

Preliminary analysis of the historical archives of IUHPST/DHST: a bibliography for the history of history of science

Birutė Railienė

Abstract

As is known, documents are the working materials of historians. For some time, the Committee of Bibliography and Documentation (CBD) of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IUHPST)/Division of History of Science and Technology (DHST) wondered about the fate of the documents that tell the history of the institutionalization of history of science as an autonomous field of research. A large part of that corpus of documents is deposited at *Centre d'Archives en Philosophie, Histoire et Édition des Sciences (CAPHÉS)*, in Paris. This article describes the extant documents and the initial work of classification and cataloging aiming at making the documents available for future studies on the history of history of science and technology.

Keywords

History of science and technology; Institutionalization; Documents

Análise preliminar dos arquivos históricos da IUHPS/DST: uma bibliografia para a história da história da ciência

Resumo

Como é sabido, os elementos de trabalho dos historiadores são representados por documentos. Faz algum tempo o Comitê de Bibliografia e Documentação da União Internacional de História e Filosofia da Ciência e da Tecnologia/Divisão de História da Ciência e da Tecnologia vem questionando acerca dos documentos que narram a história da institucionalização da história da ciência como disciplina autônoma. Uma grande parte desse corpus documental está depositada no Centro de Arquivos de Filosofia, História e Edição das Ciências, em Paris. O presente artigo descreve os documentos lá disponíveis e o trabalho preliminar de classificação e catalogação visando facilitar a documentação para futuros estudos da história da história da ciência e da tecnologia.

Palavras-chave

História da ciência e da tecnologia; Institucionalização; Documentos

Introduction

As is known, documents are the working materials of historians. For some time, the members of the Committee of Bibliography and Documentation (CBD) of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IUHPST)/Division of History of Science and Technology (DHST), which I preside since 2012, have been wondering about the fate of the documents that tell the history of the institutionalization of history of science as an autonomous field of research.

The first such institution was the *International Academy of the History of Science* (IAHS), which was founded in 1928 by George Sarton, Charles Singer, Abel Rey, Henry E. Sigerist and Karl Sudhoff, among others. IAHS organized the first International Congress of the History of Science in Paris, on 20-25 May 1929.¹ Interestingly when the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was founded, it sought to establish partnerships with non-governmental organizations representing the scientific community. As IAHS did not fit with the intended profile, it was invited to elaborate the statutes of an *International Union of History of Science*. This is how IUHS was created at the congress held in Lausanne, in 1947.²

Preliminary research, including contacts with Catherine Jami, the current Secretary General of IUHPST/DHST, indicated that such corpus of documents, indeed, existed, being deposited at *Centre d'Archives en Philosophie, Histoire et Édition des Sciences* (CAPHÉS), in Paris, after having been stored at the Center for History of Science and Technology (CHST) of University of Liège, in Belgium.

CAPHÉS was established on October 15th, 2003, as a joint service unit (JSU) of *Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique* (CNRS)³. In 2010, CAPHÉS became part of the *Centre International de Recherches en Philosophie, Lettres, Savoirs* (CIRPHLES), in partnership with *École Normale Supérieure de Paris*. Its scientific project and missions, however, remained unchanged. CAPHÉS collection focuses on three main areas: history of the life sciences, with an extension to the history of medicine; history of physics and chemistry; and politics of science. Funds are of two types: 1) source funds 'to do' history of science/technology: primary data from scientific funds, of historians of science

¹ Robert Halleux, & Benoît Severyns, "Twenty-five Years of International Institutions," *Llull* 26, no. 55 (2003): 315-21.

² *Ibid.*, 315-6.

³ Présentation de l'unité [interactive] CAPHÉS, *Centre d'Archives de Philosophie, d'Histoire et d'Édition des Sciences*: <http://caphes.ens.fr/presentation/article/presentation-de-l-unite?lang=fr>

funding, philosophers of science and technology, etc.; 2) documents from scientific associations or learned societies in those areas, like IAHS and the archives of IUHPS.

The shipment from CHST, Liège University, included 256 boxes (plus some loose files to be processed). It arrived in 2008, having been sent by Robert Halleux. Prof. Halleux collected the documents along his period as Secretary General of IUHPS/DHST, from 1994-2001, being also a member of the Joint Commission for DHS/DLMPS. It is worth to observe that the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS) was founded in 1956, divided in two parts: Division of History of Science (DHS) and Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science (DLMPS); in 2006, DHS added term 'and Technology', becoming DHST.⁴ Prof. Halleux was Secretary General of IUHPS/DHS (1994-1998-2001), founder of CHST, Liège University, and currently the Permanent Secretary of IAHS.

Besides the shipment from Liege, I also examined additional documents (21 files) sent from Istanbul, having been collected by former President of IUHPS/DHS, Ekmeleddin Ishanoglu, corresponding to the period from 1994 to 2004.

While the documents from the period in which Pierre Sergescu (1947-1953) and Frank Greenaway (1972-1977) were presidents of IUHPS/DHS, are missing, the ones corresponding to the presidency of Juan Jose Saldaña (2001-2005) were rediscovered in the archive kept by Ishanoglu.

Results

Documents

IUPHS/DHS documents are best represented according to Presidents and Secretaries General (Figure 1); it should be notices that some are copies.

⁴ IUHPS/DLMPST. "The IUHPS Joint Commission: A Brief History". <http://www.dlmpst.org/pages/commissions/joint-commission/joint-commission-history.php> (access on April 2016)

Figure 1. List of archives and location (to be completed)

Period	President	Archive	Secretary General	Archive
1947-1950	Charles Singer (UK)		Pierre Sergescu (Romania)	missing
1950-1953	George Sarton (USA)		Pierre Sergescu (Romania)	missing
1953-1956	Louis de Broglie (France)		Pierre Sergescu (Romania) +/ René Taton (France)	CAPHÉS
1956-1959	R.J. Forbes (Netherlands)		René Taton (France)	CAPHÉS
1959-1962	Vasco Ronchi (Italy)		René Taton (France)	CAPHÉS
1962-1965	Vasco Ronchi (Italy)		René Taton (France)	CAPHÉS
1965-1968	Vasco Ronchi (Italy)		René Taton (France)	CAPHÉS
1969-1971	I. Bernard Cohen (USA)		René Taton (France)	CAPHÉS
1972-1974	Joseph Needham (UK)	Cambridge University Library	Frank Greenaway (UK)	missing
1975-1977	René Taton (France)	CAPHÉS	Frank Greenaway (UK)	missing
1978-1981	Ashot T. Grigorian (USSR)		Eric G. Forbes (UK)	CAPHÉS
1982-1985	Erwin Hiebert (Canada)		William Shea (Canada)	CAPHÉS
1986-1989	Paolo Galuzzi (Italy)		William Shea (Canada)	CAPHÉS
1990-1993	William Shea (Canada)	CAPHÉS	Tore Frangsmyr (Sweden)	
1994-1997	Robert Fox (UK)		Robert Halleux (Belgium)	CAPHÉS
1998-2001	Bidare V. Subbarayappa (India)		Robert Halleux (Belgium)	CAPHÉS
2001-2005	Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu (Turkey)	CAPHÉS	Juan J. Saldaña (Mexico)	missing
2005-2009	Ronald Numbers (USA)		Efthymios Nicolaidis (Greece)	
2009-2013	L. Din (China)		Efthymios Nicolaidis (Greece)	
2014-2017	Efthymios Nicolaidis (Greece)		Catherine Jami (France)	

Subject classification

The boxes were originally numbered in no particular order, for which reason I rearranged them according to subject, which allowed distinguishing boxes with documents proper to IUHPS/DHS (146) and other (110), including documents of IAHS and *Journal International Archives of the Academy of History of Science* (JIAAHS), among others. While a printed list of the documents was available, it did not prove to be much useful, as the information did not agree with the numeration of boxes. The separate shipment from Ishanoglu was set apart from other documents. The files had labels, however, that only indicated a chronological order.

Form

The documents are of several types: manuscripts, typewritten documents, faxes (which need to be scanned to be preserved for the future), MS Word® files, printed materials - congress papers, promotion leaflets, advertisements for congress venues, etc. The future description should include a keyword finding aid even for the printed materials, as they are an integral part of the archive.

Contents

As a professional bibliographer I paid the most attention to the collection subjects. Main subjects of the archive for future studies of the history of IUHS/DHS are covered, though parts of archive are quite complex. For instance, the documents collected by W. Shea's documents (19 – here and onwards number indicates the number of boxes), labeled "BUTTS collection", should be called "Archive DLMPS", as they contain documents relating to IUHPST/DLMPS. These archives are very important, since DLMPS was never as well organized as DHST. These papers were managed by William Shea and later on given to Robert Halleux. René Taton's documents (5) cover a wide variety of subjects. There are also documents corresponding to DHS national commissions (12); DHS commissions (by alphabet) (34); DHS working papers; correspondence with other international institutions (AIHS, IUHPS, All European Academies - ALLEA); DHS council papers (1959-1989); materials from DHS international congresses per number (4th - 1; 12th - 1; 13th - 1; 14th - 2; 16th - 1; 17th - 1; 18th - 2; 19th - 7; 20th - 4; 21st - 6; 23rd - 3); DHS teaching commission (7), CBD (7); DHS statutes and rules of procedure, 1989 - 60 copies; DHS vade-mecum, 2001 - 6 copies.

Besides the DHS, other documents correspond to the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) (11) and *Archives Internationales d'Histoire des Sciences* (AIUHS) (81).

Processing

The description list was helpful for research purposes, but the items need to be linked to the document location on the shelves, including detailed cataloging for open access. Unfortunately, CAPHÉS archive has two employees only, which number is not enough for fast processing of holdings.

DHS Congress abstracts

Only 12 DHS Congress materials (abstract books) are available, the ones corresponding to congresses no. 3; 9; 10; 11; 12; 13; 18; 19; 20; 21; 22 and 23. Records are available at: <https://halley.ens.fr/> (indicating CAPHÉS for search). As far as I could learn, the only library which holds the entire collection of printed materials is CHST at Liège University.

Final remarks

The holdings at CAPHÉS are of great importance for the history of history of science. Names, facts, personal and state input to the development of discipline might be precisely investigated in these historical documents. It took much effort to organize the archive, arrange a finding aid and catalogue the documents. Now it has to be kept for future investigations, as a proof of both national and international input to the development of science heritage. As I learned earlier this year, the title list of IUHPS/DHS archives is currently under processing at present time and is likely to become available online by the end of 2016.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank IUHPST/DHST Board and Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences for funding the present study, as well as Ms. Nathalie Quéroux, archivist at CAPHÉS, for her professional assistance.