods/getpub.cfm?nsf04043. The program solicitation NSF 03-043 (NSE) has been published at http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/ods/getpub.cfm?nsf04043.

Lloyd Library and Museum Extended Hours

Effective September 18, 2004, the Library will be open the third Saturday of each month during the academic year, September-May, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Saturday...
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hours will enable the library to serve patrons and researchers who are unable to visit during the regular work week hours of 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday to Friday. The library's holdings include a vast array of rare books containing exquisite botanical illustrations and historical information on medicinal botany, pharmacy, alternative medicine, gardening, and more. For more information: http://www.lloydlibrary.org/.

**Pasteur Film on DVD**

The film “Pasteur: A Contemporary View” has been released by the Pasteur Foundation on DVD. The 30-minute film was created for the centennial of Louis Pasteur’s death in 1995 and explores the relevance of his work today. For more information, visit http://www.pasteurfoundation.org/.

**New Web site for Science and Empire Commission**

The Science & Empire Commission of the Division of History of Sciences/IUHPS now has a Web site: http://www.ige.unicamp.br/sciemp/.

**In Memoriam: Patricia Peck Gossel**

Patricia Peck Gossel, Chair of the Division of Science, Medicine, and Society at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, died of cancer on June 12, 2004. Dr. Gossel received a B.A. in biology from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, and an M.S. in microbiology from Montana State University. She received her Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Gossel became a Museum curator in 1988. In addition to her administrative duties, Dr. Gossel played a major role in the creation of the permanent exhibition, “Science in American Life.” Dr. Gossel was an active member of the History of Science Society, the American Association for the History of Medicine, Sigma Xi, and other professional organizations.

**McGill University: New HPS Seminars and Special Lectures**

The History and Philosophy of Science Committee at McGill University is pleased to announce the revival of seminars and public lectures for the academic year 2004-05. For details of both, please visit: http://www.mcgill.ca/hpsc/lectures/.

The first of this year’s public lectures, the Elizabeth McNab & D. Lorne Gales Lectures in the History of Science and Ideas will be given on Thursday February 17, 2005, by Professor Donna Haraway, of the History of Consciousness Program at the University of California, Santa Cruz. **McGill HPS seminar:** The McGill HPS seminar is a revived interdisciplinary group seeking to bring together scholars from all four universities in Montreal (and beyond) who work in HPS, science studies, and related areas. All interested scholars are invited to attend. This year's program (organized around the theme of “early modernity;” broadly defined) will feature talks by historians, philosophers and literary scholars, and will cover the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries. Sessions will be held on Thursday afternoons at McGill, in downtown Montreal (unless otherwise noted on the Web site), and will be followed by a social hour and dinner.

**Wanted**

**Volunteers and suggestions for Isis...**

Book reviewing is a critical contribution to the energy of our discipline. It might be under-appreciated by university c.v. bean-counters, but never by book-review editors or the journal’s readers! If you’d like to volunteer as a potential reviewer for Isis, please send an e-mail note outlining your research interests and languages. If you are a past reviewer and wondering why those e-mails have stopped coming, please refresh our memory. If you have been asked to review a book and cannot, we always appreciate your suggestions for other potential reviewers that draw on your expertise about the book’s subject. Finally, if you’d like to point out a book that you think Isis ought to review, or propose a book or books for a feature review, we are always glad to receive those suggestions also. Please note we can’t accept self-nominated or uncommissioned reviews. Contact isis@yorku.ca, or write to Katharine Anderson, Book Review Editor, Isis, 303 Bethune College, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, ON M3J 1P3.
Applications are invited for a tenure-stream position at the rank of assistant or associate professor in the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology at the University of Toronto. Speciality: History of physics and related sciences. Ph.D. required. The expected starting date for the position is July 1, 2005. Candidates should send their c.v., a writing sample, teaching materials, and at least three letters of reference to Professor Paul Thompson, Director, Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology. University of Toronto, 91 Charles St. West, Room 318, Toronto, ON, Canada M5S 1K7. Deadline: November 15, 2004. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

Haverford College History Department invites applications for a tenure-track appointment; assistant professor. Specialization in medieval and/or early modern eras with research emphasis in comparative scientific traditions and/or interactions between Western and non-Western knowledge cultures, including Islam. Send letter of application, c.v., three current letters of recommendation, and a sample of scholarship by December 1, 2004 to: Sharon Nangle, Administrative Assistant to the History of Science Search Committee, Haverford College, 370 Lancaster Avenue, Haverford, PA 19041-1392. Direct questions to Professor Lisa Jane Graham [lgraham@haverford.edu].

The Department of Science & Technology Studies at Cornell University is seeking to fill a tenure-track professorial position. The area of specialization within Science & Technology Studies is open. Applicants should have a strong record of research and publication in Science & Technology Studies. Applications will be reviewed beginning November 1, 2004 until the position is filled. For further information, please contact the Department at (607) 255-6043, or tjp2@cornell.edu, or visit http://www.sts.cornell.edu/.

The Rice University History Department seeks a visiting lecturer in history of science, technology or medicine for the Spring Term 2005. Candidates must be at least ABD. The salary is $20,000. The person will teach two courses: a lower division survey of science in the modern period, and an advanced course in the specialty of the lecturer. Review of applications will begin November 1, 2004. Interviews will be conducted at the History of Science meeting in Austin, TX, in late November.

The Liberal Studies Department at California State University Fullerton invites applications for a tenure-track position to begin fall semester 2005. Specialization in the natural sciences or in the history or philosophy of the natural sciences required. The position is at the rank of assistant professor. Appointment date: August 19, 2005. Applications received by November 14, 2004 are assured of full consideration. More information is available at http://ass.fullerton.edu/liberal/.

York University (two positions): Tenure-track position, assistant professor, Science and Technology Studies; effective July 1, 2005. Seeking a candidate with teaching and research strengths in the social studies of current or recent technology. Ph.D. in science and technology studies, or in a related field, required. The deadline for receipt of completed applications is November 15, 2004. Applications are also invited for a one-year contractually limited appointment at the assistant-professor level, effective July 1, 2005. The Science and Technology Studies Program is seeking a candidate with teaching and research strengths in science, technology, and media. Candidates should also have an interest in journalism and popular science writing/science communication. Ph.D. in science and technology studies, or in a related field, required. The successful candidate will teach in the Natural Science general-education curriculum. Deadline: November 15, 2004. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be given priority. More information is available at http://www.atkinson.yorku.ca/SASIT/.

The University of California at Davis seeks to appoint a Director of the Science and Technology Studies Program, with a joint appointment in Anthropology, Economics, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology or Psychology. Tenured associate or full professor, beginning Fall 2005. Send a letter expressing interest and current c.v. by December 1, 2004. Further contact information is available at http://history.ucdavis.edu/. The position will remain open until filled.

The Lancaster University Department of History is advertising two professorial chairs and three lectureships. The field for the chairs is completely open and historians of science, technology and medicine are welcome to apply. The field for the lectureships will be decided in light of the professorial appointments. The advertisement will appear at http://Jobs.ac.uk/. Details are available from Paolo Palladino: PPalladino@lancaster.ac.uk.

James Madison College of Michigan State University seeks candidates in the field of science and technology policy who focus on the relationship between science and technology on the one hand and society on the other. Candidates must have a strong background in health, environment, biotechnology, and/or security. Minority and women candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. Review of applications will begin on November 5, 2004. The position will begin August 16, 2005. For more information, go to http://www.jmnc.msu.edu.

The University of Florida invites applications for the position of assistant professor of history of science to begin Fall 2005. The Department of History is interested in scholars specializing in early modern European history of science, but applicants with other chronological and geographic specializations are also encouraged to apply. Applicants should have the Ph.D. completed by August 2005 and have a strong record of research and teaching in history of science. The successful applicant will teach graduate and undergraduate courses. Candidates should submit: (a) a letter detailing research and teaching interests; (b) c.v.; (c) sample syllabi for undergraduate and graduate courses; (d) three letters of recommendation; and (e) a writing sample such as a chapter or article to Dr. Robert A. Hatch, Chair, History of Science Search Committee, Department of History, 226 Keene-Flint Hall, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32611. Applications received by 30 October 2004 are guaranteed consideration. For further information please contact Bob Hatch at ufhatch@ufl.edu or visit http://www.history.ufl.edu/1-fac-staff/1-fs-fhs.html. The University of Florida is an equal opportunity institution.
Dissertation List

The HSS Newsletter, in cooperation with Jonathan Erlen (University of Pittsburgh), publishes dissertation titles that have been brought to our attention. The list below reflects information provided by Dr. Erlen (only dissertation titles placed in Dissertation Abstracts included) and others and was current as of 1 July 2004. Please send any missing titles to info@hssonline.org.


Bevins, Michael B. “The Practice of Medicine.” University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Galveston, 2004, 253 pages. 3113418.


Rinka, Marcie Denise. “Images of Female Madness in the Nineteenth-century Latin American Novel and Short Story (Jose Marti, Cuba; Eduardo Holmberg, Argentina; Emilia Freitas, Brazil; Juana Manuela Gorriti).” Tulane University, 2003, 204 pages. 3116906.

(continued p.11)
Faces of the Media: Dennis Overbye

By Michal Meyer

Dennis Overbye carefully considers his words before he opens his mouth. But ask him about his job and words such as “fascinating,” “gripping,” “involved” pour out. Interestingly, it’s not a job the science journalist ever planned — he wanted to be a novelist. When that career flamed out Overbye was lucky enough to be offered a low-level job at *Sky and Telescope* magazine in 1976. The MIT physics graduate worked his way up to become a full-fledged journalist. Now, he says, his job is to observe scientists. “Scientists watch nature and I watch them.” And he writes books, non-fiction ones.

Overbye has been a science reporter at *The New York Times* since 1998. “I came in at a crazy time — Monica Lewinsky, but then I realized it’s always a crazy time here.” The *Times* job came at the perfect moment, just as Overbye was finishing up his second book, *Einstein in Love: A Scientific Romance*, an unsparing examination of Einstein’s early life and first loves (His first book *Lonely Hearts of the Cosmos: The Scientific Quest for the Secret of the Universe* was published in 1991). The move out of history and back into journalism was a relief “ Everybody in the book is dead, and as a journalist I’m more used to working with living people. That’s a lot of the fun in journalism — being an eyewitness to things. It’s hard conjuring it out of old letters.”

The best part of his job exists very much in the present. “[It’s] excavating a corner of the culture that most people don’t know very much about — in the popular mind it’s still fresh and unexplored. People don’t know much about physicists, what they do, or who they are. People can name last year’s Oscar winners but not last year’s Nobel Prize winners. It’s rich territory for a writer.”

Balancing the science and the story is a never-ending battle. His job, says Overbye, is not to write for the scientist, but for people who do not know the science but are interested in the story. “Anything I can leave out I do leave out. I try to tell stories in a narrative form — I don’t give the science lecture until there’s some point to it.” Science historians, he feels, have a harder job. “They are trying to be truer to the record in a more rigorous way, and they have to parse things much more closely.” If Overbye has any advice for historians of science, it is that they should not aim for greater relevance. “I think they should be true to what they are doing. I don’t try to be relevant — I only get dragged kicking and screaming to stories that have relevance. [Historians] should be true to the core of their mission. Striving for relevance is a horrible mistake.”

Overbye was a member of the History of Science Society for a time and even went to one annual meeting. He was struck by the widely varying styles of the historians. After spending some time listening to historians of physics he came away with the sense that no scientist, including Einstein, ever wrote a paper that was completely correct. “It’s a wonder anyone got anything right. But I like that. Even things you think you know keep changing over time.”

“I only get dragged kicking and screaming to stories that have relevance,” says Overbye, has altered the feel of his profession. Reader responses to that day’s articles are already waiting on his computer by the time he gets to work. “Mistakes,” he says, “are pointed out by lunchtime.”

Overbye says the response of scientists to his work is generally positive — they all appreciate interest in their work. The most common complaint he receives from scientists is not that they have been misquoted, but that they have not been quoted.

“I sit at the bottom of a huge funnel of information that’s flowing in, the biggest challenge is to know what to pay attention to and what to ignore.” The challenge, says Overbye, is to convince himself that he understands what the shouting is about in some of the scientific fields and then explain it to the rest of the world. “That’s the science writer’s dilemma. And it’s getting harder and harder as physics and genetics get more and more complicated and further and further divorced from what we thought was common-sense reality.”

What does it take to be a science writer? “A combination of adolescent eagerness and skepticism and a certain foolhardiness. I’m still doing it so I suppose I still have them.” Overbye considers science journalism to be a privileged form of journalism; unlike other fields, such as politics, scientists do mostly tell the truth, even though their communication skills may not be as polished. “There are people in the journalism profession who wander into science and like it because people are more frank and there are happy stories.”

Despite this, science journalists do retain some skepticism, and more so than in the past. Overbye says he has been lied to on a few occasions. “The Challenger explosion was a big moment of truth for a lot of people. Just because a Ph.D. said it doesn’t mean it’s necessarily true.”

Weapons of mass destruction, stem-cell debates, battles over creationism — the scientific controversies of the day keep Overbye and his dozen or so coworkers busy, so much so that he says they are stretched thin serving up the weekly diet of science stories. But it’s a job in a million. “I’m surprised they let me do it, and I’m surprised they let me in the next day to do it again.”
Three Historians of Science Take their Classrooms to the World

By Michal Meyer

Larry Principe’s media career began in 1998. He was discovered by The Teaching Company after a newspaper published an account of his selection as Maryland Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Institute. Intrigued, the company sent someone to investigate, and Principe turned up one day for his science and religion course to find a young woman, tape recorder in hand, waiting for him. Frederick Gregory has no idea how he was discovered. “They e-mailed me. [The message] said ‘I will be in Gainesville with The Teaching Company, may I visit one of your classes.’”

Since 1990, The Teaching Company has produced audio and video courses on subjects ranging from art history to mathematics. With Principe, the company began its foray into the history of science. Following the mid-2004 release of Steven Goldman’s lectures on science in the 20th century, the myriad historical facets of science—from Babylonian astronomy to string theory—are now reaching an audience far larger than any auditorium could possibly hold.

Principe began the series with “The History of Science: Antiquity to 1700,” which starts with the Babylonians and ends with the development of scientific societies. Gregory continued with his “History of Science: 1700 to 1900,” which was released in January 2004, and Goldman finished with “Science in the 20th Century.”

Tom Rollins, founder of The Teaching Company, is enthusiastic about the series. “I think it is absolutely compelling material. No, it’s not useful. It’s not going to make you any more money. For our customers the real objective is to understand the world and in the hands of a great professor you can share in that experience in 72 hours. And that is time well spent.”

The series fed into something Principe had wanted to do for a long time. “I think it’s important for all of us to do public outreach—for all academics, but of historians of science especially.” Principe has more than one reason for his emphasis on outreach. “There is such a distorted view of what science is among the general public, whether from watching science fiction or getting a watered-down version of science from various low-level sources. People need to know more about how science develops, how scientists work, how we come to understand and create something we call science. People vacillate between thinking science is a savior for all of us and being disappointed that it doesn’t have quick answers to all their problems. The disappointment comes from not knowing how science works.”

Principe is also concerned about a knowledge gap growing between people doing the science and everybody else. “It is more and more difficult to communicate science to a general audience, yet it is more and more important—it is science and technology that drives our lives today.”

Outreach is also important for Gregory, but after more than 25 years exposure to the classroom so is the pleasure of teaching those who just want to learn. “We teach students and we are sometimes under the illusion that they are learning for its own sake, but really there are practical considerations. This is really learning for its own sake. That is wonderful.”

Each 36-lecture series was a lot of work. And it wasn’t only the recording that was time and energy consuming. “There was at least a full year of preparation for those nine afternoons of recording,” says Gregory. “A year of organizing and figuring out what to include and what not to include. It was an arduous journey but enormously gratifying. I confirmed that I could do it. You do like to do some summing up, and I’m at a point in my career where I wanted to do that.”

All three lecturers were asked to provide a sample lecture, recorded at The Teaching Company studios in Chantilly, Virginia. The lectures were then sent out to some of the company’s regular customers who reported back on style, content, and enjoyment of the lecture. A tape with tips for successful lecturers included: be engaging, use humor, and tell the audience what you will be doing in a lecture. There are also warnings. “Do not come in and try to wing it. It does not work. People have failed because they have ignored this warning,” says Gregory.

A good speaking voice and camera presence is required, plus a certain amount of articulateness. “It took a few tries to get used to the camera. The only thing for the lecturer to look at is the big clock ticking down the 30 minutes,” says Principe. It also took practice to produce a clever link to the next lecture in the last ten seconds of the one being recorded.

Most listeners to the history of science courses are not professional scientists, says Rollins. “One of the ways science is made most accessible to a lay person is by teaching it as a story. So the history of science develops a context that makes what is otherwise bewildering, accessible.”

Listener response has been positive. Says Gregory: “People who take the time to write do so because they are very unhappy about something or very happy, and I’ve only gotten the latter. There seem to be more physicians [responding] than anyone else.”

Principe sees his lectures with The Teaching Company as a new way to get the message out, one that complements more traditional ways. “It’s an extraordinary vehicle for reaching a wide audience. I certainly couldn’t have had such diffusion on my own—it’s good for them, good for me, and good for the profession in general.” He has found that even within the scholarly community people listen to the tapes. He has received mail from political science, history, physics, and chemistry people. His lectures have also been picked up by a home-schooling group.

“The audience is for the most part adults who are several years out of college,” says Rollins. “People no longer in the launch phase of their career trajectory and who now want to return to things they find most intellectually compelling.”

All three lecturers have scholarly backgrounds in more than just the history of science. Principe graduated from the University of Delaware with a B.S. in chemistry and a B.A in liberal studies. A Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Indiana University followed. Principe then shifted disciplines and in 1996 received a Ph.D. in history of science from Johns Hopkins University, where he has been ever since. This year, he won the Francis Bacon Prize in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, the first recipient of this award.

As to why he shifted from chemistry to history of science: “I’m a victim of big science. I had wanted to be a professor of chemistry from the time I was 10 or 12 years old. About the time I was writing my dissertation I realized that the image I had of a chemistry professor was outdated by at least 50 years or so. By the late twentieth century the amount of chemistry academic chemists get to do at the bench is essentially zero. I’m more of a solitary scholar interested in finding my own answers to my own questions.”

Principe’s science background does affect his current job. “First of all, it makes me more interested in scientific practices—what happens in the laboratory and how results are interpreted.” His interest in chemistry has run side by side with an interest in history of science, especially alchemy. That includes a more accurate depiction of what alchemists were doing in their laboratories, how they approached questions of understanding and control of the natural world. And for Principe’s scientific side, what kind of contributions did the early history of chemistry make in terms of knowledge and technique. In repeating many of the alchemical experiments, Principe came to understand what good bench chemists the alchemists were, despite their primitive
charcoal furnaces and fragile glassware. Though filled with respect for their work and equipment Principe has little desire to go back to the laboratories of the good old days. “I wouldn’t swap my pyrex glass for their soft glass which shattered the third or fourth time you heated it up.”

Goldman arrived at the history of science from a philosophy of science and a physics background. After receiving a B.S. in physics from Polytechnic University of New York he moved to Boston University where he received his master’s and doctoral degrees in philosophy. Since 1977 he has been the Andrew W. Mellon Distinguished Professor in the Humanities at Lehigh University.

During the Eighties, Goldman made the unusual decision – for a historian of science – to get involved in technology and engineering. This involvement grew out of articles he published on the logic of technical innovation. “Engineering knowledge does not drive innovation. Why we have the nuclear power plants that we have, the computers that we have, we would never deduce that from the knowledge without knowing the political and institutional forms. Innovation is a highly calculated process.” As a result of his work Goldman was invited to participate in federal policy initiatives, which in turn led to industry initiatives in the Nineties. It was his attempt to apply what he had learned in the history of science and technology. “There was lots of fieldwork shadowing engineers. One of the great myths of the modern era is that engineering is an applied science. But there is the need to factor in value judgments that come from social context. The Internet is loaded with value judgments that have caused it to take the form that it has.”

Currently, Goldman is at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem’s Sidney Edelstein Center for the History, Philosophy and Sociology of Science, Technology and Medicine, working on a monograph on the philosophy of engineering. It is a critique of the role played in western intellectual history by contingency as opposed to necessity. Or more specifically: “In western philosophy and its impact on western intellectual history, action is fundamentally non-rational because it is ultimately driven by will, which is based on desire. This is quite clear in Aristotle-he concedes that action is not rational because we can never deduce what we should do from what we know. There is a gulf between knowledge and action that could not be bridged by reason. In this line of thinking we give pride of place to a definition of knowledge which practically excludes action from being rational, yet what we prize most highly in human beings is their rational faculties. I want to highlight the extent to which there has been a parallel discipline, right from before Plato, that argues that this is a misconception of rationality, and that we must begin with the underlying logic of action and define rationality in terms of right action, and that requires that we think in terms of context. It’s contextual, particular, probabilistic, and historically located as against knowledge as universal, necessary and certain.”

This all links to Goldman’s interests in policy and industry. “By looking at the distinctive logic of engineering we can work our way back into understanding this alternative philosophic tradition.”

Gregory made his way to the history of science via mathematics and theology. He received his bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Wheaton College, Illinois, a degree in divinity from Gordon-Conwell Theological seminary, a master’s from the University of Wisconsin in the history of science, and a doctorate in the history of science from Harvard.

“History of science as a discipline has always been very friendly to religion, much more so than the philosophy of science. You cannot avoid dealing with religion; in the past they have been so intimately connected with each other.”

His interests lie in the modern physical sciences, primarily that of 18th and 19th century Germany. Currently, Gregory is writing a two-volume history of science textbook, planned for publication in 2006 by Houghton-Mifflin. It’s a project he has been interested in for a long time. In the Eighties, Gregory had helped prepare a preliminary survey for a textbook, but the project had founded due to the difficulties in writing specifically for students.

“I have learned to develop something of a thick skin. The publisher’s development editors are ruthless. When something is boring they say so; when something can’t be justified they want to know what it’s doing there.” Gregory has also learned to stand his ground; such as insisting on including what the editors regarded as a surplus of historiography. “They have these preconceived ideas about the nature of science that get in the way. One of the editors wanted to know why I insisted on talking so much about Lamarck. He was operating on a very positivistic level, and that’s not the kind of history we write. At times, I insisted on being more complicated than they would have liked.”

Writing a textbook, says Gregory, gives him the opportunity to say what he thinks. “I suspect it’s a more tempting opportunity as one comes near the end of one’s career.” As well, Gregory enjoys telling the stories of those who influenced science. “Not to say that it isn’t work,” he hastens to add. “It can drive you crazy.”

Textbook writing and video lecturing are equal in some ways, Gregory believes; both begin as a tabula rasa. “[It’s about] making things fit and a matter of organization. And there is a grand summary sweep in both.”

Content has different imperatives when lecturing before a camera. “Certain subjects have to be included. In astronomy, for example, when did people start believing there was life on other worlds? People would be curious about that. I try to anticipate what the general public would expect. After that I have to make the decision for myself; what is important for the history of science that I want to include.”

Presenting the history of 20th century science presented its own problems, says Goldman. It is harder to treat chronologically than earlier centuries. As a result, Goldman turned his lectures into an intellectual odyssey, highlighting seminal intellectual innovations, rather than a chronological history. For history of science, the importance of 20th century science is its non-equilibrium and non-linear aspects, says Goldman. “There is the primacy of relationships over substance.” Evolution rather than revolution is emphasized; an underlying continuity transformed by sudden discontinuities. “There is a tremendous amount of 19th-century physics in relativity and quantum physics. Sometimes we talk as if we’ve thrown out the old stuff but there is an underlying continuity.”

Whether writing or lecturing, the importance of keeping the larger public in mind should not be underestimated, believes Gregory. “We don’t do our discipline a great service by staying completely within our niches. Most people have an interest in the history of science. And if we don’t represent ourselves, other people will.”

People, Principe believes, enjoy a broadening of their horizons. Learning about Islam and science in the Middle Ages is one example, and issues between science and religion is another. “Kepler, Newton, and Boyle undertook their studies with a great deal of theological motivation. That’s a shock for most people in the general public. What I had hoped was true turned out true. People do like the contextualization and seeing the complexity of history—compared to the sanitized triumphalism in science textbooks and what you find in bad programs on the History Channel.”

Despite their differences, all three lecturers have one thing in common. “They have an almost messianic desire to explain the fruits of their discipline to the rest of the world,” says Rollins. “In the end that may be the defining term for the word ‘teacher.’”
Grants, Fellowships, and Prizes

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

Bakken Library

Each year, the Bakken Library and Museum in Minneapolis offers Visiting Research Fellowships and Research Travel Grants to facilitate research in its collection of books, journals, manuscripts, and instruments. The subject of the Bakken's collections is the history of electricity and magnetism with a focus on their roles in the life sciences and medicine. Significant holdings include the works of natural philosophers, scientists, physicians, electro-therapists, and electrophysiologists of the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries. Related subjects and materials include mesmerism, animal magnetism, hypnosis, in addition to works documenting the history of para-psychical, psychical research, and phrenology. Also of interest are collections of 19th-century medical and electro-medical ephemera, miscellaneous scientists' letters, and trade catalogues. The instrument collection includes electrostatic generators, magneto-electric generators, induction coils, physiological instruments, recording devices, and accessories. Visiting Research Fellowships up to a maximum of $1,500 are to help defray the expenses of travel, subsistence, and other direct costs of conducting research at The Bakken. The minimum period of residence is two weeks. Preference is given to researchers who are interested in collaborating with The Bakken on exhibits or other programs. The deadline for applications is 15 February 2005. Travel Grants up to a maximum of $500 (domestic) and $750 (foreign) are to help defray the expenses of travel, subsistence, and other direct costs of conducting research at The Bakken. The minimum period of residence is one week. Application may be made at any time during the calendar year. For application guidelines or further information, please contact: Elizabeth Ihrig, Librarian, The Bakken Library and Museum, 3537 Zenith Avenue So., Minneapolis, MN. 55416, tel 612-926-3878 ext. 227, fax (612) 927-7265, e-mail Ihrig@thebakken.org. Web site: http://www.thebakken.org; click on “Library” or “Research.”

J. Worth Estes Award

The American Association for the History of Medicine and the Committee for the J. Worth Estes Award in the History of Pharmacy invite nominations for the award for 2005. Nominations should be sent to: Marcia Meldrum, UCLA, Chair, J. Worth Estes Award Committee 2005, or e-mail mlynnmel@earthlink.net. Papers from 2003 that were considered for this year's award are automatically nominated.

Best Article: North American Science

The Forum for the History of Science in America seeks nominations for the best article, published in English in 2002, 2003, or 2004, by a scholar who has received a Ph.D. within the last ten years (1995 or later). The subject area — the history of North American Science — includes Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the United States. Authors may nominate themselves. Nominations are due May 15, 2005 and may be sent to: Daniel Goldstein; University of California; Davis; Shields Library; Humanities and Social Sciences Department; 100 NW Quad; Davis CA 95616-5292, or e-mailed to dgolstein@ucdavis.edu. The Forum Prize will be awarded at the general meeting of the Forum to be held at the History of Science Society meeting in Minneapolis, November 3-6, 2005.

History of Astronomy or Astrophysics

The purpose of the Herbert C. Pollock Award is to provide encouragement and support for an innovative project in the history of astronomy or astrophysics, to be undertaken by a faculty member, research associate, or postdoc associated with a college, university, nonprofit research institution or observatory located in North America. Applications from persons meeting the other requirements, who are not currently affiliated with any institution will also be considered. Special consideration will be given to proposals that involve the use of the Dudley Observatory Archives, the Dudley Collection of early astronomical works housed at Union College or the Benjamin A. Gould, Jr. Library held by the Dudley Observatory. The Award consists of a maximum of $5,000 to be distributed in the year of the Award. A recipient of the Pollock Award may not reapply for a new award for three years. The application should include a descriptive title with a brief account of the project (4 pages max.), a one-page nontechnical “executive summary” of the project to be evaluated by non-historians; a budget showing how the Award funds would be spent, together with a description of the applicant’s current funding and the funding agency, if any, for present work; a biographical sketch and personal bibliography; the names and affiliations of two scientists or other scholars who may be contacted by the Selection Committee, should the need arise, as well as the name of the applicant’s supervisor or Department Chair. The complete application must be received by Dudley Observatory by November 14, 2004. Dudley Observatory, 107 Nott Terrace, Suite 201, Schenectady, NY 12308.

Alwyne Wheeler Bursary Travel Award

Those expecting to attend meetings of the Society for the History of Natural History are reminded about the Alwyne Wheeler Bursary to support travel by young scholars to meetings of the Society. The award includes up to GBP 100 (or equivalent) for travel to the meeting, plus conference registration. One bursary will be awarded per year. Preference will be for applicants who contribute a paper or other presentation at the annual Spring meeting of the Society. Bursary recipients will be invited to submit a paper to the Society's journal, Archives of Natural History, subject to normal review processes. The application deadline is thirty days prior to the meeting. Applicants need not be members of the Society. For the purposes of this award, “young scholars” normally applies to persons under thirty at the time of the meeting. Application forms, notes for guidance, and a diary of meetings are available through the Society’s newsletter and Web site: http://www.shnh.org, and from the SHNH Secretary c/o The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD, United Kingdom, secretary@shnh.org.

The Victor and Joy Wouk Grant-in-Aid Program

California Institute of Technology Grants-in-Aid offers research assistance of up to $2000 for work in the Papers of Victor Wouk in the Caltech Archives. The Maurice A. Biot Archives Fund and other designated funds offer research assistance up to $1500 to use the collections of the Caltech Archives. For all funds, applications
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Shelor, Erin J. "If the Parish Screw Him, Let Him Screw the Parish": Professionalization and Reform of the Poor Law Medical Service in Nineteenth-century Britain." University of Kentucky, 2003, 261 pages. 3112338.


Future Meetings

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

Calls for Papers

The Thomas Harriot Seminar, held biennially at the University of Durham, is devoted to the life and times of the Elizabethan scientist and mathematician Thomas Harriot. This year’s seminar will be held at St John’s College, 16-18 December. Speakers will include Robert Goulding (Notre Dame) on the Harriot-Keppler correspondence, Stephen Pumprey (University of Lancaster), on Thomas Harriot and scientific patronage, Nicholas Popper (Princeton) on Magic and Natural Philosophy in Walter Raleigh’s History of the World, Harriet Knight on Francis Bacon and notebook culture in the seventeenth century. For more information and details about registration please contact Dr. Stephen Clucas (s.clucas@bbk.ac.uk).

The 16th Annual Symposium on Maritime Archaeology and History of Hawai’i and the Pacific: “Pacific Connections Through the Ages.” The conference will be held February 19-21, 2005 at Honolulu, Hawai’i. Paper topics are not limited to the theme but special consideration will be given to all abstracts that incorporate this message. Suggested topics include: Voyaging connections within the Pacific Rim; Transpacific maritime commerce; Naval engagements and interactions in the Pacific; Recent archaeological research of Pacific maritime cultures. Abstracts should be no more than 300 words and include a title, name(s) of presenters and affiliation. Deadline November 15, 2004. Please e-mail abstract and contact information to Donald Froning, Jr. (froning@mahhi.org). For more information about the conference, go to: http://www.mahhi.org/.

The annual meeting of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters will be held on the campus of Eastern Michigan University, March 4-5, 2005. The abstract deadline is November 11, 2004. Abstracts of papers on any appropriate topic are welcome. For this coming meeting of the History of Science and Technology section, part of the session will be organized around the theme of “Science on the Periphery.” For further information, contact the section chair. Contact information for other section chairs can be found on the Academy’s Web page: http://www.umich.edu/~michacad/.

The twenty-third annual Mephistos conference will be held on March 5-6, 2005. The Committee welcomes proposals for individual papers from graduate students. Please submit all of the following by e-mail to Tanya Sheehan, Chair of the Organizing Committee, at mephistos@brown.edu: cover letter including your name, institutional affiliation (department and college/university), title of proposed paper, complete mailing address, and telephone number(s); one-page abstract of the proposed paper; c.v. Deadline: December 1, 2004. For further information, please consult the conference Web site: http://www.brown.edu/Students/Mephistos/.

Beyond Imperial Centre and Colonial Periphery: Reconnecting the Global and the Local. March 11-12, 2005, University of Cambridge, UK. This conference seeks to explore new ways of understanding the global movement of ideas and information. Some particular themes include: The limits of imperial reach: how ideas associated with empire have been reshaped by the social and cultural practices of individual communities; and how ideas and knowledge move beyond national and imperial borders. ‘Trans-imperial’ ideas: the movement of ideas between different imperial systems, both within the same geographical area, and between Africa, Asia and the Atlantic. Deadline for abstracts November 15, 2004. Deadline for submissions is January 31, 2005. Abstracts may be sent to conference2005@world.history.britishlibrary.net.

From Earthly Bowels into Light. A three-day meeting on the history of cave research will be held in Torquay (Devon, England) from 21-24 April 2005. The study of caves, their formation and their contents, has attracted the interest of a variety of researchers over the past few centuries. If anyone would like to give a talk on the history of cave research, contact either Anne O’Connor at hoggsec@hotmail.com, or by post to the Department of Archaeology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, with a brief title or outline.

As part of the celebration of the World Year of Physics in 2005, the Forum on History of Physics of the American Physical Society invites, for the first time, relevant contributed talks at both its March (21-25, Los Angeles CA) and April (16-19, Tampa FL) 2005 meetings. The former is focused on condensed matter, polymers, and computational physics; the latter on astrophysics, nuclear, and particle physics. Advice on abstract submission, registration, and so forth, can be found at the APS Web site: http://www.aps.org/meet/MAR05/ and http://www.aps.org/meet/APR05/. Deadlines will be in late fall. A complete calendar of APS meetings appears at http://www.aps.org/ meet/calendar.html.

Imaging Nanospace. Images and the power of image-making are defining the field of nanoscience and nanotechnology. Much of nanoscale research practice revolves around the creation and interpretation of images. The workshop, to be held 11-14 May, 2005, will focus on the specific characteristics of images as visual representations. The full call for papers takes the form of an Internet exhibition at www.cfs.tu-darmstadt.de/phil/NanoSpace. This is supposed to serve as a starting point and common referent for the talks and workshop discussions. Please send a 200 to 500-word abstract in the form of a word document by December 1, 2004 to jochen.hennig@staff.hu-berlin.de (Jochen Hennig, Helmholtz Zentrum für Kulturtechnik, Humboldt University, Unter den Linden 6, 10099 Berlin, Germany). Please indicate the families of images from the Web gallery that your proposal is relating to. For further information please contact: jochen.hennig@staff.hu-berlin.de or noedmann@phil.tu-darmstadt.de.

The AAAS Pacific Division Meeting 12-16 June 2005 at Southern Oregon University, Ashland, OR. Members especially are invited to submit papers for the History of Science Section (Donald J. McGraw, chair, e-mail: grantree@yahoo.com) but submissions in a multitude of fields are accepted. Current information may be found on the Pacific Division Web site, http://pacific.aaas.org/.

International Society for History, Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology meeting will be held in Guelph, Ontario, 13-17 July, 2005. Electronic forms for submission of papers and sessions are available at http://www.ishpsb.org/ocs/submission.php/. You may float ideas for sessions at http://www.ishpsb.org/phorum/. Or, go to our Web site at http://www.ishpsb.org/ and click on the “Meetings” or “Program” links.

The Special Session at ISES 2005 will be on “The History of Solar Energy and ISES.” Possible topics include: intellectual history of solar energy; solar technologies from ancient civilizations to the industrial revolution; solar technologies in the 19th and early 20th century; politics and policy drivers in solar-energy research and use at national and international levels; solar energy, its market introduction and the established science and technology; information about solar energy. Abstracts should be submitted online at http://www.ises2005.org. Deadline November 15, 2004.

First International Conference on the Histories of Media Art, Science and Technology will be held 28 September to 2 October, 2005. It will cover art and new
media, art and technology, art-science interaction, and the history of media as pertinent to contemporary art. The conference will be held at The Banff Centre, Canada. http://www.bshs.org.uk/news/.

A History of Medicine Conference will be held at Ministère de la Recherche, Paris, France, 7-10 September, 2005 as a joint venture of the European Association for the History of Medicine and Health (its VIIth meeting) and the Society for the Social History of Medicine. For further information, see http://www.eshmh.net/. Any proposal of papers or posters should be accompanied by an abstract clearly describing the contents, one A4 page, no more. The official languages of the international sessions are English and French. All correspondence dealing with scientific presentations should be directed to the organizer of the conference, Prof. Patrice Bourdelais (Patrice.Bourdelais@ehess.fr) to whom the abstracts also should be submitted. Deadline for proposals, 15 November, 2004.

Fifteenth Conference of the Canadian Science and Technology Historical Association will be held 29 September to 2 October, 2005. Topics will be: Canada's scientific and technological heritage; World Year of Physics — 2005 (see http://www.ypw2005.org/); other subjects relating to the history of science and technology. We also encourage you to organize sessions with other colleagues. Proposals must include a title, summary (75 to 100 words) and brief C.V. Abstracts and papers may be in either French or English. Deadline May 2, 2005: Send proposals to Suzanne Beauvais, Canada Science and Technology Museum, 2380 Lancaster Road, P.O. Box 9724, Station T, Ottawa ON K1G 5A3. Telephone: (613) 991-1429 Fax: (613) 990-3636 or by e-mail at: CSTHA-AHSTC-2005@technomuses.ca.

Upcoming Conferences

Alexander von Humboldt: From the Americas to the Cosmos. The conference will be held at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, 14-16 October, 2004. http://www.humboldtconference.org/.


Science in Europe – Europe in Science:1500-2000. An international conference will be held in Maastricht (the Netherlands), 4-6 November 2004. http://www.gewina.nl/.


American Studies Association Annual Meeting will be held at Atlanta, 11-14 November, 2004. The topic will be “Plugging in, Greening America: Technological and Environmental Utopianism.”

2004 PSA Biennial Meeting. The Philosophy of Science Association will hold its joint meeting with the HSS in Austin, Texas, 18-21 November, 2004i. The meeting will be held at the Austin Radisson, which is located just across the bridge from the Hyatt, site of the History of Science Society meeting. Web site: http://www.temple.edu/psa2004/.


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The Nineteenth Barnard Medieval and Renaissance Conference on “Medicine Across Cultures: 600-1600” will be held 4 December, 2004.


International workshop: “A Cultural History of Heredity III: Nineteenth to Early Twentieth Centuries” will be held at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, 13-16 January, 2005.

The Third International ESEH Conference will take place 16-19 February, 2005, in Florence, Italy. The theme of the conference is “History and Sustainability.” http://www.eseh-2005.unifi.it/.


The Southern Association for History of Medicine and Science (SAHMS) will hold its seventh annual meeting on 25-26 February, 2005 in Augusta, Georgia.

The Program Committee for the American Society for Environmental History will hold its 2005 meeting of the ASEH in Houston, Texas, 16-20 March.

The 78th annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine will be held in Birmingham, Alabama, 7-10 April, 2005. http://www.histmed.org/meetings.htm.


Perspectives on 20th-century Pharmaceuticals will be held 14-16 July, 2005 at Oxford University.

The Atomic Bomb and American Society. The three-day conference will be held July 15-17, 2005 at Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

22nd International Congress of History of Science Conference will be held in Beijing from July 24 to 30, 2005. http://2005bj.ihns.ac.cn/.

The 11th International Conference on the History of Science in East Asia will take place in Munich, Germany, 15-20 August, 2005.
History of Science Reception

Please join us at the

Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center

HSS Annual Meeting
Austin, Texas
19 November 2004
6:15 to 8:00 p.m.

Reception Sponsored by
The Educational Advancement Foundation

Providing support for
The Legacy of R.L. Moore Project
The Archives of American Mathematics
at the Center for American History
University of Texas at Austin

Dr. R.L. Moore, Professor of Mathematics, University of Texas 1920-1969. (Photo circa 1939. From the R.L. Moore Papers, Archive of American Mathematics, Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin)

Exhibits from the Ransom Center and the Archives of American Mathematics will be on display at the reception.

Awards, Honors, and Appointments

The American Association for the History of Medicine has awarded the J. Worth Estes Award in the History of Pharmacy for 2004 to Professor Paulo Alves Porto, of the Centro Simão Mathias de Estudos em História da Ciência (CESIMA) and Programa de Estudos Pós-Graduados em História da Ciência Pontíficia Universidade Católica de São Paulo, Brazil, for his essay: “Summus atque felicissimum salium: The Medical Relevance of the Liquor alkahest,” in: Bulletin of the History of Medicine, Vol. 76 (2002), p. 1-29. Paulo Alves Porto traces the elusive quest for a universal solvent — the alkahest — from a brief mention by Paracelsus to its glory days with Joan Baptista van Helmont in the early 17th century and its quick descent into an object of chemists’ mockery.


The Society for the Social History of Medicine (SSHM) is pleased to announce that the winner of its 2003 Roy Porter Student Essay Prize Competition is Marianne Samayoa of the University of Missouri, St. Louis. A revised version of her essay “More Than Quacks: Seeking Medical Care in Late Colonial Latin America” will be published in Social History of Medicine.

After being a fellow at the Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology and at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (Berlin), Matthew D. Eddy has been appointed Lecturer in the History of Science at the University of Durham (England). At Durham, Eddy also will be member of the Seventeenth Century Studies Centre, the Centre for the History of North England (funded by the British Arts and Humanities Research Board) and the Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease (housed in the School of Medicine). In addition to these university responsibilities, he also has been appointed to be an Honourable Member of Council for the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry (SHAC). One of the oldest history of science societies in Britain, SHAC oversees the publication of the journal Ambix.

Londa Schiebinger has been appointed professor of the history of science and the Barbara D. Finberg director of the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at Stanford University. She has three books coming out this autumn. The first, Plants and Empire: Colonial Bioprospecting in the Atlantic World (Harvard University Press, October 2004), includes the story of the exotic abortificients used in the eighteenth century in Europe’s West Indian colonies by Arawaks, Tainos, and African slaves to abort their offspring so that they would not become slaves. Research for this work was supported by the National Science Foundation, the Max-Planck Gesellschaft, the National Institutes of Health, and the Humboldt Foundation. Also scheduled to appear this autumn is Colonial Botany: Science, Commerce, and Politics, co-edited with art historian Claudia Swan (University of Pennsylvania Press) and a reissue of her prize-winning book Nature’s Body: Gender in the Making of Modern Science (Rutgers University Press).

Ronald Rainger, of Texas Tech University, has been awarded the William E. and Mary B. Ritter endowed fellowship at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Rainger will be presenting three lectures at Scripps and the Science Studies Program at the University of California, San Diego, in the Fall of 2004. He has also been appointed Program Director of the Science Technology Studies program of the National Science Foundation. He encourages members of the STS community to contact him with questions they might have concerning any of the initiatives that the STS program supports. He can be reached at rrainger@nsf.gov or at (703) 292-7283.

Gregg Mitman, of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, is the recipient of fellowships from both the American Council of Learned Societies and the National Humanities Center for the year 2004-2005. He will spend the year at the National Humanities Center in the Research Triangle Park area in North Carolina completing his book Breathing Space: An Ecological History of Allergy in America, to be published by Yale University Press. For the following year, 2005-2006, he has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and will return to Madison where he will finish Breathing Space and begin research on his next book project, tentatively titled, America’s Rubber Empire: Ecology, Disease, and Commerce in the Making of the Firestone Plantations Company.

Judith W. Leavitt, University of Wisconsin, Madison, received the spring 2004 Hilldale Award for Arts and Humanities in recognition of her distinguished professional accomplishment. She has also been awarded the University of Wisconsin Foundation Chair Rupple Bascom Professor, a five-year renewable appointment.

Warwick H. Anderson, University of Wisconsin, Madison, received the major book prize, the W.K Hancock Award, from the Australian Historical Association in July 2004 for his book Cultivating Whiteness. He also has received funding, along with Richard Keller (University of Wisconsin, Madison), from the Office of the International Studies and Programs of the University of Wisconsin for their project “Globalizing the Unconscious: Cross-Cultural Exchanges with Colonial Psychoanalysis.” As part of the project they are proposing a series of workshops and seminars on the colonial histories of psychoanalysis.

Toby A. Appel is the first holder of a newly endowed librarianship, the John Robinson Bumstead Librarian for Medical History, at the Cushing/Whitney Medical Library, Yale University. She has been Historical Librarian at the Medical Library since 1994.

Martha H. Verbrugge has been appointed Presidential Professor at Bucknell University. The appointment recognizes distinguished contributions in teaching, scholarship, and university service.
This is a report on the results of the 2003-2004 HSS Employment Survey. The information provided concerns searches for positions beginning in or around Autumn 2004. While we received 42 useable surveys, there were a total of 51 hires reported, as some searches were satisfied by multiple hires. In addition, three surveys indicated that the search in question had been terminated before completion. Finally, several institutions either failed to or were prohibited from indicating the gender of their candidates and/or hires. Taking these discrepancies into account, this report tallies the results of the 51 filled positions relating, even if only tangentially, to the needs of universities and institutions for graduates of HP/STM programs.

The results are divided into four categories: 1) HP/STM was the primary area of expertise desired; 2) HP/STM was simply a supporting or secondary area of expertise; 3) HP/STM was one of several possible areas of expertise, or 4) HP/STM did not factor at all in the job search.

Of the 29 job searches in Category I, 13 were permanent and 16 were temporary. Of the 11 permanent hires (three of these searches were stopped) were awarded to men (60%, or 6 out of 10); females were awarded 4 of these positions, or 40%. Of the 16 temporary positions filled, ten (71%) were male hires while only 4 (28%) were female (Two institutions did not indicate the genders of their successful candidates).

In Category II, in which training in HP/STM was desired in a candidate but only as a secondary emphasis, 1 of the 2 permanent positions was awarded to a male candidate, while the other was awarded to a female. There were no temporary positions in this category.

Of the 17 hires in Category III, males garnered 5, or 55% of the permanent positions while females received 45%. Of the 8 temporary hires in this category, in which HP/STM was simply optional, males and females were each awarded 50% of the positions (4 out of 8 apiece).

Finally, three positions were reported in which HP/STM was not a factor in the job search; all of these — two permanent and one temporary — were awarded to males.

In summary, 17 of the 46 hires for which gender was reported, both permanent and temporary, were awarded to women (37% of the posts for which gender was indicated).

This figure is consistent with the result of the 2002-2003 Survey, which indicated a female hire rate of 37.5%, down from 44% the year before. But while only 1 woman received a permanent, Category I position in last year’s tally, this year, almost half of the permanent positions in this category were given to women.

Only three hires were described as “minority”; interestingly, only one of these was female. It should be taken into account, however, that many surveys failed to indicate whether or not the candidate fell into a category defined as “minority” by their institution; many indicated they were unaware of the guidelines for determining this status.

Overall, respondents had positive things to say about this year’s pool of applicants. Several indicated that candidates were, to use the words of one respondent, “extremely talented” and that choices were hard to make. One noted his/her difficulty in finding applicants for Post Docs, wondering if it were becoming more difficult to convince scholars to move somewhere for one year. Most importantly, after hiring a non-HP/STM candidate for a Category IV job, one respondent wrote the following advice: “Grad programs in HPS/STS are doing their students a terrible disservice in not preparing them at least somewhat for positions in larger, affiliated fields.”

Candidates themselves had advice for the committees entering the search process. Most basically, those seeking jobs in HP/STM would like to see better communication between job applicants and the search committee — “process updates would be very helpful,” one wrote. While one noted that post descriptions are “too narrow or specific,” another went as far as to assert that “Many job searches are not legitimate. More often than not, advertised positions – particularly at public universities – are not real. Insider candidates . . . have the inside track.” Indeed, this was corroborated by several employer surveys that indicated the use not of wide-reaching advertising media but of directed letters of inquiry and local networks. Similarly, survey tallies illustrate that employers are relying more and more on electronic advertisement — even, sometimes, electronic media only. Several respondents noted the various difficulties in moving between American and European institutions, especially regarding the discrepancy in professor status. One complained, “In what other profession is it acceptable to carry out three day interviews, or day-long interviews that last from 8am-10pm?” Another informed us that he/she has left the profession in search of a more “financially remunerative” and fulfilling job in industry.

We endeavor, year after year, to improve the quality of this survey, as well as our ability to extricate reasonably firm data from it. Look for improvements in next year’s survey — among them, a self-addressed envelope, as promised but not delivered this year. If participants or readers have recommendations for methods of improving this process, please send them to: Cornelia Lambert, Department of the History of Science, Physical Sciences Room 628, The University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019-0315; or by email at clambert@ou.edu. Thanks to Adrian Morse and Robert J. Malone at the HSS Executive Office for producing the survey, and thanks to the HSS Women’s Caucus for its support of this project.
## History of Science Society Newsletter October 2004

### HSS Employment Survey Tables, 2003-2004

#### CATEGORY I: HP/STM WAS THE DESIRED AREA OF EXPERTISE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Description</th>
<th>Background</th>
<th>Advertising Media</th>
<th>Rank Offered</th>
<th>Successful Candidate</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permanent:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California State University Fullerton</td>
<td></td>
<td>3, 4, 5, 6, 7</td>
<td>65: 19, 17</td>
<td>Search canceled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemical Heritage Foundation</td>
<td>S, B</td>
<td>6, 8 Program Assistant</td>
<td>20: 8, 12</td>
<td>Female; —, —, —</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drexel University</td>
<td>S, T, or M, D, W</td>
<td>1,2,3,5 AST</td>
<td>5, 6, —, —</td>
<td>Search canceled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>—</td>
<td>1, 3, 5, 6</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Search canceled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin &amp; Marshall College</td>
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<td>98: 71, 27</td>
<td>Male, no, PhD, 1997, HP/STM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indiana University</td>
<td>S, M, P, D</td>
<td>3, 4, 5, 6, 8 AST</td>
<td>65: 54, 11</td>
<td>Female, no, PhD, 1996, Philosophy and Social Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iowa State University</td>
<td>S, T, M, D, W</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 AST</td>
<td>36: 19, 17</td>
<td>Male, no, PhD, 2004, HP/STM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johns Hopkins University</td>
<td>M, D</td>
<td>1, 6, 7, 8 AST</td>
<td>—; —, —</td>
<td>Female, no, PhD, HP/STM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johns Hopkins University</td>
<td>S, D</td>
<td>1, 2, 3, 5, 6 AST</td>
<td>8: 7, 1</td>
<td>Male, yes, PhD, 1993, HP/STM</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of British Columbia</td>
<td>S, T</td>
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<td>150: 125, 25</td>
<td>Male, no, PhD, 1996, HP/STM</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Central Arkansas</td>
<td>S, T, M, D</td>
<td>3, 6 AST</td>
<td>32: 24, 8</td>
<td>Male, no, PhD, 1999, HP/STM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Chicago Press</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>4, 5, 8 Editor</td>
<td>20: —, —</td>
<td>Female, no, —, —</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yale University</td>
<td>S, T</td>
<td>1, 5 AST</td>
<td>34:25, 9</td>
<td>Male, no, PhD expected 2004</td>
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#### CATEGORY II: HP/STM WAS A DESIRED SECONDARY AREA OF EXPERTISE:

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<td>American Academy in Berlin</td>
<td>M, D</td>
<td>3, 6 F</td>
<td>131: 78, 53</td>
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<td>S, T, M, P, D</td>
<td>2, 3, 4, 5, 6 F</td>
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<td>Male, no, PhD, 1996, HP/STM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deutsches Museum</td>
<td>S, T, M</td>
<td>2, 4, 6 O</td>
<td>32: 10, 12</td>
<td>Male, no, PhD, 1997, HP/STM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deutsches Museum</td>
<td>S, T, M</td>
<td>2, 4, 6 O</td>
<td>32: 10, 12</td>
<td>Male, no, PhD, 1999, HP/STM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deutsches Museum</td>
<td>S, T, M</td>
<td>2, 4, 6 O</td>
<td>32: 10, 12</td>
<td>Female, no, no, HP/STM</td>
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<tr>
<td>German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development</td>
<td>S, D</td>
<td>4, 5, 6, 8 AST</td>
<td>9: 7, 2</td>
<td>Male, no, PhD, —, HP/STM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iowa State University</td>
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<td>12: 8, 4</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1, 5, 6 PD</td>
<td>3: 3, 0</td>
<td>Male, no, PhD, 2004, HP/STM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg</td>
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<td>5, 8 PD</td>
<td>1: 1, 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Max Planck Institute/History of Science</td>
<td>S, D</td>
<td>4, 5, 6, 8 PD</td>
<td>33: 21, 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Max Planck Institute/History of Science</td>
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<td>12: 7, 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Science Foundation</td>
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<td>2, 4, 5, 6 FP</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of California – San Diego</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Chicago</td>
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<td>4, 5, 8 PD</td>
<td>25: —, —</td>
<td>Male, no, PhD, 2004, HP/STM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yale University</td>
<td>S, T, D</td>
<td>5, 6 PD</td>
<td>17: 9, 8</td>
<td>Male, yes, PhD expected 2004, HP/STM</td>
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**Job Description**

**Permanent:**

- American Philosophical Society: S, T, A, PH, 1, 5, 6, 8, ASC, LIB, 15: 10, 5, Male, no, —, MA, MLS
- National Library of Medicine: M, A, 8, LIB, 15: 10, 5, Female, no, no, —, Library Science
# History of Science Society Newsletter October 2004

## CATEGORY III: HP/STM WAS ONE OF SEVERAL POSSIBLE AREAS OF EXPERTISE

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<th>Background</th>
<th>Advertising Media</th>
<th>Rank Offered</th>
<th>Total # applicants: Male, Female</th>
<th>Successful Candidate Gender, “minority” Degree, date, field</th>
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<td>Duke University</td>
<td>PH</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>32: 13, 19</td>
<td>Female, no, MA, American Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>McGill University</td>
<td>S, T, or M, D</td>
<td>3, 5</td>
<td>AST</td>
<td>134: 74, 60</td>
<td>Male, no, PhD 1992, History</td>
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<tr>
<td>McGill University</td>
<td>S, T, or M, D</td>
<td>3, 5</td>
<td>AST</td>
<td>134: 74, 60</td>
<td>Male, no, PhD 1992, History</td>
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<td>McGill University</td>
<td>S, T, or M, D</td>
<td>3, 5</td>
<td>AST</td>
<td>134: 74, 60</td>
<td>Male, no, 1993, Philosophy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Penn State University</td>
<td>S, M, D</td>
<td>2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8</td>
<td>AST</td>
<td>74: —, —</td>
<td>Male, no, PhD 2002, HP/STM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Clara University</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>3, 5</td>
<td>FP</td>
<td>100: 71, 29</td>
<td>Male, no, PhD 1984, HP/STM</td>
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<td>Southwestern University</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>3, 5, 6, 8</td>
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<td>75: 4, 71</td>
<td>Female, yes, PhD 2004, Women’s Studies in Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>University College London</td>
<td>PH, D</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>44: —, —</td>
<td>Male, no, PhD, —, STS</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of Redlands</td>
<td>P, D</td>
<td>3, 6, 8</td>
<td>AST</td>
<td>280: 30, 150</td>
<td>Female, no, PhD 1999, History</td>
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## CATEGORY IV: HP/STM WAS NOT A FACTOR IN THE SEARCH

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<th>Background</th>
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<th>Total # applicants: Male, Female</th>
<th>Successful Candidate Gender, “minority” Degree, date, field</th>
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<tr>
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<td>D</td>
<td>3, 4, 5, 6, 8</td>
<td>PD</td>
<td>72: —, —</td>
<td>Female, no, PhD, —, —</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of California – Berkeley</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>3, 4, 5, 6, 8</td>
<td>PD</td>
<td>72: —, —</td>
<td>Female, no, PhD, —, —</td>
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<td>University of California – Berkeley</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>3, 4, 5, 6, 8</td>
<td>PD</td>
<td>72: —, —</td>
<td>Male, no, PhD, —, —</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>University of California – Berkeley</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>3, 4, 5, 6, 8</td>
<td>PD</td>
<td>72: —, —</td>
<td>Male, no, PhD, —, —</td>
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<tr>
<td>University of London</td>
<td>M, PH, D</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>F</td>
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<td>York University</td>
<td>S, T, STS, D</td>
<td>4, 5, 8</td>
<td>TF</td>
<td>27: 20, 7</td>
<td>Male, no, PhD, —, —, HP/STM</td>
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<td>York University</td>
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<td>TF</td>
<td>27: 20, 7</td>
<td>Female, no, PhD, —, —, HP/STM</td>
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<tr>
<td>National Science Foundation</td>
<td>S, T, P, D</td>
<td>4, 5, 6, 8</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>12: 5, 7</td>
<td>Male, no, PhD, —, —, HP/STM</td>
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## KEY:

**DESIRED BACKGROUND:**

A Archival Training, Experience
B BA only
D Ph.D. or equivalent in hand at time of starting position
MU Museum Training, Experience
M Training in History of Medicine
MD M.D. degree
O Other specific training
P Training in Philosophy of Science
PH Public History
S Training in History of Science
STS Training on Sci, Tech, and Society
W Ability to teach American or Western History Survey
T Training in History of Technology

**RANK:**

ASC Associate Professor
AST Assistant Professor
F Full Professor

**ADVERTISING MEDIA:**

1 AHA Perspectives
2 SHOT Newsletter
3 Chronicle of Higher Education
4 HSS Newsletter
5 HSS Web site
6 H-Net, or other electronic media
7 AAHM Newsletter
8 Other

No (clear) reply
Donors to NEH Challenge Fund

(As of 14 September 2004)

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($2500 and Above)

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<tr>
<td>Charles C. Gillispie*</td>
<td>John C. Greene*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisbet Raising</td>
<td>John A. Neu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laurence S. Rockfeller Fund</td>
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<td>Virginia P. Dawson+</td>
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<td>Gerald Holton*</td>
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<td>Shinzo Kohjia</td>
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<td>Robert Multhauf*</td>
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($500 - $999)

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<td>Frederick Gregory*</td>
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Contributors
(Up to $499)

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<td>Pamela E. Mack*</td>
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<td>Michael Massouh</td>
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<td>Leonello Paoloni</td>
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* Officers’ Incentive Fund
+ In honor of Robert E. Schofield
Please send corrections to info@hsonline.org
History of Science Society Newsletter October 2004

ISIS BOOKS RECEIVED

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


Hughes, Thomas P. *Human-Built World: How to Think About Technology and Culture.* xii+223 pp., illus., bibl., index. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004. $22.50 (paper). ISBN 0226593336.


Ruggles, Clive. *Astronomy in Prehistoric Britain and Ireland.* x + 285 pp., illus., figs., tables, apps., bibl., index. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1999. $65.00.
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ISIS BOOKS MISSED

Due to database glitches some recently published books were not included in the January and April 2004 Newsletters.


Bialas, Volker. Johannes Kepler. 192pp., illus., bibl., index. München:Verlag C.H.Beck, ISBN3-406-51085-X.


Greetings to HSS members from Washington, D.C.!

There are a few items I would like to discuss with you, to keep you informed about NSF support for your research activities. But first and foremost, I want to encourage you to consider NSF for support of your work. We are always interested in discovering what the latest developments are in the HSS community, and we are always looking for more good proposals. So, send us your ideas and your research proposals and we will do our best to support them.

Second, the STS Program Announcement formats have changed. Recently, NSF has attempted to provide more uniform advice to potential researchers, so we have all been asked to revise our various funding categories. The most common award from the program is the STS Scholars Awards, which supports research by an individual scholar for an academic year, summer(s), or for longer periods of time. Support can include salary, travel and research expenses, assistance for graduate and undergraduates students, and other costs. Grants for Collaborative Research support projects involving several investigators. Two different types of STS Fellowships are available. Postdoctoral Fellowships are for scholars within five years of the award date of their doctoral degrees. Professional Development Fellowships offer opportunities for more senior scholars who seek to gain formal knowledge of science and technology specialties (for historians and social scientists) or in the humanities and social sciences (for scientists and engineers) in order to improve their STS activities. Doctoral Dissertation Research Grants support research expenses not normally available through the student’s university. Small Grants for Training and Research Fellowships provide sustained research opportunities for a group of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows on important issues or topics in STS. These opportunities usually extend for three years. The program also accepts proposals for Conferences and Workshops, with support normally limited to $10,000. Small Grants for Exploratory Research are also available; please contact the program to discuss the guidelines governing such proposals. The program also supports efforts to expand the experiences of undergraduates in research (REU). Detailed information on the program and its activities, program guidelines, and information on application materials can be found at the program’s Web site: http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/ses/sts/start.htm. The target dates for the next two rounds of competition are 1 August 2004 and 1 February 2005. Please feel free to contact the program with any questions about the program or the application process (rainger@nsf.gov).

Additional opportunities also exist for STS scholars inside other programs at the Foundation. For example, Societal Dimensions of Engineering, Science, and Technology Program (SDEST) supports studies considering the ethical and values elements in science and technology, as well as research related to “improving approaches and information for decision making concerning management and direction of research, science, and technology.” SDEST Program Director Rachelle D. Hollander often collaborates with the STS Program in co-funding projects. For more information, see the SDEST Web page: http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/ses/sdest/start.htm.

I encourage you to send us excellent proposals. And remember, always read the Program Announcements for the STS Program and/or contact your Program Officer prior to submitting the proposal. Many errors may be eliminated by either of these two simple steps.