



Minutes of meeting of EuCheMS' Working Party on History of Chemistry Rostock, Friday, September 16th, 2011, 4.15-6.30 pm

Chairman: Carsten Reinhardt

Participants (WP delegates): Gisela Boeck (gisela.boeck@uni-rostock.de); Danielle Fauque (danielle.fauque@u-psud.fr); Anders Lundgren (anders.lundgren@idehist.uu.se); Peter Morris (peter.morris@nmsi.ac.uk); Carsten Reinhardt (carsten.reinhardt@uni-bielefeld.de); Soňa Strbáňová (sonast2@gmail.com); Eva Vamos (vamos.eva@chello.hu); Brigitte Van Tiggelen (vantiggelen@memosciences.be); Roman Mierzicki (mierzrom@wp.pl), Laurence Lestel (laurence.lestel@upmc.fr).

Other participants: Masanori Kaji (mkaji@bekkoame.ne.jp); Felipe León Olivares (felipeleon@correo.unam.mx); Antonio Amorim-Costa (amcosta@qui.uc.pt); Marco Beretta (mberetta@galileo.imss.firenze.it); Hjalmar Fors (hjalmarf@kth.se); Mina Kleiche-Dray (Mina.Kleiche@ird.fr); Isabel Malaquias (imalaquias@fis.ua.pt); Stephen Weininger (stevejw@WPI.EDU); Bernardo Jerosch Herold (herold@ist.utl.pt).

Agenda (distributed by E-mail prior to the meeting):

1. Opening, and Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of second last General Meeting, Sopron, Hungary, 4 August 2009
3. News and reports
4. 8th International Conference on the History of Chemistry, 14-16 September 2011, Rostock, Germany
5. Venue and organization of the 9th International Conference on the History of Chemistry, 2013
6. Composition of WP; steering committee
7. Abstract service on history of chemistry papers and books
8. Cooperation with the Commission on the History of Modern Chemistry (IUHPS/DHS), and with other organisations active in the history of chemistry.
9. Date of the Next General Meeting
10. Any Other Business

1. Opening, and Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Ernst Homburg, Lauri Niinistö, Duncan Burns, Elena Zaitseva, Anita Kielkebaek Nielsen, Annette Lykknes and Ana Carneiro.

2. Minutes of last General Meeting, Sopron, 4 August 2009

There were no remarks to the minutes.

3. News and reports

a) Eva Vamos reported that thanks to support from the Hungarian Patent Office, the proceedings of the Sopron meeting probably will be published in the middle of 2012. Peter Morris confirmed his agreement that he is willing to edit the papers.

b) The chairman reported on a meeting of EuCheMS Division heads and WP heads, Zurich 8 September 2011. The Division and WP heads have discussed ways to ease the working modes for divisions and Working Parties, incl. bank accounting, and use of the EuChEMS logo. The next ECC conferences are about to take place in 2012 in Prague, in 2014 in Istanbul, and in 2016 in Sevilla. In Prague, (and Sona Strbáňová confirmed this in a later remark) Ernst Homburg and Sona Strbáňová are expected to give talks. For Istanbul, divisions and working parties wish to take more part in the organization. The chairman proposed to accept a proposal by the vice chair of the Division of Chemical Education, Dr. Iwona Maciejowska, to propose to the Board of EuCheMS and the Organizing Committee of the ECC in Istanbul to organize a joint session on the history of chemistry teaching and learning. This move was agreed to.

The chairman asks all WP members to send him asap an email if, and how, they wish to be involved in organizing the joint session with the Division of Chemical Education on the history of chemistry teaching and learning 2014 in Istanbul.

4. 8th ICHC 2011

The chairman reports on the conference that just has ended. Altogether, he regards it as success. The connection with the national meeting proved to be of advantage and of interest for both sides. Together, 95 participants have met in Rostock. He thanks all participants for taking an active part in the meetings; and especially Gisela Boeck for an excellent organization. However, due to the effects of the financial crisis, it has been difficult and in some cases impossible for some colleagues to attend the meeting. Especially younger scholars are affected by these problems.

5. Venue and organisation of 9th ICHC

Before voting began, the WP members agreed to follow EUChEMS divisions' rules to accept only one vote per member state.

Two solid and excellent proposals were made. One by Isabel Malaquias for the University of Aveiro in Portugal, and one by Anders Lundgren and Hjalmar Fors for the University of Uppsala, Sweden. After short presentations of both proposals, and a discussion, the voting gave the result of 13:3 in favor of Uppsala. (This includes votes by email.)

As for dates, the meeting favored the 23rd to 25th August 2013 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday); and asked the local organizers also to check if the dates of 30th August to 1 September and 6th to 8th September would be possible.

Peter J.T. Morris agreed to serve another term as chairman of the programme committee, which was unanimously and thankfully accepted. So far, no further decisions have been taken.

Marco Beretta urged to make sure that low fees and subsidized travel would be made available for younger scholars. This was agreed upon.

In the following, possibilities for 10th ICHC were discussed. The chairman asked if possibilities in South America should be explored, which was seen positive by some. At the same time however, reservations because of possible high cost for traveling from Europe were clearly expressed by several members. Also it was made clear by several members that a venue in Southern Europe should be given consideration. This was applauded. So far, no decisions have been made.

6. Composition of WP; steering committee

The chairman urges members to make sure that address changes etc. reach him in due course. Also, ensuring the representation of younger scholars, and especially of active members for each member state should be encouraged.

In the following he asked the meeting to accept his proposal to elect Annette Lykknes as vice chair of the Working Party. This was agreed upon.

7. Abstract service

The chairman reported on the development of reporting Non-English articles by English abstracts published on the web. He has explored the possibility to open up an open-source tool at his home university, which looks promising. However, for this it would be necessary to have high quality abstracts available for the more important journals. It was agreed that, before we take further action, the chairman and Peter Morris check the representation of Non-English articles in the major databanks (SciFinder and HSTM).

For this, each WP member is asked to send the data of three articles on the history of chemistry that have been published in his or her own language during the last ten years to Carsten Reinhardt and / or Peter Morris. Please do this in both the original language and in English (author, title, journal, year, volume, pages).

8. Cooperation with CHMC

The chairman reported on changes in the structure of the Commission on the History of Modern Chemistry of IUHPS/DHS. Information on the new structure will be made available asap by email. It was agreed that the two entities serve different purposes, CHMC being an

IUHPS part, and focusing on just modern chemistry, and we connected to a chemical associations, and open for all periods. Improvement for exchange of information will be guaranteed because many WP members are also members of CHMC. The next CHMC symposium will take place end of July 2013 in Manchester (IUHPS conference).

9. Date of the Next General Meeting

The next general meeting will take place together with the 9th ICHC in Uppsala in summer 2013.

10. Any Other Business

Sona Strbáňová announced the possibility to name candidates for the Neuenschwander Prize of the European Society for History of Science, a new and highly prestigious award. She also emphasized the need of the WP to be presented at the Website of ESHS.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30.