

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR THE HISTORY AND THEORY OF HISTORIOGRAPHY

NEWSLETTER

No. 2

February 1997

ICHTH Executive: Georg G Iggers (President), Irmline Veit-Brause (Vice-President), Edoardo Tortarolo (Secretary General); Fernando Sánchez-Marcos (Treasurer)
Editor of Newsletter: Irmline Veit-Brause

From the President:

Just a few lines on the activities of the Commission since the last Newsletter. The Executive Committee (Bureau) met on June 2, 1996, at the Max-Planck-Institute for History in Göttingen, Germany, with François Hartog (France), Attila Pók (Hungary), Jörn Rüsen (Germany), Hans Schleier (Germany), Jerzy Topolski (Poland), Rolf Torstendahl (Sweden), Irmline Veit-Brause (Australia), Masayuki Sato (Japan), and myself present. In addition Otto Gerhard Oexle, director of the Max-Planck-Institute für Geschichte and Ernst Schulz (Germany) participated as invited guests. Only Frank Ankersmit (Netherlands), Wolfgang Mommsen (Germany) and Richard Vann (USA) were unable to attend. They had been consulted prior to the meeting.

The major agenda items and decisions included:

- (1) The election of Irmline Veit-Brause to the vacant position of vice-president.
- (2) Discussions of the topic for the Commission's program at the next International Congress of Historical Sciences to be held in Oslo in 2000. It was suggested that the topic should be focused on the responsibility or lack of responsibility of historians and the historical profession in the face of the great political and military convulsions of the century from the First

World War to the post-cold war period. The Bureau was divided on this theme as some members felt that this would be a theme more properly suited to the main program of the Congress. I was instructed to correspond with Professor Bédarida, the Secretary General of CISH on this suggestion, which I have done.

(3) The Bureau accepted the invitation from the Institute of History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences to organize a joint conference in July 1997 in Budapest on problems of periodization in history from an intercultural perspective. We accepted the invitation. The conference is to be held on July 4-6, 1997. For the Provisional Program see below. The next meeting of the Bureau will also be held in conjunction with this conference in Budapest.

(4) Edoardo Tortarolo extended an invitation for ICHTC to co-organize a conference in mid-1998, in Varallo, Italy, together with the Department of History of the University of Turin. The proposed conference topic is 'The relation of local to general history,' a theme which touches on the problems raised by *microstoria*.

(5) The Bureau extended its thanks to Irmline Veit-Brause for the excellent Newsletter she edited and to Martin Siegel (USA), Attila Pók (Hungary), Masayuki Sato (Japan), Fernando Sánchez-Marcos (Spain), and Edoardo Tortarolo (Italy) for taking care of the distribution.

(6) In November 1996, I wrote a letter to Professor Dr H Markl, President of the Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, adding the Commission's voice to the international votes of support for the Max-Planck-Institute for History, Göttingen, in face of the threat of its closure in 2004. Among others, I made the points that "that the MPI für Geschichte occupies a very unique place, not only in historical research in Germany but internationally," that "[t]he Institute is in the forefront of theoretical and methodological discussions and research in areas bearing on linguistic and anthropological aspects of history," that "no historical institution or department in the Federal Republic has earned the worldwide respect and recognition of the MPI," and that "the closing of the Institute would result in a serious provincialization of historical studies in Germany."

We are sorry that this second Newsletter has been delayed for a variety of reasons, but we intend to produce future issues regularly.

Georg G Iggers, President

FROM THE TREASURER

The financial position of our ICHTH has somewhat improved and we have paid the institutional membership fee for 1996 to CISH. Thank you very much, especially all the people who have sent in their individual membership fee for 1996. You should have received receipts by now.

I would like to make a **suggestion with respect to the method of payment of membership fees**: It would greatly facilitate financial transactions if membership fees (and the discount subscription to *Storia della Storiografia*) were paid by **credit card** rather than cheque. The banking fee on a \$20 cheque is comparatively high.

Of course, every cheque is also welcome, and in any case, the credit card method is already the most commonly used method of

payment. Thank you, indeed.

You will find at the end of this Newsletter a form for ICHTH membership application which should make transactions easier.

Finally, as your Treasurer, I appreciate very much the contributions in kind made by all the people and institutions who took on the mailing of the Newsletters, such as the Universities of Barcelona, SUNY at Buffalo, Deakin University, Kean College of New Jersey, University of Turin, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences of Budapest and last but not least, the Max-Planck-Institute for History, Göttingen.

Fernando Sánchez-Marcos
Treasurer

MINUTES OF ICHTH MEETINGS

Meeting of the Bureau, Göttingen, 2 June 1996

Present

Georg G Iggers (President and chair), Edoardo Tortarolo (Secretary General), F Sánchez-Marcos (Treasurer), and the members of the Bureau: H Schleier, I Veit-Brause, A Pók, R Torstendahl, François Hartog; J Rösen, Masayuki Sato, J. Topolski

Apologies.

P. Burke, A. Sakharov, F Ankersmit; Richard Vann, Wolfgang Mommsen

As invited guests: E. Schulin, O G Oexle, H. Lehmann

1. Introductory business. The President, Georg Iggers, introduced the members of the Bureau to Professor Lehmann and Professor Oexle, the directors of the Max-Planck-Institute for History, and thanked them for hosting the meeting and invited them to join in the discussion.

2. Report on Montréal meeting: Iggers and Tortarolo gave a brief summary report on the Montréal meeting the minutes of which have been published in Newsletter, No. 1. The treasurer reported that payment of membership fees could now be done by

credit card. He also mentioned that the Commission's membership fee in the Comité International des Sciences Historiques equals 40 membership fees paid to the Commission

3 Budapest conference A Pók informed the meeting that the Hungarian Academy of the Sciences is ready to host a conference of the Commission in summer 1997 The suggestion is to focus on Soviet historiography. A discussion followed about other suitable topics for the Budapest conference, especially with a view to leading up to the next International Congress, in Oslo, in 2000

4 The Commission's program at Oslo, 2000: Discussion of suitable topics for the Commission's half-day program at Oslo, 2000. 'Historiography of the 20th c in retrospect' was suggested Iggers proposed 'Responsibility and irresponsibility of historians after 1914' Veit-Brause supported the spirit, but not the exact formulation of the proposal Her suggestion was 'The ethos of historical science and the ethics of the historian' Sanchez-Marcos argued for the inclusion of the 19th c. Topolski supported such an enlargement of scope. For Torstendahl 'responsibility' was not the right formulation. He suggested instead 'Theoretical foundations of historiography' Hartog proposed as an alternative topic 'Theoretical foundations and universal history,' e.g. Universal and local histories

Veit-Brause then moved the motion that 'The Responsibility of the Historian' be proposed by the Commission as a grand thème for the Oslo Congress, and that the President write to Bédarida proposing this theme. Torstendahl seconded the motion with the amendment that the Commission volunteer to organise this grand thème. In the discussion of the motion Schulin proposed a topic such as 'The situation of the historians'. Topolski, Veit-Brause, Rūsen and Oexle canvassed various other concrete suggestions. It was decided that

Iggers was formally to propose 'The responsibility of the historian' as a grand thème to the Secretary General of CISH. Rūsen suggested as one possible theme 'Women in historiography,' and Iggers suggested 'The challenge of postmodernism' as topics for the Commission's half day program at Oslo

5 The Commission's conferences in 1997 and 1998 It was also decided that the focus of the Commission's conferences in 1997 and 1998 will be 'cultural difference.' Pók argued for intercultural communication to be treated in Budapest, in 1997 A lively discussion follows on the meaning of intercultural communication in Europe and Asia (Rūsen, Sato, Torstendahl) Rūsen reported that a collaborative link had been established between the Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Forschung (Bielefeld), the Comité and Japanese institutions to organise a conference on intercultural communication in Tokio Iggers, Rūsen, Hartog and Tortarolo will jointly organize a conference in Turin in 1998

6 Correspondence Iggers reported on his correspondence with the Secretary General of CISH regarding the change of name of the Commission, and proposed formally to confirm the change of title of the Commission International Commission for the History and Theory of Historiography/ Commission Internationale pour l'Histoire et la Théorie de l'Histoire

7 Revision of Statute Veit-Brause suggested a consequent revision of art 1 of the Commission's Statute. Iggers expressed his preference for expanding the scope of the commission to études de l'histoire Veit-Brause and Hartog were asked to prepare a draft of the revised Statute for the General Meeting of the Commission, at Oslo.

8 Membership of the Bureau. Since P Burke had formally resigned from the Bureau, Iggers nominated Peter Novick and Mahmoud Diawara as co-opted members The proposal was unanimously accepted.

9 Election of vice-president. Rūsen,

Torstendahl and Veit-Brause were nominated, Veit-Brause the only one accepting nomination. She was unanimously elected as vice-president.

10. Newsletter Suggestions for the next issue are discussed. There was also a suggestion to create a home-page of the Commission.

11. Strengthening links with other institutions. The president reported that he is keen to strengthen links with institutions, such as the Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Forschung (Bielefeld), the German Historical Institute (Washington), and the German Historical Institute (London).

12. Survey of persecution, discrimination and censorship of historians (Antoon de Baets). It was decided to support Anton de Baets in his efforts.

13. ICHTC's membership of the American Historical Association. The president reported on his continuing exploration of this linkage.

14. Storia della Storiografia: Tortarolo reported on the healthy progress of the journal. He confirmed that the reduced subscription rate for members of the Commission was now operative.

15. The next meeting of the Bureau will take place in Budapest in early July, 1997.

(Minutes prepared by Edoardo Tortarolo)

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

"Periodization in History and Historiography: An Intercultural Comparison"

Joint Sponsors:

ICHTH and The Institute of History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.
Budapest, Europa Institute, July 4-6, 1997

Provisional Program

Evening session, Friday, July 4, 19:00

Introduction: Georg G. Iggers, President of the Commission, and Ferenc Glácz, Director of the Institute of History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Session A 19:30 to 21:30

"Periodization from a Comparative Perspective"

Chair: Irmline Veit-Brause (Deakin University)

Paper by Helwig Schmidt-Glintzer (Director of the Herzog August Library in Wolfenbüttel) on China and Europe

Commentators

Masayuki Sato (Yamanuchi, Japan)

Rolf Torstendahl (Uppsala)

Attila Pók (Budapest)

Session B Saturday, July 5, 9:00 to 11:00

"New and Old Approaches to Periodization"

Chair: Fernando Sánchez-Marcos (Barcelona)

Papers by:

Masaki Miyake (Tokyo), "Eschatology and Periodization in Western and Non-Western Thought from the Book of Daniel to Karl Marx."

Eva Domanska (Poznan), "Periodization from Postmodern Perspectives."

Richard Vann (Wesleyan University),

"Periodization from the Perspective of Women's History"

Commentators

Hans Schleier (Leipzig)
Aviezer Tucker (Olomouc),

Session C. 11.30 to 13.30

"Crises and Transitions and their Impact on Periodization"

Chair: Martin Siegel (Kean College of New Jersey)

Papers by:

Thomas Howard (Univ of Virginia). "Jacob Burckhardt and the Rhetoric of the *Ubergangsperiode* "

Achim Mittag (Leiden, Bielefeld). "The Sung Period as *Ubergangsperiode*."

Qingjia Edward Wang (Rowan University, USA, formerly Shanghai) "Changing Periodizations in the Face of the Modernization of Chinese Historiography "

Commentators

Steven Collins (Babson College, USA),

Charles DeMotte (Syracuse, NY)

Session D 16.00 to 18.00

"Periodization in the Face of Political Cataclysms"

Chair: Emil Niederhauser (Budapest)

Papers by:

Sang-woo Lim (Seoul). "The Periodization of Korean History in the Face of Colonialism and Independence "

Stanislao Pugliese (Hofstra Univ, USA)

"The Periodization of Italian History in the Face of Fascism and After "

Bianca Valota-Cavalotti (Milan) "The Periodization of East Central European History in the Face of the 1989 Revolutions "

Commentators

Zdenka Gredel Manuele (Niagara University, USA, formerly Croatia and Germany);

Nina Witoczek (Florence, formerly Poland)

Session E Sunday, 9:00 to 11:00

"The Relevance of Western including Marxist Concepts of Periodization for Non-Western Histories "

Chair Jerzy Topolski (Poznan)

Papers by

Liang-kai Chou (Taichung, Taiwan): "The Concept of 'Middle Ages' in Modern Chinese Historiography."

Frank Trombley (Cardiff), "Different Views of Historical Time in Byzantine and Islamic Sources."

Hebe Pelosi (Buenos Aires) "The Relevance of European Models of Periodization for Latin-American History and New Paradigms."

Commentators

Wolfgang Kuttler (Berlin)

Thomas H C Lee (City College of New York).

Session F Sunday, 11.30 to 1.00

Chair Wolfgang Mommsen (Dusseldorf)

Panel Discussion

Introduction Irmline Veit-Brause (Deakin University)

Members of the panel will include:

Hayden White (Florence, formerly Univ of California at Santa Cruz)

Frank Ankersmit (Groningen)

Jerzy Topolski (Poznan)

Bo Strath (Florence, formerly Sweden)

NEW THEORY OF HISTORY NETWORK

Last May during the first European Social Science History Conference (ESSHC) held in the Netherlands a new theory of history network has been constituted

The aim of this network is to function as a platform for those who are engaged in theory of history, historiography and methodology of history and who are scattered around the world and around the departments of history, philosophy and the social sciences. The network will convene biennially during the European Social

Science History Conference, the next meeting will be held in April 1998 in Amsterdam. The main theme of the network sessions will be 'The rise of the West'. At the moment sessions are planned on 'Modernization as master narrative of history and its alternatives', 'Big structures, large processes and huge comparisons: historical sociology in the balance' and 'History, historiography and identity in a comparative perspective'. Proposals for other sessions are welcome. The first ESSHC was initiated by the International Institute of Social History and attracted some 500 scholars from all over the world in a three day conference spread over more than 30 networks. The theory of history network held three sessions, with papers of, inter alia, Juergen Kocka (Berlin), Georg Iggers (Buffalo) and Joern Ruesen (Bielefeld).

Proposals for papers and sessions should be addressed before 1 May 1997 to the network chair Prof. Dr. Chris Lorenz, Free University Amsterdam, Faculty of Arts, Department of History, De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV Amsterdam, The Netherlands, fax.+31 20 4446500, e-mail. lorenz@jet.let.vu.nl

General information concerning the ESSHC can be obtained from the Conference Secretariat
ESSHC c/o CAOS WG Plein 475 1054 SH
Amsterdam The Netherlands
ph +31 20 616 51 51
Fax +31 20 689 09 81
website <http://www.iisg.nl/esshc>

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Geschichtsdiskurs IV., Bielefeld, 1996

Vom 22. bis zum 24. Feb. 1996 fand im ZiF die vierte Tagung einer auf fünf Konferenzen geplanten Serie zur Geschichte des modernen historischen Denkens in interdisziplinärer Perspektive unter dem Titel "Krisenbewusstsein und Innovationen 1880-1945" statt. Die Konferenz behandelte

uebergreifende Tendenzen der angesprochenen Epoche, die wichtigsten geschichtswissenschaftlichen Innovationen und nicht-westliche Kulturen unter dem Gesichtspunkt des Verhältnisses von einheimischen Traditionen und europaischen Einflüssen.

Besondere Aufmerksamkeit fand die Auswirkung der beiden Weltkriege auf die Entwicklung des historischen Denkens im allgemeinen und der Geschichtswissenschaft im besonderen. An der Tagung nahmen Vertreter unterschiedlicher Disziplinen teil: Historiker, Philosophen, Kunsthistoriker, Spezialisten fuer Japan, Indien, China und Literaturwissenschaftler. Die Ergebnisse der Konferenz, ergaenzt um einen kunsthistorischen Beitrag, werden unter dem Sammeltitle "Geschichtsdiskurs" als Taschenbuch in der Reihe Fischer Taschenbuch Wissenschaft erscheinen

Jorn Ruesen, Bielefeld

History and the Limits of Interpretation, Rice University, March 1996, Organizer: Thomas Haskell.

A conference report will follow in Newsletter No. 3.

Apologias for the Nation-State: Historiography and Nation-Building in Italy, France and Germany since 1800, April 1996, Organizer: Stefan Berger, University of Wales, Cardiff, UK

A conference report will follow in Newsletter No. 3

ICHTH CONFERENCE

PROCEEDINGS

History-Making. The Intellectual and Social formation of a Discipline, Proceedings of an International Conference, Uppsala, September, 1994, ed. by Rolf Torstendahl and Irmline Veit-Brause, *Konferenser 37*, Stockholm, 1996

The volume contains contributions by. I. Veit-Brause, A. Rigney, F. Ankersmit, R. Torstendahl, R. Björk, A. N. Sacharov, L. Raphael, A. Pók.

The volume can be ordered from Kungl Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademien, Box 5622, 114 86 Stockholm, Sweden.

NETWORK OF CONCERNED HISTORIANS (NCH)

NCH forwards information on persecuted and censored historians and others who write about the past, issued by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Amnesty International, Article 19, Human Rights Watch, Index on Censorship, PEN, and World University Service to participants in the Network. The fact that NCH reports about these historians and others does not imply that it shares their views and beliefs

For further information, please contact Professor Antoon de Baets, e-mail: DEBAETS@let.rug.nl

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NEW ON INTERNET

CROMOHS is a new review journal, edited by Guido Abbattista, specialising in the history of historiography. It is accessible on: <http://www.unifi.it/riviste/cromohs>

Comments and contributions to the Newsletter are welcome. Please contact:
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and
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