

A²HPS³ newsletter

Australasian Association for the History Philosophy and Social Studies of Science
ISSN: 1326-2289

October 2013
No. 51

Letter from the President

Associate Professor Dean Rickles, University of Sydney

AAHPSSS has had a rather rocky ride over the past few years. The heart of the association is its annual conference. In 2011 our plans to have it in Christchurch, New Zealand were dashed by the terrible earthquakes. What can only be described as a 'departmental quake' likewise dashed our intended plans for

worth saying something about its history.

The first AAHPSSS newsletter appeared in 1968, following its founding in August 1967. In fact, the third 's' was absent in the earliest days, so it was just plain old AAHPSS. Ding Dyason was the first president, with Jack

"Given the improved status of HPS, there is every reason to be positive about AAHPSSS's future and the role it has yet to play in the life of HPS in Australasia."

the 2012 conference, resulting in a hastily improvised PG conference. The standard of talks in that conference at least strengthened our belief that AAHPSSS had a good reason to continue. Even prior to these unfortunate events, the job of running AAHPSSS was passed around like a hot potato, without a chance to flourish as in its former glory years. Since there have been grave doubts over the ability of AAHPSSS to survive in the face of this, it's perhaps

Thornton as vice-president and Guy Freeland as secretary/treasurer (poor chap ...). The first conference was held in 1968 at the University of Melbourne, with Rod Home in charge in the running. Ian Hinckfuss and David Stove were amongst the very first members. Intervening figures with AAHPSSS responsibilities of various stripes include: Ruth Barton, Philip Catton, Alan Chalmers, Anthony Corones, John Forge, Monica MacCallum,



Contents

...

Letter from the President	1
AAHPSSS 2014:	2
News	3
Metascience Report	7
APSTSN Conference	8
New Publications	8
Jobs and Fellowships	8
Conferences & Seminars	10
From the Archives	12
Journals	16
Note from the Editor	17
AAHPSSS Executive	17
AAHPSSS Membership	17

David Miller, David Oldroyd, Tim Sherrat, and Michael Shortland. A roll-call of Australasian HPS. In his brief history of AAHPSSS, from the March 1993 AAHPSSS newsletter, Guy Freeland ended with the following statement. "Since its inception, the Association has played a continuing and useful role in the life of the HPS/STS community in the Atipodean climes; may A2HPS3 go from strength to strength during the next quarter of a century!" We are not so far from the quarter century mark now, and the community of Antipodean HPS scholars has grown considerably from the handful that existed

when AAHPSSS was founded. Given the improved status of HPS, there is every reason to be positive about AAHPSSS's future and the role it has yet to play in the life of HPS in Australasia.

Before I step down as president, I would like to put into place some changes that will see AAHPSSS's health improve over the coming years. This newsletter marks the beginning of this journey, and will inform AAHPSSS members about the state of HPS in Australasia, including hiring news, job vacancies, conferences, new books, funding opportunities, and other more general news. (Of course, we are

also open to suggestions for material to include in future newsletters, including appropriate articles and letters.) Additional changes include incorporation, as a step towards a more responsible management of the association, along with an updated website (long overdue): <https://aahpsss.wordpress.com>.

Most importantly, we will restart the conference series (scheduled for July 18-20, 2014) with an event in Katoomba, in the Blue Mountains. This will see the beginning of a new *biennial* series of conferences, of higher quality, in attractive locations, and with the prestigious Dyason Lectures. I hope to see you there!

AAHPSSS 2014 Biennial Meeting—Katoomba, 18-20 July 2014

CALL FOR PAPERS

The next meeting will be held over three days at Katoomba in the Blue Mountains, NSW.

Offers of papers are invited at this time. Titles of papers together with abstracts should be submitted by 31 March 2014 to members of the AAHPSSS executive (e-mails below).

Suggestions for symposia and offers to organize sessions are also welcome. If you wish to propose a session, please contact a member of the executive.

Dean Rickles (dean.rickles@sydney.edu.au);

Kristian Camilleri (kcam@unimelb.edu.au);

Luciano Boschiero (l.boschiero@campion.edu.au).

More information about registration, location, transport and accommodation will be distributed in the next newsletter and via the mailing list.

Postgraduate students are invited to apply for an Ian Langham Bursary of A\$150 (only ten are available)

News from University of Wollongong

Dr Nicola Marks, University of Wollongong

STS at Wollongong is seeing some exciting changes with the University restructure. From 11 faculties, the university is going down to five. The three Faculties of Arts, Creative Arts and Law have merged into the Faculty of Law, Humanities and the Arts. We are therefore looking forward to future collaborations with our new colleagues. We are also expanding our horizons internationally with our first year course "The Scientific Revolution" now taught as part of the University of Wollongong's Psychology degree at the Singapore Institute of Management.

Two UoW STS students received Australian post-graduate award scholarships:

- Ms Zoe Barker for her thesis entitled "Prenatal Diagnosis and Boundary Objects: How professionals make Sense of genetic tests" (supervised by Dr Nicola Marks)
- Mr Aleks Petkovski for his thesis entitled "Expertise, Legitimacy and Politics: The challenges of Regulating fringe science. A Comparative Study Of concerns health concerns relating to the siting of wind turbines and cell phone towers" (supervised by Associate Professor David Mercer)

Professional services:

- Nicola Marks joined David Mercer on the Australian Academy of Science's *National Committee for History and Philosophy of Science*
- David Mercer was appointed Chair of the University Thesis Examination Committee until 2014
- Adam Lucas' work as researcher, lobbyist and Sydney Convenor of award-winning environmental NGO Beyond Zero Emissions (BZE), has contributed to the adoption of 100% renewable energy policies by the NSW, WA and Australian Greens, as well as the more recent announcement by Federal Labor of its backing for a high-speed rail corridor between Melbourne and Brisbane. Both policies have been strongly advocated by BZE to politicians from across the political spectrum since 2010, and Adam has been a key player in this advocacy.

News from Macquarie University

Professor John Sutton

Dr Colin Klein will be starting in the Dept of Philosophy at Macquarie Uni in January 2014. His research focuses on the intersection between philosophy of science and philosophy of mind, on topics such as methodological issues in functional brain imaging, and pain perception. He was previously Associate Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and is currently visiting fellow at the ANU. Website: <http://www.colinklein.org/>

Dr David M. Kaplan moved to Monash Uni in mid-2013 from a postdoc at the University of Washington, St Louis. He works in philosophy of neuroscience, with recent work focussed on the nature of explanation and methodology in neuroscience. Website: <http://profiles.arts.monash.edu.au/david-kaplan/publications/>

News from University of Sydney

Associate Professor Dean Rickles

Mini-grants [totaling \$150000] from the *New Agendas for the Study of Time* project, at the University of Sydney, have been awarded to the following projects:

- Fuat Balci, Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey. *Contextual Regulation of Time Perception*.
- Hedderik Van Rijn and J.C. Billeter, University of Groningen, The Netherlands. *Time Flies: Interval Timing Mechanisms in Drosophila Melanogaster*.
- John Cass and Erik Van Der Berg, The University of Western Sydney/The University of Sydney. *Evolution of human time perception*.
- Christoph Hoerl, University of Warwick Coventry. *Time, Tense, and the Psychology of Relief*.
- Eve A. Isham, University of California, Davis. *Solving the problem of temporal awareness may help solve consciousness*.
- Vincent A Billock and Lynne Olzak, College of Optometry, Ohio State University / Department of Psychology, Miami University, Oxford. *Perceptual causality violations: Using time delay adaptation in a virtual reality environment to create an illusion of precognition of an avatar's horrific fate*.
- Daniele Oriti, Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics (Albert Einstein Institute) Golm, Germany. *Emergent time: Quantum Gravity, Cosmology and Philosophy*.
- Meghan Sullivan, Department of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame. *Discounting Time*.
- Jonathan Tallant, Department of Philosophy University of Nottingham. *The Art of Time*.
- Karim P.Y Thebault, Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy, LMU Munich. *On the Origin of Temporal Order: From Cosmology to Neuroscience*.
- Mariam G. Thalos, Department of Philosophy University of Utah. *Towards a formal decision theory with a future*.
- Devin Blair Terhune, Marie Curie Research Fellow, University of Oxford. *The neurochemistry of time perception*.
- Christina van Dyke and Brad Skow, MIT / Calvin College. *From Here to Eternity: Temporal Experience and Transformation*.
- Mark Yates, Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences, University of Melbourne. *What causes distortions in the perceived onset times of actions and their effects?*

Sydney Centre for the Foundations of Science, Visiting Fellows:

- Raymond Lal (Computer Science, Oxford), visiting during Semester 2, 2013.
- Brian Hall (Dalhousie University) will be visiting Semester 1, 2014.

News from University of Melbourne

Senior Lecturer Kristian Camilleri

HPS at Melbourne is still thriving after a series of Faculty restructures over the past few years, and in fact our students numbers have been steadily increasing over the past few years. Our summer intensive subject 'Astronomy in World History' topped 250 enrolments in 2013. HPS now forms one of the programs in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies, alongside History, Philosophy, and Classics and Archaeology. We continue to teach a broad range of subjects across the history and philosophy of science, social studies of science and technology and the history of medicine. HPS has also taken a leading role in the development, coordination and teaching of a range of interdisciplinary breadth subjects under the New Melbourne Model, such as 'The Ecological History of Humankind', 'Bodies, Minds and Medicine', and the Arts Foundation subject, 'Reason'. In 2014 Dr Gerhard Wiesenfeldt will co-teach a new third year subject with Professor Trevor Bernard from History called, 'Magic, Reason, New Worlds, 1450-1750'.

We are pleased to announce that from January next year Dr Darrin Durant will be joining our ranks from York University. Darrin originally did his BA at Wollongong University, before competing his PhD at Toronto. His primary fields of research concerns nuclear waste disposal, specifically debates over technical assessments and policy-making priorities between credentialed experts, the lay public and social movements. More generally, he has a broad interest in science-technology policy and the links between topics in STS (such as lay public involvement in technical controversies) and political philosophy (such as different notions of democracy and the idea of a 'common good'). He will coordinate two new Masters level subjects which will be offered in a range of Masters programs across the Arts Faculty in 2014 – 'Science, Controversy and Public Policy', and 'Trust, Credibility and Expertise'.

Dr James Bradley's public lecture on 26 June earlier this year, 'The Historian as Activist: Social Justice and the History of Medicine' was one of the highlights of the 'How the Humanities inform Justice' Public Lecture Series. We were also fortunate enough to have one of the leading scholars on criminal responsibility, Professor Joel Eigen, Professor of Sociology at Franklin and Marshall College, spend time in Melbourne recently as a Visiting Fellow. Professor Eigen's research is at the forefront of contemporary scholarship on mental derangement and criminal responsibility, juvenile justice and discretion and capital punishment and race. We are looking forward to having Dr Stephanie Lavau, lecturer in Human Geography and at Plymouth University, spend four weeks here as a visiting scholar in November. Our postgraduate community has also been active over the past year, with the organization of a postgraduate workshop in March, which subsequently led to a special peer-reviewed publication of many of the scholarly contributions.

On the research front, there are a number of exciting book projects at varying stages of completion. Dr Gerhard Wiesenfeldt is preparing an edition of Dutch eighteenth century philosophy texts on Newtonianism to be published by Springer in 2014, and is also currently engaged in a book project on the role of practical mathematics in Dutch natural philosophy. Dr Kristian Camilleri is currently working on a book project entitled 'The Physicist as Philosopher: The Making of an Intellectual Tradition'.

One of our former PhD students, Dr Stephanie Lavau, now a lecturer in Human Geography, at Plymouth University, will be visiting Melbourne from November 5-25. Peter Anstey has informed me that William Newman, one of the foremost authorities on Newton's chemistry is keen attend a colloquium in Sydney in August 2014, and I have contacted him about spending some time in Melbourne as well.

*News from University of Queensland,
Centre for History of European Discourse,*
Dr Marina Bollinger

The Centre for the History of European Discourses at the University of Queensland has a strong research focus in the histories of philosophy and of science, with a particular interest in assessing the contributions and innovations within early modern thought and its religious culture. Research projects underway in the history of philosophy, science, and religion in the early modern period. Centre Director, Prof. [Peter Harrison](#) is currently working on a series of funded projects, including '[Science, Progress, and History](#)', which explores the interface of history and the natural sciences, focusing on laws, patterns and narrative structures in human history, evolutionary history, and cosmology. This project includes an [international essay competition](#) as well as an ongoing [series of lectures](#) at the University of Queensland. '[Religion, Naturalism, and the Sciences](#)' investigates the relations amongst these enterprises, with a view to determining the nature of their historical interactions. One guiding question of the latter project is: What are the historical connections between 'science' and naturalism, and in what ways has the latter been a presupposition for the former? A third project titled '[The Uses and Abuses of Biology](#)', examines how biological evolution is employed for the purposes of mass persuasion, in collaboration with new postdoctoral fellow Dr. [Tom Aechtner](#). A final project is on [narratives of secularisation](#), which attempts to examine those narratives as historical objects themselves, and to examine their various normative commitments around the roles of religion and reason in the emergence of modernity. Prof. [Phil Almond](#) has recently completed a new monograph *The Devil: A New Biography*, which features a discussion of the demise of the supernatural and the rise of scepticism in early modern natural philosophy. Early modern fictive preternatural beings—such as goblins and fairies—are examined by Dr. [Michael Ostling](#) in his postdoctoral work on tradition, superstition, and paganism. New postdoctoral fellow Dr. [Ian Hesketh](#) works on the relationship between history, science, and religion in nineteenth-century Britain, with a special focus on the rise of notions of progress in historical thinking and the displacement of providence. Dr. [Leigh Penman](#) is currently exploring the instrumentalisation of early modern historical events in modern popular and political culture by early-modern heterodox thinkers within their networks of correspondence. Prof. [Peter Cryle](#) and Dr. [Elizabeth Stephens](#) are collaborating on the emergence of new modes of quantification in the nineteenth century in their ARC-funded project, '[A Critical Genealogy of Normality](#)'. Our [postgraduate students](#) are currently undertaking various projects within the history of philosophy and science, including the development of late nineteenth-century hypnotism as a positive science. Our newest student, Pete Jordan, is exploring the history of atheism, as well as the evolution of Christian thinking on such topics as divine providence in light of debates between rival philosophies of nature. The Centre holds many [regular public seminars as well as specialised conferences and workshops](#). We also convene [summer research scholarships](#) for undergraduate students in their final year of study. If you would like to be included on the notice for these events and schemes, please send your email address to Centre Administrator, [Vonne Carmichael](#).

Associate Professor Theodore Arabatzis and Dr Stathis Psillos

For the past four years, *Metascience* has been edited at the Department of Philosophy and History of Science of the University of Athens, Greece. The arrival of *Metascience* in Athens coincided with the advent of the unprecedented economic and social crisis that has hit Greece. Along with most of the people, the Universities in Greece have suffered a lot by the wave of relentless austerity that ensued. *Metascience* has kept going thanks to the support of the University of Athens and Springer. For us, editing the journal in conditions uncongenial to the flourishing of intellectual activities and research has been an invaluable experience. *Metascience* opened to us a window to the world. The response of the community at large to our review invitations has been extremely encouraging. *Metascience* has grown to be a truly international journal, with authors from all parts of the world.

We continued and enhanced the tradition of publishing book symposia on important recent books. 21 symposia have appeared since we took over the editorship in 2009. We also worked on grouping books on the same subject and inviting longer survey reviews, aiming to give readers a state-of-the-art perspective on various areas of research. Along with 18 survey reviews, we published 40 essay reviews—longer and more critical pieces, which aim to engage systematically with the issues raised in the book under review. A total of 388 ordinary books reviews and 14 book notices have been published. In the last four years we aimed to review as many as possible of the books that we received and we consider it a success that only 55 books were not reviewed in the end. Despite our best efforts, some people never produced the reviews they had undertaken.

A novel feature of *Metascience* was the thematic classification of reviews in the print version of the

journal. The thought was that the thematic classification would make the reviews more useful, since, taken collectively, they would offer the readers an overview of current work on a topic or subject. Some of the more specialized topics that *Metascience* covered were: philosophy of probability; philosophy of the humanities; history of medicine; history and philosophy of mathematics and logic; history and philosophy of the physical sciences; history & philosophy of the life sciences & medicine; history and philosophy of the environmental and earth sciences; history and philosophy of computing; ancient & early modern science and philosophy; Aristotle; Newton-Leibniz; empiricism; metaphysics of science; models & computer simulations; thought experiments; cognitive science; social studies of science; science & technology studies; science & politics; science & democracy; science & religion; popular science; animal ethics.

We have also introduced a new kind of review: a re-appraisal of an old classic, either by a book symposium on it, or by an essay review. Two of the books that enjoyed these special symposia were Pierre Duhem's *The Aim and Structure of Physical Theory* and Aristotle's *Posterior Analytics*. A guiding thought throughout the years was that we should foster a rapprochement between History and Philosophy of Science. The journal has always been very inclusive: it reviews books in philosophy, history and the social studies of science aiming to make room for a fruitful interaction between these disciplines. We very much hope that *Metascience* has not just grown in size, but in reputation too! We have been fortunate to be assisted by Vassilis Sakellariou, a talented philosopher with exceptional organisational skills.

Asia-Pacific Science, Technology and Society Network

Dr Stephen Healy, University of New South Wales

The [APSTSN](#) Biennial Conference July, 2013 was hosted by the National University of Singapore . It was APSTSN's largest event ever with about 150 presentations and demonstrated the network's increasing maturity across East Asia, Southeast Asia, and Australia. Prof Daiwie Fu and Prof Warwick Anderson were notable keynote speakers and the conference featured a plenary session on the Fukushima nuclear accident organized by Dr Rethy Chhem, the director of medicine at the International Atomic Energy Agency. There was also a roundtable organized by Bruce Seely and Francesca Bray, currently heading the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), and Suzanne Moon, editor of *Technology & Culture* and another about the role of STS in East Asia.

New Book Publications

- John Schuster (2013), *Descartes-Agonistes: Physico-mathematics, Method & Corpuscular-Mechanism 1618-33*, Dordrecht: Springer.
- Gal, O., Chen-Morris, R. *Baroque Science*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press.

Jobs and Fellowships

Assistant Professor, Science & Technology Studies at College of Arts & Letters (Stevens Institute of Technology)

The College of Arts & Letters at Stevens Institute of Technology seeks applicants for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in Science & Technology Studies (STS) beginning fall 2014. Candidates must have completed a Ph.D. in STS or a related field by August 1, 2014.

Questions may be addressed to: STS Search Committee, College of Arts and Letters, Stevens Institute of Technology, Castle Point on Hudson, Hoboken, NJ 07030 or by emailing CAL@Stevens.edu.

For more information, please visit www.stevens.edu/cal.

.....

Assistant Professor – History of Social or Psychological Science (University of Toronto)

The Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IHPST) at the University of Toronto invites applications for a tenure-stream appointment in History with Concentration in the History of Social or Psychological Science, or the History of Technology. The appointment will be at the rank of Assistant Professor and will begin on July 1, 2014.

Further Information: <http://utoronto.taleo.net/careersection/10050/jobdetail.ftl>

Assistant or Junior Associate Professor in the History of Medicine (Yale University)

Yale University seeks a tenure-track Assistant or junior Associate Professor in the history of medicine beginning July 1, 2014. Field, region, and period are open, but the committee will especially welcome applications from scholars whose work reaches beyond North America and Europe. Duties will include teaching in the Program in the History of Science and Medicine (Department of History) and in the History of Medicine at the School of Medicine.

Further Information: <http://h-net.msu.edu/cgi-bin/logbrowse.pl?trx=vx&list=H-Asia&month=1306&week=a&msg=dLNcj6NhsoC7FsUOn1gpRQ>

Assistant Professor in History of Modern Biological/Life Sciences (University of California, Santa Barbara)

The Department of History of the University of California at Santa Barbara invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professorship in the History of Modern Biological/Life Sciences since the seventeenth century. We are open to a wide variety of research specializations, including, for example, genomics/genetics, molecular biology, biotechnology, the biological field sciences, and evolution/Darwinism. Scholars whose work offers a comparative or transnational perspective and who will contribute to department and campus strengths are especially encouraged to apply. Applicants should be able to teach a variety of graduate seminars and upper division courses related to the history of the modern life sciences, as well as contribute to the department's lower-division history of science, technology, and medicine survey. Please send a cover letter; research statement that includes a description of current and future research, curriculum vitae, three letters of recommendation, writing sample, as well as two sample syllabi to the Chair of the Search Committee at <https://recruit.ap.ucsb.edu/apply/IPF00201> by **November 1, 2013**. Inquiries should be addressed to Professor Elizabeth DePalma Digeser, Chair, Department of History, edepalma@history.ucsb.edu. The department is especially interested in candidates who can contribute to the diversity and excellence of the academic community through research, teaching, and service.

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Environmental History / History of Science / Geography (University of Oregon)

Applications are sought for a two-year National Science Foundation (NSF) funded postdoctoral fellowship at the intersection of environmental history, the history of science, and political ecology at the University of Oregon. The postdoctoral fellowship is part of Professor Mark Carey's NSF CAREER grant (#1253779) on "Glaciers and Glaciology: How Nature, Field Research, and Societal Forces Shape the Earth Sciences" (see links below for more information). Applicants should have a research agenda that intersects with this NSF-funded project by examining historical glacier-society interactions, the history of glaciology, the history of the earth sciences, climate-society dynamics, the role of dynamic environmental change in the evolution of scientific knowledge, or the history of field-based sciences. Applicants may also have broader or more theoretical connections to the project, or they may have related regional specializations in the history of Greenland, the Arctic, Antarctica, or high mountains such as the Himalaya, Alps, or Andes.

For more information contact Professor Mark Carey (carey@uoregon.edu). Application deadline is December 15, 2013.

Conferences and Seminars

Themes in Early Modern Mathematics and Medicine

University of Sydney, Friday 8 November 2013

Kevin Lee Room, Level 6 Main Quad, Camperdown Campus, University of Sydney

Held in conjunction with Sydney Centre for the Foundations of Science

Click [here](#) for program. Space is limited. To register contact Professor Peter Anstey (peter.anstey@sydney.edu.au) by **6 November**.

.....

History of Science Society Annual Meeting

Boston, Massachusetts, 21-24 November 2013.

The meeting page has been updated with information on registration rates, hotel booking, the meeting program, special sessions and events, registration extras, travel both to Boston and while in the city, information for presenters, families, and more.

<http://www.hssonline.org/>

.....

Conference for Integrated HPS

University of Vienna and Institut Wiener Kreis, June 26-29, 2014

Submissions to be sent to: ivc@univie.ac.at, subject: "&HPS5"

Deadline for submission: January 15, 2014

Date of notification: March 15, 2014

<http://wissenschaftsphilosophie.univie.ac.at/en/home/>

.....

The International Society for the History of Philosophy of Science Conference

Ghent, Belgium, 3-6 July 2014

Deadline for submissions: November 1, 2013

<http://www.hopos.org/hopos2014teaser.html>

Popular Science, Altered Consciousness and Twentieth-Century Culture

Queen Mary, University of London. November 2013 (one-day conference to be held on a Saturday)

<http://www.bsfs.ac.uk/2012/12/popular-science-altered-consciousness-and-twentieth-century-culture/>

Please send queries and expressions of interest to k.price@qmul.ac.uk

From the Archives

The following article is from the AAHPSSS Newsletter of March 1993, Number 44:

THE CONCEPTION AND NATIVITY OF A²HPS³

Or, to be exact, the conception and nativity of AAHPS/A²HPS³, as the Association only acquired the serpentine hiss to its tail, by adding two further Ss, in 1979.

Not a little confusion seems to have arisen as to when exactly the Association was founded. The source of this confusion lies in the fact that two UNSW HPS Conferences were held, in 1966 and 1967 respectively, prior to the first AAHPS Conference, sensu stricto, in 1968. There is, in reality, no doubt at all as to when the Association was formed. Rod Home, during his prandial speech at the 25th Anniversary Dinner, appropriately quoted the curt, definitive and totally unequivocal opening sentence of Bob Gascoigne's editorial to the very first Newsletter of the Association, published in 1968: "The Association was founded in August 1967". To be even more precise, it was founded at a business meeting held at the second Kensington HPS Conference on Friday, 18th August, 1967, when the Constitution was approved and the first officers elected.

My recall of the exact sequence of events which led up to the foundation of the Association might, after a lapse of some twenty-seven years, be somewhat hazy. Fortunately, I had reason to make a note of my recollections, on which I intend to call, much closer to the actual events; in fact, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary celebrations, which took place at the Annual Conference held at the University of Wollongong in 1977. (I still have a photograph, taken by Monica MacCallum, of the Melbourne HPS department, of your correspondent, in his capacity as retiring President, ritually devouring the uncommonly toothsome tenth anniversary cake, supplied by Wollongong's Margaret Campbell.)

While birth dates are as a rule not hard to ascertain, and that of A²HPS³ is not an exception, dates of conception are another matter. The suggestion that it would be worth considering the formation of an HPS association was first mooted - according to my recollection in 1977 of Jack Thornton's recollection over a decade earlier (Jack Thornton was Foundation Professor of History and Philosophy of Science at UNSW) - by

the philosopher of science, George Schlesinger. However, nothing further came of the idea at the time (and I do not know in what year the suggestion was made). However, the transition from the twinkle in an academic eye to conception occurred, it could, with a modicum of plausibility, be maintained, during a discussion between Jack Thornton and myself on a balmy Summer day in 1965 - although, of course, like Lewis Carroll's Wonderland boating excursion on the Thames, it might, according to the official meteorological records, in fact have been pelting with rain. Whatever the weather, certainly the upshot of that meeting was a decision to hold a conference at UNSW at which a pow-wow could be held to discuss the possibility of forming an association. Of course, the trouble with proposing anything is that one is almost certain to get landed with organising it, and the instance in question was no exception.

In May, 1966 a conference was held - with myself as Conference Secretary - and at that conference a meeting was duly called on Tuesday the 24th May, to discuss the formation of an association. The proposal was favourably received and a steering committee was formed to draft a constitution - with, of course, yours truly as convener - and a decision reached to hold a further conference at UNSW the following year to consider the Constitution and (hopefully) launch the Association.

In August, 1967 the second UNSW Conference was held with - you have guessed it - myself again drawing the short straw. After the usual interminable arguments, which always seem to accompany constitutional deliberations, AAHPS was formally inaugurated. Ding Dyason, then Reader-in-Charge of the Department of HPS at Melbourne, was elected President, Jack Thornton Vice-President and myself Secretary-Treasurer - an iniquitous combination of functions which was later rectified by the revised Constitution of 1969. The biggest problem, concerning the debate over the Constitution, was that of whether the Association should or should not follow

the Australasian Association of Philosophy in having a Council which could function as the formal professional body for HPS in Australasia. The view was expressed that a Council, with carefully defined membership, could prevent the small number of academics working in HPS and related fields from being swamped by an imagined influx of alien beings who might take the Association over. It was also argued that such a body could prove invaluable if some terrible crisis should arise threatening the continuing existence of the discipline in the Fifth Continent. In the event, the Council has proved to be nothing more than an unnecessary encumbrance; indeed, the only time that it is momentarily brought back from Limbo is when Constitutional changes need to be effected. With hindsight, creating a Council was a mistake, but that the '67 meeting decided, eventually, to play it safe was, I think, indicative of the insecurity felt by what was at that time a very small academic community. The following year, 1968, saw the first AAHPS Conference, held at the University of Melbourne with, this time, the gods be praised, Rod Home as Conference Secretary.

In 1967 there were just two departments of HPS - at the Universities of Melbourne and New South Wales, with the only chair being at UNSW - plus a few odd lectureships here and there. The growth of the metascientific disciplines since then has been significant, and the promptings of Vice-Chancellors and University bodies by the Association over the years has almost certainly done something to promote this growth. The Association also was instrumental (largely through the efforts of its then Secretary Mike Hoare) in getting the National Committee of the Australian Academy of Science established. Another landmark, of course, was the appearance of Metascience, volume 1/2, 1984, with Randall Albury of NSW as Foundation Editor. Although not strictly speaking an organ of A²HPS³, the publication of the first volume in the Australasian Studies in History and Philosophy of Science series in 1982, with Rod Home as General Editor, should also certainly be mentioned as a highlight of the Association's first quarter century.

Since its inception, the Association has played a continuing and useful role in the life of the HPS/STS community in these Antipodean climes; may A²HPS³ go from strength to strength during the next quarter of a century!

GUY FREELAND

School of Science & Technology Studies
University of New South Wales



Guy Freeland, retiring President, with AAHPSSS tenth Anniversary Cake, Wollongong, 1977 [Photo: Monica MacCallum]

Journals

Annals of Science

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tasc20#.Uktmo6x7CPU>

British Journal for the History of Science

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=BJH>

Circumscibere: International Journal for the History of Science

<http://revistas.pucsp.br/index.php/circumhc/issue/view/1099/showToc>

History of Science

<http://www.shpltd.co.uk/hs.html>

ISIS

<http://www.press.uchicago.edu/ucp/journals/journal/isis.html>

Journal for the History of Astronomy

<http://www.shpltd.co.uk/jha.html>

Journal of History of Science and Technology

<http://johost.eu/>

Journal of the History of Philosophy

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_the_history_of_philosophy/

Metascience

<http://link.springer.com/journal/11016>

Minerva: A Review of Science, Learning and Policy

<http://www.springer.com/education+%26+language/journal/11024>

Philosophy of Science

<http://www.jstor.org/action/showPublication?journalCode=philscie>

Philosophy of the Social Sciences

<http://pos.sagepub.com/>

Science in Context

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=SIC>

Social Studies of Science

<http://sss.sagepub.com/>

Studies in History and Philosophy of Science

<http://www.journals.elsevier.com/studies-in-history-and-philosophy-of-science-part-a/>

Note from the Editor

As this is the first attempt in several years to compile a newsletter for AAHPSSS members, there are undoubtedly many mistakes, shortcomings and omissions. Please feel free to inform me of any such problems. Suggestions about how to improve format and content are also most welcome, as are contributions for news, publications, jobs and fellowships, conferences and seminars, and reports about recent conferences and events related to HPS and STS. The next newsletter will be released in March 2014. To receive the next e-newsletter you must be a registered member of AAHPSSS. Members also receive a discount for the Association conference in 2014 and access to the mailing list for sharing and distributing news and information.

Luciano Boschiero

l.boschiero@campion.edu.au

Become an AAHPSSS member now

Membership of the Association is \$40 for ordinary membership and \$20 for concessional membership.

Funds may be transferred electronically to the Association's bank account:

Account Number: 041 336 133

Account Name: AAHPSSS

Payee Reference: Your name

OR

Visit the [AAHPSS website](#) and follow instructions for PAYPAL

To confirm your registration, also advise the Treasurer, Luciano Boschiero, by email (l.boschiero@campion.edu.au).

AAHPSSS

• • •

President:

Assoc. Prof. Dean Rickles

Vice-President:

Dr. Kristian Camilleri

Treasurer:

Dr. Luciano Boschiero

Media and Publicity Officer:

Dr John Wilkins