



## **Berlin, 27 and 28 August 2004**

At the invitation of the *Verband der Historiker und Historikerinnen Deutschlands*, the Bureau held a meeting in Berlin on 27 and 28 August at the *Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung*.

**Present:** Jürgen Kocka, President; Eva Österberg, Vice-president; Jean-Claude Robert, Secretary General; Pierre Ducrey, Treasurer; Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch, Koichi Kabayama, José Luis Peset, Gregory Bongard-Levin and Michael Heyd, Assessor Members, Ivan T. Berend, Counselor.

**Invited guests:** Martyn Lyons, President of the Organizing Committee of the XXth Congress (Sydney, 2005), Even Lange, President of the Organizing Committee of the XIXth Congress (Oslo).

**Excused:** Romila Thapar, Vice-President, William C. Jordan, Assessor Member.

Ms. Gunilla Budde acted as recorder.

## **Symposium**

The meeting of the Bureau was preceded by a symposium on the theme of "Division, Reunification and German Historians."

In keeping with custom, the Bureau asked the organizer of the Berlin meeting to plan a scientific discussion for the meeting. The program featured four presentations by young historians, followed by a general commentary. ICHS President Jürgen Kocka made the introductions.

- **Martin Sabow**, (Potsdam), "German Historiography Between Division and Reunification"
- **Matthias Middel**, (Leipzig), "Has Unification of German Historiographies Been a Success?"
- **Simone Lässig**, (Dresden/Washington), "Historical Profession and Unification in Germany. Personal Views from the Academic Province"
- **Arnd Bauerkämper**, (Berlin), "Land Reform and Collectivization in the Soviet Zone of Occupation and the DDR. Historiography in Germany Before and After 1989/90. Political Debates and Personal Recollections"
- **Helga Schultz** (Frankfurt an der Oder), Commentary

The presentations looked at various perspectives of the impact of reunification on the scientific community and on German historiography. A lively discussion ensued.

## **Agenda:**

1. President's opening remarks
2. ICHS affairs and Secretary General's report
3. Motion to amend the statutes of the ICHS.
4. Treasurer's report



5. Preparations for the XXth ICHS Congress in Sydney
6. ICHS-UNESCO relations
7. Next Bureau meeting
8. Miscellaneous

### **1. President's opening statement and remarks**

The President welcomed Bureau members and, on their behalf, thanked the German National Committee for their hospitality in Berlin, and particularly Professor Manfred Hildermeier, President of the Committee. He then spoke of the death by accident of Wolfgang Mommsen in August. In addition to being an eminent professional, Professor Mommsen played a vital role in ICHS activities, first by assuming the Presidency of the German National Committee and acting on several occasions as a delegate to the General assembly of the ICHS, then by becoming a member of the Nominating Committee (1997-2000), and lastly, by working as a collaborator on the English edition of Karl Dietrich Erdmann's book on the history of the ICHS.

The President announced the major topics of the meeting, particularly the organization of the Sydney Congress and the need to specify the selection criteria for future Bureau members. He underscored the ICHS's principal contributions, particularly the organization of regional conferences between 2002 and 2004. He thanked Bureau members for their contributions and contrasted the ICHS's increased activities with the relative contraction of its financial resources.

The floor was then given to Jean-Claude Robert.

### **2. ICHS affairs and Secretary General's report**

Preparing the Sydney Congress, the Bulletin and organizing regional conferences under the aegis of the joint UNESCO-ICHS Committee has taken up most of the Secretary General's time since September 2003.

The Secretariat is now off and running in Montreal, and the archives with dates prior to 2000 have been turned over to the national archives of France, located in Paris. Mr. Robert explained that he would be working on the three main concerns of his predecessor, i.e. revitalizing, rejuvenating and expanding the ICHS.

#### *Bulletin*

The Bulletin has undergone some slight changes. Like last year, 700 copies were published, and the copies were mailed on December 12. This particular issue featured a reprint of an article by Michel François, ICHS Secretary General from 1950 to 1980, recounting the first 50 years of the ICHS. The article was first published in volume 10 (1974-1976) of the Bulletin. The ICHS website has been only partially updated; more specifically, only the list of organizers and discussants of the Sydney Congress has been updated. The entire website should be completely updated to coincide with the mailing of the next Bulletin (vol. 30-2004).

#### *2.2 Members*

Our membership numbers remain relatively stable, however, some Latin American countries are experiencing financial and organizational difficulties. The Tunisian National Committee has re-staffed its Bureau and the Secretary General motioned that the Bureau approve the renewal of its Bureau (motion approved). The International Numismatic Commission has withdrawn and no longer wishes to belong to the ICHS.



### *2.3 Secretariat*

The Secretariat had to be re-organized in the wake of Sylvie Freney's departure. A part-time professional secretary was hired in July 2004. Some of the Secretary General's time will be freed up in the fall of 2005, thanks to his institution, the Université du Québec à Montréal, but a staff shortage is still likely to be a recurring problem. A minimum of \$25,000 would have to be released every five years to help the Secretariat cope with specific needs.

Bureau members were reluctant to increase dues, preferring other avenues such as reducing certain expenses and finding new sources of revenue. To reduce expenses it might be possible to eliminate one Bureau meeting, the one normally held the year preceding the quinquennial Congress. On the same subject, the Bureau questioned the need for former presidents to be ex officio members of the Bureau for a period of 10 years following the end of their mandate. A period of five years would seem sufficient, provided that the Bureau could invite a former president as a Counselor when required. All the members approved this motion, and an amendment to the constitution is presented further on. The frequency of the Bulletin might be reconsidered, but most Bureau members were in favour of keeping it on an annual basis. Lastly, it may be possible to combine a Bureau meeting with a scientific symposium in which all members would participate, but one of the Bureau members would have to assume the responsibility of preparing funding requests to finance the symposium. In fact, if the ICHS were no longer required to finance one Bureau meeting every five years, the amount saved would be enough to cover the Secretariat's basic needs. These thoughts will be conveyed to the next Bureau, which will be elected in 2005. The new members will then take the final decision.

In closing, the Secretary General recognized the support of Sylvie Freney since the fall of 2001, and that of his institution, the UQAM, and thanked them both.

## **3. Motion to amend the ICSH's Constitution**

### *3.1 Article 1*

During the Bureau meeting in Paris (2003), a motion was presented to amend the wording of the 1st article of the Constitution in order to clarify the meaning of the last sentence.

The text currently reads as follows:

"It shall defend freedom of thought and expression in the field of historical research and ensure the respect of professional ethical standards among its members."

The following wording was proposed:

"It shall defend freedom of thought and expression in the field of historical research and teaching, and is opposed to the misuse of history and shall use every means at its disposal to ensure the ethical professional conduct of its members."

The advantage of this wording is that it spells out the ICCHS's position with regard to those who try to use history for political ends.



### 3.2 Article 5

The third paragraph of article 5 should be amended to reflect a change in the amount of time a past President is considered an ex officio member.

Currently, the article reads as follows:

"Past Presidents of the ICHS shall also be members of the Board, as Counselor-Members without vote, for a period of ten years after their presidential office without consideration of age. Following the end of the ten-year period, Past Presidents shall be deemed Honorary Counselors."

The following wording was proposed:

"The past President of the ICHS shall also be a member of the Board, as a Counselor-Member without vote, for a period of five years after his or her presidential office without consideration of age."

Both amendments will be presented to the next ICHS General Assembly.

## 4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer distributed the following documents to the members of the Bureau:

- Profit and loss accounts and ICHS balance sheet for 2003
- Chart comparing the past six years
- ICHS financial situation as of August 19, 2004
- List of members and status of membership dues

The 2003 profit and loss account shows inflows of CHF 53,209.90 and expenses of CHF 64,036.80; the result is a negative balance of CHF 10,827.40. This amount includes an initial contribution of CHF 15,000 for the 2005 Sydney Congress. Two other identical provisions will follow.

Some ICHS members do not regularly pay their membership dues, and sometimes they are extremely late in settling their accounts. Countries with late accounts will be approached before the 2005 General Assembly in Sydney and reminded, among other things, of article 7 of the Constitution, which reads: "Every National Committee or International Affiliated Organization that has not paid its dues for three years shall lose its right to vote. After five years, that National Committee or International Affiliated Organization shall be deemed to have withdrawn de facto."

## 5. Preparation of the XXth ICHS Congress in Sydney

### 5.1 Report of the President of the Australian Organizing Committee

Martin Lyons presented his report on the preparations for the Sydney Congress. The Organizing Committee determined that in order to avoid a deficit by the end of the Congress, 1,400 registrations were needed to reach the break-even point. The second registration brochure should be ready by October 1, 2004, and published as soon as possible after that date. The brochure would contain a detailed program of the Congress as well as tourism and hotel information. The following deadlines were set for the Proceedings: March 7, 2005, receipt of texts; April 11, receipt of manuscripts by the



Organizing Committee; May 11, finalization of Proceedings; May 23, Printing; June 13, Delivery. The Congress web site at [www.cishsydney2005.org](http://www.cishsydney2005.org) is continually updated and contains the registration form as well as information on the Congress. The Committee has received a great many requests for financial assistance to attend the Congress (52 in all), which have been examined by a committee. The Secretary General is being kept abreast of the events. It will be necessary for the Solidarity Fund to receive the subsidies from the ICHS (CHF 45,000) and UNESCO-ICPHS (\$5,000) as soon as possible. Furthermore, fund-raising efforts in the private sector have not yielded the results expected. Lastly, very few editors have shown an interest in renting a stand for the book expo.

#### *5.2 Recruitment of organizers, discussants and communicators: update on the sessions*

The work took longer than expected and many messages were sent back and forth. Many organizers said that they had difficulty recruiting communicators because of the distance. Difficulties in abiding by some directives were noted, so the Secretary General had to be assertive with some organizers who tended to limit their selection of communicators from among their own countries. Most of the sessions are fully staffed, however. A few problem cases still remain: the organizer of major sub-theme 1c, "Natural Sciences, History and the Image of Humankind," withdrew late in the preparation period, so the title and structure of the session had to be changed slightly. The sub-theme will be presented in a round-table fashion. It was organized by Verena Winiwarter, the theme coordinator, and will be entitled "Natural Sciences and History." Three other sessions are not finalized, but should be organized by the end of September.

#### *5.3 Sessions by International Affiliated Organizations and Internal Commissions*

Twenty-one International Affiliated Organizations and four Internal Commissions expressed their willingness to hold their meetings in Sydney. We have received programs from 17 of these organizations, which will be published in October in the next registration brochure for the Sydney Congress. The other programs will be posted on the Congress website as they become available. As was requested by the General Assembly in Amsterdam, we will strive to schedule the sessions of the Organizations and Commissions over the last four days of the Congress, but since most of the Organizations and Commissions have asked that their three half-days remain consecutive, we are left with very little maneuvering space. The integration of IAO and IC programs within the Sydney program will be greater this time.

#### *5.4 Opening and closing sessions*

The opening session will be led by a panel that will discuss the theme of "The Internationalization of the Historical Discipline." Natalie Zemon Davis and Jürgen Kocka will each make a presentation, which will be followed by commentaries by Romila Thapar, Donald Denoon and Ibrahima Thioub. Thomas Kenneally, the keynote speaker for the closing ceremony, will discuss the relationship between historians and the representation of history in the media.

Bureau members requested a third gathering, which would be much less formal and open to all participants, to be held mid-week. Martyn Lyons will check if it would be possible to hold such an event.

#### *5.5 Special sessions*

##### *5.5.1 Joint UNESCO-ICHS Committee sessions*

Thanks to funding from UNESCO, the Joint Committee plans to organize five workshops in Sydney patterned after the sessions held in Oslo. In addition, the Joint Committee will



finance Specialized Theme 1 on the history of Africa. The workshops are the outcome of regional conferences that were held between 2002 and 2004, and which will be discussed in section 6. Moreover, the success of the international conference in Beijing last April was pointed out. The forum was organized by the ICHS President under the sponsorship of the Volkswagen Foundation and was entitled "The Course of Modernization in the Countries and Regions of East Asia." Bureau members were pleased with the holding of such conferences between Congresses and wholeheartedly approved the plan to present the outcome of such meetings during the Sydney Congress.

The following is the list of workshops on the program:

- UNESCO1. The Place of Central Europe between East and West
- UNESCO2. Transformations in the Arab and Moslem World
- UNESCO3. Latin America: Democracy and the New Political History
- UNESCO4. History of the Modernity Reconsidered: East Asian Paths and Patterns
- UNESCO5. The Caribbean: Multiculturalism and Diasporas

**Africa being already on the main programme, no workshop is organized.**

The Secretary General intends to add a plenary session to these workshops as a way to get many participants together to discuss the theme of the transformation of the profession of historian in the wake of the internationalization of the discipline. The organization of this session is contingent on obtaining adequate additional funding.

*5.5.2 Presentation of the translation of Karl Dietrich Erdmann's book*

Jürgen Kocka presented an update on the translation of Karl Dietrich Erdmann's book on the history of the International Congresses and the ICHS. He underlined the scope of the work accomplished by the late Wolfgang Mommsen, who wrote the final chapter as an epilogue covering the 1985-2000 period. The title and bibliographical notice of the book are as follows: *Towards a Global Community of Historians. The International Historical Congresses and the International Committee of Historical Sciences 1898-2000*, by Karl Dietrich Erdmann, edited by Jürgen Kocka and Wolfgang Mommsen<sup>†</sup>, in collaboration with Agnes Blänsdorf, translated by Alan Nothnagle. Published by Berghahn Books, New York and Oxford, 2005.

The ICSH has made a commitment with the editor to purchase about 100 copies. Each National Committee and International Affiliated Organization will be given one copy. The book is scheduled to be launched during the Sydney Congress. It was motioned that a short session be organized at the end of one of the days during which Jürgen Kocka and some former Bureau members could present the book. The Australian Committee will look after inserting an advertising leaflet in the packets of attendees.

## **6. ICHS-UNESCO relations**

### *6.1 ICPHS*

The ICPHS will be holding its next General Assembly in Beijing in November 2004. The Secretary General will be in attendance, as is customary. The meeting promises to be interesting because there will be a joint meeting of the two organizations with links to UNESCO, namely Philosophy and Humanistic Studies and Social Sciences. This would be the occasion to establish contacts with the organizations and with the Chinese National



Committee, which will be attending the meeting. The ICHS has obtained a grant of \$5,000 to help cover the travel expenses of colleagues from developing nations who will be attending the Congress.

### *6.2 Joint UNESCO-ICHS Committee*

One of the most important aspects of the work of the Joint Committee was the organization of regional conferences. The regional conferences have all fulfilled their goals and not only explored the various themes but also enhanced awareness of the need to establish networks of historians and foster a comparative approach in history. For the ICHS, the conferences are productive in acquainting others with our initiatives and goals.

#### *6.2.1 Regional symposiums: Lublin, Mexico, Rabat*

**LUBLIN:** The first conference was held in Lublin, Poland, on November 14 and 15, 2003, on the theme of "The Place of Central Europe between East and West during the 1000-2000 Millennium." There were approximately 30 presentations on related topics. The meeting was organized by the Institute of East Central Europe and held at the Hotel Unia Lublin. The first day's debates were held in Polish, and the second day's, in French and English. The Secretary General spoke during the closing session.

**MEXICO CITY:** The second regional conference was held at El Colegio de México from November 26-28, 2003, under the theme "Los caminos de la democracia en América Latina: revision y balance de la 'nueva historia politica'." About 30 Latin American historians discussed various aspects of the theme and the current evolution of Latin American historiography. Attendance stood at about 60 participants, including students from the university. This conference was organized by Jose Luis Peset, Bureau member, and Guillermo Palacios of the Colegio de México. The Secretary General took part in each session and addressed the assembly during the opening and closing sessions.

**RABAT:** The third regional conference was held in Rabat from December 11 to 13, 2003, under the theme "Reforms and changes in the Arab Muslim world." More than a dozen historians from eight Arab nations were in attendance. The conference was held at the Université Mohammed V, with the support of the Association marocaine pour la recherche historique. The conference greatly benefited from the skills of Chantal Chanson-Jabeur of the SEDET laboratory of the Université de Paris-7-Denis-Direrot. Discussions focussed on four previously identified themes: "Regional space, territories and mobility," "Reforms, institutions, State," "Education, culture, religion," and "Cities and urbanization." The Secretary General attended each session, and spoke at the opening session to introduce the ICHS and its core mission. The sessions were attended by many students.

#### *6.2.2 Joint Committee: Report of the meeting of November 16, 2003*

The Joint Committee held its annual meeting in Lublin on November 16, 2003. The ICHS was represented by Professor Jerzy Kloczowski, Chairman of the Joint Committee, Professor Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch, and the Secretary General. UNESCO was represented by Jérôme Bindé, Deputy Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences. Ms. Iwona Goral of the Institute of East Central Europe acted as secretary, and Hubert Laszkiewicz, Assistant Director of the Institute, attended as an observer.

Given that the Joint Committee has changed sectors at UNESCO, passing from the Culture sector to Social and Human Sciences as of January 1, 2004, Jérôme Bindé presented the SHS's main objectives and reviewed the goals of the Joint Committee. The projects presented for the 2004-2005 biennium are mostly tied to the organization of workshops for the Sydney Congress, during which the outcome of the various 2002-2003



regional conferences will be discussed. Africa, Latin America, Eastern Central Europe and the Arab Muslim countries will be the topics of workshop sessions. The Committee also formally noted that workshops might be planned for the Caribbean and Southeast Asia. The Joint Committee's budget must also provide for the publication of the proceedings of the Bamako conference (1999) and the annual meetings in 2004 and 2005. Mr. Bindé spoke of a possible subsidy under the "Dialogue among Civilizations" program, which has a separate budget. The Committee agreed to submit a request to that program.

## **7. Next meeting**

The next Bureau meeting will be held in Sydney on Saturday, July 2, 2005, at 2 p.m.

## **8. Miscellaneous**

### *8.1 Advance of funds*

Further to the report of the President of the Organizing Committee of the Sydney Congress, it was proposed that the ICHS Treasurer be authorized to immediately transfer CHF 30,000 to the Australian Organizing Committee, which represents the budget earmarked in 2003 and 2004 for the Sydney Congress.

### *8.2 Nominating Committee*

The Nominating Committee was to meet immediately after the meeting of the Bureau on August 30. The purpose of the meeting was to replace five members of the Bureau whose term had expired, i.e. Jürgen Kocka, Romila Thapar, Eva Österberg, Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch and Gregory Bongard-Levin. The members of the Bureau discussed the factors that should govern their choices for future members and agreed on some points such as scholarly abilities, organizational skills, networking ability and the ability to function in one of the official languages of the ICHS, i.e. French or English. Other desirable factors would be an adequate distribution of regions and sexes, and the rotation of countries represented on the Bureau.

As there were no more points to discuss, the President thanked the members of the Bureau and closed the meeting.