



Santiago de Compostela, October 6 and 7, 2006

At the invitation of the *Comité Español de Ciencias Históricas*, the Bureau held a meeting in Santiago de Compostela on Friday, October 6, and Saturday, October 7, 2006, at the *Instituto Padre Sarmiento - CSIC*, formerly *Hospital San Roque*, Rúa San Roque, 2.

Present: José Luis Peset, President; Koichi Kabayama and William C. Jordan, Vice-presidents; Jean-Claude Robert, Secretary General; Pierre Ducrey, Treasurer; Sorin Antohi, Mikhail Bibikov, Michael Heyd, Marjatta Hietala, and Hilda Sabato, Member Assessors; and Jürgen Kocka, Counsellor.

Invited guests : Martyn Lyons, President of the organizing committee of the XXth Congress (Sydney, 2005); Hans Blom, President of the organizing committee of the XXIst Congress (Amsterdam, 2010).

Excused : Shahid Amin, Member Assessor.

Agenda:

1. President's opening statement and remarks
2. ICHS affairs and Secretary General's report
3. Treasurer's report
4. ICHS 2005-2010 Action Plan
 - a) Review of the Sydney Congress
 - b) Report of the President of the organizing committee of the Amsterdam Congress
 - c) Architecture of the 2010 Congress
5. Upcoming Bureau meetings
6. Miscellaneous
7. Scientific meeting

1. President's opening statement and remarks

The President welcomed Bureau members to the Padre Sarmiento centre for research on Galician history and archaeology. Named after Fray Martin Sarmiento (1695-1772), an example of enlightened priest, the centre is housed in a restored and renovated 16th century building that was once the San Roque Hospital. The President particularly welcomed Professor Hilda Sabato, who had been unable to attend in Sydney. He emphasized the ICHS tradition as he spoke about the 2005 summer conference organized by the foreign institutes in Rome. This gathering was held to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1955 Congress, an event that profoundly influenced the development of world historiography. The President said he hoped that the upcoming ICHS Congress would have the same galvanizing effect as it gathers together renowned historians to discuss the development of the historical discipline. He also underscored the importance of interdisciplinarity.



2. ICHS affairs and Secretary General's report

The Secretary General conveyed the regrets of Shahid Amin, who was unable to come to Spain.

Bulletin d'information

In keeping with tradition, the 31st edition of the *Bulletin* was published in late December. As this 2005 issue contained the inventory of the ICHS archives held in Paris and Lausanne, it was clearly longer than previous issues (258 pages). The *Bulletin* should be kept under 200 pages in the future in order to avoid additional postage costs. On the other hand, for the first time in years, this edition of the *Bulletin* contained paid advertising; a practice the Secretary General is intending to continue so the additional revenue can be used to help offset publication costs.

Members

Two countries have expressed an interest in joining the ICHS. Serbian historians have contacted the Secretary General and were sent some information. The Association of Kazakhstan historians has made a formal membership request. The Secretary General has therefore started formal procedures and asked to review the Association's constitution to ascertain its conformity with the constitution of the ICHS. Once the review is completed and the constitution is judged to be compliant, the membership request will be submitted to the next Bureau meeting.

ICHS Relations with UNESCO

Bureau members received a copy of the report prepared for UNESCO in December 2005. The Joint ICHS-UNESCO Committee has taken up much of the Secretary General's time since 2003. A great deal of work is needed to organize and plan regional conferences. As a case in point, the regional meetings generated a volume of e-mails representing 50% of the e-mail traffic of the whole Sydney Congress. Now that UNESCO has withdrawn funding as of 2006, the Joint Committee has ended its life for the time being and is unlikely to be re-created as it once was. The Committee received total budgetary contributions of US\$300,000 between 2000 and 2005. While that level of funding is most unlikely in the future, it still might be possible for the ICHS to receive money for specific events from UNESCO's funding program for multilateral or bilateral meetings, also known as participation programs (PP), as long as they involve several member countries. Thus, the Sydney experience has shown that a well-organized plenary session can be very successful and that a funding scenario might be achieved for Amsterdam.

These observations led to the question of regional conferences. These events are no doubt positive, but the Secretary General is unable to take on the responsibility of organizing them because his time is required for other tasks. He therefore motioned that the tasks and responsibilities be spread out and that Bureau members be in charge of organizing one or two regional conferences during the quinquennium. In addition, the Secretary General wanted to maintain the custom of integrating scientific content into all Bureau meetings and the General Assembly.

The ICPSH (International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies)

The ICHS has finally received a small grant from the ICPSH. However, we will not be able to count on this funding in the future unless the Council's finances are in a better shape.



The ICPSH's General Assembly takes place in November, and at that time the organization's progress will be clearer.

Immediate projects

The Secretary General will be working on two main projects. First, he plans to follow up with the National Committees, the Affiliated International Organizations and the Internal Commissions to receive an update on their structure and history. For the past years, the Bulletin has been routinely referring readers to the 1987 issue for information on ICHS members. And in most cases, the information is incomplete. Secondly, he also wants to overhaul the Website. Now five years old, the Website is getting more traffic, but still needs improvement. There will be a cost attached to this project.

Lastly, one fundamental problem remains: the lack of funds. With an annual budget of Cdn\$10,000, three quarters of which are earmarked for the preparation of the Bulletin, the Secretary General has scant means to accomplish his work. Fortunately, he receives financial and in-kind help from his institution, the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), whose steadfast support he gratefully acknowledged.

Report of the two sub-committees:

During the Sydney General Assembly the Bureau was asked to study two issues and then report to the General Assembly in Beijing in 2007: expanding the ICHS and the level of annual dues, and adopting a procedure for establishing the program of the quinquennial Congress. Some members found the past procedure too opaque (see the minutes of the Sydney General Assembly, Bulletin No. 31). When the Bureau restreint met in Madrid it created two sub-committees to work on these files. The sub-committee members were to include some Bureau members and representatives of the National Committees and the Affiliated International Organizations. The ICHS Treasurer was asked to chair the first sub-committee, which would examine the expansion of the ICHS and the question of dues, while the Secretary General would chair the second sub-committee, which would study the procedure for preparing the Congress program and the role of the National Committees and the Commissions.

1. Sub-committee report on ICHS expansion

The members of the sub-committee are Even Lange (Norway), Claudio Visentin (International Commission on the History of Travel and Tourism), Sorin Antohi (Bureau), Michael Heyd (Bureau), and Pierre Ducrey (Bureau).

In 2006, the ICHS was composed of 53 National Committees, 28 Affiliated International Organizations and 12 Internal Commissions. Each year, on December 1st, ICHS members receive an assessment for the following calendar year. Most of the National Committees in Europe, North America and Asia (Japan, China and India) pay their dues regularly, but the countries of Latin America, Africa and the Arab world have progressively broken off relations or have never become members of the ICHS. The same can be said of some Affiliated International Organizations: they are either irregular in their payments or have withdrawn from the organization. The ICHS has kept dues at their current level for the past 15 years. At any rate, it is important to note that the amount requested is very reasonable.



ICHS inflows and outflows

The ICHS's main expenses are the organization of Bureau sessions approximately CHF 20,000 per year; administrative costs (to run the offices of the Secretary General and the Treasurer); the Bulletin; and the grant to Congress organizers. Our expenses have been climbing steadily. Most of our inflow comes from membership dues. The countries that host Bureau meetings are asked to provide support in order to reduce the expense of the meetings.

Expansion of the ICHS

To achieve the international representation to which the organization aspires, the ICHS needs more National Committees among its ranks. In fact, the ICHS's expansion within the framework of its constitution requires the recruitment of more new National Committees. This goal can be reached in three stages, notably by: 1. Making a list of countries in which historians or their organizations have a national sponsoring organization. 2. Approaching these organizations. 3. Convincing them to become part of the ICHS and pay the membership dues.

Three ways to expand the ICHS

1. Make the ICHS more attractive by implementing a series of strategies such as upgrading the Website, using the Website as a forum for historians, extending ICHS patronage to international events, organizing Congresses and forums or helping to sponsor other congresses, creating an ICHS scholarship system, and giving Affiliated International Organizations a greater role at Congresses. To reach these goals it would be essential to lend the Secretary General additional support and to find fresh sources of funding.
2. Recruit new members. In addition to prospecting National Committees in the countries in which they exist, the ICHS could help launch other national historian committees in other countries. We could also create a third membership category for international research centres on history and national institutes. Concretely, this step would entail including national organizations whose only or main specialty is history into the category of Affiliated International Organization.
3. Change the payment scale. ICHS members are being assessed by category so far. It may be possible to introduce a differentiated system. A change in the assessment system would be complex to implement and would generate some protest. Some of the criteria we could use are the gross domestic product per inhabitant, the number of historian societies in the country, or the number of individuals affiliated with the national organization.

Determination of dues

We could introduce two or three amounts in each membership category. For example, the amounts could be CHF 1000, CHF 800 or CHF 600 for National Committees and CHF 800 or CHF 500 for International Affiliated Organizations. If we opt for differentiated dues, we should incorporate into the constitution the principle that all members are equal, regardless of the dues they pay.



2. *Sub-committee report on preparing the Congress program and the role of National Committees and Commissions*

The members of this sub-committee are Mrs. Arnita Jones (American Historical Association), Brunello Vigezzi (Italian National Committee and Commission on the History of International Relations), Marjatta Hietala (Bureau), and Jean-Claude Robert (Bureau).

The sub-committee began its work by exchanging e-mails. The preliminary discussions resulted in the following 11 points.

1. Establish criteria for selecting major themes and specialized themes.
2. Reduce the number of specialized themes to 15.
3. Reduce the number of round tables and make them more dynamic.
4. Reduce the number of sessions to 40 in all.
5. Take a closer look at the structure, composition and history of the entities that make up the ICHS.
6. Obtain information on the historiographical/history projects of ICHS members.
7. Give some members more general mandates for the Congress.
8. Institute a new type of session: the joint session.
9. Ensure that Organizations and Commissions submit proposals for the Congress.
10. Take into account the long-range projects of Organizations and Commissions.
11. Work on the Congress schedule.

The discussions brought some interesting facts to light. The selection of major and specialized themes did not seem to be a problem in the past because the General Assembly had always quickly agreed on the issue. Integrating the Organizations and Commissions into the development of the program could lead to communication issues. The deadlines are usually very tight, and some Organizations and Commissions are adamant about offering a specific program at the Congress. It would be necessary to devise a plan to improve communications among ICHS members.

The Secretary General reminded participants that both sub-committees were to meet on Saturday, October 7, at 2 p.m., after the scientific session. Bureau members who wished to attend any of the meetings were welcome to do so.

Lastly, the Secretary General emphasized that ICHS Treasurer Professor Pierre Ducrey had announced prior to the Sydney Congress that he intended to leave his post in 2005, but then agreed to stay on until the General Assembly in Beijing in 2007, at which time the members would have to appoint his successor.

3. Treasurer's Report



The Treasurer presented his financial report for the 2005 operating period, which closed with a negative balance of CHF 35,081.96. This result is due to many factors. In terms of inflows, the payment of membership dues fell from CHF 58,838 in 2004 to CHF 36,126.56 in 2005. Some outstanding dues were paid in 2004, the year preceding the 2005 General Assembly in Sydney, as several members wanted to secure their memberships in order to receive voting rights. The expenses included payment of CHF 15,000.00, the third and final instalment to the organizers of the Sydney Congress.

The Bureau formally recorded the ICHS's accounts and balance sheet for 2005 and approved the following actions:

- The Bureau confirmed its earlier decision to pay the third instalment of CHF 15,000 to subsidize the Sydney Congress, bringing the total grant for the Sydney Congress to CHF 45,000.
- The Bureau confirmed its decision to make a regular payment of CHF 10,000 in Canadian dollars to cover the operating costs of the Secretary General's office and CHF 3,000 to cover the operating costs of the Treasurer's office.
- The Bureau formally recorded that some supporting documents for the payments made to the organizers of the Sydney Congress and issued by the firm Incompass Events were not in conformance with the accounting rules. In addition, a sum of A\$2,236.25 had not been justified, translating into a loss of CHF 2,146.91 for the ICHS.

The Bureau unanimously approved the Treasurer's financial report, pending completion of the audit before the 2007 General Assembly, and discharged the Bureau restraint on the issue of financial management.

The Bureau asked the Treasurer to express its heartfelt thanks to the financial department of the Université de Lausanne and its associates for the work they performed on behalf of the ICHS.

It would be important for the future of the ICHS to adopt different ways to economize, including the following main strategies:

- Bureau members should get their institution (university or research institute) to agree to cover the transportation expenses for their participation in Bureau meetings.
- Along these lines, the Bureau restraint has asked Professor Kabayama, the Japanese representative, whether Japan could organize a conference in 2009 to coincide with the Bureau meeting so that organizers could finance the travel expenses of Bureau members, in whole or in part, in addition to their accommodation expenses.
- It was recommended that the organizers of the 2010 Amsterdam Congress raise enough funds so that the ICHS would not have to pay the subsidy that has been allocated to the three previous Congresses. To that end, the Treasurer motioned that the CHF 45,000 subsidy be changed to a deficit guarantee.



These measures would recapitalize the ICHS's financial reserves without increasing dues, provided that members pay their assessments on time.

4. ICHS 2005-2010 Action Plan

a) Review of the Sydney Congress

Professor Martyn Lyons, President of the Congress organizing committee, prepared a detailed report that he distributed to all the members of the Bureau and the Amsterdam Congress organizing committee. The report makes eight recommendations touching various aspects of organizing the Congress:

1. Financial aspects: registration fees should be higher, and the accommodation expenses of Bureau members should not be paid for from the Congress budget.
2. Program: the major themes should not be subdivided; the distinction between the specialized themes and the round tables is not evident enough; and the Congress should adopt a general theme.
3. The Affiliated International Organizations and Internal Commissions should be better integrated into the Congress program.
4. Efforts to highlight the work of doctoral students should continue.
5. The transparency of the selection process should be enhanced, particularly by improving the communication of themes at the national level and by getting organizers to reply to requests as they come in.
6. Simultaneous translation should be maintained.
7. The Website has become an essential tool for organizing the Congress.
8. Participants should be notified as soon as possible of the procedures for obtaining a visa.

Martyn Lyons stressed that the Sydney Congress did not manage to attract many historians from Southeast Asia, particularly those from the South Pacific. He believed that this was due to the difficulty of presenting in the region what was perceived as an European-biased view of history.

Comments on the 20th International Congress of Historical Sciences (Sydney 2005)

All Bureau members, organizers and discussants were asked to send their comments on the Congress. Following are the highlights of the comments received. Overall, respondents said they were satisfied with the Congress and its organization.

Program: respondents said it was regrettable that the Antiquity and the Middle Ages were under-represented at the Congress. They found that the procedure for submitting proposals was complicated and lacking in transparency and wished that more world-renowned historians had been present to discuss certain themes. One respondent criticized the Bureau's selection of a specific discussant and would have preferred someone less preachy. Several respondents said that the printed program was cumbersome and not user friendly. Others would have preferred that



it contained information about the AIO and IC meetings, as it had during the Oslo and Montreal Congresses. However, the Sydney Congress Website was considered very useful.

Sessions: it was suggested that the procedure be reviewed to avoid that the reports by the organizers or discussants repeat individual communications. Communicators should be given more time, which would mean reducing their numbers. Some respondents pointed out weaknesses in the communications' theoretical/heuristic framework and deplored the small audiences in some cases.

The major themes were approved, and only one comment on that point was negative. Respondents appreciated the diversity of historiographical cultures. For the round tables, respondents said that participants should have had more time to speak. Two comments were received that suggested changing the formula by asking organizers to present an orientation text or report and then letting participants discuss it either by posing questions or imparting their personal knowledge about the theme. It was also suggested that sessions be added, such as a session during which the President of the ICHS, or members of the Bureau, could provide an update on the progress of the discipline. Respondents would have liked a closing session at the end of the Congress.

Receptions: considering the price, the inaugural reception was characterized as frugal and somewhat unfriendly.

b) Report of the President of the Amsterdam Congress organizing committee

Professor Hans Blom, President of the organizing committee of the Amsterdam Congress, presented a short report on the status of the Congress. There are four organizations working on this event: the Netherlands National Committee, Koninklijk Nederlands Historische Genootschap (KNHG); the University of Amsterdam; the National Library, Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB); and the International Institute of Social History, Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis (IISG). These organizations have joined together to create a foundation composed of the following six individuals:

President: Professor J.C. Hans Blom, NIOD Director and Professor at the University of Amsterdam

Secretary: Dr. Henk Wals, Director of the Huygens Institute, The Hague

Treasurer: Dr. Martin Bossenbroek, Assistant Director of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek

Members: Prof. Dr. L. (Lex) Heerma van Vos, KNHG Treasurer and Professor at Utrecht University

Prof. Dr. W. (Pim) den Boer, Professor of European Cultural History at the University of Amsterdam, former member of the board of KNHG

Prof. Dr. Karin Hofmeester, a researcher with the International Institute of Social History.

The Congress will be held from August 22-28, 2010 (from Sunday to Saturday).



Professor Blom then reviewed the financial highlights of the Congress, notably forecasts for participant numbers and the various prospective funding sources, some of which have been confirmed in principle. Contacts have been made to find sponsors for the receptions and the opening and closing sessions. The Netherlands Organizing Committee wants to encourage the participation of developing countries as much as possible and has planned various measures to that end.

The President thanked Professor Blom for his first report, which pointed to an auspicious beginning for the 2010 Congress.

c) Architecture of the 2010 Congress

Bureau members examined the financial recommendations of the Sydney Committee and agreed to increase registration fees, but only moderately. The final decision was postponed to the next Bureau meeting to provide time to examine the practices of other international congresses. As for the travel expenses of Bureau members, they cannot be covered by the ICHS's budget. The Congress will have to finance this as it has in the past.

Bureau members agreed to conduct an in-depth review of the guidelines for organizing the sessions. First, the sessions, particularly the round tables, must be better differentiated from the specialized themes. Second, the number of communicators must be reduced in order to provide opportunities for individual expression of ideas and discussions.

From now on, the round tables would be organized around one single document prepared by the organizer and distributed ahead of time, and be responded to by four commentators during the session. Thus, each round table would have five participants in all. Participants would be recruited according to their knowledge of the specific field and their previous work.

The specialized themes would use more or less the same formula but include a maximum of six participants in addition to the organizer and the discussant.

The sessions for the major themes would include a maximum of 12 participants in addition to the organizer and the discussant. Each communicator would have 15-20 minutes and the discussant would have 15 minutes. The Bureau would no longer subdivide the major themes into sections.

The Bureau is reducing the number of sessions to 40 and breaking them down into three major themes, 20 specialized themes and 15 round tables. To increase the participation of Affiliated International Organizations and Internal Commissions, the Bureau has decided to create joint sessions, a new type of session to be led by two or more Affiliated International Organizations or by National Committees and Organizations or Commissions. This action would foster collaboration among ICHS members and better integrate the work of the Organizations and Commissions into the general program of the Congress. The Bureau has decided to plan for a maximum of ten (10) joint sessions at the Amsterdam Congress, bringing the total number of sessions to 50.

The organizers' responsibilities should be further distinguished from the discussants' to prevent organizers from divulging the substance of the presenters' communications



before they even take the floor. The organizer must be content with presenting the theme and its problems, while the discussant states the highlights of the contributions in order to stimulate discussion.

Furthermore, it would be desirable to organize three or four large night-time conferences during the Congress.

Lastly, since the proceedings will no longer be published, each organizer will be asked to prepare a short (about 500 words) summary report after the Congress, which will be published in the ICHS Bulletin the year following the Congress so that the sessions can remain on record, albeit in condensed form.

Theme selection: as is customary, a sub-committee will select the themes and then submit a proposal to the Bureau by e-mail. The members of the sub-committee will be Sorin Antohi, Hilda Sabato, José Luis Peset, Jean-Claude Robert, and Pierre Ducrey. According to the schedule, proposals will be accepted until October 31, 2006. The sub-committee will examine all the proposals from January to March 2007, and select about 50 for discussion with the Bureau. To facilitate discussions with the Bureau and then with the General Assembly, all proposals received by the Secretariat will be posted on the ICHS Website.

5. Upcoming Bureau meetings

The Beijing General Assembly will be held from September 14 to 19, 2007. It will include a scientific program on the development of historiography in China.

Here is the provisional calendar:

September 14:	Arrival of Bureau members
September 15:	Bureau meeting, and arrival of delegates to the General Assembly
September 16:	Symposium on history in China
September 17:	General Assembly
September 18 (morning):	Last session of the General Assembly
September 18 (afternoon):	Bureau meeting
September 19:	Departure of delegates

Only a few problems remain, including the content of the scientific program and the question of visas, with its logistical and communication issues.

6. Miscellaneous

As there were no further questions, the President thanked the members of the Bureau and closed the meeting.

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7. Scientific program: New historical trends in Galicia

The scientific session was held on Saturday, October 7, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The President of the ICHS introduced the theme and the five presenters.

1. César Parceró: "Around heritage: insights into current research programs at Padre Sarmiento Institute".
2. Víctor Manuel Miguez: "Procedures and experiences when searching the Galician ruling class in the precapitalist age".
3. Eulalia Simal: "An insight into eighteenth century historical writing on women".
4. Miguel Cabo: "Nation-building in Europe: an overview 30 years after Eugen Weber's Peasants into Frenchmen".
5. Pedro Piedras: "Developing theoretical history: new perspectives on Max Weber's works".

After the presentations, an animated discussion ensued between Bureau members and the presenters.