



**Neuchâtel, 14 March 2008**

At the invitation of Professor Laurent Tissot, ICHS Treasurer, the *Bureau restreint* met at the University of Neuchâtel on 14 March 2008. The purpose of the meeting was to review ICHS operations between the regular meetings in Beijing (September 2007) and The Hague (November 2008).

**Present:** José Luis Peset, President, Laurent Tissot, Treasurer and Jean-Claude Robert, Secretary General.

**Agenda:**

1. Opening statement
2. ICHS Operations
3. Treasurer's Financial Report
4. Preparations for the Amsterdam Congress
5. Miscellaneous

**1. Opening statement**

The President welcomed the members of the *Bureau restreint* and thanked Laurent Tissot for his hospitality. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the preparations for the Amsterdam Congress.

**2. ICHS Operations**

*a) Bulletin, Vol. 33*

The *Bulletin* was mailed to all members on 8 January. This year's edition, published in 600 copies, was larger than usual (235 pages) because it included the minutes of the Beijing General Assembly and the reports of the two sub-committees.

*b) Website*

The ICHS Website has been updated and now includes the full version of the *Bulletin*. As promised, the proceedings from the symposium on Chinese historiography, contributed by the Chinese National Committee, have also been posted for consultation. In addition, the Website design has been slightly modified to make it more user friendly.

*c) National Committees, International Affiliated Organizations, Internal Commissions*

The South African National Committee (Southern African Historical Society) contacted the Secretary General to give him the names of the members of its new *Bureau* and to express its interest in the ICHS. On 11 March, the Secretary General had a very productive meeting in Cambridge with the President of the Royal Historical Society. They



discussed the society's expectations of the ICHS and its transition to a full-fledged British National Committee. On the Latin American front, Hilda Sabato held consultations on the possibility of reviving some National Committees in that region.

There are no new developments to report with regard to the Affiliated International Organizations and Internal Commissions.

*d) Relations with UNESCO*

The ICHS is a founding member of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies. The ICPHS publishes a journal, *Diogène*, and provides an international forum for discussing and fostering cooperation. In the past, UNESCO has given the ICPHS subsidies to help historians from the developing world attend the quinquennial congress. The ICPHS is funded by UNESCO, but its budget has been drastically cut back over the past six years. However, the organization is now regaining traction, and a new contract with UNESCO is in the works for 2008-2013. The ICHS will be requesting a grant for the upcoming Congress. The next ICPHS General Assembly will be held in Cape Town from 24 to 29 November 2008.

### **3. Treasurer's Financial Report**

The Treasurer presented the profit and loss accounts for 2007 and the balance sheet dated 31 December 2007. The account shows revenues of CHF 47,919.95 and expenditures of CHF 49,583.37, resulting in a negative balance of CHF 1,663.42. This deficit is due to the expenses of the Beijing General Assembly. The balance sheet assets (reserves) amount to CHF 113,504.05, a slight decrease compared with 2006. The Treasurer distributed copies of the profit and loss accounts and the balance sheet, as prepared by the Financial Department of the Université de Lausanne, as well as a bank statement dated 31 December 2007.

The Treasurer also reviewed the question of membership fees. In June 2008, a reminder will be sent out to members in arrears asking them to settle their accounts.

An agreement was reached concerning the payment of the Secretary General's and the Treasurer's usual expenses.

### **4. Preparations for the 2010 Amsterdam Congress**

On 6 November, the Secretary General held a working meeting in Amsterdam with Professor Hans Blom, President of The Netherlands Organizing Committee, and the Committee members. Discussions focused on getting the Website ready for registration and selecting the communicators. The Affiliated International Organizations will be able to use the Website to build their program. The Amsterdam Organizing Committee is working on establishing a Solidarity Fund to help members from developing countries attend the Congress.

*Selection of organizers and discussants*



The selection process has begun, but the *Bureau* sub-committee has delayed its work and extended the deadline by one month, as requested by ICHS members.

The number of ICHS members who proposed candidates is comparable to the number who did so for the last Congress: 39 in 2008 vs. 40 in 2003. Furthermore, a large number of proposals has been received from all sources (organizers, discussants and communicators): 624 for all sessions. The new round table format may not have been clearly understood because the Secretariat received proposals for discussants, even though none had been requested.

The members of the *Bureau* sub-committee (José Luis Peset, Hilda Sabato, William Jordan, Jean-Claude Robert, and Pierre Ducrey) will be receiving the information shortly and will discuss the final list by e-mail before submitting it to the other *Bureau* members.

#### *Opening and closing sessions*

The members discussed Hans Blom's proposal for the opening session, after comments from the President. It was decided that the session's timetable should be reviewed to ensure that there is enough time for all the presentations. Some thematic consistency should also be ensured.

## **5. Miscellaneous**

#### *Next Bureau meeting in 2008*

The next *Bureau* meeting will be held in The Hague, The Netherlands, from 12 to 16 November 2008. It will begin with a symposium on "The Relevance of Dutch History for International History" on 13 and 14 November (Thursday and Friday). The *Bureau* will then convene on Saturday the 15th and Sunday morning the 16th. Members are scheduled to arrive on the 12th and depart on the 16th or 17th.