

Newsletter August 2002

I am happy to inform you that we have had a very successful World Economic History Congress in Buenos Aires. Those of you who went there know what an excellent job the organizing committee has done. There were more than 700 participants from 55 countries, presenting several hundreds of papers in 84 sessions. Full details on the congress will soon be available on the updated webpages of the congress: www.eh.net/XIIICongress/. In Buenos Aires a CD-rom with most of the congress papers was distributed among the participants. These congress papers are now also available on the congress webpage.

In his opening lecture on the development of economic history, Professor Herman van der Wee sketched the past and future prospects of our profession. The text of his keynote lecture is now available on the congress webpages. At the closing session of the Congress the prizes of the dissertation competition were awarded to the following scholars:

Antiquity and Late Medieval: Yadira Gonzalez de Lara (European University Institute, Italy)

Early modern: Jörg Baten (University of Munich, Germany), and Liam Brunt (Oxford University UK)

Modern, before World War I: Simone Wegge (Northwestern University, USA)

Modern, after World War I: Chibuike Uche (London School of Economics, UK)

At two round tables the possibility to develop new future activities within the framework of the IEHA were discussed, notably activities in the field of PhD training and the collection and exchange of large data bases. In the near future I will inform you about these plans in more details (see also the memorandum on this topic on: [roundtable2002](#)).

Furthermore, I would like to give you an update of the changes in the organization of the IEHA. In Buenos Aires, on Thursday 25th of July the General Assembly of the IEHA was held. The main topics of the meeting were the reforms of the Statutes, proposed by the reform commission and

the Executive Committee, and the election of new members of the Executive Committee.

As far as the statutes were concerned, the Executive Committee (in its meeting of July 21st, 2002) decided to adopt the amendments proposed by the Economic History Society and the Association Française des Historiens Economistes. At the General Assembly the new set of statutes were approved unanimously. This means the reform process, which began directly after the XIIIth World Economic History Congress in Madrid, has now been concluded. The new statutes of the IEHA have been sent to you via email. The reform commission, consisting of Richard Sutch (chairman), Riitta Hjerpe, Pat Thane, Peter Solar, Gilles Postel-Vinay, Leandro Prados and Jan Luiten van Zanden (secretary) was dissolved, and their members were thanked warmly for the work they had done for the IEHA.

As for the Executive Committee, the following members stepped down after many years of dedicated service to the IEHA: Pat Thane (Vice-president), Hans Christian Johansen (treasurer), Jaime Reis, Hans Pohl, Scott Eddie. Both at the General Assembly and at the closing session of the Congress the president expressed his deep gratitude on behalf of the IEHA for the work they had done for the organization. What's more, our president and organizer of the Buenos Aires Congress, Roberto Cortés Conde, retired. To honour his work for our association, the General Assembly appointed him honorary president of the International Economic History Association.

As for the new Executive Committee, the General Assembly elected the following members:

- Richard Sutch, president
- Riitta Hjerpe, vice-president
- Chris Lloyd, treasurer
- Jan Luiten van Zanden, secretary-general (second term)
- Osamu Saito (second term)
- Patrick Fridenson (second term)
- Sevket Pamuk (second term)
- Jacob Metzger (second term)
- Jacek Kochanowicz (second term)
- Tamas Szmrecsányi (second term)
- Leonid Borodkin (second term)
- Carlos Marichal (first term)
- Om Prakash (first term)
- Naomi Lamoreaux (first term)
- Gianni Toniolo (first term)
- Rolf Walter (first term)
- Forrest Capie (first term)

The General Assembly was very pleased to approve the membership appliance of Chinese Economic History Society, the Indian Economic and Social History Association, and the Economic and Social History Foundation of Turkey. This means, as observed by Patrick O'Brien (delegate on behalf of the Economic History Society), that in one stroke the membership of the IEHA grew with about a third of the world population.

Finally, the General Assembly endorsed the decision of the Executive Committee to have the XIVth World Economic History Congress in Helsinki in 2006. Riitta Hjerppe will be the organizer. More news about the organization will follow in November, when we will send you the first call for session proposals.

Jan Luiten van Zanden, Secretary General