

Minutes of the XXXI International Scientific Instrument Symposium

Rio de Janeiro, 8-12 October 2012

President: Paolo Brenni

Secretary: Sara Schechner

Treasurer: Hans Hooijmaijers

The Scientific Instrument Commission held its thirty-first annual symposium on 8-12 October 2012 at the Museu de Astronomia e Ciências Afins (MAST) in Rio de Janeiro. The plenary business meeting was held on Thursday, October 11 at the MAST. About 120 people were present: 28 from abroad and 92 from Brazil.

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Sofia Talas, Jos Uyttenhove, Dominique Bernard, Silke Ackermann, Michael Korey, Dana Freiburger, Ken Launie, Steve Baird, Jan Waling Huisman, Stephen Johnston, and Alison Morrison-Low.

2) Review of Minutes from Last Meeting in Kassel, Germany, 2011

The minutes of the plenary business meeting held during the thirtieth Scientific Instrument Symposium, held in Kassel in September 2011 were circulated, reviewed, and accepted.

3) SIC Finances

The SIC Treasurer, Hans Hooijmaijers, reported on the Commission's finances from September 2011 until September 2012. He mentioned that the IUHPS had created stricter accounting rules for the commissions. It had provided no funds for organizing our annual meeting (as it had in the past), but did give us \$1600 for the support of students and young scholars attending the meeting.

(Rounded numbers)

Receipts

€ 80	interest
€ 1900 (\$ 2500,-)	Grant IHUPS

Expenses:

€ 100	bank costs
€ 725 (\$ 1000,-)	grant conference Kassel
€ 150 (\$ 200)	website
€ 150 (\$ 200)	bibliography

Current account:	€ 125,-
Savings deposit:	€ 7750,-

Payments still to be made in 2012:

- travel grants two students (\$ 400 each)
- grant conference Rio + fees students (\$ 800)
- website (\$ 100)
- bibliography (\$ 100)

4) Report of Ongoing Commission Activities

A. Online Resources and Initiatives

SIC website, <http://www.sic.iuhps.org>

The website has been restructured by Dana Freiburger, the SIC webmaster. New links to digitized trade catalogues and videos of experiments performed with historical instruments continue to be added to the Commission's website. We continue to place the SIC Bibliography online as well.

The Commission formally thanks Dana Freiburger for his work as webmaster of the SIC site.

The SIC Bibliography this past year was compiled by Harry Leechburch, the librarian of the Boerhaave Museum. The Commission formally thanks him as well. Now that he is retired, Dalila Walle will update the bibliography twice a year.

B. SIC Publications

Giorgio Strano, the General Editor of *SIC: Scientific Instruments and Collections* reported on the Commission's series of books published by Brill: Volume one was published in 2011 and has been well received. The second volume, *From Earth-Bound to Satellite: Telescopes, Skills and Networks* (to be published in 2012) is dedicated to Inge Keil, a scholar and friend who was passionate about telescopes. The volume editors are Alison Morrison-Low, Stephen Johnston, Giorgio Strano, and guest editor, Sven Dupré. The topic of the third volume will be scientific cabinets. Jim Bennett and Sofia Talas are the guest editors. A fourth volume is to be edited by Mara Miniati and Silke Ackermann.

The Commission formally thanks Giorgio Strano and the Editorial Board (Stephen Johnston, Mara Miniati, and Alison Morrison-Low) for their excellent work and dedication.

5) Future Activities and Meetings

Scientific Instrument Commission Symposia

2013 Manchester, England

The 2013 SIC symposium will be held in Manchester, England as part of the International Congress of History of Science, Technology, and Medicine (<https://www.meeting.co.uk/confercare/ichst2013/>). The SIC Secretary will check on the early deadlines for proposing sessions for the meeting, and post this news on RETE.

2014 Tartu, Estonia?

At the plenary business meeting in Kassel, there was general support for a future meeting in Estonia. Paolo Brenni had volunteered to contact the Estonians to see if they would be willing to host the 2014 conference.

In Rio de Janeiro, Paolo gave an update. He described the University of Tartu, the oldest and most important Baltic university, and the local activities for the protection of its scientific heritage. The historical observatory was refurbished and reopened, and work is now being done on the instrument collections and

anatomical theater. He has been in touch with the director about a possible SIC symposium there in 2014. He expects a definitive answer by the end of the year.

Another venue for a meeting is Vienna.

6) Commission News

Sara Schechner described the process used to elect new SIC Officers whose terms will begin in Manchester in 2013. The nomination and voting process went smoothly by email in 2011-2012, and the results have already been announced on RETE. Silke Ackermann will be the new President, Michael Korey, the Secretary, and Marta Lourenço, the Treasurer.

Roland Wittje expressed the sentiments of those present: "Good choice! Good process!"

After the meeting in Rio de Janeiro, the new SIC Board will begin to shadow the outgoing one in order to be familiar with current affairs and practices, and to help in planning the Manchester meeting.

7) News from Members

Roland Wittje and Marta Lourenço discussed activities of Universeum: Members have established a Working Group on Recent Scientific Heritage in Universities (where recent is defined as post 1945). Visit <http://www.universeum.it/working-groups.html> for more information. The XIV Universeum Network Meeting will take place in Valencia, 6-8 June 2013. The meeting is open to all, not just Europeans.

8) New Business

No new business was raised.

9) Thanks

Formal thanks were given to Marcus Granato, the staff of the Museu de Astronomia e Ciências Afins (MAST), and the translators for helping to organize and make this a most memorable meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Sara J. Schechner
SIC Secretary