

**XVIIIth INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE**
Hamburg and Munich
Federal Republic of Germany
1-9 August 1989

The XVIIIth International Congress of the History of Science is scheduled for 1 to 9 August 1989. It will take place in two cities of the Federal Republic of Germany, in Hamburg and Munich. From Tuesday, 1 August, until Saturday, 5 August, the venue will be the "Congress Center" in Hamburg (CCH). On Sunday, 6 August, the Congress will transfer to Munich and will be continued in the "Deutsches Museum von Meisterwerken der Naturwissenschaft und Technik" until Wednesday, 9 August 1989.

The *general theme* of this Congress will be

Science and Political Order
(Wissenschaft und Staat).

This theme is to comprise all facets of the relations between science — here always understood to include technology and medicine — and the numerous forms of political order. Political order, in this context, is to be interpreted in a broad sense : from the various philosophies about society and state to the actual realizations they have found in past and present in all parts of the world.

Thus the term "state" is meant to include not only the organization of governmental power (and the processes of political decision making) at various times in history, but also all forms of governmental and semi-governmental institutions that have influenced the growth of science in one way or another. The relations between science, technology and political systems are, however, not only to be studied in one direction. The congress theme should also direct attention to the response of science to the political order : response in the form of organisation and management of science, in the choice of research topics, in

the ways in which science, medicine and technology have been applied to meet the needs of the state in peace-time and in war, and the actions these disciplines have taken at various times to bring their interests to bear on state and government. Last but not least the responsibility of science and the scientists towards the state and its various forms of political activities under which science is undertaken in daily research, teaching, planning, etc. should be topics of reflection and discussion at this Congress.

As usual, the Congress will consist of *Symposia* which will address themes of special interest, and *Scientific Sections* devoted to the various branches and periods of the history of science and technology. As a new departure, we propose to introduce *Poster Sessions*. Colleagues availing of this facility will be allocated space on a poster board, and one morning or afternoon session will be reserved for discussion. During this period (or at any additional time they may wish to announce on the board) they may be contacted by other congress participants, explain their research projects and discuss in an informal way problems and results of their work.

Chairman of the *National Program Committee* is Prof. Fritz Krafft (Fachbereich Mathematik, Staudinger Weg 9, D-6500 Mainz, F. R. of Germany), chairman of the *Organizing Committee* is Prof. Christoph J. Scriba (Institut für Geschichte der Naturwissenschaften, Bundesstr. 55, D-2000 Hamburg 13, F. R. of Germany). Chairpersons of the various Commissions and Committees of the Division of History of Science of the International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS/DHS) who are interested in organizing special symposia are invited to contact Prof. Krafft in the near future.

The first detailed circular will be distributed by the National Committees of the IUHPS/DHS, or may be requested from Prof. Scriba (Bundesstr. 55, IG, D-2000 Hamburg 13, F. R. of Germany). This circular should be ready for distribution in late summer 1987. The second circular will be mailed to all colleagues who by returning the entry-form express interest in further information.

20 January 1987.

C. J. SCRIBA.