

TIME'S

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NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: TIME, WONDER, AND THE ISST

Though not logically or even associatively related to one another, time and wonder are in fact complementary terms. Time and wonder lie at the heart of the human capacity to be affected, to open physically and psychically to the world. A visceral encounter with time induces us to wonder about life and death; when we feel wonder, we (re-)awaken to the world as if for the first time. Thought of in this way, the two terms represent complementary (because opposed) temporal aspects. The weighty word “time” teases us out of thought towards eternity, whereas “wonder” scarcely endures as it is compressed into a scintillating experience of a pure present. At the same time, a powerful experience of either time or wonder produces a common effect: a rupture of continuity that punctures our presumed identity. Time and wonder, then, are tied to our potential for transformation.

Who better embodies the linkages among time, wonder, and transformation than Lewis Carroll's Alice? Wonderland is a space awash in time, a place where transformation is the rule that takes exception to everything. Alice's constant query “which way, which way?” is as much a question of time as space. Temporal bifurcations beset her: bereft of body and name, she finds herself roused out of the rooted present. Looking longingly at the (Edenic) garden, she is adrift in time, in a process of becoming both bigger than she was and smaller than she is becoming. Wonder initiates a delectable wandering, a delicious confusion through time—all in the hope of recovering some unfallen condition of fullness and the defeat of change and mortality.

Both Carroll's book and our experiences of wonder superimpose the adult's perspective on the child's unfettered outlook. Wonder allows the most encompassing categories such as time to assume a new shape. Einstein once said that he could reconsider time and space in fundamental terms because he had not thought about them as a child. The germ of special relativity came to Einstein when, at the age of sixteen, he experienced the wonder peculiar to a thought-experiment. He imagined that he was riding a beam of light at 186,000 miles per second, and asked what he would see if he glanced at a parallel light-beam. This question ultimately implied that the speed of light is a universal constant, thus putting in place a cornerstone for special relativity. Thought-experiments in physics often find their complementary expression in fiction. Alan Lightman extrapolated epistemologically Einstein's scenario in *Einstein's Dreams*, inquiring what it would mean to inhabit different installations of time. These far-reaching inquiries into time would not have happened without an element of wonder.

I think of the ISST in its collective work as carrying on this wondering about time. At its most dynamic, the ISST articulates a vision drawn in sweeping lines on the broad canvas specific to interdisciplinary inquiry. The ISST also is something of a Wonderland. Indeed, upon arriving for my first ISST conference at Cerisy-La-Salle in 1992, I felt a bit like Alice sitting down at the Mad Tea Party. I was a youngster joining a ritual whose rules I didn't know, entering a conversation with distinguished elders who, like the Mad Hatter, all seemed to claim that they had talked to Time and knew him intimately. But at Carroll's Tea Party, even though the characters change seats at the table as they talk, nothing ever changes, and the conversation goes nowhere.

THE INTERDISCIPLINARY QUESTION

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT >>
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The J. T. Fraser Prize is awarded every three years at the Society's Conference to a book or other work that makes an outstanding contribution to the study of time. The Fraser Prize Committee is currently considering nominees for the 2007 Fraser Prize. Primary consideration is given to books published or translated into English in the years between conferences. Nominations received after the beginning of a conference year are considered for the Prize to be awarded at the triennial conference following that year's conference. All works coming to the attention of the Society are considered, but nominations are encouraged. Those wishing to make suggestions or nominations for the 2007 Fraser Prize should send them to the Chair of the Prize Committee at: Mark H. Aultman, 150 East Wilson Bridge Road, Suite 200, Worthington, OH 43085-2328. Email: aultmanmh@cs.com

As members have noticed, there was no Fraser Prize awarded at our Cambridge conference. This was

because the Prize Committee was unable to reach a consensus among three works, listed below. They vary widely in perspective, but each of them should be of interest to most of our members. The first is a motion picture, now released on DVD. They are:

Rivers and Tides: Andy Goldsworthy Working with Time, Thomas Riedelsheimer, Director. See *Time's News*, No. 35, March 2004, for a brief review.

Sanford Kwinter, *Architectures of Time: Toward a Theory of the Event in Modernist Culture* (MIT Press, 2001). Review forthcoming in *KronoScope* 5: 2 (2005).

Eviatar Zerubavel, *Time Maps: Collective Memory and the Social Shape of the Past* (University of Chicago Press, 2003). Reviewed in *KronoScope* 3: 2 (2003): 261-65.

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR:

All this, and still more the treasures which had come to the church from personages who to me were almost legendary figures [. . .] made of the church for me something entirely different from the rest of the town: an edifice occupying, so to speak, a four-dimensional space—the name of the fourth being Time—extending through the centuries its ancient nave, which, bay after bay, chapel after chapel, seemed to stretch across and conquer not merely a few yards of soil, but each successive epoch from which it emerged triumphant [. . .].

—Marcel Proust, *Swann's Way*

This past summer, many members of the ISST gathered at Clare College, Cambridge University, for the twelfth triennial conference, "Time and Memory." As we spoke of memory, we were also storing up memories for the future and immersed in memories of the past. For Cambridge is a site steeped in history, as so many of our daily activities reminded us—as we dined in the magnificent Great Hall with its portrait of Lord Cornwallis staring down at us; as we went back and forth across the seventeenth-century Clare Bridge (upon whose parapet perched a very modern-looking attendant sprite); as we made our way through the narrow cobbled streets leading from the university into the town. Indeed, we may well have felt ourselves to be in the "four-dimensional space" of which Proust speaks.

Proust's eloquent description may have particular resonance, however, for those of us who went on the Ely

Cathedral excursion. Canon Peter Sills and Dr. Helen Sills presided over a *Son et Lumière* presentation, "Time, Memory, and Redemption," that illuminated how "each successive epoch" had left its mark on the imposing edifice. The long nave, built by the Normans over the span of almost the entire twelfth century, featured a ceiling painted in Victorian times. The famed Octagon, which looms over the Fens, replaced the Norman tower that collapsed in 1322. The effects of the religious strife that beset England in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were inscribed in the defaced religious statuary—a sad testament to the way in which the destructive force of time is often hastened by humanity. As we walked through the vast cathedral in the deepening twilight, listening to the Sills's enlightening presentation and the deep throb of the accompanying organ music, we could imagine that we were journeying not simply through space but through time as well.

In Time Regained, Proust notes, "Certain people, whose minds are prone to mystery, like to believe that objects retain something of the eyes which have looked at them, that old buildings and pictures appear to us not as they originally were but beneath a perceptible veil woven for them over the centuries by the love and contemplation of millions of admirers." I would like to think that we saw Cambridge and Ely through that veil, and that, through our own love and contemplation, we have added new threads to it.

—Jo Alyson Parker

Thanks to Saint Joseph's University for supporting this newsletter and to Saint Joseph's University Press for its production.

INVITED ESSAY:

THE INTERDISCIPLINARY QUESTION

(Editor's Note: The following essay by Nicholas Tresilian, vice-president of the ISST, was a response to a post-conference discussion among Council members about the direction and purpose of the ISST.)

ISST is a society for the *interdisciplinary* study of time, launched in 1966, when the subject of time itself, as a common horizontal axis across the verticals of the object-based disciplines from the sciences to the arts, seemed to offer a genuine basis for dialogue between the disciplines; one might also perhaps relate them usefully to the semantic complexity of human life itself.

The groundbreaking statement of this position remains that made by ISST's Founder, Dr. J. T. Fraser, in his paper "The Interdisciplinary Study of Time" in which he suggested that the interdisciplinary work necessary for the study of time be employed to hold together separate areas of knowledge, fragmented for many reasons.¹ Here, too, for the first time, Fraser set forth his description of time as a nested hierarchy of irresolvable creative conflicts in ascending levels of complexity, from the chaotic a-temporality of the elementary particles to the highly evolved *nootemporality* of the human mind and the perhaps ultimate complexities of the *socio-temporal*.

But while the Fraserian view of time's hierarchies has been a rich source of suggestion for some and has inspired a succession of brilliant books and papers by Fraser himself, the broad drift of Western elite culture since the publication of *Voices*—in art as well as science—has been hostile to interdisciplinary meta-languages and inclined towards an ever more rigorous reductionism, a narrower specialization in every discipline. To fill the gap between the specializations and the educated non-specialist, a new genre of science writing has emerged, aimed at the general reader: science with the numbers left out—a kind of *faux* science, it could unkindly be said, and a literary form that, despite a desire to "explain" science, is invariably strongly protective of the specializations it speaks for.

Meanwhile, especially in the English-speaking world, a combination of political correctness, egalitarianism, classroom disorder, and the fear of producing "stress" in children by the promotion of excellence, is producing a primary and secondary education radically depleted of communally-shared knowledge: a *monadisation* of the individual then carried further forward both into specialist higher education and into dumbed-down and McDonaldized mass culture

This is not to say that the hunt for cultural interconnectivity has stumbled entirely to a halt. In the 1960s and 1970s, structuralism and general systems theory both pursued the interdisciplinary grail. Both seemed to founder in the end. The former failed on the sheer eclecticism of its models. (Saussurean linguistics, with its emphasis on semantic inflections, was accurate to the spirit of the French language, but a strangely limited basis on which to base a theory of culture, still more so when teased out into a rich pattern of variant versions by the successors of Levi-Strauss and Barthes.) The latter failed on the sheer tautology of its propositions. Later quests for the interdisciplinary grail by Ervin Laszlo, Erich Jantsch and other proponents of general evolution and auto-poietic theories have also seemed to suffer the same limitation as systems theory—namely to offer explanations for everything in general and nothing in particular.² Perhaps their time will come. Meanwhile, only in the current theoretical work on chaos/complexity does it seem possible to say with any confidence that an idiom is emerging that both crosses all the disciplines and enriches our understanding of them individually.

But while the academic disciplines continue to decouple themselves ever more deeply both from each other and from the wider world, the wider world itself, brazenly indifferent to the rigors of academic discipline, is becoming ever more densely coupled up. In the globalized economy of the early twenty-first century, it might be said that everything increasingly depends on everything else. Political, economic, financial, environmental, technological, cultural, social, health, military and religious forces are looped to each other in the fissiparous entanglement which Ulrich Beck dubbed the "risk society"³— an ever-more volatile system of international relationships within which the negative feedback seems increasingly about to overwhelm the positive, where the end of history already seems a far-off dream and even the triumph of capitalism as the ultimate form of economic life, undisputed a few years ago, no longer seems quite so certain. In these circumstances, surely it is no longer a jejune exercise to try to form pictures of what is going on globally. The question of course is: will those pictures be more than anecdotal? will they have some *operational* content? will they allow us to obtain a real leverage on what is going on?

More than 30 years ago I asked myself the (for me) fateful question: "Why did modern art happen?" At the time there were plenty of theories of *what* modern was but none on *why* it had come into existence. Over the next 30 years, I found I had to loop together (and often disagree with) findings from a whole series of normally discrete disciplines: art history, aesthetics, information theory, memetics, anthropology, technology, ecology, evolution and the dismal science of economics itself. There finally emerged from this work a picture of our sapient species moving through time in a punctuated pattern of cultural evolution, fluctuating between shorter periods of open evolution from lower to higher

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UPCOMING TIME-RELATED EVENTS

In past issues, *Time's News* listed past and forthcoming time-related events under the heading "Time-Related Events: Past, Present, and Future." This column now appears in the "News and Views" section of *KronoScope*. The newsletter will continue to feature announcements of upcoming time-related events, and it will highlight members' time-related activities in the "Member News" column. (Due to space limitations, material may be edited.) Additionally, updates and new notices of time-related events will be regularly posted in the "Connections" section of the ISST website at www.studyoftime.org. If you know of time-related conferences or events, please contact John Cordes either at jcordes@deans.umd.edu or j.w.cordes@att.net. He will forward the information to the appropriate ISST publications.

Conference: "The Dromocratic Condition: Contemporary Cultures of Acceleration." An international, multi-disciplinary conference hosted by the School of English, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK. Saturday 12 and Sunday 13, March, 2005. Updates and accommodation information will appear on the conference web site: (<http://www.dromocratic.visitnewcastlegateshead.com>).

New Journal: The first issue of the new journal *Temporalités* (Productions, Usages, Figures) was published in September 2004. The journal is dedicated to research on temporality in the human and social sciences. Information about the journal can be found on the following site: <http://www.sociologics.org/temporalistes>

Included on the site is a call for contributions on the themes "Mémoires individuelles et collectives" and "Temps de travail et nouvelles rationalisations des conditions de travail," which will be the subjects of two special issues. Articles must be submitted by April 30, 2005, for the issue on memories. (See the instructions to authors on the pages of the site reserved for the journal.) Authors should initially send a brief introductory text (between 10 and 20 lines), accompanied by a title, to the following address: Jean-Marc.Ramos@univ-montp3.fr. Non-thematic issues are also foreseen.

Call for Papers: 15th Annual International Conference of The Society for Chaos Theory in Psychology & Life Sciences; Denver, CO, USA, August 4-6, 2005.

The Society invites all interested scholars to submit abstracts reporting work involving chaos theory, fractals, nonlinear dynamics, complex systems, and related topics. The Society for Chaos Theory in Psychology and Life Sciences is a multi-disciplinary organization, and its conferences typically include work in all areas of psychology, general biology, neuroscience, medicine, and the social sciences, as well as

anthropology, art, education, literature, mathematics, philosophy and physics. This year's conference theme: Nonlinear Science in Context. Abstracts should be between 150-250 words for posters, individual papers, or short workshops. The connection to nonlinear dynamics, chaos, complexity, fractals or related concepts should be clear to the reader.

Abstracts may be up to 500 words for symposia or panel discussion. For symposia, abstracts should reflect the content of EACH speakers contribution. Each person submitting is limited to a maximum of two presentations as first author (okay to be a co-author on additional submissions by others). The deadline for submissions is April 9, 2005. To submit an abstract, go to <http://www.societyforchaostheory.org/conf2005/cfp>

Conference: "Time and Identity," Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference; April 1- 3, 2005; Moscow, Idaho and Pullman, Washington. The Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference is a topic-focused, interdisciplinary conference, co-sponsored by the Philosophy Departments at the University of Idaho and Washington State University. The conference is intended to help facilitate research on classically philosophical topics to illustrate to non-philosophers the importance and pervasiveness of philosophy in our daily lives. Contacts: Joseph Keim Campbell, Washington State University josephc@wsu.edu, Michael O'Rourke, University of Idaho morourke@uidaho.edu, Harry Silverstein, Washington State University shier@wsu.edu, Co-Directors, INPC. More information available on the following website: <http://www.class.uidaho.edu/inpc/8th-2005/>

Conference: "Literature and Temporality," 29th Conference of the International Society of Phenomenology and Literature; May 25-26, 2005; Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Proposed Sessions: 1) Timing in writers' creative process; 2) Timing in the unfolding of emotions, intrigues, destinies in the literary work; 3) Meditative slowing and the dramatic speeding of the rhythm of life; 4) The temporal sequence of loss and retrieval; 5) Reality, memory and imagination in historical narration, memoirs, chroniques, biographies, historical fiction; 6) Creative imagination in transformation of memory; 7) Timing of narration vs. timing of theatrical staging and performance. Contact: Professor Anna-Teresa Tymieniecka. The World Phenomenology Institute, 1 Ivy Pointe Way, Hanover NH 03755, USA; Fax: 802-295-5963. Contact: World Institute for Advanced Phenomenological Research and Learning, 1 Ivy Pointe Way, Hanover, N.H. 03755; Phone: (802) 295-3487

Conference: "Time and Memory," 17th Japan Anthropology Workshop (JAWS) Conference in association with the 11th European Association for Japanese Studies (EAJS); August 31 – September 3, 2005; Vienna University, Austria.

The conference aims at a broad overview of recent trends and developments in Japanese Studies. It is staged in 2005, one year before the established triennial schedule, in order to contribute to the celebrations of the EU - Japan People to People's Year 2005. Conference participation is not limited to Europeans, but open to scholars and students from all over the world. "Time and memory" is a broad and complex topic, requiring sophisticated and sensitive modes of analysis. The various panels will use particular case studies to substantiate larger arguments about the relations between different institutional and cultural modes of regimentation and the experiences of modern Japanese, of the tensions between individual memories and historical narratives. Panels: "Time Concerns" – investigating time-use, time schedules and the social construction of time during various periods of Japanese history...starts with the assumption that in any society a number of different time structures are utilized simultaneously; "Making, Consuming and Recording Memory" – investigation of some of the ways in which the past is preserved, represented and consumed in Japan including analysis of the roles of oral testimonies, material forms and visual and acoustic media in socially constructed historical narratives; "New Perspectives, Topics and Methods" – methodological implications of studying topics of time and memory. Contact: Department of East Asian Studies—Japanese Studies, University of Vienna, Campus AAKH, Hof 2, Spitalgasse 2, A-1090 Vienna, AUSTRIA; Tel: +43 (1) 4277 / 43801; Brigitte Steger at steiger@sas.upenn.edu; <http://www.univie.ac.at/eajs>

Memorial Fund

Members of the ISST were saddened by the news of the death of composer and scholar Jonathan Kramer in May 2004. Dr. Kramer, professor of music composition and theory at Columbia University, had been a member of the ISST since 1977, and he had served the Society in many capacities—as vice-president, Council-member, and member of the Admissions Committee. His interesting and informative papers were a vital part of ISST conferences.

At the Cambridge conference this past summer, Dr. Deborah Bradley, professor of music and director of music performance at Columbia University, performed a recital in Dr. Kramer's honor, including several of his own compositions. It was a fitting tribute to Dr. Kramer's memory.

Dr. Bradley has established the Jonathan D. Kramer fund. Designed to carry on Kramer's legendary championing of young composers, the JDK Memorial Fund will provide commissioning funds to encourage and support the creative efforts of young composers. Contributions may be sent to:

The Jonathan D. Kramer Memorial Fund
Department of Music
Columbia University
2960 Broadway MC 1813
New York, NY 10027

(Please make checks payable to Columbia University).

INVITED ESSAY: THE INTERDISCIPLINARY QUESTION *(continued from page 3)*

ecological platforms and subsequent longer periods of closed evolution and ecological continuity. These a-periodic fluctuations between "open" and "closed" evolution feed back into culture through a principle of reciprocal selection, such that closed memes are predominant in periods of open evolution and vice versa. On this basis, it became possible to account for the "modernisation" of Western art as a migration from the closed to the open meme, driven by cultural selection, as after some 500 years of open evolution during the pre-Industrial age and the Industrial Revolution, our species begins to move back into the closed evolution of a post-Industrial age.

I myself hope that this argument has "operational" potentiality on three main fronts: 1) proposing a new view of art history and thence new ways of teaching the practice of art and making use of its products; 2) suggesting a new view of sapient evolution as a driver of two different cultural selection "fitness landscapes" dominated by closed and open memes respectively; 3) paving the way for changing cultural and economic expectations in the post-Industrial age as global culture unfolds towards closed evolution and the open meme.

Equally, it can be contested on all these points—and there is perhaps such a thing as "contestational" value, though not if all the points are lost!

But I am very aware that though manifestly "interdisciplinary," it is still highly debatable what kind of cultural creature this inter-looped argument is and by what means it can be legitimated. I much hope that ISST's own next steps forward will include looking at where interdisciplinarity actually fits into contemporary culture and what useful leverage it is able to contribute. We should not forget that both Nazism and Marxist-Leninism had "inter-disciplinary" aspirations too. There will inevitably be a lot of initial mistrust to be fought clear of.

1. J. T. Fraser, "The Interdisciplinary Study of Time," *Annals of the New York Academy of the Sciences* 138 (1966): 822-47.

2. Ervin Laszlo, *Evolution: The General Theory*, 2nd ed. (Hampton Press, 1996). Erich Jantsch, *Self-Organizing Universe: Scientific and Human Implications of the Emerging Paradigm of Evolution* (Systems Science and World Order Library. Innovations in Systems Science). (Pergamon Press, 1980).

3. Beck, Ulrich, *Risk Society : Towards a New Modernity, Theory, Culture and Society Series* (Sage Publications 1992).

MEMBER NEWS *I encourage you* to send me any time-related information and announcements, including your own recent publications or presentations on time-related themes. If you would like to have your news included in the next edition of the newsletter, please send a brief statement (no more than a paragraph) to Jo Alyson Parker at the following email address: jparker@sju.edu

DR. BARBARA ADAM has been awarded one of the UK Social Science Research Council's prestigious ESRC Professorial Fellowships (2003-6) to investigate our approaches to the future. Her project is entitled "In Pursuit of the Future." Additional information about the project can be found on the project's website, where material will be posted as it becomes available. <http://www.cf.ac.uk/socsi/futures/>

DR. JITENDRA KUMAR BARTHAKUR has published *General Theory of Time* (New Delhi: Kumud Books, 2004), which deals with "relativity and quantum theory; and the new theories of low temperature, freeze decay, and universal rhythm." Contact information: kmdbk@nda.vanl.net.in

ANNA EISLER, Professor of Psychology at Stockholm University, published "The human sense of time: Biological, cognitive, and cultural considerations," *The Nature of Time: Geometry, Physics and Perception*, ed. R. Buccheri and M. Saniga (Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2003), 5-18. Dr. Eisler also organized an invited symposium entitled "Time perception in humans" for the 28th International Congress of Psychology, Beijing, August 8-12, 2004.

HANNES EISLER, Professor of Psychology at Stockholm University published "The parallel-clock model: A tool for quantification of experienced duration," *The Nature of Time: Geometry, Physics and Perception*, ed. R. Buccheri and M. Saniga (Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2003), 19-26.

DR. ROSE GRAY draws our attention to a web essay on time consultancy and tasking: "The research about time-related jobs in the future comes from <<http://www.city-and-guilds.co.uk>>www.city-and-guilds.co.uk site. You have to go to Press Centre, then Press Releases, then Monthly Archive, then October 2003, and it's 'The Rise and Fall of 21st Century Jobs.' For further information, please contact: Georgie Carter or Mel Garfield on 020 7410 7329 / 7312 or email <<mailto:gcarter@bbpr.com>>gcarter@bbpr.com / <<mailto:mel@bbpr.com>>mel@bbpr.com."

DR. ALEXANDER LEVICH, Chair of General Ecology at M.V. Lomonosov Moscow State University, reports that the Russian Interdisciplinary Temporology Seminar continued its activities during the autumn semester of 2004. This Seminar program is situated at <http://www.chronos.msu.ru> For further information, please contact Dr. Levich at levich@chronos.msu.ru

MIQUEL LLADÓ, PH.D., presented the paper "The acceleration of time: a multidisciplinary approach," at the Xth European Conference on Science and Theology organized by the ESSSAT (European Society for the Study of Science and Theology) in Barcelona, Spain, in April 2004. Lladó writes: "In this paper I exposed several references of the phenomenon of time's acceleration (or time's contraction) present in eschatological contexts of religious and mythical literature of the past. Although there are not scientific proofs of its reality, I suggest that different facts of the last decades are a manifestation and evident indicators of an objective and specific situation that can be conventionally named 'time's acceleration.'" In November 2004, he presented the paper "The Mysteries of Time in Ancient Egypt" for the

Fundació Clos-Museu Egipci of Barcelona. Lladó writes: “I examine different Egyptian forms of considering time throughout tales, myths and religious texts. They show some amazing effects over time: contraction, dilation, stopping, ending, acceleration, and some others. Very important was the deification of the time units, like hours, days and months, upon the idea of qualitative time. The purpose of this fact is not absolutely clear, but it was related with time’s flowing rituals and applied in healing contexts.”

ALBERT MAYR’s project “The Gardens of Silent Encounters,” a series of group actions, took place in four parks in Florence, Italy, from September 21 to October 22, 2004. The actions were experiments with non-verbal communication in space and time. Everybody participated as long as he or she wished. The participants could move freely, but in complete silence, in the parks, approach others, stay with them, move away from them. At the end they were asked to document their experience through a verbal description or a drawing.

DONALD E MORSE, of the University of Debrecen, Hungary, published *The Novels of Kurt Vonnegut: Imagining Being an American* (Westport: Praeger, 2003), which deals with time in several chapters while discussing Vonnegut’s novels.

ROBERT POS, M. D., has published the e-book *The Gender Beyond Sex: Two Distinct Ways of Living in Time*. More information about the book is available on the following website: www.robertpos.info

CHRISTIAN STEINECK, of the Center for Research on Modern Japan, Bonn University reports that the project upon which he has been working for the past two years, “Bioethical Conflicts in Japan,” has just received renewed funding for two more years (until October 2006).

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT *(continued from front page)*

By contrast, the ISST proved a moveable feast, where one shares meals with different people each time, and the conversation not only takes one in new directions but also introduces one to new dimensions. Amid the influx of new blood to ISST wonderfully visible in Cambridge last summer, we could hardly be mistaken for the Mad Tea Party (though there were some strange doings in English gardens that week!).

From Cerisy to Cambridge, the ISST has provided a perpetual wide-eyed pleasure ride. I would like to think that we are

compelled to wonder about time because we feel the wonder of time. At the Society’s core is the kind of wonder that makes transformation possible—a wonder created by constituents who seek to engage others from disparate backgrounds and distant lands and who are prepared to be changed by the exchange. It is the wonder of ISST that I hope to care for, feed, and foster as its President.

—Paul A. Harris, Long Beach, California

KRONOSCOPE

Making its first appearance in 2000, *KronoScope: Journal for the Study of Time* is celebrating its fifth anniversary this year. Under the editorship of Marlene Soulsby and with the contributions of time scholars such as yourselves, the journal continues to be at the forefront of time studies. *KronoScope*, a refereed journal, invites contributions dealing with all aspects of the study of time. Its mission is to offer a forum for the discussion and the cross-fertilization of ideas from a range of perspectives and disciplines. It seeks to engage the arts, the sciences, the social and behavioral sciences and the humanities in this endeavor and, thus, to accommodate the expanding concerns of the global community in search of understanding and meaning. For submission guidelines, please refer to the inside back cover of the journal. Please request that your college or university library subscribe to the journal if it does not do so already.

MINUTES OF THE 2004 ISST COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 31, 2004
CLARE COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY,
CAMBRIDGE, U.K.

MEMBERS PRESENT: *Mark Aultman, David Burrows, John Cordes, Robert Daniel, Koen DePryck, J. T. Fraser, Paul Harris, Victoria Koehler-Jones, Jo Alyson Parker, Marlene Soulsby, Nicholas Tresilian, Frederick Turner, Thomas Weissert*

The meeting was convened at 9 a.m. by President Paul Harris

Treasurer Election and Treasurer's Report

Robert Daniel was nominated for Treasurer and is unanimously elected to replace Victoria Koehler-Jones for the office. The treasurer's report was delivered. The Council discussed the report and the estimates of monies and particulars of the Clare negotiations. Dr. Daniel reported that he and Dr. Koehler-Jones would make the transition between mid-August and mid-September. Mr. Tresilian proposed that, after seeing where we stood financially, we think about forming a finance committee and that we should deal with the question of incorporation. An Incorporation Committee comprising Dr. Daniel, Dr. DePryck, and Mr. Tresilian was formed. Dr. Weissert suggested that the set-up whereby the ISST had to deal with the lodging monies was an anomaly that should not be repeated.

Discussion of the Structure of the Conference

After discussions with new members, Dr. Harris felt that the numbers obtained by parallel sessions was an advantage. Several people expressed the intention to have small group workshops in the interim. Dr. Daniel reported that several members wanted to keep plenary sessions, and he suggested that new formats be found to accommodate the conference. Dr. Harris proposed that we strongly suggest new structures in the call for papers (workshops, sessions, etc). He also proposed a two-tiered process of sending back suggestions to the proposers about combining the papers into sessions, round-tables and other special formats. Discussion ensued on how to achieve a more useful and varied structure for the conference using more feedback from the authors. Dr. Weissert recommended that we find a way on the web to put approved paper authors in touch with one another. Mr. Tresilian suggested that we try to be a bit more bold about eliminating badly presented papers. Dr. Turner suggested that we try to have a mix

of both plenary sessions and parallel sessions. Dr. Harris noted that the number of papers submitted would determine the result.

Location Discussion

Two locations for the 2007 conference were suggested, both in North America:

Asilomar in Monterey, California, and the University of British Columbia in Victoria.

Dr. Harris and one of the Society members would be visiting these venues in the near future to get further information. Council seemed to agree that North America is due for the next conference.

Theme Discussion

Possible themes were discussed, including "Time and Scale," "Nature and Human Nature," "Time, Life, and Death (in Science, Art and History)," "Time and Ecology," and "Time Cycles."

Structure of the Council

Dr. Harris initiated a discussion of the nature of the council. The Council agreed to fit the roles to the strengths of the individuals. Dr. Weissert would find tasks to outsource to council members. It was proposed that Dr. Harris chair the efforts of the Conference and Program committees, along with Mr. Tresilian and Dr. Turner.

Timeline

John Cordes reported on the Timeline database. A database site with search features has been created; the next step is a multi-formatted output option, and then to make it a living database with annotations. Dr. Cordes sees this database as a way to teach and connect people in the subject. Current intent is to keep the system on the free server on which it resides.

Dr. Harris requested that Dr. Cordes continue to provide updates on related conferences and meetings in *KronoScope* and *Time's News* and on the Website.

Report of the Membership Committee

Dr. Clausius agreed to continue as the chair of the membership committee. Dr. Pryck agreed to serve as the third member of the committee (along with Dr. Fraser and Dr. Clausius).

ISST Publications

Dr. Parker reported on the Publications Committee meeting held prior to the Council meeting. The Fraser Prize was not awarded because there was no strong consensus on a single book. Dr. Crawford, Dr. Harris, and Dr. Parker were chosen to co-edit *The Study of Time XII: Time and Memory*.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Greetings, Time Scholars,

In recent years the council has had many requests to find a way to expand the number of papers and participants at our triennial conference. At the most recent and most successful meeting last July in Cambridge, England, the council tested the waters with a new, modified conference format. Instead of our traditional all-plenary session model, the program, except for certain special presentations, was divided into two parallel sessions running the entire week. As a veteran of three prior ISST conferences, I must admit that I found the experience of having to miss exactly half of all the presentations a bit disturbing. However, those that I did attend were at least as excellent as usual, and with the additional space in the program, we managed to accommodate approximately seventy papers, nearly seventy-five percent more than at previous meetings. As a result, there were an unprecedented number of attendees, over one hundred. In the end, the new format seemed quite successful to the majority, and I imagine we'll be seeing something along those lines again. The stimulating intellectual environment at Cambridge, rich in its layered history, along with excellent service and fine meals, created the setting for yet another outstanding moment in ISST history. Subsequently, volume XII of *The Study of Time series, Time and Memory*, is already well on its road to publication.

The Cambridge conference also welcomed the new slate of ISST officers: President Paul Harris, Vice-President Nicholas Tresilian, your continuing Executive Secretary, and the surprise addition to our ranks of Robert Daniel as Treasurer. At the last minute, Victoria Koehler-Jones, who served us well for over three years, found that she could not continue in the role, and we were lucky enough to find Robert willing to step into the position at the very last minute. Your elected members of council for this three-year term are Mark Aultman, David Burrows, Claudia Clausius, John Cordes, Koen DePryck, and Frederick Turner. Marlene Soulsby edits our journal *KronoScope*. Jo Alyson Parker edits the newsletter and the book reviews in *KronoScope*, and she is one of the editors of Volume Twelve of *The Study of Time* along with Paul Harris and Michael Crawford. Editors of ISST publications also serve on the Council.

Just in time for the Cambridge conference, Volume XI of *The Study of Time series, Time and Uncertainty* (ISBN 90-04-13811-0), appeared courtesy of our good friends at Brill (Leiden), the publishers of *KronoScope*. Edited by Paul Harris and Michael Crawford, the volume contains sixteen excellent works based on papers presented at the Gorgonza conference of 2001. The volume provides an excellent cross-sectional view of the conference as well as archives the most recent work in the study of time. Please have your university libraries purchase a copy. You can order your own copy using the handy order form included in this newsletter.

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I look forward to serving you and the International Society for the Study of Time for the next three years.

Your Executive Secretary

Thomas Weissert

Weissert@StudyofTime.org

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THE STUDY OF TIME *About this book series:* The nature of time has haunted man through the ages. Some conception of time has always entered into man's ideas about mortality and immortality, and permanence and change, so that concepts of time are of fundamental importance in the study of religion, philosophy, literature, history, and mythology. How man experiences time physiologically, psychologically and socially enters into the research of the behavioral sciences, and time as a factor of structure and change is an essential consideration in the biological and physical sciences. On one aspect or another, the study of time cuts across all disciplines. The International Society for the Study of Time has as its goal the interdisciplinary and comparative study of time.

TIME AND UNCERTAINTY

Edited by Paul Harris and Michael Crawford

The essays in this volume all originated at the 2001 conference of the International Society for the Study of Time. The theme 'Time and Uncertainty' sounds redundant, but the contributions try to come to terms with the irreducible openness of time and the impermanence of life.



The essays from various disciplines have been grouped around 'fracture and rupture' (grappling with time and uncertainty as a breach) and 'rapture and structure' (solving uncertainty into pattern).

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Paul Harris is Associate Professor of English at Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles) and co-editor of the journal *Substance*. His research interests include time, literary theory and contemporary literature and science.

Michael Crawford, Ph.D., Toronto, is Associate Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Windsor.

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