
NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL STUDIES OF BIOLOGY

Fall 1989

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First Issue

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

When Marjorie Grene and Dick Burian decided to organize an institute on Philosophy of Biology for the summer of 1982, they did not realize that they had planted the seeds for a future international society. Yet the excitement of that summer extended to 1983, when a small group of historians, philosophers, sociologists, and biologists met at Denison University, and to 1985 when a much larger group gathered at St. Mary's College in Indiana. By 1987, at an even larger meeting at Virginia Tech, it had become clear that the interest in getting together to talk about biology across disciplinary and institutional boundaries had expanded beyond the availability of resources to support the activity. No longer was it reasonable to rely on the volunteer efforts, financial contributions, and good will of a few individuals.

With Marjorie Grene's support and Ernst Mayr's continual urgings for us to incorporate to form a society for biology studies, the organizing team for the Blacksburg meeting brought forth a proposal to look into incorporation. That group elected a committee to draft statutes and proposals for organization. Walter Bock headed the effort and produced a document that underwent meticulous discussion of what seemed like every possible detail at the 1989 meeting at the University of Western Ontario. Finally, an acceptable set of statutes emerged, and the officers have been in the process putting into place all the necessary formalities for a new society. This formal status will allow us to carry on our

only real purpose, namely to facilitate exciting intellectual exchange at the biennial summer meeting about biology among people from any discipline, institution, country, rank, or other persuasion.

We owe thanks to the honorary presidents Marjorie Grene and Ernst Mayr for their encouragement, and to Dick Burian as past president for his unflagging enthusiasm and hard work. It was largely the realization that we had counted heavily on Dick for too long and that there aren't many others out there with Burian-levels of energy that forced many of us to realize that we must incorporate. Thanks, Dick. Thanks also to Bob Paterson (secretary) and Peggy Stewart at Virginia Tech for their four years of hard work, which they will continue in their now official capacities as secretary and newsletter editors. And thanks to Rene Roth, who generated a sizable income from the last meeting which allows us to start out on a relatively sound financial footing. So many others have helped at each of the meetings, with local arrangements, program, contributions to sessions, and a host of other invisible services that virtually everyone deserves a vote of thanks at some level. So, thanks. We can now look forward to yet more intellectual activity without worrying about how, who, and whether it will be organized since we now have mechanisms for deciding such things.

As to where and when: David Hull has generously arranged to hold the next meeting at Northwestern University, which is in Evanston, Illinois, just outside Chicago. This is a lovely setting and will allow us to offer such attractions as a barbecue by the lake and comfortable accommodations. We will try meeting a little later in the summer next time, July 11-14, 1991. We would like also to select a site for 1993 before the next meeting, so please let me know if you would like to make a proposal and I will tell you what we need to know. Peter Taylor has been working hard on the program for 1991 already, coordinating people and suggestions. Please contact him with program ideas. And let me know if you would like to volunteer in any capacity or would like further information of any sort.

Jane Maienschein
October 1989

**INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY,
PHILOSOPHY,
AND SOCIAL STUDIES OF BIOLOGY**

STATUTES

Article 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology. It will be referred to in these statutes as The Society.

Article 2. Purpose. The purpose of The Society is to promote and encourage research, discussion and teaching in the history, philosophy and social studies of biology, and to provide a liaison among all historians, philosophers, sociologists, and biologists interested in these subjects. These purposes shall be achieved by meetings and conferences, and by the publication of journals in these fields.

Article 3. Organization. The Society shall be organized as a non-profit educational, scientific and cultural corporation under section 501(c)3 of the United States Internal Revenue Code under the laws of the state of _____.

Article 4. Membership.

Section 1. Membership: Membership in The Society shall be open to all persons interested in the history, philosophy and social studies of biology. Membership shall consist of members, student members, and emeritus members. All members of The Society may vote. Members in arrears of dues for more than one year will be dropped from membership following a letter from the treasurer apprising the member of the arrears.

Section 2. Members: Any individual interested in the purposes of The Society may apply for membership, and become a member upon filing the necessary application form and payment of dues.

Section 3. Student Members: Any individual registered in a program of study in any field relevant to the purposes of The Society may become a student member upon filing the necessary application form and payment of dues.

Section 4. Emeritus Members: Any individual who is fully retired may apply to be an emeritus member. Emeritus members shall not be assessed dues.

Article 5. Dues. The dues for all categories of members shall be established by the Council.

Article 6. Officers.

Section 1. Positions: The elected officers of The Society shall be a President, a President-Elect, a Program Officer, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Section 2. Terms: The terms for all elected officers of The Society shall begin at the end of one summer conference and run to the termination of the next summer conference.

Section 3. Election: Election of all elected officers and Elected Members of Council shall be by majority vote of an optional preferential mail ballot sent to the entire membership of The Society, at least three months prior to a scheduled summer conference. Members shall have not less than 30 days from the date of the ballot postmark in which to cast their ballot. The Secretary is responsible for the conduct of the election and reporting the results to the membership. Candidates for these positions shall be nominated by a nominating committee or by nomination by any two members of The Society. See below, Art. 7(1) for election of the Student Member of the council.

Section 4. The President: The President represents The Society, presides at all business meetings of The Society, the Executive Committee and the Council, and appoints all committees, including the Nominating Committee. The term of office of President shall be two years without eligibility for re-election.

Section 5. The President-Elect: The President-Elect shall assist the President and act for the President when the latter is absent from meetings or otherwise unable to carry out the duties of office. The President-Elect shall serve for a term of two years and then automatically advance to the position of President.

Section 6. The Program Officer: The Program Officer is responsible for the scholarly program of The Society, including all conferences and meetings. The Program Officer may have a program committee to assist in the work of preparation of the program at any meeting. The Program Officer shall serve for two years, without eligibility for re-election.

Section 7. The Secretary: The Secretary shall edit any newsletter of The Society and shall perform other duties assigned by the President. The Secretary shall maintain the membership list of The Society, and is responsible for conducting all elections. The Secretary shall serve a term of two years and is eligible for re-election. A secretariat may be established by the Council.

Section 8. The Treasurer: The Treasurer is responsible for all financial affairs of The Society, including filing all necessary forms and reports with the Internal Revenue Service. The Treasurer shall serve a term of two years and is eligible for re-election.

Article 7. The Council.

Section 1. Membership: The council shall consist of the immediate Past-President, the President, the President-Elect, the Program Officer, the Secretary, the Treasurer, a Student Member, and six Elected Members as voting members, and the Archivist, and the Editors of affiliated journals as non-voting members. The Student Member of the council is elected at the end of a summer conference by the student members present and serves for two years until the end of the next summer conference.

Section 2. Duties: The Council shall act as the general governing body of The Society and shall meet at the summer conferences and any other scheduled meetings of The Society. Specifically, the Council shall establish the dues structure, shall consider proposed amendments to the Statutes and shall consider invitations for summer conferences and other meetings.

Section 3. Terms of Elected Members: Elected Members of the Council shall serve a term of four years which shall be staggered so that a class of three members shall be elected every two years. Terms shall begin at end of the summer conference following their election and run to the termination of the next appropriate summer conference.

Section 4. Election of Elected Members: Election shall be with the officers of The Society (Art. 6: Sect. 3).

Article 8. The Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, the President-Elect, the Program-Officer, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. The Executive Committee shall act as the general governing body of The Society for all matters arising between scheduled meetings of the Council, excluding those specifically assigned to the Council. The Executive Committee shall inform the Council of all decisions reached during these periods. At the judgment of the President, significant matters shall be referred to the Council for decision.

Article 9. Meetings. Meetings of The Society shall be summer conferences, held outside of the academic year. A formal business meeting of The Society shall be held in conjunction with the summer conference.

Summer conferences shall normally be biennial. Additional meetings of The Society may be held alone or with other scholarly groups of interest to The Society.

Article 10. Business meetings. A business meeting of The Society shall be held at each summer conference and any other scheduled meeting of The Society. All decisions reached by the Council and the results of elections, etc., shall be reported to the members. Invitations for future summer conferences and other meetings shall be presented, together with the recommendation of the Council.

Article 11. Committees. The President shall appoint all committees, including the Nomination Committee (approval of the Council required), and Local Committees for conferences, with the exception of the Executive Committee. The immediate Past-President shall serve as Chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

Article 12. Reports. Reports of The Society shall be published in the newsletter of The Society.

Article 13. Publications. The publications of The Society shall include a newsletter and affiliated journals. The Secretary shall serve as the editor of the newsletter. The President, with approval of the Council, may establish affiliation agreements with publishers of scholarly journals. Editors of affiliated journals shall be non-voting members of the Council. Members of The Society shall receive any affiliated journals upon payment of the subscription cost which shall be established by negotiation with the publisher of the journal.

Article 14. Archives. The official depository for all correspondence, papers, etc. of The Society shall be designated by the President, with approval of the Council, at an established Archive. All members of The Society are encouraged to deposit correspondence and other papers associated with the activities of The Society in this depository. An Archivist of The Society shall be appointed by the Council. The Archivist is a non-voting member of the Council.

Article 15. Affiliation. The Society may affiliate with other societies interested with the purposes of The Society upon recommendation of the Council and a majority vote of a mail ballot sent to the entire membership of The Society.

Article 16. Amendments. These statutes may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the Council of any amendments proposed to it, followed by a two-thirds majority vote of a mail ballot sent to the membership of The Society.

Article 17. Enabling Clause. These statutes shall become effective immediately following their acceptance by a majority vote of the persons present at a regularly scheduled summer conference on the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology. The Statutes shall be published in the first newsletter of The Society. Thereafter, this Enabling Clause shall be dropped from the Statutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter J. Bock
for the Executive Committee,
International Society for the
History, Philosophy and Social
Studies of Biology

16 October 1989

Approved by the Executive Committee,
Summer Conference on the History,
Philosophy and Social Studies of Biology

NOTE: These statutes are subject to minor revision as necessary for presentation as The Society By-Laws which are required for incorporation of The Society in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT OF
SESSIONS FOR 1991 MEETING**
of the
International Society for the
History, Philosophy & Social Studies of Biology

1991 Program Committee
Program Coordinator: Peter Taylor
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The response to the preliminary announcement sent out in July was enthusiastic and the sessions below have been tentatively proposed for the 1991 meetings. If you want to participate in one of these sessions (or something similar) contact the persons listed, or send a note to Peter Taylor to be forwarded to them. Please also contact Peter Taylor if you are interested in a topic marked with an asterick so he can put you in touch with others interested in the topic.

Of course, other sessions can be proposed -- submit your proposal via any member of the program committee (listed below) -- and some of those below may not eventuate.

Preference will be given to sessions coordinated around a theme or a question over assorted individually contributed papers. The program committee will help connect people with related proposals and keep in touch with those who have proposed sessions to see how the sessions are taking shape and how everyone can best fit in. Workshop, roundtable discussions and other alternative formats are also welcome.

Remember the deadlines::

Session abstracts	October 31, 1990
Paper abstracts	January 31, 1991
Preliminary program distributed to IS/HPSSB members	February 1991
Final versions of session and paper abstracts	April 15, 1991
Final program to all registrants	May, 1991

Sessions already proposed:

TOPICS

CONTACT PERSONS

Beadle's Neurospora program: A 50 year retrospective	Dick Burian
Regional styles in biology	*
The impact of instruments on theory development	Joseph Pitt
History & sociology of classification	Joan Fujimura
Discipline formation c. 1900	Elihu Gerson
Formation, development & impact of modern synthesis	Elihu Gerson
Changing role of natural history museums	Elihu Gerson
Selection in biology (other than in evolution)	Helen Longino
From flax to bacteria: Possibilities for a neo-Lamarckian interpretation of genetic variation	Sahotra Sarker
Genetic load	Henretta Band
Conceptual change in the Darwinian research tradition	Bruce Weber
On Sober on phylogenetic reconstruction	Michael Donoghue
Alternative concepts of species	Douglas Allchin
Evolutionary epistemology	Douglas Allchin
Biodiversity (social, empirical, philosophical aspects)	Joe Pratt
Bioethics	*
The matrix of biological knowledge	Lindley Darden
Computational philosophy of biology	Lindley Darden
Strategies (for reasoning, experimentation, measurement, exploratory observation)	Lindley Darden