

HISTORY OF SCIENCE SOCIETY

Newsletter



TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the EO - 1
Maienschein Interview - 3
Science on a Trip - 7
Paul Atreides at HSS - 12
Where's the Chicken? - 14
Member News - 16
New Ways to Give - 19
Annual Meeting Awards - 20

Note from the Executive Office

JOHN PAUL GUTIERREZ

Anxiety builds as you view a wildfire off in the distance. For me, it was a mere eight miles away—far enough to remain physically safe, yet close enough to feel the gravity of the situation. Then, the lights went out. Eighteen hours later, when power was restored, the Palisades and Eaton fires in Los Angeles had destroyed large swaths of the city, displacing countless individuals, including some of our own members.

Note from the Executive Office Continued

This was not how I envisioned starting the New Year—or this newsletter. But this crisis has weighed heavily on my mind, leaving little room to focus on anything else. Amid this tumult, however, came an unexpected and deeply moving silver lining: an outpouring of support and concern from HSS members. Many of you reached out to check on my family's safety, offering words of comfort and assistance. It was in these moments that I realized, after 3.5 years, just how deeply I am a part of this remarkable community—a community that not only shares a passion for the history of science but also genuinely cares for each other.

This is the essence of HSS. It is not just about advancing scholarship or convening at the Annual Meeting, it is about fostering a global network of individuals united by shared values. We are connected by more than our research; we are connected by our humanity. This strength was evident during the Centennial celebration in Mérida, Mexico, where we came together to honor our shared history. Despite the heat of the Yucatán, spirits soared as we explored the vibrant sights and sounds of our host city. The joy was palpable at the banquet and in the packed house for the opening plenary and Distinguished Lecture.

Moments like these remind us of what makes this community so special: our resilience, our solidarity, and our shared commitment to the work we do and the bonds we build. Whether navigating the challenges of natural disasters, personal hardships, or political strife, we come together to support one another and advance our collective mission. It takes tremendous care and kindness to ensure everything runs smoothly—and this community delivers time and again.

As we move forward into 2025, let us carry this spirit of solidarity with us. I look forward to reconnecting with all of you in New Orleans this November. Until then, please know that my door—or inbox—is always open. Feel free to reach out anytime at jp@hssonline.org.

Together, we can weather any storm and continue to thrive as a community dedicated to the history of science and to one another.

An Interview with Jane Maienschein, 2024 Sarton Medalist

Interview by Sam Franz



Jane Maienschein is the 2024 Sarton Medalist of the History of Science Society. The Sarton Medal, the most prestigious award of the History of Science Society, honors George Sarton, the founder of *Isis* and one of the founders of the modern phase in the history of science. The medal honors a scholar for lifetime scholarly achievement.

Jane Maienschein is University Professor and Director of the Center for Biology and Society at Arizona State University. Maienschein has published widely in the history and philosophy of biology.

What drew you to the history of science? What about the history of biology specifically? What keeps you engaged with it?

I grew up in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and my high school taught the Harvard Project Physics, which was designed by Gerald Holton and Jim Rutherford and was very historical. That was my first introduction. I figured out that history of science was a real field when I was an undergrad at Yale studying with Martin Klein and Larry Holmes. Biology came later. I love the history of biology because biologists are really open and interested in history of science.

Reflecting on your time in the field, how has the history and philosophy of biology changed? What new directions and perspectives do you find most exciting now? Why?

So many changes. From debates about whether “internalist and externalist” approaches are right and true, to introductions of science as a social construction, to acceptance of more diversity of many sorts in the field, which is a good thing. Though I wish we would be more accepting and learn from each other rather than demanding that our particular way is the only and right way. I especially like the opportunities to work at the intersections of sciences and history/philosophy of science, taking the science seriously.

Next, I have a few questions related to the relationship between the history and philosophy of science and the production of science. You have a long history of collaborating with biologists and life scientists as well as publishing in the history and philosophy of those sciences. In your career, how have you viewed the relationship between the history of science and the production of science within universities? In what ways has that relationship been productive for you or not? How has collaboration and contact with scientists informed your work?

Yes, I value the combination of history, philosophy, and science in my work. When I went to Indiana University for my PhD, they asked whether I planned to minor (IU required a minor) in history or philosophy. I said biology. The HPS department pushed back, but my advisor Fred Churchill agreed.

Interview (cont.)

Then a number of other students also chose to minor in science. That led to collaborations because John Beatty and I organized a series with biologists and HPS folks to discuss new works, like E.O. Wilson's *Sociobiology*.

The openness to studying science, with scientists, also led me to my first NSF grant to visit the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts (a wonderful place to work!). Over the years, Garland Allen, John Beatty, and I have built a very integrated HPS program with summer seminars, exhibits, workshops, and various collaborative projects including one in neuroscience between Kat Maxson Jones and MBL neuroscientists. This has become part of a larger project funded by the James S. McDonnell Foundation, co-led by Kate MacCord, which has brought together scientists with historians, philosophers, and sociologists of science including Elihu Gerson. Many biologists “get” that history matters. I have argued and given examples where becoming clear about the history has actually improved and even transformed the science by challenging cherished assumptions, for example.

In the history of science, technology, and medicine, many take degrees in the sciences that they later critically study, or similarly do graduate-level research (in physics or medicine, for instance) in addition to working on the history of those practices/sciences. Many historians of science, technology, or medicine are also appointed in schools of information, medical schools, and so on. You are appointed in a school of the life sciences. How do you understand the role of technical knowledge in doing the history and philosophy of science? What challenges and opportunities has your institutional location presented? Is the future of the history of science in history of science departments, or in schools and departments of the disciplines that we write the histories of?

My favorite George Sarton quote is this: “The chief requisite for the making of a good chicken pie is chicken; no amount of culinary legerdemain can make up for the lack of chicken. In the same way, the chief requisite for the history of science is intimate scientific knowledge; no amount of philosophic legerdemain can make up for its absence.” [“The Teaching of the History of Science,” *The Scientific Monthly* 7 (1918), 193-211] Understanding and examining science is essential and a great foundation on which to build. My PhD studies led me into the lab at IU and also to the MBL, reproducing historical experiments to understand the assumptions scientists like Thomas Hunt Morgan were making when they did their developmental studies. Exposing these assumptions also illuminated why choices were made, with examples of how limitations or opportunities emerged as a result of those choices.

There are some historians and some philosophers of science who say about those of us working with science and scientists, “oh, that’s not real history.” Some historians have adopted the mantra that science is bad or has done bad things in the world. Yes, bad actors have used scientific knowledge at times to do bad things, but it isn’t the science that is bad. Historians of science can study science, with scientists, in science departments and many other places, while also questioning what work is being done, by whom, how, and for what purpose. Those trained in humanistic fields who are able to converse with the science, and scientists, can help interpret in different ways than those who stand outside science. There is room for us all in the HSS.

Interview (cont.)

HSS is a professional society that is meant to define, expand, and maintain the health of our work as professional historians of science. Universities today are facing an uncertain future. How has HSS in this respect changed over the course of your career? How have you seen universities change as institutions where knowledge is produced and distributed?

Of course, all institutions change. Evolution and adaptation to changing conditions can lead to robust results and stronger societies. Universities have provided places for many historians of science, but George Sarton himself would have noted that they are not always welcoming and not always aware of the opportunities available. The tendency to want to protect what we have rather than also envision what could be is limiting. The HSS can help provide a home for historians of science wherever they are and whatever they are doing. Some outstanding historians of science are independent scholars finding their own paths; some are independent contractors; some are editors at presses or with publications of many sorts; some work in government and policy; others in industry, and so on. A healthy society like HSS can welcome them all and provide them a place to work and learn together. HSS's efforts with online events and welcoming younger scholars and those from diverse backgrounds are promising ways to open the doors and stimulate exchange of ideas and experiences.

You have also worked in policy. Could you tell us a little bit about your work as a science advisor in Washington D.C.? Many historians of science want to make a public impact and use our work to contribute justice-related projects. What would you want other historians of science to know about trying to play a positive role in shifting political ideas about science?

What a great opportunity! Our congressman was assigned to the House Science Committee. He said "yikes, I am fluent in Mandarin Chinese but I was an English major. I need a science advisor." ASU's president asked me to step in, and I became a Congressional Fellow. I was able to make a difference in more traditional and more surprising ways, mostly by being willing to explore opportunities and take on roles that many rational people at the time thought were kind of crazy. Working in the policy world means having to write a lot and do a lot of work that does not have your name on it. It means working with people you don't really like or respect very much. It means doing a lot of listening and learning. That's hard for many academics, who are primed to value work for which they want credit.

There are many ways to have an impact. Look at the AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science): their Science and Technology Policy Fellows Program welcomes historians; Betty Smocovitis and I are both on their Board now, and Holden Thorpe as the editor of *Science* is especially interested in historical topics and questions. It's possible to have an impact as Naomi Oreskes does at the highest levels, testifying at Congressional hearings. But it's also possible to have impact and enjoyable experiences working with NGOs and serving on committees and panels. If invited, say yes. Listen and learn.

Interview (cont.)

You've been very successful in securing funding from the federal government and other foundations to support work in the history of science. Reflecting on your career, how would you characterize our current funding climate for scientific research and research in the history of science? How important is this type of work (grant writing and federal support) to the health of our field?

Thanks to excellent leadership of the NSF Science and Technology Studies Program over the years (it used to be the Science, Technology and Society Program, and earlier, the History and Philosophy of Science Program), a lot of history of science work has received NSF funding. ACLS, NEH, NIH, and many foundations have supported the kind of work we do. I think the opportunities are great now, but we could work harder to help younger scholars know how to find the niches and to be willing to take risks to try things that may not seem obvious. Collaborating as the historian on a larger project is a good way to get funding for your work, for example. With declining support for the humanities, connecting with scientists can create new opportunities. Learning to apply for funding and to communicate the importance of the work being done are both critical. HSS could do with more training for how to seek grant funding, and for developing writing and communication skills. The 3MT (3 Minute Thesis) competition approach would be a fun way to support younger scholars learning to talk about their work.

In introductory seminars to science studies and the history of science, students learn about historical debates and flashpoints in our discipline. Thinking about the "science wars" or debates about "internalism" and "externalism," how do you view these moments in the history of our discipline now and lessons do you think they could teach students today?

Polarization doesn't help. Building up antagonisms of "us" and "them" doesn't help. Having healthy disagreements and coming together to discuss those is valuable. I'm sorry that some of the past attacks on "the hegemony of science" have provided support for some who want to tear down science and argue for "alternative facts." It's important to think about the broader implications and impacts of our work to best inform reflective thinking. For example, especially with a diverse student group, it is naive to assume that everybody will share your values and think eugenics is bad or that medical advances are good. Learn to listen and really hear what others are saying and what values underpin their thinking. Such understanding effectively improves teaching and also promotes one's own learning and community building.

What advice would you give to someone early in their career entering our field today?

Two things: Please be true to yourself. Don't let others dictate what you should value, how you should teach, or what you should do. Be informed, but be yourself.

And be opportunistic (in the best sense). If a door opens, walk through and explore.

Science on a Trip: Bringing History of Nuclear Science to Children

Maria Rentetzi

What is it like to be Alice in Wonderland? And what if Alice wants to tell stories about science to children? This is how I felt visiting the Bologna Children's Book Fair in April 2024, a leading event in the publishing industry. One of three most visited book fairs in the world, the 2024 exhibition attracted more than 1,500 publishers from over 94 countries, visitors exceeded 32,000 over four days, and it featured some of the most well-published authors and artists of children's books.

Reconciling trade and culture, the Bologna international trade fair for children's publishing was bursting with delightful serendipity, imagination, a full color palette, and enthusiasm. Stories were told, illustrated, wonderfully colored, and even stitched.



Oliver Jeffrey, a renowned visual artist and author at the 2024 Bologna Fair. He tells a packed audience that to him, words are “physical things.” Photo: Maria Rentetzi, 2024.

The book fair began in 1964 when a group of ambitious Italian literary scholars and publishers felt that the Frankfurt Book Fair (established in 1949) was sidelining children's books. In this gap they saw an opportunity for establishing a fair dedicated to children's books in Bologna, a city with a long literary history. Maria Bartolozzi, an expert in children's literature at the Centro Didattico Nazionale di Studi e Documentazione (Educational Center for Studies and Documentation), the publisher Renato Giunti, literary critic and professor of education Enzo Petrini, and the illustrator Marcella Fuci, were among the first who helped make Bologna's fair “the place to be” for children's literature and picture books. On April 4, 1964 the fair made its debut at the Palazzo di Re Enzo in the city's medieval center, with 44 exhibitors from 11 countries. The British delegation of publishers—then considered the leading nation in children's publishing—outnumbered the French. The organizers were also able to attract Franklin Watts, the strongest US publisher at the time.¹

Amid the Cold War, the Bologna Fair became central to Italy's cultural diplomacy. Ella Gankina, an expert in Russian and Soviet illustration, also joined the fair and “returned home with glowing reports.”² She eventually fostered the participation of numerous USSR publishing houses beginning in 1965. Four years later, and after strong negotiations, she ensured the attendance of the well-known graphic artist and illustrator, Vitalij Gorjaev.³ Since then, the Bologna Fair has shaped the children's literary world and anticipated future literary trends in children's book publishing.

Science on a Trip (cont.)

Throughout the years, the exhibition attracted an amazing number of young illustrators, authors, and publishers worldwide and established prestigious awards, subsequently creating one of the strongest sectors of the publishing industry. During the pandemic, when parents were forced to stay home and entertain their kids with fiction and fantasy, the industry saw two years of robust expansion, becoming one of the most rapidly growing industries at the time. The pandemic also had a significant impact on reading habits and formats. Physical books were increasingly replaced by ebooks and audiobooks, creating new opportunities for digital publishing and platforms. New genres debuted. Environmental concerns, diversity and gender were expressed in picture books while voices from the Global South became louder. In the US in 2022, close to one-third of all books sold were children's books, and the total publishing industry revenue on a global scale was up to 9.9 billion US dollars.⁴



Tailored Stories, by a new Colombia-based company Maravillarte in collaboration with Kreaktiva Lab. Karen Loewy, head of Kreaktiva has described the product as “wearable stories:” children’s clothing that features a QR code leading to a voice-narrated story. Photo: Maria Rentetzi, 2024.

Like Alice falling through the rabbit hole, I ended up in a fantasy world of colorful, joyful children's books where stories carry a strong message but always with hope, and where the unreal becomes astonishingly possible. Ironically the bigger the industry becomes, the more difficult it is to publish as a new author or illustrator. Most of the presses do not accept unsolicited submissions. I saw long queues of young women and men holding their portfolios, waiting in line to talk to a publisher. I found myself chatting with some of them on our way to the venue. Although in the fifth decade of my life and with a totally different career, we shared the same aim: to pitch our ideas. Wandering around the exhibitors' booths, I, too, was looking for a press willing to publish my first picture book for children. Efforts to make appointments with publishers ahead of time were in vain. I soon realized that this is one of the toughest publishing industries to get into. As an academic and historian of nuclear science, one would guess that my stiff writing could not convince any children's book publisher, let alone young readers. Against all odds, Clavis Publishing, one of the most renowned Belgian publishers in the children's book industry, committed to bring my dream to reality.

I was fortunate to meet Philippe Werck, the owner of Clavis, in his booth. A Belgian with a calm, reassuring voice and clever blue eyes, Philippe opened a children's bookstore in a small Belgian city in the mid-1970s. Selling books to parents turned out to be not enough for him. He wanted to intervene, create, and finally publish the books that he placed on his shelves. By the late 1970s Clavis Publishing was making a name for itself in the children's book industry. Talking with him was more fun, exciting, and easier than I ever expected. Surprisingly, my picture book resonated with some of Philippe's other book projects and his own life experiences.

Science on a Trip (cont.)

Working for years in the history of radiation protection and the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), I had come across a captivating story. In the early 1960s, the United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower donated two mobile laboratories to the IAEA. The Agency was established in 1957, at the suggestion of the United States as part of the Atoms for Peace program, which aimed to control nuclear energy and its industrial exploitation on a global scale. The first director of the IAEA, US congressman Sterling Cole, used the two mobile laboratories to train scientists around the world in the use of radioisotopes and radiation protection methods. The two mobile laboratories were sent to more than thirty countries as part of one of the largest technical assistance projects of the IAEA.

Photographs of that time paint a picture of the economic inequality on the planet and the global hope for peace and prosperity. Historians of science Gisela Mateos and Edna Suárez-Díaz have explored at length the use of one of the mobile radioisotope labs in Latin America and the IAEA's colonial understanding of development. Loukas Freris has focused on the meaning of the second mobile lab for the development of nuclear research in Greece in the 1960s. I have unearthed the details concerning the construction of the two mobile laboratories and the US's strategic and diplomatic gesture to gift these to the IAEA. Together with Freris, we see the mobile labs as the early crowns of the IAEA's technical assistance programs, turned into "diplomatic bags" to facilitate their transfer throughout the globe.⁵



Following Korean custom, students took off their shoes upon entering the mobile radioisotope laboratory that visited the Republic of Korea in March 1961. Image source: IAEA Archives.

While looking through the archives of the IAEA, I came across amazing photographic material that documented the Agency's efforts to promote the use of radioisotopes. Development had different meanings to nations that received and used the labs. Overwhelmed by the material, I struggled to imagine how an academic book could convey the richness of the story.

Science on a Trip (cont.)

An academic monograph could not. Thus, I decided to turn to the fantasy world and produce a children's book with a simple idea. *Science on a Trip* illustrates how knowledge—especially about radiation and radioisotopes—has traditionally travelled in a world in transition. The journey was never easy, nor without consequences for those who embraced it. But it always came with hope. The book narrates a true trip around the world, but what travels is something unexpected: a scientific laboratory in a bus-like mobile structure. This is a surprising trip for all accounts. The mobile laboratory was an ingenious construction in the history of nuclear sciences, custom-made for a new international organization. By the end of the program, what traveled with the mobile lab was the latest knowledge in nuclear sciences. How did this happen? How were young scientists educated in handling radioisotopes and why was that important? [A short history documentary](#) concerning the IAEA's mobile radioisotope laboratories created by Ismail Barakat and narrated by Kristina Ford, both members of my research group on nuclear history, provides some background to the story.

Pieter De Decker, a versatile illustrator, designer, and artist based in Belgium turned my words into pictures. His illustrations are unique. They combine his playful approach to color and form with a deep knowledge of the digital world. Inspired by real images, Pieter casts the imaginary onto the real. At the end, his imagery cracks the nuclear “success story,” providing glimpses of the dreadful world of radiation contamination and disaster.

The book is expected to appear in 2025 both in Dutch and English by Clavis Publishing.



The original laboratory was blue, to match the trefoil radiation sign at the time. These signs were illustrated not in the familiar shades of yellow and black, but instead blue and violet.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Tom Van der Cruysse for editing my original text making it more approachable to young audiences, Philippe Werck for his trust, Pieter De Decker for his fantasy, and Eva Mariën for her patience. To my husband Spiros Flevaris and my kids Katerina and Nikolas Flevaris I owe my deepest acknowledgments for reading and rereading my story, commenting, and putting up with my odd desire to get into the children's book genre.

This publication is part of the HRP-IAEA project that has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (Grant agreement No770548.)

Science on a Trip (cont.)



The front cover of Science on a Trip designed by Pieter de Decker.

Notes

- [1]: Franklin Mowry Watts (1904–1978) established the publishing company Franklin Watts, Inc., in 1942. The press was sold to Grolier in 1957. Watts retired in 1967 and two years later moved to London to start Franklin Watts Ltd. In 1976 Watts retired again. *Who's Who in Commerce and Industry*, vol. 14 (Marquis Who's Who, 1965), p. 1386
- [2]: Bologna. Fifty years of Children's Books from all Over the World. 2013. Bologna Children's Book Fair.
- [3]: Vitalij Gorjaev was Russia's celebrated graphic illustrator and cartoonist who worked for "Krokodil, Moscow's sardonic magazine of humor-plus-propaganda" as *Time Magazine* reported in 1958. He was among the first Soviet intellectuals to visit the US in 1958. *The Press: Russians in Wall Street*, Time. June 9, 1958.
- [4]: Data are available from 23 countries. See figure, p. 11. *The Global Publishing Industry in 2022*. WIPO <https://www.wipo.int/edocs/pubdocs/en/wipo-pub-1064-2023-2-en-the-global-publishing-industry-in-2022.pdf>
- [5]: Mateos, G., and Suárez-Díaz, E. (2015b). Radioisótopos itinerantes en América Latina: Una historia de ciencia por tierra y por mar. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México; Mateos, G., and Suárez-Díaz, E. (2019). Technical Assistance in Movement: Nuclear Knowledge Crosses Latina American Borders. In J. Krige, ed., *How Knowledge Moves: Writing the Transnational History of Science and Technology*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 345–367. Rentetzi, M. (2021). With Strings Attached: Gift-Giving to the International Atomic Energy Agency and US Foreign Policy. *Endeavour*, 45; Loukas Freris, "A Science Diplomacy Story: The International Atomic Energy Agency's Mobile Radioisotope Laboratory in Greece" (Master Thesis, National Technical University of Athens, 2018), retrieved from <https://pergamos.lib.uoa.gr/uoa/dl/frontend/el/browse/2820365>. Rentetzi, Maria and Freris, Loukas. "How to Turn a Mobile Laboratory into a Diplomatic Bag: International Relations, the IAEA and Nuclear Diplomacy" *History and Technology* (in press).

Paul Atreides at HSS

Darryl E. Brock

Mérida! Just arrived, I sank into one of the Hotel Fiesta Americana's comfortable couches, aware of the seemingly bejeweled stained-glass artifact five stories above me, a behemoth resplendently filtering the fierce Yucatán sun. The HSS conference program in hand, I searched the index. Another year, another disappointment. Paul had yet to reappear.

I well remember HSS 2016 Atlanta. There, I similarly perused the program while imbibing a whiskey sour at the Westin Peachtree Plaza's bar. There he had appeared, just below the famed Garland Allen, one inimitable Paul Atreides. That was my first surprise in Atlanta. Another revelation soon welcomed me during that day's lunch.



Image courtesy of Fiesta Americana Mérida.

As I sat at a table, a friendly older fellow thrust his hand at me. He announced, "I'm Gar Allen." Originally a biologist myself, I sat there transfixed, stunned to be in the presence of one of my discipline's luminaries. Trying to hide my astonishment, I enthusiastically seized his hand, introducing myself. This kind gentleman-scientist then engaged me in discourse as if I were the most fascinating person he had ever met. In fact, he invited me to that year's History of Biology Seminar at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods Hole. Deferring to demands of my new professorship at CUNY, I did not attend. That will always be one of my life's great regrets.

Later that day, I again reflected on Paul Atreides at HSS. Impossible! But was it? A combined service military officer named Mr. Data once spoke of a kerr loop from superstring material when similarly and unexpectedly encountering the call letters NCC-1701-C. OK, maybe that was the how of it, but why HSS? Surely AAAS would be the place to seek experts on temporal mechanics. But, of course, Paul's very presence obviated that. In fact, he could have appealed to think tanks such as the Bene Tleilax for such technologies. Something else compelled Paul to visit HSS—and to choose that specific year.

Paul Atreides at HSS (cont.)

That Paul Atreides chose to register at HSS under his family name implied a possible explanation. He had avoided his moniker associated with the kangaroo mouse (Muad'Dib). Of course, that choice would have evinced Paul's interest in biology. He obviously knew this mouse could survive on metabolic water. Further, Paul demonstrated great interest in large desert annelid worms. He particularly focused on their spice-like exudate. Still, HSS did not represent a venue for biological science, per se. Paul sought something else. Perhaps new alliances required better understanding regarding "weapons of the weak." That is, how could indigenous people resist powerful imperial colonizers, those who embraced "machines as the measure of men?" This might be anathema to teachings of his Orange Catholic Bible but Paul stood ready for anything, even a jihad.

HSS thus made sense, but which panel (or panels) had Paul come to consult? Projit Mukharji's roundtable on "Post-Western Histories of Science in South Asia" represented a possibility. Its tracing of medical technologies and capitalism in relation to modernization stood ready to be replicated in potential futures. Another possibility included Peder Anker's "Human Ecology as an Interdisciplinary Approach to Social and Environmental Crisis." That panel's notions anticipated many points that would later be raised by the imperial ecologist Liet-Kynes. It might behoove HSS to query Mukharji and Anker for recollections of unusual attendees. In particular, did anyone ask questions of desert versus ocean ecologies, perhaps enigmatically referencing the little-known locale of Caladan?

One might speculate or one might seek evidence. The obvious focus for the facts of Paul Atreides' appearance at HSS resides in then society coordinator Greg Macklem who would have handled the Atreides registration. In fact, back in 2016 I had asked Greg about Paul and he did admit to responsibility for the program. More recently, I revisited this with Greg. With a Mona Lisa hint of a smile, he reiterated his involvement with Paul Atreides that year but ventured no additional information. On the surface, this might seem to imply a bit of chicanery, even a subtle deception for mere amusement. It seems to me that that is exactly what Greg would hope to imply. I suspect the reality is a bit more sobering. If Stilgar's Fremin could so readily launch a jihad, dispatching an HSS society coordinator would be but a trifling matter. I don't blame Greg's circumspection regarding the 2016 conference.

Upon further reflection, I have realized my entire approach to solving this unexpected appearance misses the obvious. Paul Atreides did not come for any panel. He visited HSS 2016 because it represented a way to seek historical, enlightened biological information while yet remaining under the radar. The editor for the *Journal of the History of Biology* might be approached at HSS without those who monitor science contacts readily noticing. Paul stood at a moment of decision. Could the sandworms' outputs be maximized? Could they be transplanted beyond their local ecologies? His prescience seemed to fail him on these points. He decided to avoid consulting contemporaneous experts for such knowledge; if exposed, this could imperil his actions against an empire. None of the Great Houses would imagine his consultation in the past of Garland Allen, an unparalleled biologist who yet might be quietly located at a "mere" historical conference.

Alas, I not only missed a great moment of historical insight by not attending Gar's Seminar at Woods Hole that year, but if I had mentioned Frank Herbert to him, perhaps he would have shared something else even a bit more intriguing. After all, as an ardent social justice advocate who marched with MLK, Garland might indeed have found great appeal in Paul's anti-imperial project.

Where's the Chicken?

William C. Summers

Editorial Note: The views expressed below are solely those of the author. We welcome HSS members to submit their own views on the state of the profession for the next issue of the HSS Newsletter.

As I reflect on the recent Annual Meeting of the HSS held in Mérida, although it was a beautiful venue, superbly organized, and an opportunity to see many old friends and hear interesting talks, two events stand out as particularly relevant to the future of HSS as it moves into its second century: chicken pie, and the tribute to John Heilbron. Both reference the aspect of “science” in the History of “Science” Society. My professional identity is as a scientist; I have a long-standing interest in the history of science as an amateur (in the traditional sense of loving a subject) and have attended the HSS meetings, published books and articles on history of science, and taught history of science (as well as science) at a reasonably well-regarded university. My first HSS meeting was in Cincinnati in the 1980s, and there I met John Heilbron, whose lecture was the only one I really understood. He talked about the history of knowledge of the physical world of atomism. The history of knowledge. As a scientist, I could relate to that... knowledge of the material world was my business, and John knew as much about it as I did; he spoke my language. Years later I knew him as a friend and colleague at Yale.



George Sarton in 1941. Courtesy of Wikipedia Commons.

By chance I had just started a teaching collaboration with my colleague, the eminent historian Larry Holmes, and he encouraged me to learn a bit of the craft and thinking of historians. Still, my focus was on “knowledge.” Most scientists think of “knowledge” as the object of their day-to-day work. Since the 1980s, approaching half-a-century, I have attended the HSS meetings and watched the participation of scientist-historians dwindle, and the focus on “knowledge” almost disappear from the program. Occasionally, when I meet a scientific colleague attending the HSS meeting for the first time, the reaction is: “What are they talking about? Where is the science?” I explain, and I believe, that the “knowledge” of the scientist is indeed embedded in cultural and social contexts, worthy of study. What, however, I cannot explain is how a historian who cannot read key scientific papers with scientific understanding, can really study the cultural and social roles in which that knowledge is entangled. Debates about the best way to study the structure of the atom cannot be understood only in terms of “race, class, and gender” of the various contending scientists. Surely, the technical details of atomic physics have *some* role in the history of such a debate and are relevant to the historian.

Where's the Chicken? (cont.)

And all this brings me to the topic of chicken à la Mérida. Jane Maienschein was very appropriately awarded the Sarton Medal, the highest honor of the HSS, and in her acceptance remarks mentioned the drift of the HSS away from a focus on scientific knowledge (aka “intellectual history”) toward a more socio-cultural realm of history. She paraphrased George Sarton, one of the HSS founders whom her award memorializes, who expressed a similar concern even as long ago as 1918, that “one needs chicken to make chicken pie.” The absence of science in our scholarship belies the very name of the organization. Science (*scientia*) is knowledge, public knowledge, as noted by John Ziman; without the inclusion of the intellectual stuff, history of science risks becoming the history of social systems... study scientists, labor unions, or ant colonies, take your pick, all the same.

As the HSS moves into its second century, its history and imagined future was the subject of a plenary round table at the Mérida meeting. While some of the more difficult periods of the Society's history were omitted or overlooked, such as the “divorces” from the philosophers of science and the historians of technology in the 1950s, and the “science wars” of the 1990s, the increasing inclusion and diversity of the HSS purview in several other aspects were noted. Non-Western topics, expansion beyond the “hard sciences,” inclusion of more early career scholars, and the full role of women scholars in the HSS, and globalization of the annual meeting venues were welcome markers of progress. As if to channel Maienschein's comment about chicken pie, however, several of the panelists almost gleefully recounted the Society's success in wresting the HSS from the grip of the scientists who had founded the organization. Indeed, self-identified scientists with an interest, or indeed, some expertise in historical scholarship, were few and far between at the Mérida meeting; the few I met were mostly there for the Heilbron memorial. The world population of scientists is (at least) a hundred-fold greater than that of the historians of science. What a missed opportunity for mutual support, interesting collaborations, better historically-informed teaching of science, and institutional and financial support for the historical enterprise! Recall Ian Hacking's phrase, “The Social Construction of What?” What we need is more chicken. Take a scientist to lunch soon... maybe even invite her to the next HSS meeting.

Member News

Professor **Frank W. Stahnisch** (AMF/Hannah Professor in the History of Medicine and Health Care at the University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada) received an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (26th September, 2024) -- for his outstanding performance in a specific area of professional activity (~ Medical Education) directly or indirectly related to the field of medicine (~ History of Medicine), including his organization of the nation-wide annual History of Medicine Days Conferences for 17 years at the University of Calgary's Cumming School of Medicine.

Johns Hopkins University Press has just released a book by **Edward B. ("Ted") Davis**, *Protestant Modernist Pamphlets: Science and Religion in the Scopes Era*. For more information, see <https://www.press.jhu.edu/books/title/12468/protestant-modernist-pamphlets>

Kenneth L. Taylor, Emeritus Professor at the University of Oklahoma, was presented the Vladimir V. Tikhomirov History of Geology Award for 2024. Established in 2012 by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), the Tikhomirov Medal is awarded once every four years by the International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO).

Princeton University Press published **Andreas Daum's** (SUNY Buffalo) *Alexander von Humboldt: A Concise Biography*. Trans. Robert Savage in October 2024. His article on "Humboldtian Science and Humboldt's science" came out in the journal *History of Science*.

Stephen P. Weldon of the University of Oklahoma has won the Council for Secular Humanism's Morris D. Forkosch Award for the Best Book of 2021: *The Scientific Spirit of American Humanism* (Johns Hopkins University Press). The Forkosch Awards, established by the Council for Secular Humanism and the Center for Inquiry, honor the finest humanist writing. (The awards for 2021 through 2023 were delayed until July 2024, owing to the death in 2021 of Free Inquiry's longtime editor Tom Flynn.) Professor Weldon, the History of Science Society Bibliographer, is currently Chair of Oklahoma's Department of the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine.

Patrick McCray was chosen by the Library of Congress to be the 2025-2026 Kluge Chair in Technology and Society.

He also received a Catalyst Award from the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR). The CIFAR funds will be shared with Drs. **Matt Shindell** (NASM) and Adrian Howkins (University of Bristol) to start a new project.

Tiffany Nichols, JD, PhD, was recently elected as the Vice Chair of the History of Astronomy Division of the American Astronomical Society. Her term will start in 2025.

Gregory Radick has been elected a fellow of the Linnean Society of London and awarded the 2025 J.B.S. Haldane Lecture by the Genetics Society.

Member News (cont.)

Hans Haubold created “50 Years UN Basic Space Science Initiative”:

<https://universeexplorer.org/>

The website shows efforts in education, teaching, and research implemented in the period from 1974 to 2024 in the fields of astronomy, physics, and mathematics/statistics, particularly focusing on the so-called solar neutrino problem and the Michelson experiment Potsdam 1881. The efforts were pursued also in ESA/NASA/JAXA workshops on basic space science organized under the umbrella of the United Nations for the benefit of 193 Member States.

Deborah J. Warner, long a curator in physical sciences at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, retired in October or 2024.

Peggy A. Kidwell, long a curator in the mathematics (and occasionally computer) collections, retired at the end of 2024.

Peder Anker published a new monograph, *For The Love of Bombs: The Trail of Nuclear Suffering* with Anthem Press.

Jim Endersby's newest book *The Arrival of the Fittest: Biology's imaginary futures, 1900-1935*, will be published by University of Chicago Press in January 2025. He has additionally been awarded a Leverhulme Trust Major Research Fellowship for a new project, "Darwinian Fans: reading, responding to and reimagining evolution".

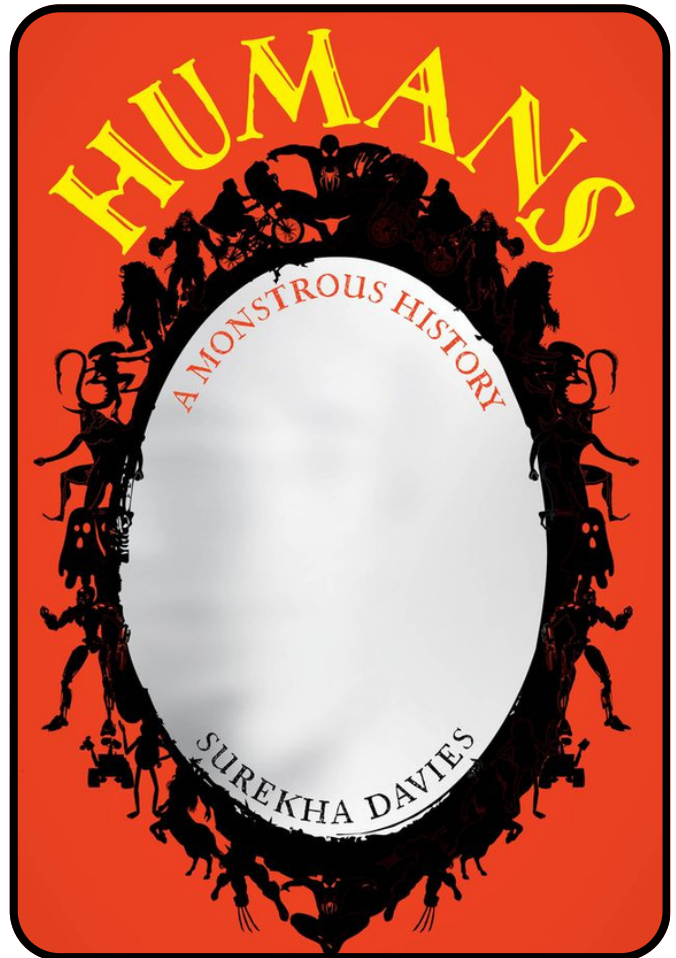
HSS member **Andrew Fiss** published "The Half-Burned Collegiate Algebra: College Cultures and Chance Preservation" in *The Mathematical Intelligencer*. Inspired by a half-burned mathematics textbook in the Hamilton College Archives, the article reassessed the expected college cultures of math students through arguing for connections between the content of the textbook, the statements of a college president, and unsanctioned student actions. The article was part of the "Years Ago" feature edited by HSS member Jemma Lorenat.

Mark Grossman has just published "Stirring the Pot: Antoine Baumé, Josiah Wedgwood, Pierre-Louis Guinand, and the Development of Optical Glass," a research article appearing in *Ambix*, vol. 71, no. 4 (2024), pp. 432–456.

Member News (cont.)

Humans: A Monstrous History by the commercial nonfiction author, speaker, and historian of science **Surekha Davies**, author of the multi-award-winning *Renaissance Ethnography and the Invention of the Human: New Worlds, Maps and Monsters*, is out from the University of California Press on February 4. The book is a powerful and provocative history of humanity's long relationship with monsters. From ancient gods to AI, from zombies to werewolves, *Humans: A Monstrous History* explores how we've created, classified, and identified monstrous beings throughout the ages. Blending science, history, and pop culture, it tells the strange and compelling story of how our relationship with monsters has shaped the origins of the modern world and created race, gender, and nations along the way.

The book is a prism through which to parse out hidden assumptions about nature and society at large. In an age when corporations increasingly see people as obstacles to profits, this book traces the long, volatile history of monster-making to chart a better path for the future. The result is a profound, effervescent, empowering retelling of the history of the world. This is not a history of monsters, but a history through monsters.



New Ways to Give

There are New Ways to Donate to HSS!

We have now added options to donate to HSS through a workplace giving program or monthly recurring donations.

Monthly recurring Donations:

On select funds you can now make a monthly recurring donation if you donate online. If you want to give larger donations to HSS but it is difficult to give all at once this is a great way to break it down into smaller donations over time. When you select this option your card will automatically be charged each month until you choose to opt out of those charges or when your card expires.

Workplace Giving:

We also have set up our workplace giving profile through American Online Giving Foundation/Benevity and YourCause. If your employer has a workplace giving program you can have donations deducted from your paycheck. This is a great way to maximize your giving if you work somewhere that provides a company match for donations. If your employer has a workplace giving program and they use either of these platforms you can give to HSS directly through your workplace. If you choose to give this way you may need the HSS tax ID: 52-6050324.

Thank you for your continued support!



Alex Spiecker
Development Coordinator



HSS PRIZE CEREMONY

Hs

2024 HSS ANNUAL MEETING • 9 NOVEMBER
FIESTA AMERICANA HOTEL • MÉRIDA, MEXICO

PRIZE PROGRAM

SARTON MEDAL

JANE MAIENSCHIN

PFIZER AWARD

PROJIT MUKHARJI

WATSON, HELEN, MILES, & AUDREY DAVIS PRIZE

THERESA LEVITT

JOSEPH H. HAZEN EDUCATION PRIZE

BABAK ASHRAFI

PHILIP J. PAULY PRIZE

LAURA MARTIN

SUZANNE J. LEVINSON PRIZE

RUTH ROGASKI

DEREK PRICE/ROD WEBSTER PRIZE

TAYLOR M. MOORE

RONALD RAINGER PRIZE

GUSTAVE LESTER

NATHAN REINGOLD PRIZE

MICHELE D. PFLUG

THE MARGARET W. ROSSITER HISTORY OF WOMEN
IN SCIENCE PRIZE

CHRISTOFFER BASSE ERIKSON & XINYI WEN

THE EDWARD GERJUOY/JOHN MICHELL AWARD

DEREK NELSON





FORUM & OTHER AWARDS

EARLY SCIENCES FORUM AND EARLY SCIENCE AND MEDICINE SECOND ANNUAL ESSAY PRIZE

Awardee:

Brian S. K. Li, author of "Towards an Interpretive Epidemiology of the Glass Delusion in Early Modern Europe,"

Runner-up:

Chang Xu for the essay "Military Technology and Formulaic Body: Therapeutic, Toxic, and Incendiary Drug Formulas in Early Modern China."



FHHS DISSERTATION PRIZE

Awardee:

Erik Baker for "Entrepreneurial: Management Expertise and the Reinvention of the American Work Ethic"

Honorable Mention:

David Robertson for "Crazy Standards: The World Health Organization, Psychiatric Epidemiology and the Remaking of Psychiatry."

FHHMLS CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS GRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY

Awardee:

Cam Cannon, Doctoral Candidate in American Studies at George Washington University and a 2024-25 ACLS/Mellon Dissertation Innovation Fellow. Awarded for their essay "Contextualizing Harry Benjamin: Diagnosis, Access, and the Struggle for Gender-Affirming Care in the US."



SKLAC DISSERTATION PRIZE

Awardee:

Angélica Márquez-Osuna and her dissertation from Harvard University "The Persistence of Beekeeping Knowledge in the Yucatan Peninsula, 1780-1950."



SARTON MEDAL

JANE MAIENSCHIN

Jane Maienschein is a distinguished scholar at Arizona State University (ASU), and has earned numerous university accolades, including University Professor, Regents' Professor, President's Professor, Parents Association Professor, and Director of the Center for Biology and Society. At the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) in Woods Hole, she holds the rare title of Fellow.

For over forty years, Jane has been a leading figure in the history and philosophy of science. Her prolific research includes five books, 14 edited volumes, over 95 research articles, and 41 editorials and op-eds, covering topics from embryology, genetics, and evolution to regenerative medicine and public policy. Her work exemplifies rigorous historical investigations that illuminate current science and public health issues.

Jane's contributions to the history and philosophy of biology are foundational. Her first monograph, *Transforming Traditions in American Biology, 1880-1915* (1991), analyzed the shift in American biology from descriptive to experimental methodologies. Her work has significantly influenced the field, bringing new scholars into the history of biology. She has also integrated philosophy into the history of biology, emphasizing that historical and sociological contexts are crucial in understanding scientific experiments.

Jane's early scholarship established enduring approaches to experimental and American biology histories. She emphasized the importance of experimental methods in biology and explored how historical context influences scientific acceptance. Her practice of "practical history," where she recreated historical experiments, has inspired many historians and philosophers of science.

Her extensive work includes critical studies of cell and developmental biology, bridging the gap between historical and contemporary scientific issues. Jane's second major book, *Whose View of Life?* (2003), examined the historical and policy aspects of embryology, providing insights into contemporary debates on reproduction and stem cell research. Her public engagement and clear communication have made complex scientific issues accessible to broader audiences.

Jane's dedication to building diverse and inclusive scholarly communities is evident in her teaching, mentorship, and administrative efforts. She has mentored numerous students and early-career scholars, many of whom have achieved significant positions in interdisciplinary institutions. Jane co-founded the Embryo Project Encyclopedia and the MBL History Project, providing valuable resources for public and academic audiences.

For 35 years, she has co-directed the History of Biology summer seminar at MBL, fostering collaboration among historians, philosophers, and scientists. Her latest initiative (co-founded and run with Kate MacCord), the McDonnell Initiative at MBL, promotes interdisciplinary research on regeneration, highlighting the importance of collaboration across disciplines.

Jane's extensive service to disciplinary societies, including her term as President of HSS and the Board of Directors of AAAS, showcases her commitment to advancing the field. Her leadership and organizational skills have created inclusive spaces for scholarly work, making her a highly deserving recipient of the Sarton Medal.

By Kate MacCord



PFIZER AWARD

PROJIT MUKHARJI

Brown Skins, White Coats: Race Science in India, 1920–66 (University of Chicago Press, 2022).

Brown Skins, White Coats is a path-breaking study of the mutability of concepts of race in a setting where historians have tended to overlook racial thinking entirely. The book is a crucial intervention into the history of race science, a model for historicizing race beyond racial binaries and a reminder of the unexpected forms that scientific racism has taken—including the racialization of the senses. Projit Mukharji uncovers the efforts of scientists in India in the decades bracketing independence to impose biological divisions on a society that resisted such reductionism. He shows how Indian scientists constructed putatively “endogamous”

communities based on ascribed religious and caste identities while ignoring evidence of the fluidity of social and reproductive relations. “Seroanthropology” is the term he introduces to underscore the influence of this shape-shifting research program, which has nonetheless been conveniently forgotten. His narrative skillfully juxtaposes the technical reasoning of geneticists with cultural sources that speak of human relationships that did not conform to geneticists’ categories. Mukharji’s account is also an eloquent commentary on nationalism in the postcolonial world. Far from demonizing practitioners of race science in India, he encourages us to see them through the lens of an updated concept of alienation, one that dispenses with the imagination of a lost primordial community. His evocation of a “Brown planetary humanism” exemplifies the value and urgency of humanistic reasoning today. *Brown Skins, White Coats* also makes a bold methodological intervention by developing a new form of “critical fabulation” alongside its meticulous empirical research. In interleaved chapters, the book offers a fictive correspondence that serves as a counter-archive to the history of seroanthropology. Through these letters, Mukharji reminds us that the genre of science fiction was an important site for confronting the dangers of eugenics in India. The letters give voice to a critique of genetic determinism that was and remains compelling and that would not otherwise be present in the archives. This inventive and moving book is a model of engaged history of science.



THERESA LEVITT

Theresa Levitt's *Elixir: A Parisian Perfume House and the Quest for the Secret of Life* offers a captivating history of organic chemistry through the lens of perfumes and soaps. Levitt skillfully reveals how these mundane objects not only shaped the foundational debates of chemistry, but also played a key role in significant historical events.

From eighteenth-century French perfumeries to the chemical research laboratories of just-industrializing Germany, *Elixir* delights readers in a journey of fraud, academic politics, and the challenges of the early Chemical Revolution. Perfume, it turns out, was a matter of life and death during the French Revolution—soap and gunpowder depended on the same chemicals, which were in short supply. Who knew that Napoleon Bonaparte used (and even drank) perfume or that Marie Antoinette's escape plot was foiled in part by her addiction to fragrance?

Levitt shows how the complex politics of hygiene and health were intertwined with commercial endeavors to produce these elusive substances and the scientific efforts to understand them. While early chemists focused on the identification of the number and nature of elements that make up these molecules, the answer turned out to be in their specific structures—a discovery that required bold guesses and unconventional methods. Through this tale of rivalries and revolutions, both political and intellectual, Levitt explores profound questions about the structure of living things, the difference between the natural and the synthetic, and the origin of life in a history of chemistry that is accessible, fun, and deeply fascinating.



HAZEN PRIZE

BABAK ASHRAFI

This year the Committee on Education and Engagement wishes to award the Joseph H. Hazen Education Prize to Babak Ashrafi, Executive Director of the Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine. Since its founding in 2007 the CHSTM has grown tremendously and had an outsized impact on the field for scholars and students of history as well as the public. Dr. Ashrafi's enthusiastic supporters emphasize the way he has and continues to build community among historians of science and regularly seeks out new opportunities and ideas to better our field. These have included the Consortium's virtual working groups (reaching thousands of scholars worldwide), podcasts, a cross-institutional search hub linking collections across member institutions, and in-person public events in Philadelphia. For the many graduate students and early

career scholars CHSTM has supported, Dr. Ashrafi is an important mentor and supporter not only in research but communication, networking, and public engagement. In less than two decades CHSTM has become a leader in supporting and promoting the history of science and educators in history of science.

We would also like to specifically recognize Dr. Ashrafi's work with HSS and the Centennial Committee in the production of the HSS@100 podcast series. This work helps celebrate 100 years of HSS and gives the history of science a wider audience.



PAULY PRIZE

LAURA MARTIN

The Philip J. Pauly Prize committee is delighted to award this year's prize to Laura J. Martin for her remarkable book *Wild By Design: The Rise of Ecological Restoration*. This insightful and meticulously researched work traces the history of ecological restoration, from its early 20th-century origins to its current status as a cornerstone of environmental science and policy.

Martin's novel genealogy of restoration ecology skillfully ties together a wide array of seemingly disparate threads into a compelling historical narrative. Whereas previous scholars have often focused on the divide between conservation and preservation, Martin reveals the vibrant past and present of a critical third path, restoration. Martin's book extends beyond the usual cast of characters typically encountered by historians of science.

This approach helps *Wild By Design* bridge gaps between the history of science and related fields – especially environmental history. Martin's rigorous scholarship is coupled with strong storytelling that will appeal to a broad audience, including practicing scientists and the general public. *Wild By Design* goes beyond analyzing the past and showcases the power of history to influence contemporary practices. It stands out for its hopeful perspective. While offering a critical examination of how the legacies of race, gender, and settler colonialism have shaped ecological practices in the US, Martin also uncovers paths not taken—paths that could inspire a more just and sustainable future. The balance between critique and optimism makes her book a vital and timely contribution to the field, offering imaginative resources for those working toward environmental justice today. Martin's eloquent prose and careful analysis demonstrate the profound impact that history can have on both understanding and shaping the present. *Wild By Design* is an outstanding example of what the history of science can accomplish, making it a worthy recipient of the Pauly Prize.



LEVINSON PRIZE

RUTH ROGASKI

We are delighted to announce the winner of the 2024 Suzanne J. Levinson Prize: Ruth Rogaski's *Knowing Manchuria: Environments, the Senses, and Natural Knowledge on an Asian Borderland* (University of Chicago Press, 2022). Our committee unanimously selected *Knowing Manchuria* for its epic scope, beautiful writing, innovative use of a range of sources, and what we see as its profound potential to impact the field of the history of science. Rogaski's incisive analysis explores the living and non-living parts of Manchuria—a region that covers more than half a million square miles at the intersection of present-day China, Russia, Korea, and Mongolia—and reorients scholarship on empire, environment, and imagination.

Rogaski's account engages historical actors from all of these regions and ranges over a tumultuous three-and-a-half centuries. Each chapter explores a different dimension of place-making and sensorial perception, resolutely focused on what it means to know a place. The environment of Manchuria in Rogaski's telling includes fossils, animals, land and water formations, spirits, and disease, and each of these entities is treated as historically constructed and culturally maintained. As Rogaski's work teaches us, hidden mountains relied as much as dragons on the powers of imagination, and, like bacteria, required strenuous documentation and forms of communication to make them real. We are eager to teach with *Knowing Manchuria* and appreciate how Rogaski generously builds upon and clearly reorients our scholarly conversations within the history of the life sciences.



PRICE/WEBSTER PRIZE

TAYLOR M. MOORE

“An (Un)Natural History: Tracing the Magical Rhinoceros Horn in Egypt.” *Isis* 2023 114:3, 469-489.

Employing multiple narrative registers, Taylor M. Moore illustrates the possibilities of a decolonial materialist history of science. In this compelling article, she does so by honing in on the rhinoceros horn brought from Egypt to the Wellcome collection by anthropologist Winifred Blackman in the late 1920s. Instead of relaying the typical story of the object's entrenchment in existing European interpretations, Moore uses the medio-magical amulet to unpack “an Egyptian global science,” destabilizing Eurocentric accounts of science thereby. What results is a compelling study that illuminates

the role of Egyptian peasants and Sudanese wise women and healers in a Trans-Saharan economy of a mid-nineteenth century nation-state. Moore's article clarifies the ways these layers have always been connected, even if earlier scholarship failed to connect them. She offers a model for what is possible as our field develops the capacity for “new possibilities for the history of science and new narrative forms for writing history.” A healthy dose of reflexivity guides Moore through the ever-present risks of replicating certain fascinations and interpretive gestures which animated Blackman as a British, colonial anthropologist in the first place. The author sets out a concrete set of interpretive strategies to complicate and resist this seduction. In addition to the powerfully diverse sources used in the article, the jury was especially excited by Moore's provocative and inspiring attempt to cut through a number of dichotomies which still pervade the historiography of science: center/periphery, modern/primitive, and especially reason/superstition. The article offers a robust research agenda for an even wider and more inclusive decolonial history of global science.



RAINER PRIZE

GUSTAVE LESTER

The Ronald Rainger Award Committee awarded this year's Ronald Rainger Early Career Award in History of the Earth and Environmental Sciences to Gustave Lester for his article, "Land, Fur, and Copper: The Union of Settler Colonialism and Industrial Capitalism in the Great Lakes Region, 1815–1842."

Gustave Lester's article demonstrates superior argumentation based on an impressive empirical source base. Previous scholarship in the history of earth and environmental science has suggested that natural resource surveys on the American frontier connected discoveries to potential markets. Lester's article emphasizes that shifts in the political economy of the copper mining region of what is now the state of Michigan were based on Indigenous knowledge of the land originating from as early as 7000 years ago, rather than on Euro-American colonial knowledge.

Notably suitable for this award, Lester's article aligns the history of earth and environmental science with broader debates about settler colonialism, geological exploration, American empire, and Indigenous land rights. It tells a story that combines western scientific knowledge of a supposedly newly discovered landscape with Indigenous knowledge of an ancient homeland. In a large field of strong submissions this year, Lester marshaled a variety of textual sources to contextualize geological exploration in early-nineteenth century America in the history of Indigenous land expropriation. In so doing, Lester shows that mineral prospecting ultimately mattered less to settler appropriation of Indigenous lands than an expansionist approach to land seizure did. This marks a signal contribution to the expanding historiography of earth sciences in the crucible of empire.



REINGOLD PRIZE

MICHELE D. PFLUG

The 2024 Nathan Reingold Prize has been awarded to Michele D. Pflug for her article, "'Ha? Where the Devil Got You Names?': The Gendered Politics of Naming Naturalia Before Linnaeus." The essay explores the complexities of naming in pre-Linnaean natural history, revealing a multimedia world of images, specimens, and names that extended beyond language alone. The paper highlights the role of women in this domain, showing how gendered restrictions on education and taxonomic publication were sometimes circumvented through visual and collaborative practices. Focusing on figures like Mary Somerset, Duchess of Beaufort, Cassandra Willoughby, and Eleanor Glanville, the author reconstructs how these women engaged in natural

history despite societal barriers. The essay carefully examines their strategies for navigating the male-dominated field, including concealing their identities and collaborating with men. Notably, the author utilizes plays, courtroom dramas, letters, and catalogues to vividly recreate the experiences of these women botanists. The essay is praised for its original research, detailed analysis, and engaging writing, offering a fresh perspective on the history of natural history and women's contributions to science. This innovative work sheds new light on the overlooked role of women in scientific naming practices before Linnaeus.



ROSSITER PRIZE

CHRISTOFFER BASSE ERIKSON &
XINYI WEN

Christoffer Basse Eriksen and Xinyi Wen, "Colouring Flower Books, Art, and Experiment in the household of Margery and Henry Power." *The British Journal of the History of Science* (2023), 56, 21-43.

In "Colouring Flower Books," Eriksen and Wen persuasively highlight the contributions of female artists to the history of early modern science by focusing on the household of Henry Power, a well-regarded English experimental philosopher. The article reveals the previously invisible, yet critical role of the epistemic labor of Power's wife, Margery. From the 1650's, the couple together studied the elusive presentation of color, together probing refractive qualities of colour under the microscope.

Eriksen and Wen meticulously document the subtle record in Margery's drawing album, hand colouring flower books, and various chemical and paper technologies available to her at home, including books, paper slips and recipe books. Margery's sophisticated knowledge of plants, her artistic sensibility towards color, and her experimental and imaginative methods contributed to a regularized colour system that had a significant impact on early modern microscopy, most visibly through the reputation of her husband, Henry Power. The committee was particularly impressed with the authors' careful attention to Margery's records on chemical substances, procedures, and technologies that framed the understanding of color in early modern microscopy. The essay is a significant addition to the history of science emphasizing the importance of the underappreciated role of the household, and especially women, to the making of scientific knowledge.



GERJUOY/MICHELL

DEREK NELSON

Derek Nelson is awarded the Edward Gerjuoy / John Michell Award for the best abstract by an independent scholar for his abstract for "Shipworms and the Origins of Marine Invasive Theory." Nelson's abstract manages to be both compelling and thorough while being very concise. The committee members were particularly impressed by how Nelson managed to convey not just the topic of his paper but his argument, all in an efficient and clear manner. Furthermore, that argument offers an original correction to received stories about the history of the "science of the sea."