



FORUM FOR HISTORY OF HUMAN SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

Volume 14, Number 1

www.fhhs.org

Summer 2002

Notes from the Chair

John Burnham and the History

of Human Science

by Paul Jerome Croce

This year, the Forum presents its first John C. Burnham Early Career Award, which is jointly sponsored by the Forum and *The Journal for the History of the Behavioral Sciences*. The name of the award is a token of recognition for John's outstanding contributions as a professor at Ohio State University, as a scholar of the history of "psychology, medicine, and morals" (to quote from the subtitle of his 1988 book, *Paths into American Culture*), and, until recently, as editor of the *JHBS*.

Another of his many books, with the provocative title *How Superstition Won and Science Lost: Popularizing Science and Health in the United States*, was published exactly fifteen years ago. This anniversary gives an opportunity to say a few words about this book's insights and about its suggestions for ways to think about the history of human science.
cont. p. 3

Forum Meeting in Milwaukee

Position Openings Include Chair

The Forum membership will meet, quite soon, at the History of Science Society annual meeting, in Milwaukee. Our business meeting will be on Friday, November 8, 5:30-7, in the Crystal Room at the Hyatt. Please come, ready to hear about our recent accomplishments and to join in future projects. Citations will be read for the 2002 Dissertation Prize and the first-ever Burnham Early Career Award.

Important business at the upcoming meeting includes election of officers and appointment of committee members.

The Chair of FHHS, Paul Croce, has finished his two-year term; he has asked not to be nominated for another term. Representative One, Jamie Cole-Cohen, is finishing his three-year term. (There are two other Representatives whose terms continue, one rotating off each year.) The positions of newsletter editor and website editor are generally up for grabs (as appointed positions). Both are wonderful opportunities for people to become well acquainted with the field and with the activities of our members, and to work closely with the other officers.

The officers (with help of the membership) will appoint a committee for the 2003 FHHS Article Prize. Also, we also need a committee for the 2003 FHHS/JHBS John C. Burnham Early Career Award. There are likely other activities that will come to our attention between now and the meeting time.

Please come and take an active part in our work. If you cannot make it to Milwaukee but want to contribute to our activities, just contact our officers, listed on the next page.

FHHS NEWSLETTER

Summer 2002—vol. 14, no. 1

Notes from the Chair	1
Forum Meeting Soon	1
JHBS Subscriptions	2
Next Year's Forum Prizes	4
News of Members and Friends	4
Upcoming Conferences	4-7
Recent Publications	7



Forum for the History of Human Science

Founded 1988

affiliated with History of Science Society and
Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences

* * * * * www.fhhs.org * * * * *

Chair: Paul Croce, Dept. of American Studies,
Stetson University, Campus Box 8255, Deland FL
32720-3756 email: peroce@stetson.edu

Vice-Chair: Hans Pols, Unit for History and Phi-
losophy of Science, Carlaw Building F07, Univer-
sity of Sydney, NSW 2006 Australia
email: h.pols@scifac.usyd.edu.au

**Treasurer - Corresponding Secretary: Nadine
Weidman**, 138 Woburn St., Medford, MA 02155
email: weidman@fas.harvard.edu

Recording Secretary: Richard von Mayrhauser,
2616 Hillside Dr., Burlingame CA 94010
email: rm@webpathway.com

Representative One: Jamie Cole-Cohen, Program
in History of Science, Dickinson Hall, Princeton NJ
08544-1017 email: janniecc@princeton.edu

Representative Two: Peder Anker, Senter for Ut-
viking og Miljø, Postboks 1116 Blindern, 0317
Oslo, Norway email: j.p.anker@sun.uio.no

Representative Three: Juliet M. Burbu, Program
in the History of Science and Technology, Univer-
sity of Minnesota, Tate Laboratory of Physics, 116
Church Street SE, Minneapolis MN 55455
email: burb0006@umn.edu

Newsletter Editor: David K. Robinson, Division
of Social Science, 100 East Normal St., Truman
State University, Kirksville MO 63501-4221
email: drobinso@truman.edu

Website Editor: Hans Pols,
email: h.pols@scifac.usyd.edu.au

FHHS MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

For more than three decades, the *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* has served as the premier forum for the dissemination of noteworthy scholarly research related to the evolution of the behavioral and social sciences. Among the benefits of FHHS's formal affiliation with the *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences* is the opportunity for members to subscribe to the journal at a 15% discount off the regular personal rate.

2003 Subscription Rates for FHHS members:
\$68.00 per year in U.S., Canada, and Mexico
\$91.80 per year outside of North America

Payment must be made in U.S. dollars, drawn on a U.S. bank. Visa, Mastercard, American Express, and Discover Cards also accepted. Please add applicable sales tax. In Canada, please add GST. Prices include shipping, handling, and packaging charges, worldwide. All subscriptions outside the U.S. will be sent by air. Prices subject to change.

Order by phone:

Inside the US: 1-201-748-6645

Outside the US: (0) 1243 8779777

Order by fax: 1-201-748-5915

Order by mail:

(Be sure to specify your FHHS membership status)

John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Subscriptions Department

PO Box 18667 Newark, NJ 07191-8667

USA

Paid Dues?

If you have not paid your dues for 2002, please send a check, plus updated information, to Nadine (see list of officers on left.) Annual dues are \$10. Graduate students and the underemployed are dues-exempt but should notify Nadine of their membership request each year.

Notes from the Chair, continued from p. 1

The book deals with a paradox of public perception. The conventional wisdom is that with accelerating cultural authority, over the last quarter millennium, science defeated superstition—we all know the drill: since the Enlightenment, especially since the late nineteenth century, and even more with the mushrooming of Big Science in the twentieth century, more knowledge of nature and more sophisticated professionalization debunked the more primitive forms of knowledge.

Without doubting the superiority of science to previous forms of knowledge, Burnham points out that a funny thing happened on the way to its triumph. Science lost to superstition. The superstitions that he describes would be of a new type and often not even widely recognized, but this book provides thick descriptions to show how the popularizations of science (in effect, the way most people perceive science) have been dominated by sensationalism, by pandering to the marketplace, and even by treating the processes of applied science as a kind of magic. These traits of popularization have forms different from traditional superstition, but they are the "functional equivalent of superstition" in their actual or implied anthropomorphism, teleology, animism, and poor experimental methods.

Ironically, this modern superstition has developed a pattern of non-scientific thinking about science. So while the older and more familiar form of superstition was decidedly anti-scientific, this modern form is in a sense super-scientific—it is both uncritically enthusiastic about science and is based on ideas that leap beyond (or actually fall below) science in their lack of rigor.

We did not fall into this sticky situation swiftly or easily. As science became more complicated in the early nineteenth century, the "diffusion of science" answered the public's curiosity. As science grew in authority late in the century, that diffusion became attached to a "religion of science" perspective, with hopes to convert at least the educated public to scientific methods of rational thinking. As science became more institutionalized in the twentieth century, it took further steps away from public understanding, even as it had ever-greater impact on everyday life. Throughout these recent eras, science grew in knowledge and prestige, but popularization became increasingly the job of non-scientists.

Those trends left an increasingly large gap between the public understanding of science and the actual work—and real social impact—of science. Superstitious, "gee-wiz" ways of thinking about science filled in this gap with popular but inadequate understandings.

Burnham's detailed accounts of the treacherous paths toward popularization of health information, psychology, and the natural sciences provide cautionary tales about scientists' relations with the public. His historical analysis also suggests ways of thinking about history of the human sciences. Why does the public have difficulty comprehending scientific knowledge? Are there particular challenges for the public dissemination of the human sciences—does the public feel an affinity for human topics, or more a hostility to scientific evaluation of precious subjects? If even some enthusiasts for science have been superstitious, just what is a superstition? Do other forms of speculative scientific inquiry have some superstitious traits? And Burnham's descriptions of the sense of awe and wonder for science in modern popularizations reminds us of recent accounts of pre-modern ideas of wonder, offered by historians of science, most notably in Lorraine Daston and Katharine Park's *Wonders and the Order of Nature, 1150-1750* (1998). With that said, can superstitious ideas actually have some scientific significance?

These are just some of the ideas that John Burnham's excellent book suggests. He may not have intended all of these directions, and may not agree with them, and other readers will certainly find additional or entirely different ideas. Such is the quality of good scholarship, and it is his legacy, pointing toward the path of ongoing inquiry, that we honor in the award that bears his name. (Editor's note: See announcement of the winner of the Burnham Prize, below.)

At press time: Debbie Weinstein has just been named the winner of the 2002 Burnham Early Career Award! The winner of the Dissertation Award is still undecided. Both citations will be read at the Forum meeting in Milwaukee and will be published in the next newsletter. See the next page for announcements of next year's competitions.

Forum for History of Human Science

2003 Article Award, Call for Submissions

The Forum for History of Human Science invites submissions for its Article Award for 2003. Entries are encouraged from authors in any discipline as long as the publication is related to the history of the human sciences, broadly construed. Articles published between 2000 and 2002, inclusively, may be submitted. The winner of the 2003 Article Award will be announced at the annual meeting of the Forum for History of Human Science, held in conjunction with the History of Science Society meeting, which will be held in Cambridge MA, 20-23 November 2003. Send three copies of the article by July 1, 2003, to Dr. Nadine Weidman, Secretary of the Forum for the History of Human Science, 138 Woburn St., Medford, MA 02155. Additional information may be obtained at the Forum's web site, <http://www.fhhs.org>.

Forum for History of Human Science

2003 John C. Burnham Early Career Award

Call for Submissions

The Forum for History of Human Science invites submissions for its John C. Burnham Early Career Award for 2003. This award is intended for scholars who do not hold a tenured position. Contestants are requested to submit an article of publishable quality and a curriculum vitae by April 30, 2003; the winning article will be submitted to the *Journal for the History of the Behavioral Sciences* with FHHS endorsement, where it will undergo the regular reviewing process. When it is accepted for publication, the publisher of JHBS will announce the award and issue a US\$ 500 honorarium. Submit papers by April 30, 2003, to Nadine Weidman, Secretary of the Forum for History of Human Science, 138 Woburn St., Medford, MA 02155. Additional information may be obtained at the Forum's web site, <http://www.fhhs.org>.

News of Members and Friends

Deborah Coon recently won the 2002 Eisenstein Prize for excellence in scholarship, from the National Coalition of Independent Scholars (see "Recent Publications" in this newsletter for the citation of the winning article). Especially since she is an independent scholar now, Deborah urges old friends and new ones to email her, dcoon@post.harvard.edu

Sarah Igo and **David Robinson** were both elected to three-year terms on the Review Board of Cheiron, the governing council of that organization. Their terms began in June 2002.

Jill Morawski recently returned to her post at Wesleyan University after spending a year at the Department of History of Science at Harvard. She promises the *Newsletter* a pedagogy column soon, describing her course on history of popularization.

Hans Pols (FHHS's vice-chair) is busy with his new duties, Down Under. See page 2 of the newsletter (list of Forum officers) for his new address and email.

Jon Roberts has moved from the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point to Boston University, Department of History; email: Roberts1@bu.edu

David Valone was recently appointed Director of Freshman Programs, College of Liberal Arts, Quinnipiac University. He also recently co-edited a book, with Christine Kinealy, *Ireland's Great Hunger: Silence, Memory and Commemoration* (University Press of America, 2002).

Upcoming Conferences:

American Association for the History of Medicine, Boston, MA, on **May 1-4, 2003**. Papers on any topic in history of medicine. Contact co-chair of program committee: Professor John Eyster, Program in the History of Medicine, 511 Diehl Hall, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455. Deadline: **Sept. 15, 2002**.

More Conferences

35th Annual Meeting of Cheiron, The International Society for the History of Behavioral and Social Sciences, 19-22 June 2003, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire. Papers, posters, symposia, or workshops may deal with any aspect of the history of the behavioral and social sciences or with related historiographical and methodological issues. All submissions must conform to the length limitations listed below (references, tables, etc., may be appended). To facilitate blind review, please include a cover sheet indicating: a) title; b) author's name and affiliation; c) author's address and phone number; d) audio/visual needs. **Submission deadline: 13 January 2003**. Submissions will be accepted as text or Rich Text (.rtf) documents attached to email; alternatively, three printed copies of a submission may be sent by post to Homer Stavely at the address below.

PAPERS: Submit a completed paper (7-8 double-spaced pages plus short abstract), or a 500-700 word abstract plus short bibliography. Papers should be original—i.e., not previously presented at other conferences. **POSTERS:** Submit an abstract. **SYMPOSA:** Submit a 250 word abstract describing the symposium as a whole and a 500-700 word abstract plus short bibliography from each of the participants. A cover letter should include the names and institutional affiliations of each of the participants, which should not be revealed in the abstracts. **WORKSHOPS:** Contact the program chair. **STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS:** Available to help defray travel expenses of students who present papers or posters. Please indicate if you are a student and wish to be considered for an award. **PROGRAM SUBMISSIONS:** Homer Stavely, Cheiron Program Chair, Department of Psychology, Mailstop 3400, Keene State College, Keene, NH 03435-3400 USA Email: tstavely@keene.edu Phone: 603-358-2327 Fax: 603-358-2184 Cheiron website: <http://www.psych.yorku.ca/orgs/cheiron/>

21st Annual Mephistos Conference, Madison WI, **6-8 March 2003**. Graduate Student Conference on the History, Philosophy, and Sociology of Science, Technology, and Medicine. **Deadline: 15 January 2003**. Papers should be under 20 minutes (approx. 2,500 words) and be accompanied by a 200-word abstract. Abstract should appear on a cover page along with the title, institutional affiliation, and name and contact details (author's name should not appear anywhere else in the paper). Financial help available to presenters. Email submissions to: tsullivan@wisc.edu Or send by post to: Mephistos 2003 Organizing Committee, c/o Department of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin – Madison, 5185 Helen C. White Hall, 600 North Park Street, Madison WI 53706

Frontiers in Environmental History: Mainstreaming the Marginal, American Society for Environmental History, Annual Meeting Announcement, **26-30 March 2003**, Providence, RI. **Submission deadline: September 1, 2002**. Proposals for panels, papers, and posters may address any area or field of environmental history, with particular attention to previously underrepresented world areas and intellectual approaches. Download form from ASEH webpage (<http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/~environ/>). Send SIX copies, also of required attachments, to: Ravi Rajan, ASEH Program Committee Chair, Dept. of Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz CA 95064.

Dibner Institute Seminar in History of Biology: The Human Dimensions of Ecology Cambridge, MA, **18-24 May 2003**. Organizers are John Beatty, James Collins, and Jane Maienschein; James Collins (jcollins@asu.edu) is the main contact. For further information, application materials, and financial aid applications (**deadline of January 15, 2003**), contact: The Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology, Dibner Building, MIT E56-100, Cambridge MA 02139 (<http://dibinst.mit.edu>) (617) 253-8721); e-mail: Carla.Chrisfield@carlac@mit.edu. *cont. next*

Yet More Conferences

International Society for History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Vienna, Austria, **16-20 July 2003**. The ISHPSSB welcomes proposals for individual papers and sessions on topics related to all facets of the history, philosophy, and social studies of biology. Forms available at <http://www.phil.vt.edu/ishpsb/submissions/program.html> **Deadline: February 1, 2003**. Some travel funds to support graduate students presenting papers. For further information consult the ISHPSSB web pages at <http://www.phil.vt.edu/ishpsb/> and/or Rob Skipper, ISHPSSB Program Chair 2003, Department of Philosophy, University of Cincinnati, 206 McMicken Hall, Cincinnati OH 45221-0374; Phone: (513) 556-6340; Fax: (513) 556-2939 Email: skipperra@email.uc.edu

Conference to Commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Sir Henry Wellcome, 20-21 June 2003. Jointly sponsored by The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL, The History of Medicine Panel of the Wellcome Trust, and The American Association for the History of Medicine. **Deadline: 16 October 2002**; Debra Scallan, PA to the Director, The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at University College London, 24 Eversholt St., London NW1 1AD UK
Email: d.scallan@ucl.ac.uk

Monitoring the Environment: Scales, Methods, and Systems in Historical Perspective, Society for the History of Technology, Hagley Museum, Wilmington DE, **18 July 2003**. One goal of this conference is to encourage discussion among historians working at the intersection of technology and the environment. Graduate students are encouraged to participate, and their travel expenses will be subsidized. Send electronic copies of your paper proposal and a brief vita to Hugh Gorman (hsgorman@mtu.edu) and Erik Conway (e.m.conway@larc.nasa.gov) **Deadline: De-**

History of Economics Society Annual Meeting, Duke University, Durham NC **4-6 July 2003**. **Deadline: 15 February 2003**. Proposals may be submitted at www.eh.net/HE/HISecSoc, or to President-elect E. Roy Weintraub by email to erw@econ.duke.edu, or by post to "HES 2003" at Department of Economics, Box 90097, Duke University, Durham NC 27708, or by fax to "HES 2003" at 919-684-8974.

International Society for Theoretical Psychology, 10th Biennial Conference, **June 22-27, 2003**, in Istanbul, Turkey. In addition to psychologists, researchers from the fields of cultural studies, gender studies, philosophy, sociology, anthropology, political science, history, economics, arts and literature are invited to participate in this interdisciplinary conference. **Deadlines: December 1, 2002**, for submission of abstracts; **March 1, 2003**, for registration. For conference themes, lists of keynote speakers, invited symposia, and other information, see website <http://istp2003.boun.edu.tr> or contact Professor Aydan Gulerce, Chair, ISTP2003 Conference, Bogazici University, Bebek, 80815 Istanbul, Turkey; e-mail: istp2003@boun.edu.tr Fax +(90)212-257-5036 Phone +(90)212-351-5585

Capitalism and its Culture: Rethinking Mid-20th Century American Social Thought, a conference at the University of California, Santa Barbara, **February 28-March 1, 2003**. For more information, visit: <http://www.ihc.ucsb.edu/capitalism> To submit a proposal, write Nelson Lichtenstein, Department of History, UCSB, Santa Barbara CA 93106 or email him at nelson@history.ucsb.edu (Submitted to *Forum Newsletter* by Howard Brick, Washington University in St. Louis: hbrick@artsci.wustl.edu)

The Canadian Society for the History of Medicine, Annual Conference (Congrès Annuel de la SCHM: Appel à Communications), Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, **May 30-June 1, 2003**. The theme of the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities is "Conflict and Co-operation." Abstracts on other topics also welcome. **Deadline: 15 November 2002** to: Peter L. Twohig, PhD, CSHM Program Chair, Department of Family Medicine, Dalhousie University, QEII HSC, Abbie Lane Building, 5909 Veterans' Memorial Lane, Halifax, NS Canada B3H 2E2 Tel: 902-473-2768 Fax: 902-473-4760 Email: Peter.Twohig@dal.ca Abstracts must not exceed 350 words. Submissions by email welcome. If by mail, send one original and 3 copies, typed single-spaced on one sheet of paper. Notification by January 17, 2003. If invited to present, author must provide translation of abstract for bilingual program book.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Here are some publications that have appeared recently (or soon will appear). To find out more about the books, check the "New and Noteworthy Books" link on the Forum website; or consult the publishers' websites and circulars.

BOOKS:

Warwick Anderson, *The Cultivation of Whiteness: Science, Health and Racial Destiny in Australia*. Melbourne: University of Melbourne Press, 2002.

John P. Jackson, Jr., (ed.) *Science, Race, and Ethnicity: Readings from Isis and Osiris*. U. Chicago Press, 2002. Collected authors: Nancy Leys Stepan, Malcolm Jay Kotler, Kentwood D. Wells, Neal C. Gillespie, Mitchell B. Hart, Jennifer Michael Hecht, Edward H. Beardsley, John P. Jackson, Jr., Peter Weingart, Sheila Faith Weiss, Elizabeth Williams, Garland E. Allen, Stuart McCook, Joan Mark, Patricia M. Lorcin, Harriet Deacon, Tessa Morris-Suzuki.

Books cont.

Wade E. Pickren & Donald A. Dewsbury (Editors), *Evolving Perspectives on the History of Psychology*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2002.

Lyn Schumaker, *Africanizing Anthropology: Fieldwork, Networks, and the Making of Cultural Knowledge in Central Africa*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2001. (Schumaker was the winner of the 1995 FHHS Dissertation Prize.)

Alison Wylie, *Thinking from Things: Essays in the Philosophy of Archaeology*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002.

ARTICLES OF NOTE:

Tim Alborn, an essay review of Regenia Gagnier's *The Instability of Human Wants*, in *Victorian Studies*, Vol. 44, No. 3 (Spring 2002).

Deborah J. Coon, "Salvaging the Self in a World without Soul: William James's The Principles of Psychology," *History of Psychology*, Vol. 3, No. 2 (2000): 83-103. This article was awarded the National Coalition of Independent Scholars' Eisenstein Prize for 2002. The Eisenstein Prize is given in recognition of excellence in the ongoing scholarship of NCIS members. The National Coalition of Independent Scholars is a nonprofit organization created in 1989 to facilitate the work of independent scholars.

Floyd Rudmin, "Critical History of the Acculturation Psychology of Assimilation, Separation, Integration, and Marginalization," *Review of General Psychology*, in press. This article won honorable mention for the Otto Klineberg Prize of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSSI).

Mark Solovey has edited a special issue of *Social Studies of Science*, Vol. 31, No. 2 (April 2001), entitled "Science in the Cold War." He authored the introduction, "Science and the State during the Cold War: Blurred Boundaries and a Contested Legacy," pp. 165-170, and an article, "Project Camelot and the 1960s Epistemological Revolution: Rethinking the Politics-Patronage-Social Science Nexus," pp. 171-206.