

Princeton, 25 and 26 August 2001

At the invitation of the American Historical Association, the Bureau held its annual meeting in Princeton, at the Shelby Cullom Davis Center Seminar Room in Dickinson Hall, 25 and 26 August 2001.

Members in attendance : Jürgen Kocka, President ; Eva Österberg, Vice President ; Jean-Claude Robert, Secretary General ; Pierre Ducrey, Treasurer ; Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch, Michael Heyd, William C. Jordan, Koichi Kabayama, José Luis Peset, Assessor Members; Ivan T. Berend, Counsellor.

Excused: Gregory Bongard Levin, Assessor Member and Romila Thapar, Vice President.

Invited: Even Lange, President of the Norwegian Organisation Committee of the 19th Congress (Oslo, 2000) and Martyn Lyons, President of the Australian Organising Committee of the 20th Congress (Sydney, 2005).

Agenda:

- 1. Opening and President's Remarks on ICHS Perspectives
- 2. Report of the Secretary General
- 3. Report of the Treasurer
- 4. Report on the 19th Congress (Olso)
- 5. Report on the organisation of the 20th Congress (Sydney)
- 6. Preparation of the 20th Congress (Sydney)
- 7. Action Plan for ICHS
- 8. Other matters
- 9. Special academic session

First session of the Bureau : Saturday 25 August 2001 Second session of the Bureau : Sunday 26 August 2001

1. Opening and President's Remarks on ICHS Perspectives

President Kocka wished the Bureau members welcome and, speaking on behalf of the whole Bureau, warmly thanked the American Historical Association and Professor William C. Jordan, who made possible the Princeton meeting.

The President then addressed the question of the evolution of ICHS since its beginnings. He stressed the three great moments of its history: ever since its foundation, in 1926, ICHS endeavoured to overcome the World War I animosities and to resume scientific exchanges between European scholars. It is of interest to note that from the very beginning, North America was instrumental in the creation of ICHS. After World War II, ICHS saw a change of role and became a meeting place for Eastern and Western Scholars. And since the end of the Cold War, more precisely since the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989, ICHS must play a new role, spreading out of Europe and reaching out world wide. It must become a truly international organisation, drawing historians from the whole world, and extending its action beyond Europe and North America. This expansion will necessitate a change in our mode of action. For instance, more regional meetings between International Congresses are needed. This requires a better division of labour among the members of the Bureau as well as an effort at networking historians across the globe. As well, ICHS must reach out to younger historians and bring them into our organisation.



A discussion follows. Yvan Berend expresses his agreement with the idea of expanding ICHS outside Europe, and the necessity to bring in younger scholars. Eva Österberg stresses the importance for ICHS to continue to deal with theoretical reflections linked to the craft of history. History is an eclectic discipline and ICHS must emphasize more interdisciplinary endeavours. Michael Heyd expresses his agreement with the President's remarks and wishes to insist on the importance of regional meetings. José Luis Peset argues for an effort to build institutional contacts and to increase financial assistance for these purposes.

2. Report of the Secretary General (September 2000-August 2001)

The Secretary General reports that the secretariat in Montréal is now operational; next month a PhD student working part time will begin to help with regular updates of ICHS files. A greater proportion of the files are now on computer and the Secretary General is using E-mail extensively.

2.1 ICHS affairs

The Bureau is glad to welcome two members who could not attend the Oslo meeting, William Jordan and José Luis Peset. On the other hand, our colleague Theo Barker's health will not allow him to attend our meetings in the future.

The Bureau restreint (Jürgen Kocka, Jean-Claude Robert and Pierre Ducrey), met in Berlin on 23 March 2001. The minutes of this meeting, in French and in English, were distributed to all Bureau members.

The Bulletin d'Information du CISH no 27 – 2001 will be ready for publication by the end of November 2001. The issue will contain minutes of all meetings in Oslo, minutes of Bureau meetings in 2001, and the final report of the outgoing Secretary General, François Bédarida.

The next general Assembly of ICHS will be in Amsterdam, at the invitation of the Royal Dutch Historical Society, on 2 and 3 September 2002. As usual, the Bureau will meet first before the General Assembly, on 31 August, and again in the afternoon of September 3. Here is the timetable:

Friday, 30 August: arrival of the members of the Bureau

Saturday, 31 August: Bureau meeting

Arrival of the delegates to the General Assembly

Sunday, 1st September: Symposium organised by our Dutch colleagues

Monday, 2 September: General Assembly

Tuesday, 3 September: Continuation of the General Assembly in the morning.

Bureau meeting in the afternoon

The 2003 Bureau meeting is slated for Sydney. The discussion focusses on the possibility of cancelling this Bureau meeting because it would be expensive in terms of time and money to move all Bureau members on such a long distance for such a short duration. The rationale for the Bureau meeting in the host city of the future congress is to permit



Bureau members to make sure that the venue is suitable for the congress and that all commitments by the local organising committee are being met. On the other hand, since the General Asssembly in Amsterdam (2002) will have decided on the main components of the scientific programme, there should be little changes in 2003. The meeting of 2004 is, for that matter, much more crucial because by then some changes will have to be approved. The site visit in 2003 could very well be carried by the *Bureau restreint*.

Bureau members agree to avoid costly travels but, nevertheless, they feel a Bureau meeting in 2003 would be advisable and might very well be needed. The suggestion is then made to explore the possibility of combining the Bureau meeting with a regional meeting organised by the joint ICHS-UNESCO Committee.

National Committees

Two associations contacted the Secretary General to obtain information relative to the organisation of a National Committee: South Africa and the Philippines.

International Affiliated Organisations

The International Commission of Historical Demography decided to transform itself into an Affiliated International Organisation, thus conforming to the decision of the General Assembly at Prague (1992). The Bureau wishes to express its satisfaction to see this important Commission in a better position to continue its work.

Internal Commissions

Following a session on the History of Tourism during the Oslo Congress, a group of historians organised an International Commission on the History of Travel and Tourism. The General Secretary has reviewed their statutes and the composition of the first Bureau. The statutes are in accordance with our principles and the composition of the Bureau is international in scope.

He moves the acceptation of this new Internal Commission. The Bureau accepts and recommends the acceptance to the General Assembly.

International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (ICPHS)

The ICPHS held its meeting in Buenos Aires in October 2000 and the Secretary General was representing ICHS. A new Bureau was elected and the present Secretary General, Maurice Aymard, was reelected. Changes in the relationship between ICPHS and UNESCO forced the council to modifiy its procedures, especially because of the new funding rules, but in the main, ICPHS will continue to fund the journal Diogène and its own organisations. ICPHS suffered a 20% budget cut in the process. ICHS does receive a small grant to help bring colleagues from the South for its quinquennal Congress. ICPHS follows roughly the same objectives than we do, especially throught its desire to reach out to countries outside Europe and North America. The journal Diogène has sent a call to all its organisations for suggestions for thematic issues. It may be recalled that in 1994, François Bédarida put together an issue devoted to the theme: the social responsibility of the Historian. The Secretary General will receive any suggestions from our member organisations.

The joint ICHS-UNESCO Committee



In 1997, a joint ICHS-UNESCO committee was created to organise regional meetings with historians of Africa, Est-Central Europe and Latin America [See Bulletin d'Information du CISH No 24 (1998): p. 26 and 56 and Bulletin d'Information du CISH No 25-26 (1999-2000): p. 40]. The Committee organised two meetings, funded entirely by UNESCO, as part of the «Peace Culture» Programme. One took place in Lublin en 1998 and the other in Bamako, in 1999. In Olso, two workshops were held on the theme of the creation of frontiers. The financial problems of UNESCO prevented continuation of this joint Committee, but in May 2001, Professor Jerzy Kloczowski, president of the joint Committee, informed ICHS that UNESCO was still interested in this programme and that some funds would be set aside in the next biannual budget. On the other hand the Bureau of ICHS, during its Oslo meeting, had expressed its willingness to continue its collaboration with UNESCO. On behalf of the Bureau, Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch attended two preliminary informal meetings in May and June in Paris and, in July, the Secretary General had a long and fruitful meeting with Professor J. Kloczowski in Montréal. ICHS wishes to organise regional meetings again in Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, and possibly also in Central Eastern Europe. The next formal meeting of the joint ICHS-UNESCO Committee is to be held at the end of October in Paris when the UNESCO budget will be known. Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch, José Luis Peset and Jean-Claude Robert will represent ICHS, president Jürgen Kocka being unable to attend.

An important congress of the Association of African Historians will take place in Bamako, Mali, (9-14 September) and ICHS will be represented by Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch and the Secretary General.

ICHS publications

The Bulletin d'information No 27 (2001) will be published in Montréal in November 2001. The continuation of this publication on a regular basis is called into question by some members, especially in the view of the existence of our Web site (www.cish.org). The Bulletin is published annually since 1985; before that date, it was published roughly every five years. The scope of the Bulletin expanded over the years, from a hundred pages to more than two hundred. Its cost represents a heavy burden on the finances of ICHS, in terms of preparation, printing and mailing. In Olso, the Bureau decided to reduce the number of copies distributed to National Committees and International Affliated Organisations from 10 to 5. This reduction should bring significant savings in printing and mailing costs.

The discussion underlines two aspects: the necessity for ICHS to have an efficient means of communication and to have a tangible «signature», to bolster its visibility and to facilitate the circulation of information. But ICHS will always have specific problems. With no individual members, ICHS depends on the National Committees and International Affiliated Organisations for the proper dissemination of information contained in the Bulletin. On the other hand, the publication of a shorter newsletter, on a quarterly basis, would be a too heavy burden for the human and financial resources of ICHS. Moreover, such a Newsletter would contain a lot of information available elsewhere, especially on H-Net, and would become quickly obsolete. Any project involving a larger diffusion from the Secretariat is unrealistic given the level of our resources. Finally, the decision is taken to continue with the Bulletin in its present form, even if most of the information appears on our Web site. However, the Secretary General wishes to limit the number of pages and avoid turning the Bulletin into a learned journal. It must remain a means of communication and contact between the member organisations.

Finally, the Bureau of ICHS decided to give a last try to the project of publishing a



shortened English version of Karl Dietrich Erdman's book (Die Oekumene der Historiker), published in 1987, which documents ICHS history from the beginnings to 1985 [See the book review by Prof. I. Veit-Brause in History and Theory, XXIX, 3 (1990): 358-375]. Jürgen Kocka has already established contacts with various publishers and will follow-up on this project.

ICHS interventions

The Secretary General expressed ICHS concerns to the Indian National Committee over the interruption of the publication of some volumes of the series Towards Freedom. The problem here is freedom of expression of scholars in the face of what appears to be a gesture of censorship. We are still expecting an answer from our Indian colleagues.

3. Report of the Treasurer

The Treasurer submits two documents (Comptes 2000 and Bilan) and presents them. The Bilan shows that our financial situation is sound despite customary delays in the payment of annual dues. A few National Committees and International Affiliated Organisations are very slow to pay and accumulated arrears for a few years. The Treasurer asks Bureau members to help him in contacting certain National Committees. ICHS capital and reserve was adversely affected by the economic downturn, but overall, our investments are sufficiently diversified to avoid great losses.

The Treasurer brings to the attention of Bureau members the fact that the finances of ICHS are an instrument at the disposal of ICHS to attain its objectives and the goal is not to accumulate funds. Bureau members raise the question of a fee increase to match the raise in the cost-of-living index and to bring in more resources to ICHS, particularly in view of its own projects, but no decision is taken on the subject. Michael Heyd raises the matter of the level of fees for National Committees being set up, proposing that ICHS establishes a fee structure taking into account the different capacity of payment of certain countries or regions. The discussion brings up the fact that it is rarely uniquely a lack of resources that is the problem but rather the difficulty of building a sound, efficient, and durable organisational structure. In this context, in the past the Bureau did what it could to help National Committees being set up and is ready to continue to do so. But there is a real danger of creating a second, lesser order of members if we tamper with the fee structure. The matter of the structure of ICHS is then brought up: our two pillars are the National Committees and the International Affiliated Organisations. Another structure could be possible, involving universities or other forms of associations who could join the ICHS. It is agreed that the next Bureau meeting will explore this matter further. It is recalled that any modification of the base of ICHS involves a change of the statutes.

4. Report on the 19th Congress (Olso)

The Organising Committee of the Oslo Congress prepared a report on the Congress and distributed it to Bureau members. This is the second time that such a report is prepared, the initiative having been taken by the Organising Committee of the Montréal Congress to supply future organising committees with an institutional memory of ICHS congresses. Even Lange presents the salient features of the written report, underlining the problem areas. The Congress went very well, but the Committee has to deal with an accumulated deficit of around 8%, that it must cover one way or another. Even Lange presents his report in five points, in the form of recommendations to the Bureau for the organisation of future congresses.



a) Registration fees

The Norwegian Committee suggests that registration fees should be substantially increased for the next congress. Fees were too low in Oslo and should amount to a greater proportion of the Congress budget. The percentage was 20% in Olso, against 37% in Montréal.

The president of the Norwegian Committee presents the overall financial picture of the Congress and underlines the fact that his budgetary estimates were based on greater number of paying participants than in Montréal (2 225 in 1995). The Committee expected 3 000 paid registrations. The fact that the whole budget was based on such a high figure is responsible for the deficit.

b) Brand building

The Olso Congress organisers worked to build a brand image of ICHS as the unique generalist organisation devoted to all aspect of history and that ICHS should continue to develop this brand image.

c) Call for paper procedures

If the selection process for themes is satisfactory, it is not the same with the call for papers. Potential contributors do not know the selection procedure used and the process therefore seems mysterious. The Committee suggests leaving more room to the Organisers to complete the selection.

d) The abstracts

The publication of a book of abstracts prior to the Congress requires review. It is costly and time-consuming. The Committee suggests to drop this publication and to use the Internet instead.

e) The date of the Congress

Fixing the date of the Congress is crucial because of its implication on attendance. Because of the various academic calendars across the world, some colleagues will be able to attend and some not. For instance in Oslo, there were more United States historians than in Montréal, but fewer Europeans. Beginning of term in the US being in early September, it is easier for colleagues to attend a meeting in early August. On the other hand, Europeans whose term starts later in September or early October, and ends later, are generally on vacation in August and less inclined to attend a Congress at that time.

Discussion of Even Lange's report is lively and allows Bureau members to touch upon most questions regarding the Congress. Eva Österberg states that it is unrealistic to postulate that the overall attendance to the International Congress will increase each time indefinitely. The potential public of the Congress is not elastic and this should be taken into account when preparing estimates. Jean-Claude Robert agrees and reminds members that a proper estimate of attendance is a very critical instrument for the Organising Committee because it allows the calculation of a proper budget estimate and timing for expenses. For instance, in Montréal, the break even point was fixed at 1 700 paid registrations and this figure enabled the organisers to monitor closely the expenditures and to prepare various scenarios in case of a significant variation in attendance. Costly budget items like receptions could be adjusted at a 24 or 48 hour notice to take into account real registration figures and adjust spending to revenue. Even Lange brings up an important point for the next Congress: the Professional Congress Organiser (PCO) they worked with was late in supplying the Organising Committee with accurate data on registrations and expenses, which impeded the Organising Committee's



decision-making process. Jean-Claude Robert reminds the Bureau that both the Madrid Congress (1990) and the Montréal Congress (1995) made surpluses; the fact that the Oslo Congress had a deficit seems like an exception.

Registration fees are then discussed. The Committee's proposal to increase them significantly raises a lot of objections and is not retained by the Bureau. The majority of members thinks that the increase must be gradual and must always take into account the level of fees at the last Congress. From Montréal to Oslo, there was a 15% increase.

There is a consensus on the idea of brand building for ICHS. Bureau members agree that the quinquennial Congress must continue to offer a programme that takes into account the evolution of the discipline as a whole and selects themes that are of interest to the widest possible audience of historians regardless of their own areas of specialisation.

The call for paper procedure brings a lot of discussion among members. Many find the current procedure too constraining. Possible contributors are numerous and Bureau members received many complaints from colleagues who felt excluded from the selection. The possibility of leaving some empty slots in various sessions is brought up. But this in turn creates two problems: the first one is the obligation to publish a preliminary programme as soon as possible so that contributors will be able to apply for travel grants in their respective countries since funding agencies require such a proof. The second is linked to our procedures: when a report must be produced for the session, the rapporteur must have the time to read the final papers of his sessions a few months in advance, and to write his report. There is some latitude but not a great deal.

The question of the difference between the Specialised themes and the Tables rondes is then raised. A certain confusion was evident in Olso and some Tables rondes were seen as a kind of junior Specialised themes. At the outset, when Tables rondes were created, the idea was to provide a place where work in progress could be discussed with less formality than in the regular thematic sessions. Over the time, this aspect tended to fade away. Michael Heyd brings up the fact that presidents of Tables rondes spoke for too long, thus cutting into the time left for presentations by other participants and in fine to questions from the audience.

The matter of the publication of abstracts is brought up next. There is a consensus to stop publishing the résumés and to make them available on the Internet instead. Only reports should be published together with the titles of the contributions in each session. This will reduce the size of the work and produce a book easier to handle and to peruse.

On behalf of all members of the Bureau, Jürgen Kocka thanks Even Lange, President of the Organising Committee of the 19th International Congress of Historical Sciences, for the good work of the Committee and for his report which will be of much use in the future.

5. Report on the organisation of the 20th Congress (Sydney)

Martyn Lyons, President of the Organising Committee of the 20th International Congress of Historical Sciences reports on the current thinking of the Committee and its preliminary work for 2005. He begins by stressing the continuity with the Olso Congress and he agrees with most of the suggestions made by the Norwegian Committee. He reminds Bureau members of the dates of the next Congress: 4 –11 July 2005. Following questions about the dates, he states that they are in accordance with the academic year calendars for the Asia-Pacific region and he doubts that they could be moved later in



July. The Committee will soon be choosing its PCO (Professional Congress Organiser) and is currently working on a preliminary budget. The Committee prepared a lower registration estimate in order to take into account the higher cost of air travel to Australia and its impact on attendance. This lower estimate will enable the Committee to adjust spending to revenue and to avoid any deficit. A base registration fee of 250\$ US is proposed.

6. Preparation of the 20th Congress (Sydney)

Following presentation and discussion of these two reports, the Bureau then examines the structure of the next Congress.

6.1 Type of sessions

The Bureau examines the three types of sessions of its congresses.

6.1.1 Major Themes

All agree that the number must remain at 3. However, some changes are proposed for 2005. It is suggested that at least one Major Theme could be organised around a keynote speech given by a colleague well known for its contribution to the theme. One or two rapporteurs could then respond to the presentation and lead discussion with the audience. The session would be a full day meeting. Major Themes could also be more interdisciplinary in their content.

6.1.2 Specialised Themes

Many comments were made on Specialised Themes. First, the rapporteur seems to take too much room in the session. As William Jordan and others Bureau members noted, colleagues come to a session to listen to presentations of the papers listed in the programme. As the gist of the report is not known, it is not what draws the audience. It is therefore important to give enough time to each of the paper givers. It is proposed that, in the future, Specialised Theme sessions follow this procedure: the organiser or the rapporteur presents the theme in 5 to 10 minutes; each of the contributors has up to 15 minutes to outline the salient features of his paper, and finally the rapporteur has 15 minutes to present his report, outlining the contribution of each paper to the theme, offer some remarks and suggest possible avenues for discussion. The rapporteur's role is combined with the role of a discussant. It is essential to allow around 40 minutes for discussion with the audience.

6.1.3 Round tables

Round Tables should return to their original format, namely a session to explore an historical problem that is relatively new and raises a lot of questions or controversy. The notion of work in progress is crucial here. Round Tables should not become a kind of junior Specialised Theme. The opinion of the members of the Bureau will be important to decide which theme is more suitable for a Round Table or a Specialised Theme. If needed, the number of Specialised Themes could be increased.

6.1.4 Balancing the sessions

In Oslo, there were 3 Major Themes, 20 Specialised Themes and 25 Round Tables, compared to 3-16-34 in Montréal. The Bureau proposes for Sydney: 3 Major Themes, 25 Specialised Themes and 20 Round Tables.

6.1.5 Opening and Closing sessions

The Bureau has to decide on the format of the opening session. Many formats were tried in the past. In Montréal there were four video presentations followed by a live panel



discussion and in Olso, there were three live presentations in the room. There also remains the possibility of an opening lecture. The Bureau will continue its reflections on the matter. As for the closing session, the responsibility falls to the Australian Organising Committee and they must have some time to think it over.

6.2 Call for papers and selection of contributors

The Bureau agrees to leave more flexibility for the selection of contributors. However, a number of factors will have to be taken into consideration: the balance between countries and regions, between gender, and the necessary delay to prepare a report. It is proposed to leave more latitude to Organisers. Meeting deadlines will still be an inescapable constraint. For instance, to have a report available in print in July 2005, the Australian Organising Committee needs to receive papers by March 2005 at the latest and in order for the rapporteurs to be able to prepare and write their reports, they must receive the final papers in October 2004 at the latest. This does not leave a lot of time: by the end of December 2003, all contributors should be chosen.

6.3 Proceedings

The Bureau decides to publish only the full text of the reports and the list of contributors with the title of each paper. Abstracts will be made available through the Congress Web site.

6.4 Travel grants for colleagues from the South or the East

Since the proceedings will be less costly, it is decided that from now on, the 45 000 Swiss Francs subsidy that was given to the Congress Organising Committee will be earmarked for travel grants to contributors from the South or the East.

6.5 Themes for the Sydney Congress

National Committees, International Affiliated Organisations and Internal Commissions have until September 30 to send to the Secretary General their proposals for themes for Sydney. Bureau members explore various possibilities for Major themes. The President reminds the Bureau that in Oslo, we had chosen the millennium and questions relating to periodisation of history. He suggests that for major themes, ICHS should look for themes not generally chosen in more specialised historical congresses, in order to bring down barriers between various historical fields and historians. A theme that seems important to him is history from a non-European perspective, a vision of the history of the world from various cultures. Koichi Kabayama agrees and suggests strongly to focus on an Oceania and Pacific perspective. Ivan Berend proposes the complex theme of globalisation, especially in its economic and cultural dimensions. He also suggests an interdisciplinary approach. Eva Österberg also wishes for a non-European perspective and suggests looking at trans-national phenomena such as the human beings and human nature or the informal organisation of society (friendship, conviviality). She also wishes for a more theoretical or conceptual content to the themes. Catherine Coquery-Vidrovitch suggests four themes: the history of the world from a non-European point of view, the relationships between cultures and globalisation, comparative history, the fall of empires through history. William Jordan suggests themes related to human rights: ideas and practice of human rights, the moral dimension of human beings as a specific value, cultures and their impact on human rights, the trumping of national sovereignty by charters of rights. Pierre Ducrey underlines the fact that our themes must be compatible with all periods of history, and more specifically, Ancient history. Martyn Lyons suggests a better wording of «non-European» which can be seen as condescending. He proposes the theme of cultural clashes and cultural interpenetration, and the theme of settler societies. Eva Österberg feels strongly that one major theme should be theoretical, the identity of history as a discipline between literature and the social sciences.



The Bureau then nominates Eva Österberg, Jürgen Kocka and the Secretary General to form a committee to examine the various propositions received and prepare for the Bureau a global proposal that will be brought to the General Assembly, which has to make the final decision.

7. Action Plan for ICHS

The President has prepared a mission statement for ICHS that was discussed by the Bureau restreint. Picking up on this theme, the Bureau discusses various objectives to be attained between now and the Sydney Congress. The Secretary General stresses the importance to induce National Committees and International Affiliated Organisations to participate fully in those objectives and the need to find out what they could do to help meet the objectives. In the same vein Bureau members are asked in which area they would be ready to contribute.

8. Other matters

The Bureau will have to think to the 2005 elections, because the General Assembly of 2002 has to set up a Nominating Committee of seven members, three from to the Bureau and four from the delegates. This Nominating Committee is responsible for the nomination of candidates to the Bureau and for President, Vice-president, Secretary General and Treasurer.

9. Special academic session

Special academic session of the Bureau

Princeton, 26 August 2001

Presentations of historical research.

As usual, the Bureau asked to the organiser of the meeting in Princeton to set up a special session in which the Bureau could get acquainted with recent work by younger American scholars. Three papers were presented. William Jordan introduced the sessions and the participants.

Andrew Isenberg, Princeton University, «The Alchemy of Hydraulic Mining: Ecology and Culture in Gold Rush California, 1850-1885»

Khaled Fahmy, New York University, «Mehmed Ali Pasha / Muhammad 'Ali Basha between Ottomanists and Egyptian Nationalists: An Historiographical Critique»

Samantha Kelly, Rutgers University, «Robert of Naples and Fourtheenth-Century Kingship»

The presentations were followed by a question period. President Jürgen Kocka concluded the session by thanking the participants for their interesting and stimulating papers.