

## NEWS

### INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON 'SCIENTISTS AND PEACE'

The International symposium was organised under the Romanian Academy of Science at its campus at Bucharest on 4-5 September, 1981. Thirtyfour countries including USA, Canada, UK, France, Germany, USSR participated. A. Rahman (CSIR) and A. K. Bag (INSA) from India attended the Seminar. Academician Elena Ceausescu, the first Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of Socialist Republic of Romania described the Seminar as a new testimony of the high regard in the policy for Peace. The policy, she says, will spare no effort for building a better and juster world in which people's material well being will rise as quickly as their spiritual and moral standards. She voiced her belief that this important meeting of the Bucharest will call forth strong response in the consciousness of researchers and scholars everywhere to guarantee peace, freedom and happiness in future generation. Professor Linas Powli (USA) emphasised in his message that there is no more important problem, mankind is facing, than securing and protecting the peace all over the world. Scientists are to play now a very important role in the international affairs. Professor Abdus Salam expressed the hope that the present politicians will try to show the same respect to the scholars as was shown in ancient and medieval times. A. Rahman from India emphasised that a portion of the Defence Budget of the developed countries should be diverted for training and educational programme through UNESCO and steps to be taken for liberal flow of information for scientific research. Russian scholars emphasised that the nuclear research work be done for the benefit of the people, not for destruction. The scientists have to develop the feeling that they are part of the society and they are responsible for the progress and destruction of the society. Delegates from UK, France and India emphasised a forum like UNESCO for easy flow of information and development of peace at the international level. The Bangladesh delegate emphasised a new economic order for the developing countries. The scientists in general were unanimous for working as a group for the cause of humanity and peace in the world.

A. K. BAG

### THE XVI INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON HISTORY OF SCIENCE HELD AT BUCHAREST (ROMANIA) ON 26TH AUGUST-5TH SEPTEMBER, 1981

The Congress was held at Bucharest (Romania). Fourteen scientific sessions, 12 symposia, 7 meetings of specialized topics and 4 commemorations were organised under the deliberations. The breakup of the titles may be given as follows:

**A. Scientific Sections**

1. Science and Technology in Antiquity
2. Science and Technology from Antiquity to 1600
3. Mathematics and Mechanics
4. Physics and Astronomy
5. Chemistry
6. Biological Sciences
7. Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences
8. Agricultural Sciences
9. Sciences of the Soil
10. Technology and Engineering
11. History of Sciences of Man
12. Science and Society
13. Methodological Problems in the History and Philosophy of Science
14. Transportation and Telecommunication in the 19th and 20th Centuries.

**B. Symposia**

1. The Role of Standard Units in the History of Science and Technology
2. Technology, Humanism and Peace—Historical Aspects
3. Science, Technology and the Problems of Social Development—Comparisons and Historical Perspective
4. Science and University in the Renaissance
5. Scientific Creativity and the Problems of Progress
6. The Contribution of Women to the Development of History of Science and Technology
7. The Role of Scientific Instruments in the Development of Science
8. Revolution in 20th Century Biology
9. Promoting of Scientific Research and Education in the History of Science and Technology
10. Preservation and Utilisation of the Cultural and Natural Heritage
11. Publication relating to the History of Science
12. History of Musical Acoustics.

**C. Meetings of Specialized Topics**

1. Problems of the Interaction among the Natural, Technical and Social Sciences
2. Necessity and Chance in Scientific Discovery
3. Mathematics-Physics Relationships beginning with the 18th Century
4. Development of Science and Technology in the Far East
5. Mathematics and Physics in the Arab Countries during the Middle Ages
6. Primary Sources for the History of Science and Technology, Typology of the Manuscripts sources

## 7. History of Science and Technology in Africa.

**D. Commemorations**

1. The 1000th Anniversary of ibn Sina's (Avicenna's) Birth
2. The Bicentenary of Donis Poisso's Birth
3. The Centenary of George (Gogu) Constantinescu's Birth
4. The Bicentenary of George Stephenson's Birth.

There was also a round table conference on 'Future Trends in Science and Technology and Towards a Social and Human Development'. Scholars from fifty countries showed their interests in the Congress, as may be seen from the proceedings. The distribution may be given: U.S.A. (48), U.S.S.R. (80), Poland (30), U.K. (47), Japan (35), Federal German Republic (40), German Democratic Republic (42), France (43), Czechoslovakia (24), Bulgaria (31), Romania (485), China Peoples Republic (50) and many other participants from the developing countries showed interest in the Congress and contributed to the proceedings. From India 14 scholars were invited but only 8 could attend the Congress. Interest of China and Japan was equally noticeable in different sessions of History of Science and Technology. The Academy made a nice arrangement for all the 2000 participants. It included many new sessions under A.14, B.5, B.6, B.11, B.12, C.4, C.5, C.7. The conference was well organised by the Academy of Socialist Republic of Romania, and may be termed as a special conference trying to focus the History of Science and Technology on non-European countries and regions.

The following list will show the contributions of Indian participants who attended the Congress in the Conference:

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| 1. <i>A. K. Bag</i> (Delhi)            | 1. "Astronomy in the Indus Culture" (A.1)<br>2. "Indian Mathematics since 1600 A.D." (A.3)   |
| 2. <i>S. M. R. Ansari</i> (Aligarh)    | 1. "On Reassessment of Maharaja Jai Singh's Astronomical Contributions" (A.4)<br>2. "A Survey of Efforts to Develop Teaching and Research in History of Science in Indo-Pak Sub-continent" (B.9) |
| 3. <i>H. C. Bharadwaj</i> (Benaras)    | 1. Indian Contribution to Steel making in Antiquity" (A.1)   |
| 4. <i>Hamida Khatoon Naqvi</i> (Delhi) | 1. "Printing Technique of Cotton goods in Hindoostan (till c. 1800)" (A.2)   |
| 5. <i>S. Ranganath Rao</i> (Bangalore) | 1. "Marine Engineering in Ancient India" (A.10)  |

6. *B. V. Subbarayappa* (Bombay) 2. "Iron Technology in India in the first millenium B.C. and its Cultural Contour" (A.1)

A. Rahman (Delhi) and K. K. Jain (Benaras) also attended the Congress, but the exact titles of their paper were not available to the reporter.

A. K. Bag and S. M. R. Ansari were nominated in the board for two scientific sessions, A.1 and A.4 respectively, and chaired a few sessions of their respective scientific sections. A. Rahman took part in the round table conference and was an invited speaker and acted as a moderator. An important event of the Congress in so far as India is concerned was the election of B. V. Subbarayappa in the Executive of IUHPS as the Assessor.

The Indian participants whose papers were listed in the programme of the Congress but could not attend it are listed below:

- V. Bijlani* and *R. L. Verma* (Delhi) 1. "Honigberger: the Romanian Physician of Maharaja Ranjit Singh's Court" (A.7)
- R. C. Gupta* (Ranchi) 1. "Sine of Trisected angle in Sanskrit Works" (A.2)
- Deepak Kumar* (Delhi) 1. "Agricultural Sciences and British Government in India (1890-1905)" (A.8)
- P. K. Majumdar* (Calcutta) 1. "A Rational of Kamalākara's method for solving  $ax \pm c = by$ " (A.3)
- V. Mukherjee* (Kharagpur) 1. "The History and Philosophy of Mathematics at the University Level" (A.3)  
2. "Some Aspects of History of Particle Physics since 1900" (A.4)
- K. S. Murty* (Nagpur) 1. "Geology in the Vedas" (A.1)
- T. K. Talukdar* and *P. K. Majumdar* (Calcutta) 1. "Muniśvara and the Sine of one-third part of an angle" (A.3)

In the area of History of Science and Technology in India, the University interest is almost nil. Indian National Science Academy is the only organization which has been organising research activities in the History of Sciences in India under the guidance, firstly, under the History of Science Board and then under the National Commission for the Compilation of History of Sciences in India systematically from 1960. The Commission has not only been encouraging research programmes on History of Ancient, Medieval and Modern Sciences but had also been publishing from

time to time authoritative documented bibliographies, select monographs based on manuscripts and different other source materials. It has also introduced lecture programmes, Ph.D. programmes, and has developed an archival centre for source materials in the Academy. Some individual scholars have also developed some interests in the process in the field and it is simply encouraging that as many as six scholars were deputed by the Indian National Science Academy for attending the XVI International Conferences in History of Science in addition to its heavy burden for supporting other ICSU Conferences. Still the contributions of the developed countries are mostly displayed in the International Conferences on a large scale without proper recognition of the contributions made by different developing countries. Apart from major scientific subjects there are many fields like Science and Society, Science and Technology and Problem of Social development, Studies of Primary Source Materials in which India can do a lot of research and play an active role. The field of History of Science and Technology is still a new and fertile field in India which dedicated and meritorious scholars could profitably explore.

A. K. BAG

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE HISTORY OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE,  
TECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE

A new International Commission on the History of Women in Science, Technology, and Medicine was established recently at the XVIth International Congress of the History of Science in Bucharest, Romania. The Commission is an official subunit of the Division of the History of Science (DHS) of the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS), a member of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) of UNESCO. The purposes of the new Commission are:

1. to promote communication among scholars doing research on the subject;
2. to hold meetings between international congresses and form symposia at subsequent congresses;
3. to prepare bibliographies and promote the preservation of relevant records; and
4. to encourage the comparative, international history of Women in these fields.

At its first meeting, held in Bucharest after its formation, the new Commission decided to start a newsletter, organize an international bibliography, prepare a directory of researchers, and hold a workshop on the history of women scientists in particular countries in August 1985. Those wishing to receive the newsletter (at present, free) should send their addresses to Dr. Eva Vamos, National Museum of Science and Technology, H-1117, Budapest, XI Kaposvar u. 13-15, Hungary. She

is also making plans for the 1983 workshop, which will be held at a conference center outside Budapest in conjunction with a conference there on "Science and Technology in Central Europe, 1914-1938." Persons interested in attending this workshop, especially those who wish to present papers, should write to Dr. Vamos at the above address.

The Commission will hold a second (partial) meeting in Paris in August 1982, during the XXVIIIth International Congress on the History of Medicine, August 29-September 3. Persons interested in attending this meeting and discussing plans for future work on the history of women in medicine should write to Dr. Danielle Jacquart, 74 Rue des Cevennes, 75015 Paris, France.

Other interested persons are urged to contact the Commission's Chairperson, Dr. Margaret Rossiter, 2410 Oak St., Berkeley, CA94708 USA. The next International Congress of the History of Science will be held in Berkeley in August 1985.