

# Newsletter



**for the History of Science in Southeastern Europe**

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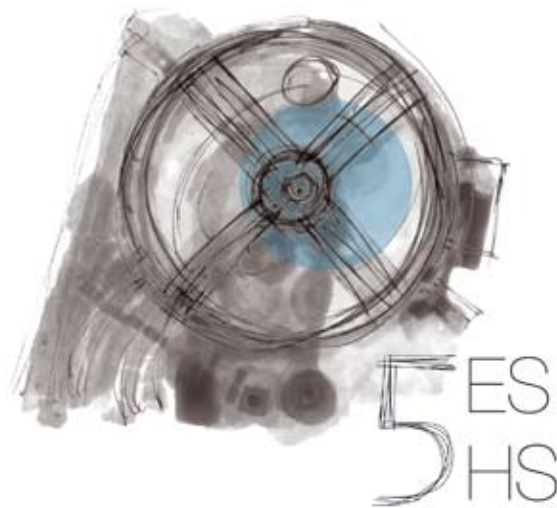
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## THE 5<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE E.S.H.S.



*The 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference  
of the European Society  
for the History of Science  
will be organized in Athens, Greece,  
November 1 to November 3, 2012*

### *Announcement*

The theme of the Conference is:

**Scientific cosmopolitanism  
and global culture:  
religions, ideologies, societies**

### Important dates:

Deadline for Symposia proposals: 16 Dec  
Deadline for grant applications: 17 Jan 2012  
Deadline for abstracts submissions: 24 Jan 12  
Deadline for early registration: 4 May 2012

Site of the Conference: [5eshs.hpdst.gr](http://5eshs.hpdst.gr)

## CHINESE-GREEK COOPERATION ON HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In July 21, 2011, a cooperation agreement was signed between the Institute for Neohellenic Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation and the Institute for the History of Natural Science of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.



The signing ceremony took place at the building of the Institute for the History of Natural Science of the CAS in Beijing. Professor Zhang Baichun, director of IHNS/CAS signed on behalf of the IHNS and Dr Efthymios Nicolaidis signed on behalf of Evangelos Bouboukas, vice-president of NHRF. Many prominent members of the international community had a strong presence; Prof. Liu Dun, President of the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science / Division of History of Science and Technology, Prof. Lu Dalong, Secretary General of the Chinese Society for the History of Science and Technology, Prof. Sun Xiaochun, member of the board of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies, members of the IHNS/CAS and other colleagues.



The purpose of the agreement is to strengthen the institutional relations between the two partners in order to identify and fulfill activities

of a common interest by developing the abilities and synergies of the members both of the institutes. The common activities could comprise exchanges of scholars, research, historical heritage and education actions as well as diffusion of history of science and technology.

The two institutions are already in collaboration in order to organize a big exhibition on Ancient Greek and Ancient Chinese astronomy, which will include the Antikythera Mechanism and the Su Song 's astronomical clock tower.

## THE ANTIKYTHERA MECHANISM IN BELGRADE

*May 18 – June 25, 2011*



An exhibition on the Antikythera Mechanism was organized by HPDST (sponsored by Hephaestus project) in collaboration with the Library "Svetozar Markovic" of the University of Belgrade. The exhibition took place at the main hall of the Library from May 18, 2011 to June 18, 2011.

The exhibition opening event took place in May 18. Dr Zoran Knezevic, director of the Astronomical Observatory and president of the International Commission for the Celestial Mechanics opened the exhibition. At the opening event speeches were addressed by Prof. Aleksandar Petrovic (Kragujevats University) and Dr Efthymios Nicolaidis (HPDST, INR/NHRF).





The model of the Mechanism -designed and constructed by Dionysios Kryaris- was presented at the exhibition. The exhibition comprised explanation panels about the Mechanism (its recovery from the shipwreck, the history of the research, the results of the research teams, its functioning etc.), documentary films and the astronomical incunabula and rare medieval and renaissance books on astronomy of the University Library.

From the Serbian side, the main persons involved in the exhibition were Dr Stela Fillipi Matutinovic, director general of the University Library, Aleksandar Djordjevic who designed the layout of the exhibition catalogue, Jelena Mitrovic who translated into Serbian documentary films, and Selman Trtovac who provided and supervised the technical assistance.

The strategic venue of the exhibition (the main hall of a Library visited by hundreds of people, mainly students, every day) assured its large visibility. It was very pleasant to see many students until midnight watching films closely and descreying exhibits.

An exhibition catalogue in Serbian was authored by Prof. Aleksandar Petrovic with the assistance of Efthymios Nicolaidis. The catalog can also be found in the web at the address: [http://www.unilib.bg.ac.rs/o\\_nama/izlozbe/Mehanizam\\_iz\\_Antikitere/Katalog.pdf](http://www.unilib.bg.ac.rs/o_nama/izlozbe/Mehanizam_iz_Antikitere/Katalog.pdf)

## THE ANTIKYTHERA MECHANISM IN PAVIA

*June 22 -28, 2011*

An exhibition on the Antikythera Mechanism was organized by HPDST (sponsored by Hephaestus project) in collaboration with the Centro Interdipentamentale di Ricerca per la Didactica e la Storia delle Scienze of the Sistema Museale d'Ateneo.

The venue of the exhibition was at Santa Maria Gualtieri, an 11<sup>th</sup> century Church transformed in cultural center of the city of Pavia.



The exhibition opening event, the Conference “Ancient and present cosmologies”, took place in June 22. Efthymios Nicolaidis (HPDST, NHRF) presented the Mechanism of Antikythera, Luicio Fregonese, professor of history of physics, Dept of Physics “A.Volta”, Università di Pavia, presented the astronomy of Dungal of Bobbio, a 9<sup>th</sup> c. Irish monk and astronomer who lived in Pavia, and Bruno Bertotti, emeritus professor of theoretical physics, Dept of Nuclear and theoretical physics, Università di Pavia presented the history of the universe in the big bang theory.



The model of the Mechanism -designed and constructed by Dionysios Kryaris- was presented at the exhibition. The exhibition comprised explanation panels about the Mechanism (its recovery from the shipwreck, the

history of the research, the results of the research teams, its functioning etc.) and documentary films.



The Italian version of the exhibition was provided by Prof. Fabio Bevilacqua (Dept of physics “A.Volta”). Patrizia Contardini, Lea Cardinali and Lidia Falomo of the University of Pavia organized the setup of the exhibition and the events.

A leaflet in Italian about the exhibition was printed. It can be found on the web at: <http://www.hpdst.gr/events/exhibitions/antikythera-mechanism/pavia>

The Italian pages of the exhibition are to be found on the University of Pavia site addresses: <http://www.unipv.eu/on-line/Home/AreaStampa/articolo5915.html> and <http://www.unipv.eu/on-line/Home/AreaStampa/Newsletter/articolo5878.html>

## HEPHAESTUS 2<sup>nd</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

*International Conference  
on Critical Education  
Athens, July 12-16, 2011*



The HEPHAESTUS 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference took place in July 12-16, 2011, in Athens. Its theme was “Critical Education”. The conference was co-organized by the project HEPHAESTUS (EU, Capacities, RegPot 1) and the Department of Education of National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

Conference Organizing Committee Coordinators were prof. Dave Hill from Middlesex University, UK, prof. Peter McLaren, from UCLA, USA, and prof. Kostas Skordoulis, from National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece.

This was the first time that an international conference on this subject was organized, and a lot of participants from different countries attended its works, a very successful step in order to organize a series of conferences on that theme. In five days, the conference included six

plenary speeches, three round table discussions and two symposia, except the four sessions, which included 78 presentations.

The discussion aimed to highlight the importance of critical education today and its relations with political decisions, subjects of education, teachers and students. In this context, prof. Aristeidis Baltas, from the National Technical University of Athens, one of the invited speakers, spoke about the teaching of radically novel physical theories; prof. Dave Hill, the second invited speaker, presented an activist perspective of critical education and prof. Peter McLaren gave a special emphasis on the way from critical pedagogy to revolutionary critical pedagogy, towards a decolonialism of education. As invited speakers too, prof. John Preston, from University of East London, UK, spoke about the rediscovery of ‘Race Traitor’; prof. Amrohini Sahay, from Hofstra University, New York, USA, about Race, biopolitics, and class struggle now, and Chrysoula Papageorgiou presented the situation of Greek secondary education.



*From the venue of the Conference.*

*From left: Ilias Boikos, David Hill, Loukia Prinou.*

*In front, Gianna Katsiampoura*

The three round table discussions presented subjects about the society and education in the modern conditions in different countries: the first was about the unfolding revolution in the Arab Worlds, the second about the new educational trends in present Greece, and the last about what is the university for today.

In addition, the symposia subjects were the following: “Transparency, surveillance and the obedient Citizen: How a shifting narrative is criminalizing critical pedagogical spaces” and “Inciting the political imagination: Higher education teaching and research for progressive change”.

The presentations in the four sessions reported in a variety of topics. The members of the Greek team of HEPHAESTUS presented topics about science, gender and environment: prof. Kostas Skordoulis' presentation had the title "From the radical science movement to critical science education", Gianna Katsiampoura (Institute of Neohellenic Research, National Hellenic Research Foundation), spoke about the Gender studies in the Greek University, George N. Vlahakis ( INR/NHRF), presented a paper under the title "Towards a radical education. Trotsky on Dewey's philosophy of education", Achilleas Mandrikas (University of Athens), spoke about critical environmental education for pre-service elementary teachers and Ioanna Stavrou about critical science education and science fiction. L. Prinou with L. Halkia (University of Athens), gave a paper about the teaching of the theory of biological evolution in Greece and V. Koutalis' (INR/NHRF) work had the title: "Making discoveries for a better life vs. bringing fruits to the national treasury: Davy, Babbage and the (ongoing) struggle for the soul of science"

The First International Conference on Critical Educations was very lively, with a lot of fruitful discussions for five days. Following its successful attendance, it has been decided that a Second International Conference will take place in Athens, in July 2012.

### SCIENTIFIC POLICIES IN EUROPE

*Exploratory workshop  
for the History of Scientific Policies in Europe  
Athens, 6-7 May 2011*

During the international conference «La cour et les sciences: naissance des politiques scientifiques dans les cours européennes aux XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles» held in Versailles 3-5 February 2011, it has been proposed to carry on the research on the theme of scientific policies in Europe. Robert Halleux and Efthymios Nicolaidis took the initiative to organize a European network on that research theme.

Towards that purpose a workshop was organized by the History, Philosophy and Didactics of Science and Technology Programme (Institute for Neohellenic Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation in collaboration with the Education Department, University of Athens) and took place at the NHRF building

Participants: Elena Ausejo (Univ. of Zaragoza), Michel Blay (SYRTE-CNRS), Chantal Grell (Univ. Versailles – St Quentin), Robert Halleux (CHST, Univ. de Liège),

Frank James (Royal Institution of Great Britain), Vincent Jullien (Univ. de Nantes), Gianna Katsiampoura (NHRF), Efthymios Nicolaidis (NHRF), Alberto Postigliola (Istituto Universitario Orientale di Napoli), Constantine Skordoulis (Univ. of Athens), George Vlahakis (NHRF-Open University).

The workshop led to the constitution of a network on the History of Scientific Policies in Europe. This network will focus on comparative studies of science policies and the first step will be the organisation of a conference on the origins of Science Policies in Europe, 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century.

### HEPHAESTUS 3<sup>RD</sup> INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

*Gender Studies and Science:  
Problems, Tasks, Perspectives  
Athens, April 2-3, 2011*

The 3<sup>rd</sup> HEPHAESTUS International Workshop, under the title "Gender Studies and Science: Problems, Tasks, Perspectives", took place in Athens, in April 2-3, 2011, in Marasleios Academy Building.

Annette Vogt, from Max Planck Institute, Berlin, and Gianna Katsiampoura, from Institute for Neohellenic Studies/National Hellenic Research Foundation, Athens, were co-organizers of this workshop.

The workshop focused on the fact that research on women in sciences and on gender and sciences has been conducted in different disciplines, like history, sociology, philosophy, psychology, mathematics, physics, technology, medicine etc. Crossing the different perspectives and exchanging on methodological issues could renew women and gender studies and open new research fields. The aim of this workshop was to identify in a prospective way these new fields and to exchange the actual research results obtained through the cross-fertilization of different approaches.

The workshop had eight invited speakers, from different countries and different fields. In the first day, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, three sessions took place. In the first session, after the welcome and introduction by Annette Vogt and Gianna Katsiampoura, Anne-Sophie Godfroy, from Ecole Normale Supérieure de Cachan, Paris, talked about "Women in Science. Why usual assumptions should be questioned", and Martina Schlünder, from Giessen University, Germany, gave a lecture under the title "Laughable insights? How to take gender issues in history of medicine seriously?". Olga Valkova, from Institute for

the History of Science and Technology of the Russian Academy of Science, Moscow, the third speaker of session, presented the “Women-scientists in the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union”.

The theme of Maria Rentetzi’s lecture, from National Technical University of Athens, first speaker in the second session, was “A gendered artifact: following the female hat from women’s millinery workrooms to men’s millinery industries in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Athens”, and Anna Chronaki, from University of Thessaly, Greece, in the same session, presented her paper about “Cyborgs and Subalterns in School Technoscience: thoughts based on men and women’s narratives”.

In the last session of the workshop, three presentations took place. The first, by Gianna Katsiampoura, from Institute for Neohellenic Studies, National Hellenic Research Foundation, Greece, was about “Gender studies in the Greek University”.

Tzveta Sofronieva’s, from Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, presentation had the title “Inhabiting the Space «Between»: Elisabetha Karamichailova’s work in the Radium Institute, in the Cavendish Laboratory and at the University of Sofia, 1930-1950” and, the last speaker, Annette Vogt, from Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, gave a lecture about “Women in science and mathematics - from the local study to the national, from the national study to international comparison”.

At the end of three sessions, the participants of the workshop, professors, researchers, postgraduate and undergraduate students etc., had a lot of questions and a very fruitful conversation took place for long.

In April 3, second day of the workshop, a round table discussion took place. The discussion had three aspects in the general context of Gender and Science. The first aspect, methodological issues in gender studies in history of sciences: from women studies to gender studies?, focused on methodologies in women and gender issues. Some of the subjects in this context were, as example, what makes gender issues and women issues different in history of science, and what methodologies could be transferred from gender studies to history of sciences, or what methodologies could be transferred from history of sciences to gender studies.

The second aspect was the role of sources and the invisible woman, until today, although new sources have often been the source of new

research in history. In addition, as usual sources often make women invisible, the importance of innovative sources to make women visible is a key issue. Regarding history of women in science, the discussion focused on research using new types of sources to make women visible or possible sources already not exploited.

The interdisciplinary approaches on women scientists and gender studies respectively were the third aspect of the round table. The participants’ aim was to support recent research on women or gender in science using an interdisciplinary approach.

A subject which was discussed in details in the second day of workshop was how could someone teach better by teaching gender studies, first in Universities and secondly in the other levels of educations. All the participants believed that the aforementioned is a very serious problem in contemporary situations in education.

After all, the workshop “Gender and science: Problems, Tasks, Perspectives” offered the possibility to exchange the different experiences and to design possible aims and collaborative work. Finally, the edition Gender Studies and Science, embodying a paper from each invited speaker, with different perspective, provide a printed testimony for its wider prospects.

### ALMAGEST III

#### *Almagest, vol 2/1*

The third issue of Almagest (vol 2/1) published in May 2011, is a volume of varia.

Contents:

E. Kolchinsky, “History of science in the 20<sup>th</sup> century Russia: St. Petersburg as a case study”

E. Knobloch, “The notion of mathematics – A historico-epistemological approach using Kaspar Schott’s Encyclopedia of all mathematical sciences”

G. Cornelis, “Against Chronological and Impersonal Accounts of the History of Science.

Towards non-linear didactics”

J.A. Roberts, “Louis Agassiz on Scientific Method, Polygenism, and Transmutation: A Reassessment”

M. Vergara, “The Popularization of Science and the Idea of Territory in the Brazilian First



Republic: the José Veríssimo Phase of the Revista Brasileira (1895-1900)”

## MYTH AND TECHNOLOGY IN ANCIENT GREECE

44<sup>th</sup> Conference of APLAES  
*Machines et inventions en Grèce et à Rome: le mythe et la technique*  
 Nantes, 27-29 May, 2011

The Association des Professeurs de Langues Anciennes de l’Enseignement Supérieur (APLAES) with the collaboration of the University of Nantes organized its 44<sup>th</sup> Conference at Nantes, 27-29 May 2011. The theme of the scientific part of the Conference was “Machines et inventions en Grèce et à Rome: le mythe et la technique”.



The scientific programma was the following: Micheline Decors (Université Blaise Pascal, Clermont-Ferrand), “Quelques problèmes d’histoire du texte autour d’un traité technique de l’Antiquité: la Dioptré de Héron d’Alexandrie »; Philippe Fleury (Université de Caen), “L’invention du moulin à eau”; Frédéric Le Blay (Université de Nantes), “L’orgue et le volcan: quand la machine explique la nature “; Jean-Yves Guillaumin (Université de Franche-Comté, Besançon), “ Les automates dans l’Antiquité: de la légende mythologique aux traités techniques”; Yanis Bitsakis (National Hellenic Research Foundation), “La machine d’Anticythère”

An extraordinary session of the seminar “Qu’appelle-t-on les débuts de la science classique? On the Mechanism of Antiquity”, presented by Yanis Bitsakis, took place at the Observatory of Paris, June 1, 2011. The

seminar was organized by Michel Blay (SYRTE, Observatory of Paris and CAPHES) and Michela Malpangoto (SYRTE).

## EUROPE AND THE MODERN SCIENCE

International Conference  
*“Europe and Modern Sciences: History of a Mutual Constitution”*  
 Nantes, 7-9 February, 2011

The Conference was the result of the collaboration between two different teams of scholars, one based on the HPDST Programme (Institute of Neohellenic Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation in collaboration with the Department of education of the University of Athens) and the other on the Centre Atlantique de Philosophie of the University of Nantes. It constituted the first step on the collaboration on the theme of the mutual constitution of Europe and science: how Europe generated modern science and how this science generated modern Europe? The conference was sponsored by Hephæstus programme (Fp7, Capacities), the University of Nantes, the Maison des Sciences de l’Homme and the Municipality of Nantes.

The participants were: Frédérique Ait-Touati (Oxford), Michel Blay (Paris), Anastasios Brenner (Toulouse), Christophe Brun (Paris), Jean Celeyrette (Lille), Floris Cohen (Amsterdam), Nicolas Corréard (Nantes), Jean Dhombres (Paris), Matthieu Husson (Paris), Vincent Jullien (Nantes), Eberhard Knobloch (Berlin), Frédéric



<p><b>7 février. Après-midi. M.S.H.</b></p> <p>Présidence <b>Johnatan</b></p> <p>14h30-15h15 <b>Cyrille Michon</b> – Les condamnations de 1277, la phase de Durand et la question des origines médiévales de la science moderne.</p> <p>15h15-15h <b>Frédéric Le Blay</b> – L’aire savante des Anciens et des Modernes – Discartes contre Aristote.</p> <p>16h-16h30 / Pause</p> <p>16h30-17h15 <b>Floris Cohen</b> – La révolution scientifique: le discours habituel enfin remplacé ?</p> <p>17h15-18h <b>Ethymios Nicolaidis</b> – L’Europe scientifique byzantine.</p> <p>18h-18h45 <b>Jean Celeyrette</b> – La notion de communauté scientifique dans le monde latin aux XIIIe et XIVe.</p>	<p><b>8 février. Après-midi. Médiathèque.</b></p> <p>Présidence <b>Denis Monau</b></p> <p>14h30-15h15 <b>Michel Blay</b> – Penser avec l’infini.</p> <p>15h15-16h <b>Vincent Jullien</b> – Une assemblée européenne, le groupe Métempe.</p> <p>16h-16h45 <b>Nicolas Corréard</b> – Le scepticisme au sein des académies savantes: l’imitation et l’appropriation de la culture scientifique chez Joseph Clavius, Bernard Le Boer de Fontenelle et Louis de Besençon.</p> <p>16h45-17h15 / Pause</p> <p>17h15-18h <b>Anastasios Brenner</b> – La transformation de la notion d’academia au XVIIIe siècle.</p> <p>18h-18h45 <b>Frédérique Ait-Touati</b> – Les relations de la France et de l’Angleterre dans l’Europe savante au XVIIIe siècle: échanges, correspondances, concurrences.</p>
<p><b>8 février. Matin. M.S.H.</b></p> <p>Présidence <b>Ethymios Nicolaidis</b></p> <p>9h45-9h30 <b>Matthieu Husson</b> – Automes, observations et mathématiques: remarques sur les sciences médicales au XVIIIe siècle.</p> <p>9h30-10h15 <b>Jean Dhombres</b> – L’arithmétique de type aristotélicien comme paradigme de la science en Europe.</p> <p>10h15-10h30 / Pause</p> <p>10h30-11h15 <b>Eberhard Knobloch</b> – La discussion des critères du progrès scientifique chez Bacon et Koper.</p> <p>11h15-12h <b>Michela Malpangoto</b> – Vienne, Rome, Nuremberg: le chemin d’un savant au XVIIIe siècle.</p> <p>12h-12h45 <b>Yves Hervaud</b> – Les et les rangs selon Labrousse.</p> <p>Frédérique Baron – Présentation du fonds Labrousse</p>	<p><b>9 février. Matin. Médiathèque.</b></p> <p>Présidence <b>Dominique Avon</b></p> <p>9h-9h45 <b>Kostas Tampakis</b> – The unrecognized mechanism: Science education in the eighteenth century.</p> <p>9h45-10h30 <b>Antonella Romano</b> – Jeunes et science moderne, les voix européennes et non-européennes d’un engagement collectif.</p> <p>10h30-11h15 <b>Christophe Brun</b> – Configuration géographique, “européenne” et dynamique d’innovation: sur l’hypothèse d’un engagement mutuel depuis Strabon.</p> <p>11h15-12h45 <b>Kostas Skordoulis</b> – Mavros and the history of science: Investigating the social roots of 18th century physics theories.</p>



Le Blay (Nantes), Michela Malpangotto (Paris), Cyrille Michon (Nantes), Efthymios Nicolaidis (Athens), Antonella Romano (Florence), Constantine Skordoulis (Athens), Kostas Tampakis (Athens) and Yves Hersant (EHESS). The Conference was opened by the director of the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, John Tolan.

Summary of the argument: The sciences, as they are currently pursued, internationally practiced or discussed in the framework of laboratories, congresses and journals, are in the main part the heirs and successors of European scientific enterprises. Why were these disciplines born in Europe? We aim to propose an answer to this question by examining when and how natural philosophy and science spread in European space.

We propose a simple and fruitful hypothesis: The processes that led to the constitution of Europe made possible the development of the scientific practices and discourses; at the same time, the constitution of these immense domains of knowledge contributed some of the most stable and solid threads in the weaving of modern Europe. It is this general research framework upon which we aim to launch and expand with our work.

The proceedings will be published by Springer international publishers.

## **CROATIAN NEWS THE REFORM OF THE CALENDAR**

*International Scientific Meeting  
Pedagogy of Harmonization-History and  
Reform of the Calendar  
Dalj, Croatia*

In Milutin Milankovic Scientific Center, located in Dalj, the birthplace of Milutin Milankovic (on the bank of the river Danube, in Croatia, near the border of Serbia) was held a multidisciplinary scientific meeting

dedicated to the question of calendars and calendar reform that Milutin Milankovitch had proposed in Constantinople, in 1923. President of the Scientific Committee was Dr. Aleksandar Petrovic, who wrote several books on Milankovic and edited his Collected Works, and the meeting brought together astronomers, physicists, philosophers, theologians, historians, historians of science, paleontologists...

The main topic was the problem that exists within the Julian and Gregorian calendar. The difficulty within the Julian calendar is that every 128 years one date appears redundant; the same happens within the Gregorian calendar every 3280 years. It seems an accidental problem, but after a number of years the calendar accumulates error that will make, for instance, Christmas to be celebrated in spring and Easter in summer. This is of course completely contrary to the purpose and sense of these dates. The Julian calendar temporarily resolved the issue in 325 during the First Council of Nicaea when three days was removed which were amassed from the days of reform that Julius Caesar made in 45 year BC.



*Scientific Center Milutin Milankovic in Dalj*

Pope Gregory XIII acted in a similar way in 1582 declaring the reform that it is called the Gregorian. The Pope ordered that after Thursday, October the 4<sup>th</sup>, comes Friday, October the 15<sup>th</sup>, leaving a history without nine dates that were «consumed» without a calendar «cover». That act has not gone without protest, but the thing stabilized and it seems that nowadays no one thinks of the missing dates.

However, these extraordinary solutions that periodically force calendar reformers to act, tell us that something is not working well with the calendar. The calendar in a critical point should inextricably link (religio) celestial mechanics and terrestrial dynamics. If the connection is good,



things go smoothly, from agriculture to religion. If not, if it weakens, one way or another the agriculture and society decline. Probably that is the reason why in the whole world throughout the history about 1600 different calendars were in use. Today the mainly accepted is a calendar that puts a critical moment of the beginning in the first of January, quite arbitrary date, rather than to place it, as required by the nature of things, in March the 21<sup>st</sup>. Impression of provisionality of the Julian and Gregorian calendars is amplified by neutering of February from where, for his own glory, Julius Caesar took a day and extended one month in July; Octavian Augustus did the same to February transmitting another day to extend his month August. It is strange that neither the Julian or Gregorian reform did not fix this mess by introducing the same number of days for each month as in the XI century did Persian solar calendar made by Omar Khayyám.

The calendar is the foundation of culture without which civilization can not be even imagined. Therefore, Milutin Milankovic, the creator of the heliocentric theory of climate change that has resolved the puzzle of ice ages, in 1923 set the new calendar that practically will not have a need for reform. He found rule of intercalation that would not be a problem today because Milankovićev calendar will start to differ from the Gregorian in the year 2800 - when the Gregorian starts to make systematical mistake. According to Milankovic a leap year will be only the secular one, whose number of centuries divided by the number 9 gives the remainder 2 or 6: i.e. years 2000, 2400, 2900, 3300. With such an order of leap years it is achieved a high accuracy of the average calendar year: the difference between it and the tropical year would be so small that the extra day is going to appear only after 28,800 years. Such accuracy is not achieved in any other calendar system.

Although the calendar designed by Milutin Milankovic was accepted in 1923, during the Pan-Orthodox Congress in Constantinople, due to various reasons it has not been applied. The fact is that this is the most perfect calendar that was ever made, but since it touches on sensitive issues of religion and its relation to civic life, he still remains in the gap between the Julian and Gregorian calendars discussion.

One of the important conclusions of the meeting was that structural problem of the calendar that sets the beginning of the year in a completely arbitrary date, first January, as well as its chronological inaccuracy imposed urgent need to think about replacing the existing

calendar with the new one which has much smaller systematic error embedded. Going this way the question of calendar could be good basis for the new pedagogy of harmonization because diminishing of systematic error could improve better congruence of celestial and terrestrial cycles.

*Tamara Stojanovic*

## **20<sup>TH</sup> DAYS OF FRANE PETRIĆ**

*International and interdisciplinary  
Symposium, organized by the Croatian  
Philosophical Society and Town of Cres*

*Philosophical Trends in Southeastern Europe,  
Town of Cres at the island of Cres, Croatia,  
September 18 – 24, 2011*

*From Petrić to Bošković: Changes in the  
Philosophy of Nature,  
September 21 – 24, 2011*



*The monument to Frane Petrić in Cres (Croatian sculptress: Marija Ujević Galetović). Behind left is the oldest palace of the Cres nobility (15<sup>th</sup> century), Petić's birthplace; today the Cres Town Museum.*

Two symposia in Croatia were organized due to the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> Days of Frane Petrić and in the light of the Boscovich's jubilee year of 2011 in Croatia, as follows:

“Philosophical Trends in Southeastern Europe”, September 18 – 21, 2011, and “From Petrić to Bošković: Changes in the Philosophy of Nature”, September 21 – 24, 2011, a symposium on the occasion of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Boscovich's birth.

These two symposia as the both constitutive parts of the traditional philosophical congress

The Days of Frane Petrić (DFP) are claimed to be together the happy event in 2011 for philosophy and politics, history and philosophy of nature, science and technology in Croatia. In accordance with the multidisciplinary and multi-perspective environment, the first symposium in 2011 on the philosophical trends in Southeastern Europe includes more than 80 participants from 14 countries: Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Greece, Germany, Czech Republic, Turkey, Ireland, Canada and Croatia. More than 80 papers will be presented their papers over three days, in plenary sessions and three parallel sessions (English or German, Croatian). For the 2<sup>nd</sup> symposium, more than 30 participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Serbia, Canada and Croatia will be presenting their recent results or assessments of the evolution of thinking in philosophy of nature from Patricius to Boscovich.

Frane Petrić (April 25, 1529, Town of Cres – February 6, 1597, Rome), a platonic philosopher at the sunset of the Renaissance, scientist, poly-histor and an erudite, to whom a brilliant series of 20 symposia at his birthtown of Cres have been dedicated, as the great synthesiser and unifier of human knowledge, seems anticipated a coming up of the great thinker from the beautiful and historical city of Dubrovnik, two centuries later after him. A basic concept of force in a philosophy of nature important for modern physics, chemistry and biology was developed by Rogerius Joseph Boscovich (May 18, 1711, Dubrovnik – February 13, 1787, Milano): one of the greatest Croatian and World scientists and philosophers of all time, mathematician, natural philosopher, physicist, technician, poet, Jesuit, diplomat. Following a tradition of the symposia in Cres, Organization Committee of the DFPs among the first in Croatia decided already in 2008 (17<sup>th</sup> DFP) to celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of R. J. Boscovich to be held in Cres 2011.

*A brief review of the 20 years tradition of the international and interdisciplinary symposium Days of Frane Petrić (DPF) at Cres, Croatia*

The first symposium of The Days of Frane Petrić (DFP) entitled as “Contemporary Philosophical Trends in Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina”, held at the elementary school in the City of Cres between 9 – 11 of July, 1992, was a core-nucleus for the series of an unique philosophical-scientific conferences that have been continuously enlarging, both in its size and thematic branching. A historico-

epistemological review of the 20 years tradition of the DFPs held at Cres, reveals insights into the renaissance and interdisciplinary bridges between the history and contemporary developments of philosophy, science, technique, religion, and arts, that might be rarely found at any other place in the World. After the first symposium 1992, the second DFP at Cres (July 14 – 18, 1993) were already expanded in 3 seminar topics: Plato and Platonism, Language and Thought, Literature and Philosophy, with a Meeting of Lecturers of Philosophy and Logic. From the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> symposia, for the period 1994 – 1996 respectively, the DFPs were unified conference based on the traditional theme (PlatoPlatonismPetrić) with a carefully added modern theme for each symposium. The whole event was characterized by the unity of place and space (elementary school Frane Petrić, Cres) with a time (typically 4 days at the middle of July each year). The 6<sup>th</sup> DFP held in 1997, was marked by the jubilee devoted to the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Frane Petrić under the very high auspices of the Croatian Parliament and International Honorary Board consists of 28 members. The following 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> DFPs were also a unified conference with two themes being held at the same place and space. From the 9<sup>th</sup> DFP in 2000, a bifurcation began running till the 20<sup>th</sup> jubilee conference in 2011: a symposium of the main theme characterized by an increasing number of participants, followed by the symposium of regular annual theme rather of the history of science style with a smaller number of participants. Starting by the 13<sup>th</sup> DFP in 2004, a traditional annual theme changed name into the new one: Petrić and Renaissance Philosophical Tradition.

The talks in the natural philosophy and/or modern physics fields were dated as early as possible by the 1<sup>st</sup> DFP, discussing then topics of experiments of the theory of relativity and its controversies in Croatia, philosophy of science and analytical philosophy at that time. A paradigm of modern cosmology and early universe were accepted and incorporated as the themes and essential questions into the framework of the DFPs, particularly through the main theme of Philosophy of Nature of the 3<sup>rd</sup> DFP, 1994. On the occasion of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Boscovich’s birth to be celebrated in Cres 2011, we may say that Boscovich had apperception of points (atoms) with universal single force between them in nature. Along the line of philosophical rationalism and empiricism, the Theory of Dubrovnik-born scientist may best be described by the following statement:

Nothing is in modern physics today that had not earlier been acquired by Theory whose author was Boscovich! The statement is valid in contemporary science and technology for the natural scale at least up to  $\sim 10$  GeV and when physics remains in 4 classical dimensions (space and time), for the world in which we live. At the high energies – about 1000 times higher – as in the LHC particle collider at CERN, we do expect new particles, models or theories (new paradigm of physics). Boscovich introduced optimism into the natural philosophy in an original and monumental way, still present in the exploration of the world of the highest energies on the Earth (LHC, CERN).

The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the scientific-cultural manifestation Days of Frane Petrić will be held under the very high auspices of the President of Croatia prof. dr. sc. Ivo Josipović, and patrons are the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports and Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia.

On the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> jubilee of the symposia of the Days of Frane Petrić to be held in September 2011 at Cres in Croatia, along its internationally recognized tradition, we deeply wish: Vivat, crescat, floreat Dies Francisci Patricii !

#### *A Brief Note on Frane Petrić*

Frane Petrić (Petriš, Petrišević, Petris, Franciscus Patricius, Patritius, Patrizi, Patrizzi) is a Renaissance philosopher, scientist, poly-historian and an erudite. He was born on 25<sup>th</sup> April 1529 in the Town of Cres on the Island of Cres in the Adriatic Sea. He died on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1597 in Rome, a Professor of Platonic and neo-Platonic philosophy at the Sapienza at the time. He studied in Venice, Ingolstadt (where he studied Greek) and Padua (where he studied medicine, philosophy and mathematics). He lived in various Italian towns, stayed on Cyprus and in Spain. He taught Plato's philosophy and Platonism in Padua and Ferrara (until 1592), as well as in Rome at the Sapienza until he died. He was a member of the Dalmatian Students Club and the Society of St. Jerome in Rome. He is the most famous Platonic philosopher at the sunset of the Renaissance, primarily known for his capital works: *Nova de Universis Philosophia* (NDUP) and *Discussiones peripateticae* (DP). With his cosmological model one century ago a successful Newton's theory of gravity, Frane Petrić was amongst the first of the greatest synthesisers an dunifiers who have shown the possibility of uniting philosophy, physics, mathematics and astronomy. Owing to Petrić's theories of mathematical and physical space, T. Petković was the first to have proposed that the Copernican

principle in modern cosmology be henceforth called the CopernicusPatricius principle.

Author of this entry (T. P.) in the Newsletter is a singular participant who has participated in each DFP in its history, contributing them by the 14 talks in the fields of main themes, 7 talks on Patricius' thinking and work, 7 presentations of the books, being in charge 2 times coordinator/president of the Programme Committee, and a secretary general of the Int. Hon. Comm. for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Petrić's death.

*Professor Tomislav Petković  
Department of Applied Physics, FER  
University of Zagreb, CROATIA  
& Member of the Editorial Board of Almagest*

#### **THE HSHC AWARD**

Serbian Society for the History of Science bestowed a grade of Honorary Member – *Historicus Scientia Honoris Causa* - to Dr. Efthymios Nicolaidis from the Institute for Neo-Hellenic Studies in Athens. The degree of Honorary Member was established through the Bylaws of the Society with the following description: Honorary Members are elected by the Assembly of the Society <from among those who have rendered meritorious service to history of science and contributed to the advancement of the SSHS<sup>\*</sup>. This is the highest honor bestowed by the Society and Dr. Nicolaidis was awarded since for many years he acted as one among the most important and widely known European historians of science. Dr. Nicolaidis contributed greatly to the cooperation with the Serbian historians of science. This year he presented the exhibition dedicated to the Antikythera Mechanism in Belgrade, and from 1998 to 2002 he was participating to the project *The Introduction and Development of Scientific Thought in Serbia and Greece since 18<sup>th</sup> Century until Nowadays* which Serbian Society for the History of Science, under the auspices of the Ministry of Science, had realized together with the Institute of Neo-Hellenic Research. In 2004, as a result of this project, the book *Science in South Eastern Europe during the 19<sup>th</sup> century* was published. Before Dr. Nicolaidis this award was bestowed to Dr. Robert Halleux, director of the Center of the History of Science and Technique in Liège, and to Dr. Eduard Kolchinsky, director of the St. Petersburg branch of the Institute for the History of Science of the Russian Academy of Science and Arts. Recipients receive a certificate and a Honorary Member Pin.

*Aleksandar Petrovic*

## OBITUARY

*Irena Stasiewicz-Jasiukowa*



Professor Irena Stasiewicz-Jasiukowa Ph. D. was a historian of science and culture. She was born 11 February 1931 in Lida (now Belarus). Her father (Witold Stasiewicz) was a doctor of medicine and medical officer;

mother (Maria Stasiewicz) was a professor of botany in Vilnius University (now Lithuania). After the Second World War the family removed to Białystok (Poland). In this town Irena Stasiewicz-Jasiukowa finished secondary school and next leaved for Warsaw University. She graduated in Polish philology from the University of Warsaw.

Irena Stasiewicz-Jasiukowa had always been affiliated to the Polish Academy of Sciences as a research worker and to the University of Warsaw as a lecturer in history of science. She supervised several doctoral dissertations devoted to this discipline. She headed the Section of History of Social Sciences in the Institute of History of Science, Polish Academy of Sciences, in 1969-2002; was editor-in-chief of *Kwartalnik Historii Nauki i Techniki* [Quarterly Journal of the History of Science and Technology] in 1975-1987.

From 1990 for seventeen years she chaired the Committee of History of Science and Technology at the Polish Academy of Sciences. In 2008 she was nominated the honorary chairperson of the Committee for life.

In 1990-2007 Professor Stasiewicz-Jasiukowa chaired the Polish National Committee for Co-operation with the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science, Division of History of Science and Technology (IUHPS/DHST) and was a member of the National Committee in the International Council of Science Unions (ICSU) of the Presidium of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

From 1994 she headed the editorial board of monograph series *Rozprawy z dziejów nauki i techniki* [Treatises on history of science and technology] (until 2011, twenty volumes were issued). Since 1999 she had edited a bilingual, Polish-Belarusian series *Wybitni Polacy Ziemi Lidzkiej* [Eminent Poles of the Land of Lida], which was published in Belarus in co-operation

with the Polish Culture Society of the Land of Lida (until 2011, nine volumes appeared). She authored, co-authored and edited thirty books, printed in Poland or abroad (including sixteen individually prepared publications), as well as several hundred academic and popularizing articles.

Since 1969 she was married. Her husband, engineer Jerzy Jasiuk is a prominent historian of technology and director of The Central Museum of Technology in Warsaw. For thirty-five years, Irena Stasiewicz-Jasiukowa together with her husband gathered the largest Polish collection of decorated Easter eggs with 1,200 specimens. In 2004, they donated the collection to the Museum of Agriculture in Ciechanowiec, which now embraces Poland's first Museum of Easter Eggs.

The collection is still growing; thanks to the new acquisitions now it boasts over 1,500 specimens. It's the only museum in the world. There is no other museum which would collect Easter eggs from all over the world, from every continent, except Antarctica, and from every region in Poland. The collection is made up of eggs decorated with wax, paint, coloured paper, bulrush, knitting wool, as well as rice and poppy seeds. Each egg is a piece of art, unique in its type and come from finch, quail, chicken, goose and ostriches. Eggs comes from all regions of Poland and Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, Czech Republic, China, Japan, Kenya, Brazil, Palestine, Greece, Cuba and many other countries in the world. There are those which are man-made. There are wooden and iron crafted eggs in the collection. Visitors to the museum have the chance to compare different styles and techniques which decorate the eggs to create works of art. Most of the techniques are now confined to history and aren't in use today.

Professor Irena Stasiewicz-Jasiukowa passed away on March 21th. 2011, at her home in Warsaw. Death occurred suddenly. Burial was held at the Powązki Catholic Cemetery in Warsaw. Many friends attended the funeral Service.

*Prof. Halina Lichočka Sc. M., Ph. D.*

*Polish Academy of Sciences*

*Institute for the History of Science  
Warsaw, Poland*

### Addenda

*In the article "Hephaestus in Barcelona" (Newsletter 15) we have omitted to include Prof. Epaminondas Vampoulis (Dept of Philosophy, University of Patras) in the team of the Greek historians of science present in Barcelona Conference. E. Vampoulis talked about "The empirical element in Descarte's Physics and its reception by Spinoza".*