

**NEWSLETTER**

**INTERNATIONAL UNION of the HISTORY and PHILOSOPHY of SCIENCE**

**COMMISSION on HISTORY of SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY in ISLAMIC  
CIVILIZATION**

**No. 1 (1993)**

**President:** S. M. R. Ansari  
Physics Dept.  
Aligarh Muslim University  
Aligarh 202002, India

**Vicepresident:** E. Ihsanoglu  
TBTk  
P. K. 234  
80692 Beşiktaş  
Istanbul, Turkey

**Past President:** E. S. Kennedy  
37 Wiggins Street  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
USA

**Secretary:** S. Brentjes  
170 von Neumann Drive  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
USA

The main purpose of the commission, founded at the XVIIIth International Congress of History of Science 1989 Hamburg/Munich, is to give a legal status to a group of scholars who work on the history of Islamic sciences within the IUHPS-DHS. In that way this group is able to organize symposia within the International Congresses for the History of Science such as the Symposium of the Transmission of Scientific Ideas between East and West in the field of the Exact Sciences which took place at the XIXth International Congress of History of Science 1993 Zaragoza on the 24th and 26th August 1993. It was planned furthermore that this Commission should engage in additional activities furthering work in the field, such as the publication of a newsletter and participating in the organization of seminars.

On March 29, 1993 the commission's president was requested by the Secretary General of the IUHPS to submit a report concerning the activities of the commission between 1989 and 1993. Prof. E. S. Kennedy has delivered the following report on April 13, 1993:

The sole activity of the commission since its inception has been the planning of Symposium 49: The Transmission of Ideas in the Exact Sciences Between Eastern and Western Islam, to be held in two sessions during the Zaragoza XIXth International Congress of History of Science. As of now of some thirteen speakers have been confirmed. Their subjects are extremely varied, and in some instances quite specialized. But all deal, in one way or another with the central theme of transmission, the extremes being theories which originated in pre-Islamic India, and others which made it to Latin Europe.

On August 25th, 1993 a meeting of the commission was held for the purpose of electing new officers. As had been announced on the previous day at the session of Symposium 49 the meeting was convened during the luncheon break for Symposium 20, between 2 and 4 P. M., at the Casa Emilio restaurant. The restaurant is in close vicinity of the Palacio de la Aljaferia, where both symposia were held. The president of the commission, chairing the meeting, took as first order of business the election of a secretary, remarking that the current secretary, Dr. S. Brentjes, had only very recently taken office. He therefore considered that it would be appropriate if she were to be confirmed for a full term. He suggested that if the assembly agreed, after her nomination from the floor he would be prepared to entertain a motion that the nominations be closed. Such a motion was made, seconded, and passed, and Dr. Brentjes was declared elected as secretary. There followed the elections of Prof. E. Ihsanoğlu as Vice-President, and Prof. S. M. R. Ansari as President, both resulting from single nominations. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The new officers met together with the past president of the commission Prof. E. S. Kennedy and the editor of the newsletter of the Turkish Society for History of Science Dr. F. Günergün at August 27, 1993 to discuss the future work of the Commission.

It was decided to produce a yearly newsletter as well as a bibliographical survey of the field since 1989, the date of the commission's foundation, and to support national activities concerning the history of science and technology in Islamic Civilization under the auspices of the IUHPS according to the financial possibilities.

The newsletter shall include information on activities in the field which took place during the year preceding the publication of the newsletter:

- seminars, conferences, meetings;
- new organizations, networks, groups;
- journals, newsletters, etc.;
- published books;
- teaching, defended theses;

and forthcoming activities:

- planned seminars, conferences, meetings;
- work in progress such as theses and other research projects.

Every colleague working in the field is requested to participate actively in the preparation of the newsletter and the biographical survey by sending her or his information to the secretary of the commission.

The address is from January 1 - December 31, 1994:

S. Brentjes  
 Institute for Advanced Study  
 Mathematical School  
 PRINCETON, N. J. 08540  
 USA.  
 e-mail: Sonja@math.ias.edu

The newsletter will give the opportunity to introduce briefly the various activities by summarizing the subject, goals or contents (maximal length: 10 lines). The languages of the newsletter are English and French, i. e. the information shall be sent in one of the two languages. For support of national activities by the commission please contact the president or the vice-president:

Prof. S. M. R. Ansari, Aligarh Muslim University; Dept. of Physics;  
 Aligarh 202002, INDIA; tel. off. 0571 -29001, res. 0571-401952;  
 telex 564 230 AMU IN;

Prof. E. Ihsanoğlu, TBTK, P.O. Box 234, 80692 Beşiktaş, Istanbul,  
 Turkey; fax 0090-212-2584365.

The XXth International Congress of History of Science will take place 1997 in Belgium. The commission will support the organization of symposia on the history of science and technology in Islamic Civilization. Each colleague who wishes to organize a symposium or

to cooperate in its organization should either contact the president or the vice-president of the commission or the members of the Program Committee working in the field: J. P. Hogendijk, R. Rashed, S. Brentjes.

### 1. New organizations/networks/groupes:

Société International d'Histoire des Sciences et de la Philosophie Arabes et Islamiques founded November 25, 19989, Paris, France; address: A. Hasnaoui, REHEIS, CNRS, 27, rue Damesme, F-75013 Paris, France; fax 45807847

Turkish Society for History of Science founded 1989, Istanbul, Turkey; address: Prof. E. Ihsanoğlu, TBTK, P.O. Box 234, 80692 Beşiktaş, Istanbul, Turkey; fax (0090) (212) 2584365

Science and Empire Network founded April 1991, Paris, France; New Delhi, India address: P. Petitjean, REHEIS, CNRS, 27, rue Damesme, f-75013 Paris, France; fax 45807847; D. Kumar, NISTADS, CSIR, New Delhi, India

Séminaire Ibn al-Haytham founded in 1991, École Normale Supérieure, Kouba, Algérie address: E. N. S. de Kouba, B. P. 92, 16050 Vieux Kouba, Alger, Algérie; fax 2583142

GEHIMAB (Groupe d'Études sur l'Histoire des Mathématiques a' Bougie medieval) founded December 23, 1991, Béjaïa, Algeria address: Laboratoire. LAMOS, Centre Universitaire de Béjaïa, 06000 Béjaïa, Algeria; fax 05221330

Research Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Science (History of Islamic Sciences; History and Philosophy of Natural Sciences; History and Philosophy of human Sciences) founded in 1992, Institute for Cultural Studies and Research, Tehran, Iran address: Dr. A. K. Soroush, Academy of Philosophy, Div. History & Philosophy of Science; P.O. Box 14155-4643, Tehran 11336, Iran; tel 9821-6405445, fax 9821-686317

### 2. New Journals/Series/Newsletters etc:

Arabic Sciences and Philosophy: A historical Journal; editors: B. Musallam (Cambridge, GB), R. Rashed (Paris), J. Jolivet (Paris), M. Mahsin (Boston), G. Saliba (New York); volume 1 appeared in 1991

Studies in the History of Medicine and Science; editor-in-chief: H. A. Hameed, editor: S. M. R. Ansari (Aligarh); vol. XII, New Series, No. 1-2 appeared in 1993; back volumes are available by Jamia Hamdard, Hamdard Nagar, New Delhi 110062, India

Cahier du Séminaire Ibn al-Haytham sur l'Histoire des Mathématiques Arabes; editors: A. Djebbar, A. Bouzari, Y. Guergour (Algier); issue 1 appeared in 1991

Al-'Usūr al-wusta, The Bulletin of Middle East Medievalists; editor: F. Donner (Chicago); issue 1 appeared in 1989

Newsletter, Turkish Society for History of Science; editor: F. Günergün (Istanbul); issue 1 appeared in April 1991

Newsletter, International Society for the History of Arabic and Islamic Science and Philosophy; editor: G. A. Russel (Texas A&M University); issue 1 appeared in 1992

### 3. Conferences/symposia/meetings between 1989 and 1993:

First International Conference of the International Society for the History of Arabic and Islamic Science and Philosophy; Paris, France; Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France; November 23 - 25, 1989

IInd Symposium on Turkish History of Science: Modern Techniques of Transport and Communication in the Ottoman State; Istanbul, Turkey; 1989

Arbeitsgespräch, Mathematische Probleme im Mittelalter - der lateinische und arabische Sprachbereich; Wolfenbüttel, Germany; June 18 - 22, 1990

Science and Empire; REHEIS, Paris, France; April 1990

Optics: The Transmission and Transformation of a Discipline; Andover, Massachusetts, USA; May 31 - June 2, 1990

The Book in the Islamic World; Library of Congress; Washington DC, USA; November 8 - 9, 1990

Colloque International sur innovation et transmission dans les mathématiques arabes (VII - XVe siècles); Paris, France; October 25 - 27, 1990

The State of Medicine and Science in the 12th Century: Constantine the African and 'Alī ibn al-'Abbās al-Majūsi; Warburg Institute, London, Great Britain; November 23 - 24, 1990

IIIe Colloque Maghrébin d'Histoire des Mathématiques Arabes; Tipaza, Algeria; December 2 - 5, 1990

The Symposium Graeco-Arabicum Tertium (GA III); Leiden, The Netherlands; March 26 - 28, 1991

International Symposium on Science Institutions in Islamic Civilization; Istanbul, Turkey; April 22 -24, 1991

Symposio Internazionale, La Civiltà Islamica e la Scienze; Florence, Italy; November 23 - 24, 1991

Indian and other Asiatic Astronomies; Hyderabad, Jaipur, India; December 12 - 16, 1991

Ancient Mathematics in Islamic and Occidental Cultures; Norman, Oklahoma, USA; March 5 - 6, 1992

Fifth International Symposium on the History of Arabic Science; Granada, Spain; March 30 - April 4, 1992

International Congress for the History of Medicine in Islam and Iran; Tehran University, Tehran, Iran; October 3 - 9, 1992

IVe Colloque Maghrébin et International de l'Histoire des Mathématiques Arabes; Fes, Maroc; December 3 - 5, 1992

Science and Cultural Exchange in the Premodern World; Norman, Oklahoma, USA; February 26 - 27, 1993

Colloque International, Perspectives Médiévales (Arabes, Latines, Hébraïques) sur la Tradition Scientifique et Philosophique Grecque; Paris, France; March 31 - April 3, 1993

Workshop on History of Science in Secondary Schools, Ankara, 5 May 1993

International Congress for the Advancement of Science and Technology in the Islamic World; Tehran, Iran; May 17 -19, 1993

Symposium "Astronomy from the Time of Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror to the Present", Istanbul, 7 October 1993

Commemorational meeting of the TBTK to honor Prof. A. Sayılı and his contributions to history of science, Ankara, Dec 10, 1993

Symposium "Mathematics in the Middle Ages and Early Modern Times" to honor Prof. H. L. L. Busard's 70th birthday, Utrecht, Dec 22, 1993

#### 4. Forthcoming Events

Science & Technology Symposium in the Turkish and Islamic World; Istanbul, June 3-5, 1994; organizers: Boğaziçi University, Turkish Society for History of Science, Ouzbekistan Academy of Science; mailing address: Dr. F. Günergun, fax: (90)(212)258 43 65

International Conference of the Transfer of Science & Technology; Istanbul, September 1994; organizers: Turkish Society for History of Science, fax: (90)(1)258 43 65; Leiden University,

#### 5. Publications

Butzer, P. L.; D. Lohrmann (eds.) (1993): Science in Western and Eastern Civilization in Carolingian Times. Basel

Folkerts, M.; J. P. Hogendijk (eds.) (1993): Vestigia Mathematica. Festschrift for H. H. L. Busard. Amsterdam

Ragep, J. (1993): Nasir al-Din al-Tusi's Memoir on Astronomy. New York, 2 vols

Rashed, R. (1993): Géométrie et Dioptrique au X<sup>e</sup> siècle: Ibn Sahl, al-Qūhī et Ibn al-Haytham. Paris

#### 6. Work in Progress

#### 7. teaching

France:

Jaouiche, Kh.: 1989 - 1993 History of Arabic Mathematics  
Ibn al-Haytham's Theory of Light  
University of Paris VIII

Rashed, R.: 1989 - 1993 History of Ancient and Classical  
Mathematics  
research seminar in history of sciences and  
mathematics in the ancient and classical  
period  
University of Paris VII  
1989 - 1992 Séminaire REHEIS: Les problèmes  
d'épistémologie et d'histoire de sciences  
aujourd'hui  
1992 - 1993 Séminaire Centre d'histoire de sciences et  
des philosophie arabes et médiévales: Les  
doctrines de la science

## Germany:

- Brentjes, S.: 1989 History of Arabic Mathematics and Astronomy  
Martin-Luther-University, Halle/S.  
1990 History of Sciences in Islam  
Karl-Marx-University, Leipzig  
1992 - 1993 History of Sciences and Colleges in Islam  
History of Mathematics  
University of Leipzig

- King, D.: 1989 - 1993 Astronomical Instruments of the Middle Ages  
Reading of Arabic Scientific Texts  
Astronomical Tabela of the Middle Ages  
Methodological Seminar for Graduates  
Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe-University,  
Frankfurt am Main

- Kunitsch, P.: 1989 - 1993 Theodosius: Sphaerica  
1989 - 1990 Sonderformen des Astrolabs  
1990 - 1991 al-Sūfī, Astrolab  
1991 - 1992 Texte über astronomische Instrumente  
(nach Handschriften)  
1992 - 1993 al-Farghānī: Konstruktion des Astrolabs  
1993 - 1994 Das "Planisphaerium" in al-Andalus:  
Maslama  
Ludwig-Maximilians-University, München

## The Netherlands:

- Hogendijk, J. P.: 1990 Inleiding middeleeuws Arabische  
natuurwetenschap  
1992 Inleiding middeleeuws Arabische  
natuurwetenschap  
Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht  
together with R. Kruk (Leiden)

## Turkey:

History of Science acquired departmental status at the Faculty of Letters, Istanbul University in 1989. Apart from giving instruction in the field of History of Science since 1985-86, the department started, for the first time in Turkey, an undergraduate program in History of Science. Master's and doctorate programs started in 1988.

- Ihsanoğlu, E.: 1989 - 1993 History of Ottoman Science  
1989 - 1993 History of Islamic Science  
University of Istanbul

## USA:

- Ragep, J.: 1998 - 1990 Arabic Scientific Texts

Brown University  
 1991 - 1993 Islamic Science  
 1992 Islamic Astronomy  
 University of Oklahoma

## 8. Thesis

Aydüz, S. (University of Istanbul, Faculty of Letters, Dept. of History of Science): The Astronomical Institution "Müneccimbaşılık" headed by the Sultan's chief astronomer. defended: 1993

Dallal, A. S. (Columbia University, New York): The Astronomical Work of Sadr al-Sharī'ah: An Islamic Response to Greek Astronomy. An edition, translation and commentary on the astronomical section of the "Kitāb Ta'dīl al-'ulūm" of Sadr al-Sharī'ah. defended: 1990

Fazlıoğlu, I. (University of Istanbul, Faculty of Letters, Dept. of History of Science): Ibn al-Hawam (d. 724/1324) and his work "Al-favaid al-bahiyye fi al-kavaid al-hesabiye": critical edition and historical evaluation. defended: 1993

Ishakoğlu, S. (University of Istanbul, Faculty of Letters, Dept. of History of Science): Development of Mathematics, Astronomy, Physics and Chemistry in the Istanbul University of Science from 1900 to 1946. defended: 1993

Kheirandish, E. (Harvard University, Cambridge): The Medieval Arabic Tradition of Euclid's "Optica". defended: 1991

Lettink, P. (Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam): Commentary of Ibn Bajja on Aristotle's "Physics". An Inquiry into its sources and its position in the history of Arabic science. defended: 1990

Mawaldi, M. (Universite de Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris): The algebra of Kamāl al-Dīn al-Fārisī. defended: 1990

## 9. Special Events

Prof. Dr. Aydın Sayılı, founder of the first History of Science Chair in Turkey, whose work on Turkish and Islamic Mathematics and Astronomy in the Middle Ages was a valuable contribution to the history of science, retired instructor of the University of Ankara, Faculty of Languages, History, and Geography, President of Atatürk Cultural Center, passed away in Ankara, in October 15, 1993.