

Newsletter December 2008

Dear colleagues,

This letter is to inform you about the activities and decisions taken by the Executive Committee of the IEHA during its last meeting in Kyoto on November 6-7, 2008. First, you will have noticed that preparations for the World Economic History Congress in Utrecht (3rd-7th August 2008) are in full swing. All information on the congress as well as the provisional program is available on the congress website (<http://www.wehc2009.org/>).

Concerning the academic program, the Executive Committee discussed the session proposals that were submitted in reply to the second call for session proposals. A total of 129 proposals was received, 79 of which were accepted for inclusion in the congress program which brings the total number of sessions up to 139. During the EC Meeting, the juries of the dissertation sessions met and decided each on three candidates who will present their PhD research in the dissertation sessions in Utrecht:

- Pre 1800: Jelle van Lottum (University of Utrecht), Danielle van den Heuvel (University of Utrecht), Amilcar Challu (Harvard University)
- Long 19th Century : Christopher Beauchamp (Cambridge University), Rui Pedro Esteves (University of California, Berkeley), Se Yan (University of California, Los Angeles)
- 20th Century: David John Bricknell (Manchester Metropolitan University), Kerry Jane Hickson (London School of Economics), Aldo Musacchio (Stanford University).

Thirdly, the Executive Committee discussed the nominations for seats in the Executive Committee to be filled in 2009. These nominations were made by the member associations and evaluated by a nomination committee, comprising of Riitta Hjerpe (president), Jan Luiten van Zanden (vice-president), Joerg Baten (secretary general), as well as one outside member (Albert Carreras, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona). At the Utrecht Congress, the current vice-president Jan Luiten van Zanden will become president, according to the statutes. The current Secretary General is willing to serve another term. After having served for two terms, Christopher Lloyd will step down as treasurer. Luis Bértola (Universidad de la República Oriental del Uruguay) was nominated as his successor, a nomination that has been fully endorsed by the nomination committee and by the Executive Committee. For sitting membership the following members were nominated: Catherine Schenk (University of Glasgow, UK), Tirthankar Roy (London School of Economics, UK), Price Vanmeter Fishback (University of Arizona, US), Franco Amatori (Università Bocconi, Italy), Salomón Kalmanovitz (Central Bank of Colombia).

In its meeting of August 2006 in Helsinki, the General Assembly discussed the possibility of moving the IEHA bank account to the Netherlands. The financial benefits were obvious. The seat of the IEHA will have to be moved and the statutes will need other adaptations to Dutch law. The Executive Committee therefore discussed necessary changes in the statutes. The vice-president and his team will work out a draft version of the statutes and send it around two months before the meeting of the General Assembly. The EC also selected the host city of the Congress in 2012. After the presentations of the potential organizers and a general discussion of the proposals, the Executive Committee decided that the World Economic History Congress in 2012 will take place in Stellenbosch, which has the reputation of being the safest city in Africa. We are looking forward to an interesting Congress in South Africa!

As supplied last year and as a token of respect for many years of dedicated service to the IEHA, we would like to provide you with short biographies and research profiles of former EC members. In this year's newsletter you can find interviews with Forrest Capie and Rolf Walter. Sincere thanks are given to them for answering our questions.

With kind regards,

Joerg Baten
Secretary General

Forrest Capie



1. Short biography

Born in Glasgow, Scotland 1940. PhD from University of London(London School of Economics); Teaching Fellow at LSE; Lecturer in Economics, University of Warwick; Lecturer in Economic History, University of Leeds; from 1986 Professor of Economic History, City University, London; and from 2004 Bank of England. (Visiting professor at University of Aix-Marseille, 1976 and London School of Economics, 1992-1993.); Editor of Economic History Review, 1993-99)

2. Which situation, person, or event brought you into economic history, and which motivation kept you there?

Having started out as an accountant I became interested in economics and before going to read economics at university discussed it with Sir Alec Cairncross (then at the Treasury). He advised me to read history and maths with economics, advice that

I followed. That equipped me for the emerging 'new' economic history and I pursued that initially.

3. Please report five publications typical for your research fields (any language).

(1) "The British Tariff and Industrial Protection in the 1930s" Economic History Review, Aug.1978, Reprinted in C.H. Feinstein (ed) Essays in British Economic Policy and Performance since 1930 (OUP 1983) (2) "Shaping the British Tariff Structure in the 1930s" Explorations in Economic History, April 1981. (3) "Conditions in which very rapid inflation has appeared" in Brunner and Meltzer (eds.) Carnegie-Rochester Public Policy Series. (March 1986). Reprinted in Capie (ed.) Major Inflation in History (4) "Central banks, macro policy and the financial system" Financial History Review (1995) (with Charles Goodhart). (5) "Can there be an international lender of last resort?" International Finance, December 1998 (Reprinted in Goodhart ed. Reader on Lender of last resort (OUP, 2002)

4. Could you describe one of your most important research findings?

In an examination of trade policy in the 1930s I calculated effective rates of protection for a range of British industries. The results seriously challenged the view that tariff protection had been an important contributor to Britain's remarkable growth in the 1930s - the strongest upswing (1932-37) it had ever experienced. In fact the tariff had a negative impact

Rolf Walter



1. Short biography

I was born 1953 and went to school in Kirchheim/Teck, a middle sized town of 40,000 in Wuerttemberg, South-West Germany. In the winter of 1973 I started to study political economy and business administration at the Friedrich-Alexander-University in Erlangen-Nuremberg. After finishing my examination in 1978, I enjoyed a grant of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and went to Venezuela. There I spent time in different archives researching the at that time relatively new field of bilateral economic relations between Europe and Latin America in the 19th century. I obtained my PhD in 1982 and finished my

"Habilitation" in 1988. From 1991 onwards, I am professor of Economic- and Social History at the Friedrich-Schiller-University in Jena. From 1996 to 1998 I was also dean of the faculty.

2. Which situation, person, or event brought you into economic history, and which motivation kept you there?

I was lucky to come into contact with Hermann Kellenbenz, the chairholder for Economic and Social History, and eminent scholar of the late medieval and early modern economic and social history. Many remember Kellenbenz as former member of the Executive Committee and one time treasurer of the IEHA and as a distinguished member of many international organizations and academies of science. His lectures and seminars on the fascinating world of merchants, entrepreneurs, commodities and global trade did not fail to inspire his young and curious students. I, too, felt an enormous motivation and decided to follow his path. My two volume diploma thesis covered the German trade with Brazil in the 19th century with special reference to an important firm with the name Hasenclever & Co. In this context I developed a matrix with exchange rates including a number of most important "world cities". I consider this specific matrix of real exchange rates to be my first important research finding. Later on, this "system" was adapted by other economic historians. German-Venezuelan relations were the major topic of my research in Venezuela, a desideratum at that time. I published two Spanish books and three German ones, as well as a number of articles on German-Venezuelan themes. During this time, I also began to discover regional aspects of economic history. The rather fragmented territories of South-West Germany in the early modern age were an incentive for me to find out the structure of intra- and interregional trade, and to ask for its function as well as its contribution to proto-industrialization. I traced typical clusters of commercialization and achieved to find some hint on market development in the early stages of the Industrial Revolution. Another research path, that Hermann Kellenbenz was going to intensify, was that of world trade and globalization. In Jena we picked up the topic and created an academic profile that includes proto-globalization and world trade. A publication on this was "Geschichte der Weltwirtschaft. Eine Einführung" (Introduction into the history of the world economy, an introduction) (2006), and I prepare a second volume for advanced students. Another main field which caught my theoretical interest is evolutionary economic history. The presence of the Max-Planck-Institute for Economics in Jena provides an excellent basis to develop ideas co-operatively between economists and economic historians. Some other fields of current research are history marketing, the history of innovation and change, the history of (proto-) globalization, dynamics of regional development, and methods of oral history.