President's Message

Fa-ti Fan

Greetings! I hope this message finds you well. The Annual Meeting is approaching, and we are gearing up for the big event. It will be our first onsite, in-person meeting since 2019, before the outbreak of the Covid pandemic. It has been a long time since we all gathered in one place, sharing ideas, knowledge, intellectual excitement, and happy conversations. This year’s program is amazingly rich and impressive. I am grateful to all of you who submitted proposals and to the committees responsible for this wonderful program. I am extremely excited about this meeting. We are back! And I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Continued on page 2.
President's Message Continued

Our membership is growing, and we expect this excellent development to continue. I believe that to sustain this success, we should push forward with the following actions.

First, we must support the younger generation of historians of science and move the Society and the field forward in exciting directions. The HSS Interdisciplinary Summer School for graduate students and recent Ph.Ds is a meaningful step. It is not simply a career service, but it is also a place where young minds can meet and cultivate the intellectual future of the discipline. Another way in which we are supporting the next generation of historians of science is through our support for emerging scholars, such as the NSF travel fund, the NASA fellowship, and other funding sources with which we are partners. We’re also actively publicizing job opportunities via our website and social media. However, we need to do more. To help achieve our goal, we welcome donations to the Graduate Student Support Fund.

Second, many of our members are based at smaller public universities or other under-resourced institutions. They are highly accomplished scholars and educators who teach a wide range of aspiring students, some of whom will go on to become historians of science or go into careers that intersect with history of science. Sometimes, these colleagues’ expertise in history of science is not well understood or well appreciated by their institutions. I believe that HSS can help in these cases. Indeed, I think that it would be a good idea for the officers of HSS to visit fledgling history of science programs and highlight their importance and contribution to their institutions, the field of history of science, and higher education in general. Most importantly, we should reach out to minority-serving institutions. It is an area in which we can and should do better. I plan to pursue outreach efforts in the coming year, and I welcome any suggestions and proposals to help us achieve these goals. Please feel free to contact me or JP, our Executive Director, directly.

And, third, with the aim to globalize our Society and the discipline of history of science, we welcome more scholars in different parts of the world to join HSS. To have our Centennial meeting in Mérida, Mexico in 2024 is of great intellectual and symbolic significance. The Committee on Membership worked very hard this summer and completed several important tasks, including designing a new, up-to-date tiered-membership system, which we hope will bring in more international scholars. It is part of our concerted plan to pave a path for the growth and continual success of the Society. We’re also actively recruiting new members through our Sponsor-a-Scholar Program. Please help us publicize the program.
President's Message Continued

As part of these efforts, we are pleased to announce a new forum of HSS – the Forum for the History and Science and Knowledge in Latin America and the Caribbean. Welcome aboard!

The Society will be 100 years old in 2024! Looking ahead, we are launching a series of Centennial initiatives that will culminate with the 2024 annual meeting in Mérida. We have put together a Centennial Committee to help plan and organize these initiatives. We hope to roll out the first installment of activities soon, and we'll update you on the progress as they come along.

The Centennial of HSS belongs to us all. I strongly encourage all committees, caucuses, forums, and members to come up with ideas and projects that are most meaningful to you at this special moment for our Society. Let’s work together to celebrate the Centennial.

Please contact me or JP directly if you have any ideas, questions, comments, or suggestions. Thank you so much!
Anxieties: Note from the Executive Office

John Paul Gutierrez

For the department chairs or those in administration, you’ll know all about this. In leadership training and in leadership books there is a lot written about “authenticity.” What does it mean to be an authentic leader? If you are open and true to your emotions and self, and let others engage with you on that level, it can be a great way to form partnerships that produce meaningful outcomes. If you lead in that way, you can also lose the trust and the confidence that others may have in you, and can authentically fail.

The choice to be authentic is a choice that can lead to anxieties.

These past years have filled us with anxieties. Health, jobs, social interactions, and the pandemic only exacerbated these. Now that are being asked to return to pre-pandemic ways, that brings on a whole new level of anxieties.

There is no lack of anxiety as we move to hold our first in-person meeting since 2019. This meeting carries for me a load of anxieties; People’s health and safety, their overall experience, the amount of coffee during a break, the wifi going down, and of course, the first time I will meet many of you in person.

These and many more weigh heavy as we prepare for Chicago. And I know that these same anxieties are being felt by our members. This Annual Meeting is a cause for celebration, but also of reflection on what this means to our professional and personal lives. What I’ve learned form my interactions with members this past year, is that we are an open and kind community. Because of that, I feel free to share my anxieties. This doesn’t make me feel judged or incapable; it makes me feel uplifted by the work and kindness of our Executive Committee and Council. That support lets me be authentic.

Let me add a word to our members who are getting ready to come to Chicago. We know that this is a difficult time. You'll be preparing your talks, managing your travel, and getting ready to leave family for what could be your first large social interaction since the pandemic began. We are here for you, and if you need anything, do not hesitate to email me at jp@hssonline.org.
Note from the Executive Office Continued

There are many people to thank in the preparation of our Annual Meeting. In particularly, I’d like to offer hearty thanks to Don Opitz and Jaipreet Virdi, for designing the program, and thoughtfully allowing for time away from the meeting during the lunch break. They have made time for a much needed break in the middle of the day. I’d also like to thank CoEE and Local Arrangements for organizing some great public events, and Morgan Valenzuela and our new undergraduate assistant Emily Huynh for answering the myriad of questions from members and solidifying the logistical elements of virtual presenters.

I look forward to celebrating our return to in-person conferences with all of you, in a space I hope can facilitate everyone being their authentic selves.


Apply Now for 2023–2024 Huntington Library Research Fellowships

The Huntington Library will begin accepting Research Fellowship Applications for the 23–24 fellowship year for Long-Term Fellowships, Short-Term Fellowships, and Travel Grants on August 31, 2022, until 11:59 PM PST on November 15, 2022.

Resources

The Huntington is a collections-based research and educational institution, which promotes humanities scholarship on the basis of its library holdings and Art Collections.

The Library holds more than 11 million items that span the 11th to 21st centuries. Its diverse materials center on fourteen intersecting collection strengths.

Support
The Huntington offers fourteen Long-Term Fellowships for nine to twelve months in residence, each with a stipend of $50,000. Although nine of these are open to scholars working on projects in any area where The Huntington’s collections are strong, there are specific awards for the study of Octavia E. Butler (the Butler fellowship), maritime history (The Kemble Fellowship), the history of medicine (The Molina Fellowship) and the history of science (The Dibner Fellowships). Three awards (the Thom Fellowships) are reserved for recent post-doctoral scholars. Approximately 140 Short-Term Fellowships are available for one to five months in residence and carry monthly stipends of $3,500. They are open to scholars in any field where The Huntington’s collections are strong.

Recipients of all fellowships are expected to be in continuous residence at The Huntington and to participate in, and make a contribution to, its intellectual life. Six Travel Grants for Study Abroad are available in any of the fields in which The Huntington's own collections are strong and where the research will be carried out in libraries or archives outside of the United States or Canada, especially those in the UK, continental Europe, or Latin America.

We also offer nine Exchange Fellowships with Corpus Christi, Jesus, Linacre, Lincoln, and New Colleges, Oxford; Trinity Hall, Cambridge; Trinity College Dublin/Marsh’s Library; the University of Durham; and the John Rylands Research Institute and Library at The University of Manchester. The intention is to encourage projects which can be developed both in The Huntington’s collections and in archives across the world.

For details of eligibility and the applications process, see https://www.huntington.org/fellowships.

Application
Applications are submitted online. It is advisable to begin your online application well before the application deadline. You may revise your application at any time until the deadline. For more information, see Fellowship FAQs or email Fellowships@huntington.org.
Nathan Sivin (1931-2022), Professor Emeritus of the History and Sociology of Science at the University of Pennsylvania, died peacefully at home on June 24, 2022, at the age of 91.

Since 1962, he was married to Carole Delmore Sivin (1936-2020). His work on China constituted a spectacular contribution to the history of science, medicine, and religion. He was, in the words of a former student, "a great scholar and a great human being."

Nathan grew up in Fairmont, West Virginia, and despite having—by his own account—a mediocre primary and secondary education, upon graduating he won a scholarship from the Pepsi-Cola company that provided full tuition to any college that would accept him. In his case, this meant at first matriculating at MIT as a chemistry major. When asked in a 2021 interview if there was something particular about chemistry, he responded: “Explosives. I actually made some money by making and selling gunpowder to my friend, it’s not really very difficult.”

A fateful stint in the U.S. Army during the Korean War interrupted his undergraduate studies and included an eighteen-month Chinese-language course at the Army Language School in California. Afterward, he returned to MIT to complete his degree, but chose to switch his major to the new Science and Humanities program, an early sign of the resistance to parochialism that would distinguish his whole career.
Nathan Sivin Continued

He went on to take an MA (1960) and a PhD (1966) in the history of science at Harvard University.

He began his teaching career at his alma mater, MIT, swiftly rising from assistant to full professor and establishing “Technology Studies,” but what is now the university’s renowned Science, Technology, and Society program. In 1977, then Dean Vartan Gregorian convinced him to move to the University of Pennsylvania as professor of “Oriental Studies.” In his own words, he was professor of “Sociology of Science, Chinese Studies, and Philosophy” with a primary appointment in Chinese Studies. Later his title officially changed to professor of Chinese culture and the history of science and he also joined the History and Sociology of Science Department. He taught at Penn until 2006, when he officially retired as Professor Emeritus. But, in fact, he continued to teach and advise students informally until shortly before his death.

Nathan often described himself as a generalist or even a dilettante. Such self-deprecating labels evoked disbelieving smiles; there was nothing superficial or amateurish about his knowledge. He learned from and collaborated with accomplished scholars all over the world, studying classical Chinese and philosophy with the Manchu prince Aisin Gioro Yü-yün in Taiwan and Chinese alchemy in Singapore with Ho Peng-Yoke when he was writing his PhD Thesis. He also worked for many years not only with Joseph Needham (writing a contribution on Chinese alchemy and editing a posthumous volume of Needham’s essays for Science and Civilization in China) but also with the historians of science Shigeru Nakayama in Japan and Geoffrey E.R. Lloyd in Cambridge, England.

The eighteen books that he wrote or edited, and his many pathbreaking essays (over 70 as of 2007) that continue to be cited in publications and assigned in graduate seminars as well as undergraduate classes, attest to the lasting influence of his arguments as well as the clarity of his writing. Many institutions and organizations sought him out as a keynote speaker. Scholars at every stage of their careers asked his help to make their manuscripts more rigorous and readable. He was elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences made him an honorary professor. Not bad for a self-professed dabbler.

What the term “generalist” captured accurately, though, was the breadth of Nathan’s interests as well as his extraordinary reach. He published on periods ranging from 400 BC to the present. His books included one on alchemy, at least two on astronomy, several on medicine and healing, one on historiography, and a number that are too capacious to pigeonhole. Among the latter is The Way and the Word (2002), the ambitious book he published with G.E.R. Lloyd, a well-known historian of ancient Greek knowledge.
Nathan Sivin Continued

In this collaboration, the authors compared ancient Greek and Chinese science as “cultural manifolds,” a term they coined as shorthand for the idea that to really understand scientific ideas, in any period or place, you need to know something about how scientific thinkers made a living, related to others in their social world, and communicated their ideas. Few historians of science today would likely disagree, but no one had executed, as Sivin and Lloyd did, a comparison of the manifolds of two such different bodies of knowledge over six centuries, considering how their social, cultural, and institutional frameworks fundamentally shaped their theoretical preoccupations.

Not everyone appreciated his cross-cultural, interdisciplinary élan. Nathan endured his share of negative reviews and complaints that he’d done insufficient justice to a favorite ancient text or specific scholarly niche. But he made no concession to the trapdoor spiders of the academic world, ready to pounce on whomever might enter their cramped territory. He encouraged Sinologists to learn about science, technology, and medicine, not just poetry, literature, and philosophy; he encouraged Europeanists and Americanists to be curious about China; he thought historians had a great deal to gain by reading anthropologists and sociologists. Nor was he prescribing to others. He sometimes told his students, when they asked him what they should do, “I never use the words ‘ought’ or ‘should’ with adults.” Instead, he modeled his academic ideals, collaborating with the medical sociologist Renée Fox to teach a course on the sociology of professionalization, for example, and using the work of medical anthropologists, such as Judith Farquhar, Volker Scheid, and Daniel Moerman, to inform his approach to the history of medicine and healing in China.

Nathan empowered his many students to explore their own interests. The diverse topics of the more than twenty doctoral dissertations he advised, in addition to the countless students he informally mentored, demonstrate the range of inquiry he facilitated. They included cosmology and musical theory in ancient China, medicine and disease, alchemy, Daoism, the social history of early-modern Chinese intellectuals, food history, cross-cultural exchanges between India and China, textile history, aerospace engineering, and much more. Many of his students went on to positions teaching Chinese history, religion, medical history, or the history of science at colleges and universities. He was equally proud of the ones who became practitioners of traditional medicine, economists, and lawyers or chose to work in the U.S. government. What mattered was curiosity, not academic rank. He shared his time and knowledge as generously with a bright undergraduate as with a senior scholar.
He was also technologically savvy, a consistently early adopter of any promising tool. For his undergraduate honors thesis in 1958 he drew on what he’d learned about mechanical translation at MIT to write about how one might teach a computer scanner to read Chinese. In the 1990s, when the free, open-source software Linux became available, he embraced it. As soon as Chinese character software became available around the same time he integrated it into his typed manuscripts. He knew how to navigate both the paper-bound world of dictionaries, concordances, and encyclopedias that Sinologists inhabited when he began his career, and the very different digital universe available to scholars today.

Nathan famously disliked bad writing. Anyone who sent him a draft knows what the sting of his thorough, acerbic comments felt like—but they also know that his comments made their writing better and thoughts clearer. Upon his retirement, he gifted to a student a set of stamps he’d had made for flagging common writing errors efficiently: “HYPHENATE COMPOUND ADJECTIVES,” “TWO COMMAS OR NONE,” and “PUT ACTION IN VERB.” Knowing that he was a better writer than most academics, he happily took on the burdensome task of editing journals. He founded the journal Chinese Science, serving as its chief editor for twenty years, before it became East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine and the official journal of the International Society of the History of Science.
Previously unavailable in English. He continued to enjoy fine cooking, drinking good wine with friends, visits from students and colleagues, and the company of his final feline companion, Beta. Their cats always had names like Thing 1 and Thing 2, or Alpha and Beta, or even Plato, because, like TS Eliot, Nathan believed that only the cat knows its real name. In his last days, as in all those previous, he demonstrated what a good life can look like and, especially, what made life worth living.

Ars longa, vita brevis, Nathan used to say, quoting from the Aphorism in the Hippocratic corpus. To his students and colleagues, that statement has never seemed so true, or so poignant, as it does now.

Co-authored by Marta Hanson, Michael Nylan, Hilary A. Smith
Marta Hanson is Retired Associate Professor of the Department of the History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, and Visiting Scholar at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science.
Michael Nylan is Jane K. Sather Professor in the Department of History at the University of California-Berkeley.
Hilary A. Smith is Associate Professor of History at the University of Denver.

Right up to the time of his death, Nathan was actively working on finishing a sourcebook of 120 translations of a wide spectrum of genres related to healing in China from the first century to the end of the nineteenth. It will be published posthumously, affording English-reading students and scholars access to a wealth of Chinese primary source material.
The UCLA Department of History invites applications for a tenure-track position at the rank of assistant professor in the history of medicine. The chronological and geographical range are open but we especially welcome candidates whose work includes a transnational or global dimension, who are interested in the technological and material aspects of medical practice, broadly construed, and who think in an integrated way about the history of science, technology and medicine and their place in a history department.

The deadline for receiving applications and required documents is November 1, 2022. Applications will be reviewed immediately thereafter. All candidates must have completed their PhD in history or related field no later than June 30, 2023.

The department welcomes candidates whose experience in teaching, research or community service has prepared them to contribute to our commitment to diversity and excellence. All qualified applicants are encouraged to apply online at https://recruit.apo.ucla.edu/JPF07754 to upload their information for this position.

Documents should include a letter of application; curriculum vitae; writing sample; statements of teaching and research; and three letters of recommendation.
Announcement:

Karen Rader and Marsha Richmond, current Co-Editors in Chief of the Journal of the History of Biology, along with Springer Nature Publishing Company, announce the selection of new Co-Editors in Chief for the journal: Professor Emeritus Nicolas Rasmussen (University of New South Wales, Australia) and Professor Vassiliki Betty Smocovitis (University of Florida, USA).


Ties Nijsen, Springer-Nature Senior Editor of the History and Philosophy of Science, offers his excitement about the new editors and reflects on JHB's past and present leadership in the field: “Since 1968 the Journal for the History of Biology has constantly published state-of-the-art academic research. A regular change of Editors in Chief is one of the key ingredients to achieving this. It is the Editor in Chief who makes content decisions and sets the strategic content direction of the journal. From their start in 2018, Karen and Marsha have done an outstanding job. They expanded the journal with various collections that promise to extend the reach of the journal. In addition, they brought down the time authors have to wait to get a first decision to 47 days and increased the readership to over 70,000 individual downloads in 2021. I will miss our great board meetings and hope we will meet again at ISH with incoming editors Betty and Nic. They have great plans to strengthen and expand the success of the journal, and I look forward to working with them.”
While our department was officially created in 1970, history of science at the University of Pennsylvania had earlier origins. In 1962, the university created a program of graduate studies, “designed to further the systematic investigation of the history, the customs and social institutions, and the methodologies of science and technology.” First called “History and Philosophy of Science,” it combined faculty from history, philosophy, anthropology, sociology, chemistry, physics, biology, engineering, English, and American civilization. Loren Eiseley (1907-1977), long-time University of Pennsylvania Museum anthropologist, essayist, and poet, and Provost 1959-1961, played a key role in these early years, building networks of support and interest.

Arnold Thackray was recruited to Penn in 1968, and he managed to use competing offers from both Harvard and Cambridge universities to gain a commitment to create a new Department of History and Sociology of Science. History of science as a discipline was then the focus of rising academic interest. Harvard’s president James Bryant Conant thought that the nuclear age required citizens who could understand science, and saw the history of science as a vehicle for public understanding. Harvard’s enthusiasm provoked other institutions to follow.

Thackray himself was drawn to the field through encounters with Jerome Ravetz, then a Lecturer in History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Leeds in Yorkshire, who encouraged his interests and guided him to Cambridge. Thackray’s PhD at Cambridge led to offers from the United States—a country he recalls he knew primarily through “John Wayne movies.”

During a visiting year at Harvard, he received an invitation to join the faculty at Penn as an Assistant Professor. “Not knowing where the University of Pennsylvania was (but aware that it housed the Edgar Fahs Smith Collection in the History of Chemistry and was home to Chymia, THE annual academic journal of that sub-field) I agreed to take a look.” His visit to Penn led to a tenured position, and then the chairmanship of his own new department.

Thackray promptly recruited a group of leading (indeed, foundational) scholars in the history of science, technology and medicine. Mark Adams and Robert Kohler joined the department early, as did Thomas Parke Hughes. Other early faculty included Diana Crane, now emeritus from Penn’s Department of Sociology; Charles Culotta, a historian of Renaissance science who died at age 35; Russ Maulitz, historian of medicine who returned to medical practice in Philadelphia; and Russell McCormmach, who is now retired from the University of Oregon. Eventually Henrika Kuklick, Rosemary Stevens, Alex Vucinich, Nathan Sivin and Charles Rosenberg became members of HSS. This first team of remarkable scholars established the reputation of Penn’s program as among the best in the world. The department went on to be the academic home of many other influential scholars in the historical and social study of science, technology and medicine, including Steven Feierman and Ruth Schwartz Cowan.
Like so many others, I joined the department as a result of Thackray’s institution-building. My initial 1990 three-year appointment, which eventually led to a tenure track position, was first supported by Thackray’s new Chemical Heritage Foundation, the independent research and public-facing institution which became, through various twists and turns, what is now the Science History Institute in Philadelphia.

Today our PhD graduates hold faculty, research, curatorial, private industry and library positions around the world. Our undergraduate students in our two majors, Health and Societies and Science, Technology and Society, often pursue advanced study in medicine, law, business and a range of humanities and social sciences fields. We now have 14 faculty, two thriving undergraduate majors and a respected network of PhD alums who have reshaped their fields. On October 7–9, 2022, our department will celebrate its 50th anniversary, two years late due to the pandemic. Alumni, former faculty, retired faculty and departmental friends and fellow travelers are coming to Philadelphia from around the world. Our panels feature our distinguished alums, current graduate students and faculty. All formal events will be recorded and available as podcasts on our website.

Planning this event has provoked us to try to understand better the history of our department and its place in the field. We celebrate our 50th anniversary with pride and gratitude, and look forward with enthusiasm to the next 50 years of scholarship, teaching, service—and friendship.
**Isis Interview:**
**Alexandre Roberts on Byzantine Alchemy**

Alexandre Roberts is a historian specializing in Byzantine and medieval Middle Eastern scholars and their engagement with ancient intellectual tradition in the Classics Department at the University of Southern California. His article, “Byzantine Engagement with Islamic Alchemy,” appears in the September 2022 issue of Isis. This article is free to read on the journal homepage this month. Our manuscript assistant, Aaron Jackson, had some questions for him.

**JACKSON:** What first caught your attention and drew you to study the intersection of alchemy and Byzantine-Muslim interactions? Were you interested in alchemy in particular, or were you looking for a case study emblematic of a broader point, and if so why or what were those points?

**ROBERTS:** Byzantium is rarely associated with science.Nevertheless, as I argue in the article, Byzantine-Muslim interactions are pivotal for understanding the history of science, in particular for understanding how and why theories and practices meant to discern the hidden workings of nature developed as they did over the past two millennia. This is because the evidence I discuss, in which medieval Greek sources reveal Byzantine interest in “alchemical” texts in Arabic in other languages of the Islamic world, helps to undermine a standard narrative of the history of science that still holds considerable sway to this day.

This narrative presents the transmission of ancient Greek philosophy and science to modern Europe as a mostly linear path from the ancient Greeks to the Arabs (eighth to tenth century) and then onward to the Latin West (around the twelfth century). In this narrative, western Europeans, beginning with scholars in Italy, then managed to go straight to the source by acquiring Greek manuscripts from the dying Byzantine Empire. In this narrative, the Byzantine Empire and all of the scholars who lived in its territories are given a custodial role at best, the role of holding onto the relevant manuscripts and mindlessly copying them so that they could be used creatively by others, first by the Arabs in the early middle ages and then western Europeans in the fifteenth century and beyond.

But what if that narrative is wrong? What if Byzantine scholars were part of the circulation or even development of knowledge? This would throw a wrench in the whole linear transmission narrative and would require historians of science focusing on any period to pay attention to Byzantine sources on their topic and the possibility that Byzantine scholars are relevant for whatever particular story they are telling, much as historians of science already know to look at ancient Greek texts or medieval Latin texts when working on, say, early modern European scientists.

The trouble is that because of the dominance of the standard narrative, very few scholars have thought it worthwhile to investigate Byzantine sources on scientific subjects, to the point that most of them have not even been published, let alone translated into modern languages or systematically surveyed. It is a vicious cycle. That is why I wrote this article as I did: as a call for non-Byzantinists, especially historians of medieval and early modern Europe, to do their best to pay attention to Byzantium; and a call for Byzantinists to do the basic specialized research to make it possible for them to do so, seeing what they find in the process.
Q: Why did you choose to focus on alchemy?

A: For two reasons: first, because it's a topic that remains very little understood; and second, because as others have pointed out, it's the topic in natural philosophy that seems to have attracted some of the most interest among both Byzantine and Arabophone scholars during the pivotal early Islamic centuries.

As I discussed briefly in the article, the very term “alchemy” is highly problematic. This is something that specialists are very much aware of, but I tend to find existing solutions unsatisfying. The way I see it, our modern term “alchemy” not only carries a lot of ideological baggage but also is so indeterminate in how we use it that it is all but useless as an analytical term. We use it to refer to metallurgy, premodern chemical theory, procedures that purport to synthesize gold, allegorical readings of metallurgical recipes, and so on. There is some evidence that some medieval scholars thought that some of these things were interrelated, but there is little to no evidence that any of them treated or thought of it all as a single package the way we often do today. All this means that the texts and textual traditions that go under the modern name “alchemy” are ripe for reevaluation, in ways that will have broader repercussions in how we think about the development and transmission of these various domains of knowledge and practice, including theoretical and practical chemistry. On top of this, Byzantine alchemical texts have until recently been mostly ignored by scholars, and even Arabic and ancient Greek texts, which have received some attention, are still woefully under-studied. Clearly, then, paying close attention to this material, using a more helpful analytical framework, could completely change how we think about the history of science in this period.

For reasons that we don’t yet understand, a significant portion of surviving philosophical texts from the so-called Byzantine Dark Ages, coinciding with the early Islamic period (around the eighth to the tenth century), are texts of natural philosophy focused on explicating the surprising transformations that material substances, especially fusible metals, undergo under certain natural and artificial conditions. This is true in both Greek and Arabic. Is this an accident of survival? Or does it indicate some heightened and shared interest among Byzantine and Arabophone scholars and patrons in such topics at around this time? The answer is not clear, but what is clear is that because of this overlap in the surviving evidence, patterns of transmission and exchange of scientific ideas between the Byzantine and Islamic worlds are especially likely to turn up in this domain.
Q: What were some interesting finds you came across in your research? Anything unexpected or any “lightbulb moments” that made you take your article in a particular direction?

A: There was one moment when I stumbled across yet another example of an Arabo-Persian word in Greek letters, this time in the margins of the most important surviving Greek alchemical manuscript, Codex M, from around the tenth century. I had been drafting the article’s conclusion, aggregating all of the evidence to try to paint a picture of just how much we already know about Byzantine participation in the circulation of chemical knowledge. Right after doing that, I took a break from writing to do a bit of work on an edition and translation of one of the late Greek texts in Codex M that I have been (slowly) producing. As I was collating M’s text carefully against another version of the text, I noticed this little marginal note beside the part of the text I was working on. As I read it, I immediately realized that it used the Persian word rasukht that appeared in a completely different Byzantine Greek alchemical text that I had already discussed in the article. This marginal note made perfect sense as a comment on the line I was reading. As far as I know, no one had noticed this before (I apologize if I have overlooked anyone’s work on this note!). This startling little discovery, small in itself, gave me the impression — and of course at this point it is only an impression — that examples like this must be everywhere, just waiting for someone to bother to look.
The purpose of EPJH is to catalyse, foster, and disseminate an awareness and understanding of the historical development of ideas in contemporary physics, and more generally, ideas about ‘how Nature works’. EPJH is the only journal to address the history of physics primarily from the physics and physicists’ perspective.

The Archive for History of Exact Sciences casts light upon the conceptual groundwork of the sciences by analyzing the historical course of mathematical and quantitative thought and the precise theory of nature, embracing as well their connections to experiment in the physical and modern biological sciences.

Both, EPJH and AHES, are Hybrid (Transformative) Journals and part of Springer Nature’s Institutional Open Access Agreements https://www.springernature.com/gp/open-research/institutional-agreements
Authors can choose between gold OA or subscription publication, based on their preferences, funder or institutional requirements, and APC funding availability.
Early Renewal

2023 is upon us, meaning it’s time for early renewals of your HSS membership. For many years this process was undertaken by the University of Chicago Press. With our new website functionality, HSS will now be able to take all member renewals directly through the site.

Returning members can log in to their accounts at hssonline.org and click the Join button in the middle section of the site. If your membership expires in 2022, the system will allow you to renew early. If you have a membership that expires in 2023 or 2024, the system will not allow you to renew—you're all set for the time being!

Once you click “Join” and select your membership type, you'll have an opportunity to pay and to make an optional donation.

If you prefer to mail in payment by check, a membership form can be found at the end of this newsletter. You can send that form to:

History of Science Society
PO Box 695
Culver City, CA 90232
USA

We will email all members with a 2022 expiration date in October so you know your status and can start the renewal process.
Call for Papers: Science, Technology, and Medicine in French and Francophone Histories

The editors of French Historical Studies seek articles for a special issue on the histories of science, technology, and medicine to appear in 2025. Topics may range chronologically from the medieval period forward; they may focus on France or move beyond the hexagon, exploring colonial, imperial, transnational, or global dimensions.

Ideally, the articles selected for this special issue will suggest the richness of scholarship on these topics in French and francophone contexts, reflect current concerns and approaches, and indicate productive future directions. We are particularly interested in papers that address the following themes, though authors are by no means limited to these:

- Materials, materialism, and materiality
- Epistemology and ontology
- Data and archives
- Affect, emotion, and sensory history
- Circulation and mobilities

Scholars with questions about whether their research would fit into the special issue are encouraged to contact the guest editors, April Shelford (shelfor@american.edu) and Peter Soppelsa (peter.soppelsa@ou.edu).

To submit an article, visit www.editorialmanager.com/fhs/default.aspx. After registering, follow the submission instructions under “Instructions for Authors” on the website. Articles may be either in English or in French, but must in either case conform to French Historical Studies style and must be accompanied by 150-word abstracts in both French and English. Manuscripts may be between 8,000 words and 12,000 words. For illustrations, stills, or film clips, authors must obtain written permission for both print and online publication from the relevant rights-holding persons or individuals.

Deadline for submission of papers to FHS is August 21, 2023.

Appel à articles : Les Savoirs scientifiques, technologiques, et médicaux dans l’histoire de la France et du monde francophone

Les éditrices de French Historical Studies lancent un appel à articles pour un numéro spécial de la revue sur l’histoire de la science, la technologie, et la médecine, à paraître en 2025. Toutes les périodes de l’histoire entrent dans notre champ d’investigation, de l’époque médiévale à nos jours. Les perspectives métropolitaines, coloniales ou transnationales ainsi que des approches pluridisciplinaires sont encouragées.
approches actuelles dans ces domaines, tout et en indiquant des pistes de recherche prometteuses pour le futur. Une liste non-exclusive des thématiques envisagées comprend :

- Matériaux, matérialisme, matérialité
- Epistémologie et ontologie
- Les données et les archives
- Histoires des émotions, des sens et des sensibilités
- Migrations et mobilités

Pour soumettre un article, veuillez consulter www.editorialmanager.com/fhs/default.as px. Après vous être enregistré.e, suivez les instructions de la section « Instructions for Authors ». Les articles peuvent être soumis en anglais ou en français, mais, dans les deux cas, ils doivent être conformes au style de FHS, et doivent être accompagnés d’un résumé ou abstract de 150 mots, dans les deux langues. Les manuscrits doivent comporter entre 8 000 et 12 000 mots. Concernant les illustrations, prises de vue, ou extraits de film, les auteurs doivent obtenir la permission écrite de les publier sous forme papier et digitale de la part des personnes dépositaires des droits sur ces images ou extraits audiovisuels, ou de la part des responsables des institutions d’où les images sont originaires.

Les questions sont à adresser aux directrice et directeur du numéro spécial : April Shelford (shelfor@american.edu) et Peter Soppelsa (peter.soppelsa@ou.edu).

La date limite pour soumettre les articles est fixée au 21 août 2023.

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**The Dangers and Opportunities of Technology: Perspectives from the Humanities (DOT)**

This program supports research that examines technology and its relationship to society through the lens of the humanities and the humanistic social sciences. NEH is particularly interested in projects that examine the role of technology in shaping current social and cultural issues.

Topics that might be addressed include:

- climate change
- racial justice
- social media, disinformation, and the democratic process
- medical technologies
- wealth inequality
- data privacy and ethics of algorithms
- cryptocurrencies and nonfungible tokens (NFTs)
- supply chains and infrastructure
- educational technologies
- streaming economy (e.g., music, television, film)

Grants can go either to individual scholars to do research leading to a book or an article or a film or whatever (up to $75K). Or a team of scholars can apply to do collaborative research (up to $150K). (The researchers can be from any university, non-profit, or local or tribal government. But the organization must be US-based.)

**The deadline is February 2, 2023.**
The Journal of Dialectics of Nature would like to announce that a monthly seminar series on the history of British science will begin on Sunday September 18th /Monday September 19th, 2022.

Titled “New Perspective on the History of British Science from the 17th to the 19th Centuries,” this seminar series will run for ten months. It will include scholarly papers from 20 contributors based in 15 cities in China, Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Australia.

The seminar website can be found at: http://jdn.ucas.ac.cn/public/index.php/english/about/view/id/147.html

Please join us for what will be an exciting series of papers by leading historians of British science from around the world.

Bruce Lewenstein completed in 2021 the 7 years of his 5-year term as chair of the Department of Science & Technology Studies at Cornell. After a short break, in January 2022 he was appointed Cornell’s 13th University Ombuds. This is a return of sorts: During Bruce’s undergraduate career at the University of Chicago, he served as the Student Ombudsman (in the same year he started taking history of science courses!). He has recently co-edited, with Jeffrey L. Sturchio, a collection of the essays of their dissertation advisor Arnold Thackray (former editor of Isis and Osiris, founder of the Chemical Heritage Foundation [now Science History Institute]). Science: Has its Present Past a Future? Selected Essays was published to honor Thackray’s 80th birthday and the 50th anniversary of Penn’s Department of History & Sociology of Science, of which Thackray was the first chair. The book is available from Amazon.

From December 2022, Charu Singh (Stanford University) will be an assistant professor in the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge.
HSS Council

HSS Council has approved a change to the bylaws in order to give members the opportunity to vote in a the event that an elected officer's (with the exception of the President) position becomes vacant. Currently our bylaws state that Council is responsible for filling a vacancy by appointment. A subcommittee of members of Council penned the revision in consultation with legal counsel. Members must vote to enact these changes.

The Subcommittee's proposed revisions

Amend Article 5, Section 5, of the HSS Bylaws to read as follows:

Section 5. Vacancies on the Council. Vacancies in Council Members At-Large positions in which there are more than six months left in the term shall be filled for the unexpired term by election by a plurality vote of HSS members occurring within (3) months after the vacancy occurs. If fewer than six months remain in the term, the vacancy will be filled by a majority vote of the Council. Vacancies in the Council resulting from an increase in the number of Council members shall be elected by a plurality vote of HSS members and serve until their successors assume their elected positions.

Amend Article 6, Section 4, of the HSS Bylaws to read as follows:

Section 4. Vacancies. A vacancy in any office, except President, Editor or Executive Director, shall be filled for the unexpired term by election by a plurality vote of HSS members occurring within three (3) months after the vacancy occurs. A vacancy in the presidency shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Vice President. If the Vice President is unable to assume the presidency, the presidency shall be filled for the unexpired term by election by a plurality vote of HSS members occurring within three (3) months after the vacancy occurs. A vacancy in the office of Editor or Executive Director shall be filled by a vote of a majority of the Council.

The current bylaws can be found here: https://hsonline.org/page/bylaws
### Member Renewal

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