

# Newsletter



**for the History of Science in Southeastern Europe**

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**CONTENTS:**

Progress of the DACALBO Project .....	1
Progress of the NARSES Project.....	3
Completion of the HEPHAESTUS Project .....	4
1 <sup>st</sup> Workshop of the NARSES Project .....	5
2 <sup>nd</sup> International Colloquium .....	6
5 <sup>th</sup> ESHS International Conference .....	7
24 <sup>th</sup> HSTM International congress .....	7
Publications from Istanbul University .....	8
History of Meteorology in Turkey .....	9
History, Philosophy and Didactics of Science ....	10
Europe et Sciences Modernes .....	10
Gender Studies and Science .....	11
Mélanges d'histoire et de philosophie des .....	11
sciences offerts à Michel Blay .....	11
The Greek scientific thought in the 17 <sup>th</sup> and .....	12
18 <sup>th</sup> century .....	12
Theophilos Kairis.....	12
HPG/EPS Annual Meeting.....	13
Critical Science & Education .....	14
Almagest 4/1, Vol. 7.....	15
Almagest 4/2, Vol. 8.....	15
Call for Papers on Science & Literature.....	15

**PROGRESS OF THE DACALBO  
RESEARCH PROJECT**

*Digital archive concerning alchemy in Byzantium  
and in Greek-speaking communities  
of the Ottoman Empire and educational as well as  
cultural utilization of this archive*

The Institute of Historical Research (National Hellenic Research Foundation), in collaboration with the National and Kapodestrian University of Athens (Faculty of Primary Education), the University of Ioannina (Department of Chemistry) and the Center for History and Paleography of the National Bank of Greece Cultural Foundation, is currently running the DACALBO research project, under the coordination of Efthymios Nicolaidis. The project is sponsored by the Thales Programme, National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013.

The principal objective of DACALBO is to provide access to documentary resources necessary for the historical reconstruction of the development and the mutations of alchemy in the Medieval and Early Modern Greek-speaking world, creating a repository of textual information concerning Greek alchemy, from the period of Byzantium to that of the 18th century Ottoman Empire.

The DACALBO research group has already made substantial progress in refining its research plan, according to the experience acquired through its initial efforts to successfully implement it, and in achieving, as well, many of its preliminary goals. It goes without saying that there are many things that remain to be done and many challenges that must be met.

One of the specific tasks, whose execution is already underway, is the compilation of a catalogue of manuscripts preserved in libraries of Greece containing Greek alchemical texts. Another specific task, very similar to the first, is the compilation of an inventory of manuscripts preserved in libraries of Greece, Balkans, and Russia containing Greek texts that are relevant to alchemy (e.g. hermetic texts, texts revealing practical skills pertaining to alchemical manipulations, astrological, medical, philosophical texts, etc.). Most of the manuscript catalogues of Greek, Balkan, and Russian

libraries have already been examined, and both these catalogues are being prepared.

A bibliography of secondary sources on Greek alchemy has been completed and the DACALBO research group can now move on to the next stage of its bibliographical work, in which it will collect the available bibliography on the authors of the alchemical texts, and it will prepare biographical notes on each of these authors.

Certain of those manuscripts- which contain Greek alchemical texts or Greek texts relevant to alchemy that the DACALBO research group has already located and catalogued- have been fully transcribed by the group of paleographers that forms part of the DACALBO research group. One such case is the MS. 197 which is preserved in the library of the Monastery of Olympiotissa, in the city of Elassona. This is an early Greek alchemical manuscript (folios 1-98 are dated to the year 1507, while ff. α'-ζ' and 104-110 are written from another scribe and are dated to the year 1741), containing many of the texts that are usually included in the surviving copies of the Greek alchemical corpus, as well as some later alchemical recipes and notes. Dr. Tselikas, director of the Center for History and Paleography of the National Bank of Greece Cultural Foundation, is the supervisor of the group responsible for the manuscript transcriptions.



*The Monastery of Olympiotissa*

Another section of the DACALBO research group, based in the city of Ioannina, is currently charged with the task of preparing a critical edition of the alchemical treatises attributed to Stephanus of Alexandria, of studying the content of these treatises and evaluating their impact on the historical development of alchemy. This task will be accomplished in collaboration with Professor Maria Papathanassiou. Supervisor of the Ioannina group is Professor Efthymios Bokaris.

Owing to the efforts of Drs. Gianna Katsiampoura from the National Hellenic Research Foundation and Rémi Franckowiak from Lille University, two symposia on the history of alchemy have also recently been organised. The first, under the title “Byzantine and post-Byzantine alchemy: principles, influences and effects”, took place at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the European Society of History of Science, which was held in Athens (1-3 November 2012). The second, on “Alchemy: the relationship between working and knowing from late antiquity to the seventeenth century” took place at the 24<sup>th</sup> International Congress of History of Science, technology and Medicine, which was held in Manchester (21-28 July 2013).

Finally, significant steps have been made in tracing particular historical trajectories that link alchemy to other fields of knowledge or, more generally, other fields of discursive production. Members of the DACALBO research group are presently studying specific relational aspects of Byzantine alchemy, such as the interaction between Byzantine alchemy and natural philosophy (especially in the case of Michael Psellus), the influence of theological or cosmological conceptualizations on alchemical discourse, or the complicated bond between alchemy and medicine.



*Michael Psellus (on the left) with his student, Emperor Michael VII Doukas*

In the coming months, the section of the DACALBO research group working in the National and Kapodestrian University of Athens, under the direction of Professor Skordoulis, will delve into the problem of activating historical knowledge in the field of didactic practices. Yet another section of the group, based at the National Hellenic Research Foundation, will start designing and building a database. And these are only some of the demanding tests that the DACALBO research group must pass, as the project proceeds.

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## PROGRESS OF THE NARSES RESEARCH PROJECT

*Nature and Religion in South-eastern  
European Space: mapping Science and  
Eastern Christianity religions  
in South-eastern Europe and Eastern  
Mediterranean*

The NARSES project, focusing on the localization and the exploration of the multiplicity of relations between science and religion from the 4<sup>th</sup> c. AD to the 20<sup>th</sup> c. in the geographical areas of south-eastern Europe and eastern Mediterranean, started in November 2012 and is operational for three years, that is, until 2015. Its main purpose is to fill a gap in actual research concerning the intersection between the historiography of science and the historiography of religion in eastern Christianity. Through the creation of a comprehensive, open access, online database, the project aims primarily to develop and communicate to the international scientific community the necessary conceptual tools and material (primary sources, commentaries, secondary bibliography and biographical entries for authors and scholars included) for a further and deeper understanding of the eastern Christianity's relation with philosophy of nature and natural sciences in the conceptualization of nature, cosmos and God.



*Zodiac with Christ-Helios in his Chariot surrounded  
by 12 disciples, c. 813-820 AD/CE  
(Vat. Gr. 1291)*

In accordance with the project's specifications, an interdisciplinary scientific team was gradually formed by historians of science, historians of philosophy/ philosophy of science, historians of education, philologists, byzantinists, paleographers and informatics specialists in order to cover the wide spectrum of primary sources concerned and the technical challenges related to the project's goals. The research fields follow a specific but flexible periodization (from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> c., from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> c., from 13<sup>th</sup> c. to 15<sup>th</sup>

c., from 15<sup>th</sup> c. to 1833 and from 1833 to 1945) that acts as an indicative framework according to major turning points in the history of religion and the history of science.

From the beginning of the project, the research team's work, under the coordination of Efthymios Nicolaidis, has focused on three main goals. The first one consists in identifying, collecting and classifying the primary sources and the bibliographical and historical data, concerning the relation between science and religion conforming to the aforementioned periodization, in order to introduce them into the database. Within this framework, members of the NARSES team have visited archives, libraries and European research centers (Observatoire de Paris, CAPHES, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science). Concurrently, research meetings and presentations of texts and authors between members of the NARSES team, held at the National Hellenic Research Foundation (NHRF) not only provide interactions and important discussions about the selection criteria of texts, the reevaluation and the clarification of the conceptual core of the Programme's main fields of research but also offer the opportunity to locate arising problems and formulate of methodological solutions and suitable tools for the appropriate mapping of the terminology, concepts and articulations between different fields and periods serving as research aims. In this sense, the NARSES research meetings are closely linked to the second goal, the design specifications of the web portal and the database currently under construction.

The third goal concerns the dissemination of research results, the promotion of the team's activities and the mutual exchanges with other researchers and research institutions working on relative scientific fields. For this reason, members of the NARSES team have already presented the results of their work at international scientific conferences, have co-organized with the University of Nantes an international conference titled "Europe et sciences modernes" and have attended lectures by foreign visiting researchers at the NHRF (for example Ronald Numbers and Anne Laurence Caudano).

Finally, the 1<sup>st</sup> workshop of the NARSES project took place on the island of Syros in July 2013, hosted by the Cyclades department of the General State Archives. On this occasion, the NARSES scientific group, along with researchers and scholars coming from European scientific and educational institutions (CIERL/ Bruxelles, EHESS/Paris, University of Belgrade, Hellenic Open University) covered several top-

ics related to the conceptual area of the project ranging from ancient Greek philosophy, Hellenic Jewish philosophy and the Patristic tradition to Byzantine theology and philosophy, and from Greek Enlightenment to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The workshop allowed for a first presentation and evaluation of the work already accomplished by the NARSES team, but also for an illustration of the open perspectives for further research on the relation between science and religion in south-eastern Europe.

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## ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE HEPHAESTUS PROJECT

### *Hellenic Philosophy, History and Environmental Science Teaching Under Scrutiny*

The History, Philosophy, and Didactics of Science and Technology Programme (HPDST) originates from a strategic partnership of two initially complementary teams, the Programme for the History and Philosophy of Science of the Institute for Neohellenic Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation and the Laboratory of Didactics and Epistemology of Natural Sciences, which is part of the Faculty of Primary Education of the University of Athens.

A SWOT report has identified the team as an excellent regional research unity, and has pointed out the following main weaknesses: lack of human resources' mobility, of European strategic partnerships and of experience in museology and science communication.

The HEPHAESTUS project was motivated by the desire to expand the activities of the HPDST team in a state-of-the-art level in the areas of history, philosophy and didactics of science and technology, to establish strong connections and strategic partnerships with the international community and to establish HPDST as a team of excellence at an international level.

To achieve these objectives, the following actions were implemented during the HEPHAESTUS project:

- Exchanges of 23 scholars for mid- and long-term research visits from and to European centers of excellence
- Recruitment of two scholars for 28 months each to reinforce the team in strategic fields
- Organization of four research seminars
- Organization of five workshops
- Organization of three international conferences
- Construction of the team's web portal
- Organization of three exhibitions in Athens, four in other Greek towns and eight in other European countries
- Publication of the international journal *Almagest*
- Publication of a Newsletter
- Publication of two thematic volumes
- Publications resulting from seminars, workshops and conferences and other publications
- Creation of a documentary film
- Promotion of the team to international events



*The exhibition Kirkinos (drawing instruments) at  
the NHRF*

### *Major achievements of the HEPHAESTUS Project*

- Establishment of strategic partnerships: 7 long-term international cooperation agreements signed with seven institutions, six European and one Chinese; four international networks created.
- Two new research projects funded for the next four years (total budget 985,000 Euros) on Byzantine Alchemy and on Science and Religions.
- The success and the development of the Antikythera Mechanism exhibition (continues far beyond Hephaestus implementation having attracted important sponsorship, 300,000 visitors expected at the National Archeological Museum).
- A largely diffused documentary film on the Antikythera Mechanism coproduced with the TV channels ARTE (France, Germany), ERT (Greece), NHK (Japan).
- The new international journal *Almagest* edited by Brepols international publishers: <http://www.hpdst.gr/publications/almagest>
- The scientific results in the following fields: Science and religions, Byzantine science, history of science in the south-eastern Europe

and the east Mediterranean, impact of science and technology on the modernization of societies, science teaching using history of science, epistemology of the 20th century.

- The establishment of two series of international conferences on science education and on the relations between Europe and sciences.
- The development of international interdisciplinary cooperation projects involving all the laboratories of the Institute for Historical Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation.
- The development of a state-of-the-art website and affiliated websites: [www.hpdst.gr](http://www.hpdst.gr)



*The Antikythera Mechanism exhibition at the NHRF  
HPDST Partners*

Five-years cooperation agreements to be prolonged tacitly have been signed with seven institutions. The agreements concern research activities, historical heritage activities as well as activities relating to education and diffusion in the fields of history and philosophy of science and technology. The purpose of these agreements is to strengthen institutional relations between the partners in order to identify and realize common interest activities using the abilities and synergies of both parties.

Agreements have been signed with the following institutions:

- Institute for the History of Natural Sciences, Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Laboratoire Systèmes de Référence Temps-Espace (SYRTE), Observatoire de Paris – CNRS – Université Marie Curie
- Musée des arts et métiers – Conservatoire national des arts et métiers
- Centre d’Histoire des Sciences et des Techniques de l’Université de Liège
- The Needham Research Institute, Cambridge, UK
- UFR Lettres et Langages de l’ Université de Nantes

- Institute of Contemporary History, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic

Besides the above mentioned institutions, the following are involved in HPDST projects:

- The Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge (Byzantine Alchemy).
- The Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (Women in science and scientific biographies).
- The School of Arts and Education, Middlesex University (series of the Conferences on science education).

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### 1<sup>ST</sup> WORKSHOP OF THE NARSES PROJECT

The 1<sup>st</sup> Workshop of the NARSES Project (Nature and Religion from the 4<sup>th</sup> c. AD to the 20<sup>th</sup> c. in South-eastern European Space) was held at Syros island on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7-2 σ of July 2013. Its overall objective was to present a provisory but illuminating account of the research already accomplished until summer 2013 and to provide a rewarding and valuable debate towards a further understanding of the different genres of relations and interactions between Sciences and Religion, as the conceptualization of Nature and Cosmos within eastern Christianity. Members of the NARSES research team and invited researchers and scholars from a wide spectrum of disciplines presented a total of ten papers based on primary sources that cover several topics, ranging from ancient Greek philosophy, Hellenistic Jewish philosophy and Patristic tradition to Byzantine theology and thought, and from the Greek Enlightenment to the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



*Cosmas' Indicopleustes pattern of the universe, Codex Sinaiticus graecus 1186, fol. 65r, 11<sup>th</sup> century, St. Katherine's monastery, Sinai*



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## 5<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

*Scientific cosmopolitanism and local cultures:  
religions, ideologies, societies*

The 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the European Society for the History of Science (ESHS) took place in Athens, from November 1<sup>st</sup> to November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012. It was co-organized by the Institute for Historical Research of the National Hellenic Research Foundation and the Faculty of Education of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. The prime mover of the organization of the conference was the History, Philosophy and Didactics of Science and Technology Programme.

The conference was held in four different venues, chosen for their accessibility and interesting locale. The opening ceremony and the opening plenary session was hosted at the Main Building of the University of Athens, an historical building in the heart of Athens, which was founded in 1839 and completed in 1864. Most of the sessions, however, took place at the National Hellenic Research Foundation and the Marasleion Academy, another known architectural jewel of Athens, with a history of more than a century. The conference dinner was hosted at the Athens University Lobby, which used to be the working place of the celebrated Greek poet Kostis Palamas.



*The Marasleion School: one of the venues the conference*

The conference had an attendance of at least 350 scholars from all over Europe and the world. The breadth of the conference is evinced by the number of different events that were hosted under its aegis: Thirty two different symposia took place, with themes ranging from the reception of synthetic evolutionary theory to ancient

astronomy. The conference organizers' efforts to accommodate such a large number of happenings resulted in more than ten parallel sessions. Despite the inevitable last minute cancellations and changes, the conference run smoothly, from the first day to the last.

The next ESHS International Conference will be held in Lisbon (4-6 September 2014) and its theme will be 'Communicating Science, Technology and Medicine'.

The proceedings of the 5<sup>th</sup> ESHS International Conference will be published online at the site of the conference: [5eshs.hpdst.gr](http://5eshs.hpdst.gr)

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## HPDST IN THE 24<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HISTORY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE



The 24<sup>th</sup> International Congress of History of Science, Technology and Medicine took place in Manchester, UK, from 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July 2013. The History, Philosophy and Didactics of Science and Technology Programme (National Hellenic Research Foundation and University of Athens) had a strong presence in this Congress. Members of the Programme were co-organizers of Symposia and gave papers.

In detail: Gianna Katsiampoura was co-organizer of the symposium "Alchemy: the relationship between working and knowing from late antiquity to the seventeenth century", where she presented the paper "Michael Psellus: a discussion about the substance of matter and alchemy's techniques in eleventh-century Byzantium". In the same symposium Vaggelis Koutalis gave a presentation under the title "Knowledge and labour in the alchemical lectures of Stephanus of Alexandria".

George Vlahakis co-organized the symposium "The achievements of R. J. Bošković in the philosophy of nature, astronomy, technique and culture: historical resources and contemporary epistemic reflections", where he presented the paper "He was not there, but his ideas? The virtual presence of Bošković in modern-day science in Greece". He also gave a presentation under the title "Unearthing the earth: geology in eighteenth and nineteenth century Greece" in the framework of the symposium "Geologists in the field".

Kostas Tampakis was co-organizer of the symposium “The paper world of science in the age of industry and Empire”, where he presented his paper “Translating the past into the present: publishing, translation and Greek scientific practice, 1838-1905”.

Finally, Eleni Bakou gave the paper “Spreading the knowledge: Penicillin’s ‘apostle’ Sir Alexander Fleming”, in the session “Sources and biography”

Efthymios Nicolaidis was co-organizer of the symposium “Science, technology and Medicine in the Ottoman Empire”, where he presented the paper “Scientific policies in nineteenth century south-eastern Europe: the Ottoman Empire and the new national states”. He was also co-organizer of the symposium “Comparative perspectives on ancient astronomy: the Chinese and Greek traditions”, where he was commentator in the session “Greek tradition in various cultures”.

Constantine Skordoulis co-organized the symposium “The contribution of Friedrich Engels in the history of science and technology”, where he presented the paper “The environmental thought of Friedrich Engels”.

For more details and the *Book of Abstracts*: <http://www.ichstm2013.com/>

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### **CORRECTION TO THE NEWSLETTER 17/DECEMBER 2012:**

Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu was the principal author in addition to being the Editor of the following volumes presented in the Newsletter 17/December 2012, p. 7:

- *History of Ottoman Astrology Literature and Supplement to the History of Ottoman Astrology Literature*
- *Supplement to the History of Ottoman Scientific Literature* (Mathematical, Geographic, Music, Military Arts, Natural and Applied Sciences and Medical Sciences Literature) *and History of Ottoman Classification of Sciences Literature*
- *General Index of the History of Ottoman Scientific Literature*

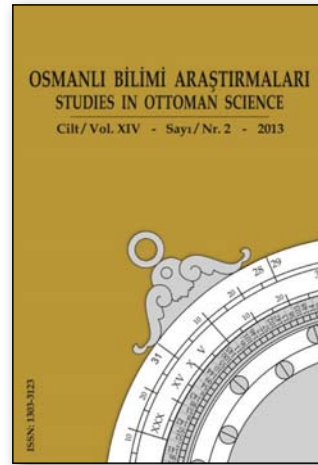
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### **PUBLICATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE, ISTANBUL UNIVERSITY, TURKEY**

#### *Studies in Ottoman Science*

The Journal *Osmanlı Bilimi Araştırmaları* (Studies in Ottoman Science) is currently published both online and in hard copy. All issues published so far are accessible at: <http://www.>

[journals.istanbul.edu.tr/tr/index.php/oba/issue/archive](http://journals.istanbul.edu.tr/tr/index.php/oba/issue/archive)



#### *Vol. XIII, Nr.1, (2011)*

Research articles: The Anatolian expeditions of Turhan Baytop (1920-2002) and his plant collection (Asuman Baytop); From workshop to gunpowder mill: Saltpetre production in Karaman province in the 18th-19th centuries (Yunus İnce); Nineteenth century Turkish architectural drawings: Reflections on some new examples (Orhan Cezmi Tuncer); Transnational ‘cruising’ of scholars: European astronomers in Istanbul University (1933-1958) (Feza Günergün – Sevtap Kadioğlu); Archeologists, anthropologists and diplomats who have collected plant specimens from Anatolia (Asuman Baytop). Articles in translation: The Statute of the Union of Turkish Engineers and Architects established in İzmir in 1924 (Şeref Etker); Istanbul University Faculty of Sciences Regulations of 1924 (Şeref Etker). Activity reports: 2004-2009 Activities of the Departement of the History of Science, Faculty of Letters, Istanbul University (Gaye Şahinbaş Erginöz)

#### *Vol. XIII, Nr.2, (2012)*

Research articles: Botany in Greece during the 19th Century. A periphery at the center (George N. Vlahakis, Athina Economou-Amilli); Wilhelm Noë (1798-1858) and his Turkish plant collection (Asuman Baytop); G. V. Aznavour (1861-1920), his plant collection and his publications (Asuman Baytop); H.S. Vahanyan and his Principles of Chemistry (Isgızpunk Kimiagan Kidutyany); Istanbul, 1853 (Şeref Etker); The military march of physics-I: Physics and mechanical science in the curricula of the 19th century Ottoman military schools (Meltem Akbaş);



Dr. Avramino de Castro, Director of the Toptaşı Mental Asylum in Scutari: A Bio-bibliography (Fatih Artvinli); The teaching of modern sciences in the Military School, Istanbul (Gülşah Eser). Articles in translation: Hüdavendigâr Medical Society Statue and By-laws (Bursa, 1914) (Şeref Etker); Dr. Abdullah Bey's Article "The Surrounding Area of the Küçükçekmece Lake in Rumelia" (İlhan Şıram)

*Vol. XIV, Nr.1, (2012)*

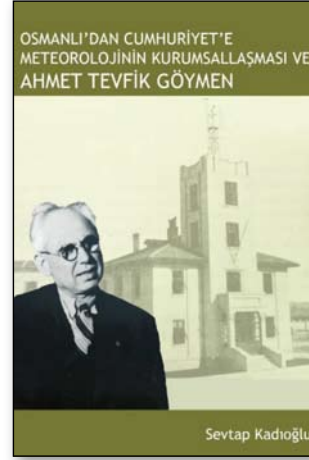
Research articles: Plant collectors who have collected from a restricted area in Anatolia (Asuman Baytop); Friederike Sorger (1914-2001), her Anatolian travels and her plant collection (Asuman Baytop); Dr. Wolfgang Gleißberg's presidency of the Turkish Astronomical Society (Şeref Etker); A study on the Mecmûa-i Fünûn-ı Baytariye - with annotated bibliography (Berfin Melikoğlu Gölcü & Şule Osmanağaoğlu Sanal); The military march of physics-II: Physics and mechanical science in the curricula of the 19th century Ottoman military schools (Meltem Akbaş). Addenda: Dr. Zigardelakizade Salih Nabi: Psikiyatri ve Müzik (Şeref Etker); A. Adıvar'ın MV İslam Ansiklopedisi'ne yazdığı 'Mukaddime'nin çevirmenleri hakkında (Feza Günergun)

*Vol. XIV, Nr.2, (2013)*

Research articles: The Management of Lunatic Asylums and the Insane: Unpublished Draft Regulations and the Ongoing Discussion in Turkey (Fatih Artvinli- Şeref Etker); From Quinaquina to 'Quinine Law': A Bitter Chapter in the Westernization of Turkish Medicine (Feza Günergun - Şeref Etker); State Quinine in Turkey from the Ottoman to the Republic Era (Gürkan Sert - Emre Dölen); Physics Education in the Darüşşafaka (Meltem Akbaş); Ahmet Atilla (1914-2008), Horticulturist (Asuman Baytop). Book review: Nahyan A.G. Fancy, Science and Religion in Mamluk Egypt: Ibn al-Nafis, Pulmonary Transit and Bodily Resurrection, London, Routledge, 2013 (Şeref Etker)

### **A STUDY ON THE HISTORY OF METEOROLOGY IN TURKEY**

*Sevtap Kadioğlu, Osmanlı'dan Cumhuriyete Meteorolojinin Kurumsallaşması ve Ahmet Tevfik Göymen (Institutionalization of Meteorology in Turkey during the late Ottoman and early Republican periods, and Ahmet Tevfik Göymen), Istanbul, 2012, 178 pp.*



This book investigates the institutionalization of meteorological works in Turkey and focuses on the scientific career of Ahmet Tevfik Göymen (1885/86-1949), the founder of the Turkish State Meteorological Service.

The book is composed of two main sections and appendices. The first section has two chapters devoted respectively to the history of meteorology in the Ottoman and Republican periods. The first chapter deals with the early meteorological observations conducted in Ottoman Turkey as well as the Imperial Observatory, military and civilian meteorological administrations, the 1918 Congress of Meteorology, the teaching of meteorology at the Darülfünun (University) and at the School of Agriculture in Halkalı. The second chapter treats the work done by the Meteorological Institute of the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture, the biography of Antal Réthly, and the meteorological offices created by the Turkish Republic.

The second section starts with a detailed biography of Ahmet Tevfik Göymen who pioneered in promoting meteorological education and research in Turkey. While Göymen's books and articles are introduced, the list of his publications is given in the appendix. The book is amply illustrated with hitherto unpublished photographs from Göymen's family albums and also from his publications. It is a valuable contribution to the history of institutionalisation of science in Turkey and successfully introduces a meteorologist who has been little known among Turkish scientists and historians.

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## HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY AND DIDACTICS OF SCIENCE

*Skordoulis K., Nicolaidis E., Koleza E., D. Chassapis, History, Philosophy and Didactics of Science, Nissos Academic Publishing, Athens, 2011*

This volume contains selected papers presented at the National Conference on History, Philosophy and Didactics of Science, which took place in Athens between 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of May 2010, under the scientific supervision of the Greek Society of History, Philosophy and Didactics of Science.

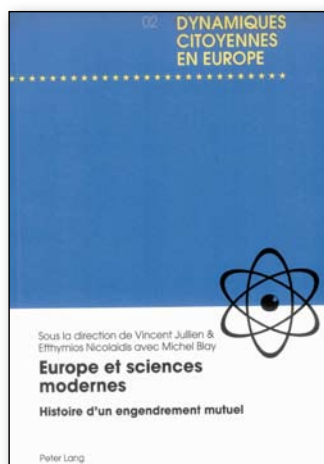
The main themes of the conference aimed at providing a platform for primary research conducted in Greece in the fields of scientific activity of the Greek Society of History, Philosophy and Didactics of Science.

In particular, the papers comprising this volume touch on matters of history of science, relations between history of science and didactics, philosophy of science, sociology of science, theory and practice of didactics, institutionalization of didactics of science, didactics' methodology.

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## EUROPE ET SCIENCES MODERNES

*Vincent Jullien, Efthymios Nicolaidis and Michel Blay (eds), Europe et Sciences Modernes: Histoire d'un Engendrement Mutuel (Europe and Modern Sciences: History of a Mutual Constitution), Berne: Peter Lang, Berne, 2012*



The international conference “Europe and Modern Sciences: History of a Mutual Constitution”, held in Nantes between 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2011, was the result of a collaboration

between the History, Philosophy and Didactics of Science and Technology Programme and the Centre Atlantique de Philosophie, University of Nantes (France). The conference was the first step of cooperation between the two groups on the issue of the establishment of Europe and the sciences. The main topic for discussion was how Europe produced modern science and how modern science constituted Europe. The conference was sponsored by the HEPHAESTUS Project, the University of Nantes (Maison des Sciences de l’Homme) and the municipality of Nantes.

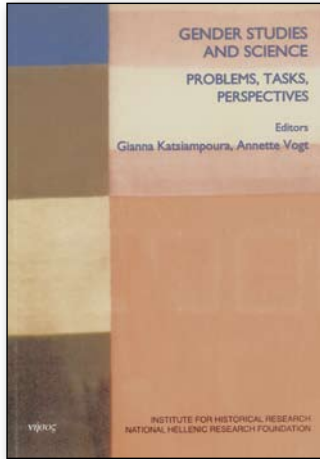
The volume begins with an extensive introduction relating to questions about the interrelationship between science and Europe by Vincent Jullien and Michel Blay, partners of the History, Philosophy and Didactics of Science and Technology Programme, and Efthymios Nicolaidis, (Institute for Historical Research/National Hellenic Research Foundation), and continues with a series of papers that approach the issue under investigation from various different perspectives: Jean Celeyrette, “La notion de communauté scientifique aux XIIIe et XVIe siècles”, Matthieu Husson, “Théories et pratiques de l’usage de l’arithmétique et de la géométrie en optique, astronomie et musique au début du XIVe siècle”, Cyrille Michon, “Les condamnations de 1277 et la naissance de la science modern. Perspectives cavalières sur la thèse de Duhem”, Efthymios Nicolaidis, “Byzance et les sciences perse, latine et juive (14e-15e s.)”, Michela Malpangotto, “Vienne, Rome, Nuremberg : Regiomontanus et l’humanisme”, Jean Dhombres, “Quel fut le sens d’une unite intellectuelle contre le dogmatism dans l’Europe de la révolution scientifique?”, Eberhard Knobloch, “La discussion des critères du progrès scientifique chez Bacon et Kepler”, H. Floris Cohen, “La révolution scientifique, un concept repensé”, Michel Blay, “Penser avec l’infini : l’ouverture”, Anastasios Brenner, “La transformation des valeurs scientifiques au XVIIe s.”, Frédéric Le Blay, “Descartes contre Aristote : l’autre querelle des Anciens et des Modernes”, Vincent Jullien, “Une assemblée européenne, le groupe Mersenne”, Antonella Romano, “Jésuites et science moderne, les voies européennes et non européennes d’un engendrement conflictuel”, Frédérique Ait-Touati, “Les relations de la France et de l’Anfleterre dens l’Europe savant du XVIIe siècle : échanges, correspondances, concurrences”, Christophe Brun, “Configuration géographique ‘européenne’ et dynamique d’innovation: sur l’hypothèse d’un engenderment mutuel depuis Strabon”, Constantine D. Skopdoulis, “Marxism, history

of science and the emergence of postclassical physics theories”.

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### GENDER STUDIES AND SCIENCE

Gianna Katsiampoura, Annette Vogt (eds),  
Gender Studies and Science: Problems, Tasks,  
Perspectives, Nissos/NHRF, Athens, 2012



The research on the topics “women and science” and “gender and science” covers a range of fields, such as history, sociology, philosophy, psychology, mathematics, natural sciences, technology, medicine, etc. Through these different approaches and different methods, research on gender studies is updated and opens in turn further research fields. However, studies on the issue of gender determinations in the field of natural sciences are scarce. The field of natural sciences, with respect to both research and teaching, has attracted so far little interest in Greece and elsewhere. Nonetheless, as one of the most gendered determined spaces, it continues to be one of the most privileged areas for the study of gender differences.

Taking the above into consideration, nowadays it is possible to formulate a series of questions and seek pathways for research. The first question concerns the methodology in relation to the history of science. The history of science has much to offer in the interpretation of the relationship between gender and science, given that this interpretation is a crucial point in reforming existing patterns (both in terms of gender and science itself, i.e. its epistemological and methodological frameworks). The exposure and study of gender discriminations in this field aims not merely at a wider ‘feminine’ participation but the renegotiation of the nature of science itself and its institutional forms. An open question is how the methodologies of the two fields, gender studies and the history of science, could

affect each other, leading to more pluralistic approaches.

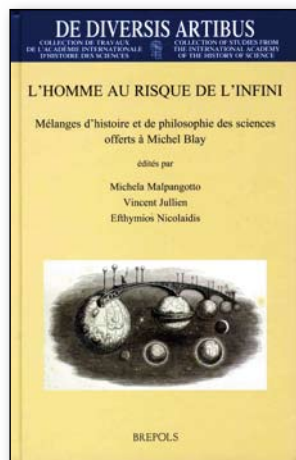
A second issue concerns the study and reexamination of the sources in the light of the exposure of gender differences. This study, apart from bringing the ‘invisible’ women to light, may also expose the causes and mechanisms that rendered them invisible (gender, class, race, etc.).

The volume *Gender Studies and Science: Problems, Tasks, Perspectives*, edited by Annette Vogt, from the Max Planck Institute in Berlin, and Gianna Katsiampoura from the History, Philosophy and Didactics of Science and Technology Programme of Institute for Historical Research/NHRF, aims precisely at highlighting the relationship between gender and science, through the theoretical concerns expressed in recent years. The contributions that make up the volume approach the issue in question from different perspectives, so as the total volume to provide broadest possible oversight of contemporary concerns. After a brief introduction by Gianna Katsiampoura and Annette Vogt, follow the contributions by Anna Chronaki, “Disrupting ‘Development’ as the Quality / Equity Discourse: Cyborgs and Subalterns in School Technoscience”, Anne-Sophie Godfroy, “Why usual assumptions should be questioned”, Gianna Katsiampoura, “Gender, Ecology and History of Science”, Maria Rentetzi, “Gender, Science and Politics: Queen Frederika and Nuclear Research in Post-war Greece”, Martina Schlunder, “Femaleness as regular pathology? Menstrual calendars as instruments for regulating the irregularities of ‘female nature’”, Tzvetta Sofronieva, “The Radium Institute, the Cavendish Laboratory and the emergence of atomic physics in Bulgaria”, Olga Valkova, “The Conquest of Science: Women and Science in Russia, 1860-1940”, Annette Vogt, “From Sofia Kovalevskaja to Dorothy Hodgkin - Women in Science in Europe”.

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### MÉLANGES D’HISTOIRE ET DE PHILOSOPHIE DES SCIENCES OFFERTS À MICHEL BLAY

Michela Malpangotto, Vincent Jullien,  
Efthymios Nicolaidis, *L’Homme au Risque de l’Infini: Mélanges d’histoire et de philosophie des sciences offerts à Michel Blay, De Diversis Artibus Collection de Travaux de l’Académie Internationale d’Histoire des Sciences (The Man at the risk of infinity: Varia of history and philosophy of science offered to Michel Blay), De Diversis Artibus, Collection*



The book, written by the friends and colleagues of Michel Blay was offered to him on the occasion of his *Éméritat*. The ceremony took place at the Observatory of Paris with the presence of Claude Catala, Director of the Observatory, Alain Fuchs, President of the CNRS and Robert Halleux, Perpetual secretary of the International Academy of the History of Science.

Contents of the book:

#### I La science classique

Giorgio Israel, “Gli indistruttibili paradossi di Zenone”; Sabine Rommevaux, “Six inconvénients découlant de la règle du mouvement de Thomas Bradwardine dans un texte anonyme du xive siècle”; Michela Malpangotto, “Réévaluer l’humanisme mathématique”; Maurice Clavelin, “Du cosmos aux marées. La justification de l’héliocentrisme chez Copernic et Galilée”; Jean Seidengardt, “Mathématiques et Métaphysique dans les recherches astronomiques de Kepler”; Robert Fox, “Thomas Harriot’s Oxford”; Robert Halleux, “La chronologie des ouvrages de Jean-Baptiste Van Helmont”; Bernard Joly, “L’héliocentrisme réfuté par l’alchimie: Pierre Jean Fabre et l’immobilité de la Terre”; Vincent Jullien, “Gassendi à Marseille, qu’allait-il faire dans cette galère? ”; Suzanne Débarbat, “Newton, ses Principia de 1687 et les astronomes français”; Niccolo’ Guicciardini, “Une note sur Newton et la tradition néo-pythagoricienne”; Eberhard Knobloch, “L’algèbre sonnante: les relations entre la combinatoire et la musique de Mersenne à Euler”; Marco Panza et Sébastien Maronne, “Euler et la mécanique newtonienne: d’une mécanique géométrique à la mécanique analytique”; Fauque Danièle, “Autour du dossier

Boscovich conservé aux Archives de l’Académie des sciences de l’Institut de France”.

#### II Science, littérature et art

Michèle Gally, “Points de vue. Science et poésie en dialogue (XIIIe – XVe siècles)”; François Roudaut, “Quelques remarques sur le Soleil chez un poète encyclopédique du XVIe siècle”; Pierre Caye, “De la scientificité des arts. Réflexions sur le rapport entre les arts plastiques et les mathématiques à l’âge humaniste et classique”; Francesco Furlan, “Momus seu De homine. Ruses et troubles de l’exégèse, ou Des errances de l’histoire”; Frédérique Aït Touati, “Le savant et le poète: Hooke lecteur d’Ovide”; Véronique Le Ru, “La rose de Fontenelle”; Pierre Crépel, “Le comte Lagrange et le baron Maurice”; Jean Eisenstaedt, “La petite histoire de la ligne droite qui se mord la queue”.

#### III Science, philosophie et politique

Eftymios Nicolaidis, “Les condamnations d’idées scientifiques par l’Église orthodoxe”; Chantal Grell, “Pierre Desnoyers et les curiosités d’un savant diplomate”; Simone Mazauric, “Sciences et politique sous l’Ancien régime: Les académiciens honoraires de l’académie des sciences (1699-1740) ”; Philippe Büttgen, “La raison de sang-froid. Une page de Lessing”. Anastasios Brenner, “La philosophie des sciences à la Belle Époque”; Denis Guthleben, “Jean Perrin, Jean Zay : le savant et le politique”; Pascal Pirot, “La ‘Commission nationale des sciences’ et l’émergence d’un concept de politique scientifique en Belgique”; Claude Debru, “Quelques considérations sur l’histoire et la philosophie des sciences”; Jean-Marc Levy-Leblond, “Une histoire des sciences au vingt-et-unième siècle”; Charles Larmore, “Histoire et Vérité”; Claire Salomon-Bayet, “Les parallèles sont des droites qui ne se rencontrent pas”.

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#### THE GREEK SCIENTIFIC THOUGHT IN THE 17<sup>TH</sup> AND 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

*Manolis Patiniotis, Στοιχεία Φυσικής Φιλοσοφίας. Ο ελληνικός επιστημονικός στοχασμός τον 17<sup>ο</sup> και 18<sup>ο</sup> αιώνα (Elements of Natural Philosophy. The Greek scientific thought in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century), Gutenberg, Athens, 2013.*

Manolis Patiniotis has already given us a number of studies on the scientific movement in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. These studies clearly reveal his intention to overcome the traditional

historiographical models and in particular to provide an alternative approach to the well-known center-periphery scheme and to review in a critical way the established historiography of science in Greece.



His recent book is an epitome of the history of scientific thought in the Greek speaking territories during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries in the framework of adaptation-assimilation. As Patiniotis notes, he aims to discuss the works of the Greek speaking scholars not as manifestations of a timid effort to introduce the science already formed in Europe but as evidence of an active contribution to the dialogue about the new philosophical vision of nature which lasted during the whole 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The book serves as a means towards a better understanding of the heterogeneous intellectual environment, which provided the ground for the formation of science both in the Greek speaking territories and mainly in Europe as a whole. Moreover, it comprises a well documented study and deserves a place in the library of anyone interested in the history of science not just as storytelling but as a history of western civilization during the first crucial centuries after the Scientific Revolution. More specifically, the book is divided into six distinctive parts, which even though could stand independently, finally result in a harmonic synthesis.

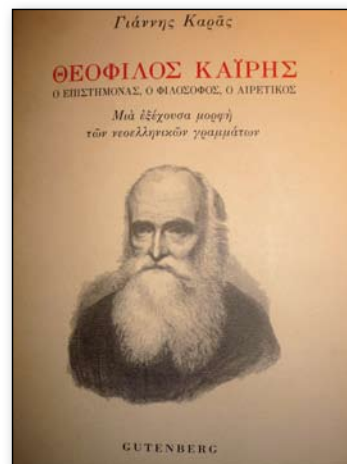
*George N. Vlahakis  
Hellenic Open University  
Athens, Greece*

### THEOPHILOS KAIRIS

*Yannis Karas, Θεόφιλος Καΐρης, ο επιστήμονας, ο φιλόσοφος, ο αιρετικός. Μια εξέχουσα μορφή των νεοελληνικών γραμμάτων (Theophilos Kairis, the scientist, the*

*philosopher, the heretic. A prominent figure of the modern Greek letters), Gutenberg, Athens, 2013.*

Yannis Karas is most probably the only researcher who was devoted exclusively in the study of the history of science during the long 18<sup>th</sup> century in Greece. His work, massive in quantity and excellent in quality, is undoubtedly the starting point for every serious attempt to learn and understand the scientific thought in the Greek speaking lands until the establishment of the independent Greek state.



His most recent book is a portrait of Theophilos Kairis, a man who left an indelible imprint on the thought of Greek intellectuals of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. As Karas notes, he situates this portrait within the general historical context, highlighting the relationship of the individual to the collective. Thus avoiding another hagiography, Karas gives us a critical reappraisal of Kairis' work based on the relevant primary sources and the existed secondary literature.

Particular interest for the reader has the discussion about 'enylon', a substance which according to Kairis is responsible for the status of the Universe, its properties and its action. Karas includes also a chapter about the well-known question, that is if Kairis was a heretic or even an atheist.

In conclusion, this a book that has to be read by anyone who wants to form a general but thorough opinion about the work and life of Theophilos Kairis but also to understand that the past and its history is the basis of the present and the reality in which we live.

*George N. Vlahakis  
Hellenic Open University  
Athens, Greece*

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## HISTORY OF PHYSICS GROUP/EUROPEAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the History of Physics Group of the European Physical Society took place in Lisbon from 17-19 October 2013. The meeting was hosted kindly by Marta Lourenco, Curator of the Museum of Natural History and of History of Science and Technology.



During the meeting participants visited the Cabinet of Physics in the museum as well as the chemical laboratory, where many historical instruments have been preserved in excellent condition. A visit in the library of the Academy of Sciences gave also the opportunity to discover the hidden treasure of a collection of scientific books of the previous centuries. Many of these books reflect in an interesting way the relationship between science and religion. As we have seen, the Jesuit tradition was very lively in the academic community of Portugal and Jesuits' influence was unquestionable.

The visit in the Laboratorio Chémico and the Cabinet of Physics in the University of Coimbra strengthened this impression as both were originally built by the Jesuits too.

It was also fascinating to realize that alchemy and chemistry were performed in the same building but also that a lot of alchemical apparatus were later used as instruments for chemical applications.

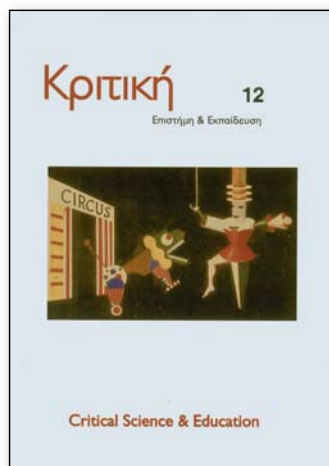
Last but not least the wonderful Porto wine we tasted at the Institute of Wine following the directions of the expert Prof. Denis Weaire was a sign that physics and chemistry may produce also something magic outside the labs.

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## CRITICAL SCIENCE & EDUCATION

The 12th issue of the bilingual (Greek and English) journal Critical Science & Education

was published in April 2012. This issue has 3 parts. The first part is about the latest research in ecology, the second part includes papers on critical education and the last part studies issues from the history of science.



The contents of this issue are as following:

Gianna Katsiampoura, “The death of Nature’: Ecofeminism and History of Science: a critical approach” (pp. 3-12),

Kyriakos Kyriakou & Achilleas Mandrikas, “From the holistic and ecosystemic point of view of nature in ecology to holistic and systemic approach in environmental education” (in Greek) (pp. 13-28),

Achilleas Mandrikas, “For a critical environmental education for future teachers” (in Greek) (pp. 29-43),

Maria Terdimou, “The Aposelemis river dam in Crete” (in Greek) (pp. 45-60),

Ioanna Stavrou, “James Lovelock, Gaia as a patient” (in Greek) (pp. 61-67),

Alex Coutsouris, “Education from a Critical point of view” (pp. 69-78),

Antigoni Paroussi & Vassilis Tselfes, “Early Childhood Education Student Teachers Cross the Cultural Borders between Science and Shadow Theater” (pp. 79-113),

Konstantinos Nikolantonakis, “A common European textbook for the History of Science and the Eurocentric perception of Science” (pp. 115-124),

Ali Salehpour, “Jaam-e Jamshid” (pp. 125-130),

Lajos G. Balazs, “In memoriam Magda Vargha (1931-2010)” (pp. 131-133),

Magda Vargha & Zoltán Kolláth, “About the Urania Theater and Kövesligethy’s ‘the Harmony of the Spheres’” (pp. 135-141)

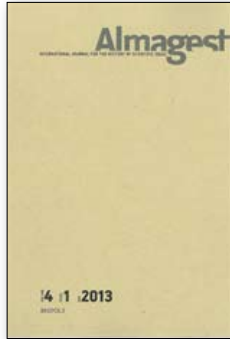
Spyros Kollas & Krystallia Chalkia, “Sci-

entific literacy: established and radical ideas. The second change schools” (in Greek) (pp. 143-160).

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### ALMAGEST 4/1, VOL. 7

The seventh volume of *Almagest*, International Journal for the History of Scientific Ideas, published in May 2013 is a volume of varia.



#### Contents:

Michela Malpangotto, “La critique de l’univers de Peurbach développée par Albert de Brudzewo a-t-elle influencé Copernic ? Un nouveau regard sur les réflexions astronomiques au XVe siècle”

Noël Golvers, “A note on the ‘machine of Roemer’ in late-17th century China, Antoine Thomas, SJ, and the first contacts of Ferdinand Verbiest, SJ, with the Jesuits in Paris”

Sonja Brentjes, “Narratives of knowledge in Islamic societies: what do they tell us about scholars and their contexts?”

Rinat M. Nugayev, “The Ptolemy – Copernicus transition: intertheoric context”

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### ALMAGEST 4/2, VOL. 8

The eighth volume of *Almagest*, International Journal for the History of Scientific Ideas, published in November 2013 is a volume of varia.



#### Contents:

M.T. Wright, “The Antikythera mechanism: compound gear-trains for planetary indications”

Alexey V. Postnikov, “The Russian mission to Bukhara in 1842 and the fate of the English emissaries Charles Stoddart and Arthur Conolly”

Tomislav Petković, “The achievement, legacy, intuition, and cosmopolitanism of Nikola Tesla”

Raffaele Pisano, Danilo Capecchi, “Conceptual and mathematical structures of mechanical science in the western civilization around the 18th century”

Vaios Argyrakis, “The evolution of wind theory and the concept of exhalation in the context of ancient Greek thought”

Book Review by Gianna Katsiampoura, “Ioannis Telelis (ed.), *Georgios Pachymeres, Philosophia. Book 5, Commentary in Aristotle’s Meteorologica. Βιβλίον πέμπτον, των μετεωρικών, editio princeps*”

Book Review by George N. Vlahakis, “Iannis Karas, *Θεόφιλος Καΐρης, ο επιστήμονας, ο φιλόσοφος, ο αιρετικός. Μια εξέχουσα μορφή των νεοελληνικών γραμμάτων (Theophilos Kairis, the scientist, the philosopher. A prominent figure of the modern Greek letters)*”

Book Review by George N. Vlahakis, “Manolis Patiniotis, *Στοιχεία Φυσικής Φιλοσοφίας. Ο ελληνικός επιστημονικός στοχασμός τον 17<sup>ο</sup> και 18<sup>ο</sup> αιώνα (Elements of Natural Philosophy. The Greek scientific thought in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century)*”

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### COMMISSION ON SCIENCE & LITERATURE DHST/IUHPST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE & LITERATURE 10-11 JULY 2014 ATHENS, GREECE

#### *Call for papers*

This Conference is the first to be organized under the aegis of the Commission on Science and Literature DHST/ IUHPST, which was established in July 2013. Co-organizers will be the School of Humanities, Hellenic Open University and the Program of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology of the Institute of Historical Studies/ National Hellenic Research Foundation.

The Conference does not have a specific theme, as its intent is to create an open forum

for all scholars interested in Science and Literature, thus bringing into the dialogue multiple perspectives. Nevertheless, the Conference will be organized along thematic sessions, according to the papers which will be accepted by the Scientific Committee.

During the Conference, members of the Commission will elect the first body of officers (president, two vice presidents, secretary and webmaster) who will serve as Council Board for three years. Membership in the Commission is open (without any fees). To apply for membership send an email to [gvlahakis@yahoo.com](mailto:gvlahakis@yahoo.com).

#### *Venue of the Conference*

The Conference will take place in the National Hellenic Research Foundation, Vasileos Constantinou 48, 116 35 Athens Greece. It has been chosen also for symbolic reasons as it combines harmonically research in the humanities and in sciences. (<http://www.eie.gr/index-en.html>)

The building is typical of the 1960s architecture with all the necessary facilities, coffee bar and a nice patio. Smoking is not permitted in all closed areas of the building. There is easy transportation to the center of Athens (which is in a walking distance of 15 minutes) and the airport.

#### *Submission of Papers*

Proposals for individual papers (20 minutes) or panels of three or four papers should be submitted to [gvlahakis@yahoo.com](mailto:gvlahakis@yahoo.com) until the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014. They must include the title of the paper (or the theme of the panel), name and affiliation of the author(s), an abstract of no more than 350 words and a short CV of up to five lines.

An international committee will review the submissions and notice of acceptance will be given on 15<sup>th</sup> of February.

#### *Registration*

November 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 to April 30<sup>th</sup> 2014

Registration fees (include coffee, tea, refresh-

ments and Conference material): 120 Euros  
Students, early career or unemployed researchers: 60 Euros

After the 30<sup>th</sup> of April the fee will be 150 Euros for ordinary registration and 75 Euros for the reduced fee categories.

Conference dinner (optional): 40 Euros

Conference dinner will be given at a restaurant near Acropolis, in the traditional old city of Athens, with a view of the hill and monument of Acropolis.

Please notify us if you prefer a vegetarian menu.

An optional excursion to Aegina island on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July (about 1 hour with ferry from Pireaus) will be organized for those who would like to enjoy a day on a typical Greek island with nice food, excellent beaches and visits to historical sites. The fee for participation will be kept at the minimum level.

Registration fees shall be paid in the following account by bank transfer:

Georgios Vlachakis  
National Bank of Greece  
account number: 100/762194-91  
IBAN: GR150110100000010076219491  
SWIFT (BIC) ETHNGRAA

Please note your name and "Science and Literature Conference" as the reason of transfer. A short note by email will be appreciated.

#### *Accommodation*

Participants are asked to make their own arrangements concerning their accommodation in Athens, but the Conference organizers will be happy to give any necessary assistance. Therefore a list of hotels and hostels will be shortly available.

#### *Website*

The website of the Commission ([www.cos-lit.org](http://www.cos-lit.org)) will soon be available and any further information will be posted there.

