

BALTIC ASSOCIATION OF THE HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

General Assembly Meeting

Minutes

University of Oulu  
Oulu, Finland

2022-06-10

Present (officers): Ramūnas Kondratas, Peeter Müürsepp, Juris Salaks, Alida Zigmunde, Maija Kallinen, Birutė Railienė.

Guests: Eugenija Rudnickaitė, Kaspars Antonovics, Violeta Pukelytė, Lea Leppik

Chair: R. Kondratas

Secretary: B. Railienė

AGENDA

It was noted that the General Assembly of the Baltic Association of the History and Philosophy of Science met last at the University of Vilnius in Vilnius, Lithuania on 21 September 2019. There were no items of old business from that meeting to discuss. New business for this meeting included the following items:

1. Next BCHPS meeting

According to the rotation tradition, the next Baltic conference was to be in Latvia, but P. Müürsepp proposed that, if the Latvians agreed, Estonia would like to host BCHPS 2024 in Tartu. That year Tartu would be Europe's culture capital, and it would be the 200th anniversary of the purchase of the Fraunhofer refractor, the world's biggest telescope at the time, for the astronomical Observatory of Tartu University by the famous Baltic German astronomer Friedrich von Struve (1793–1864), after whom the Struve Geodetic Arc is named. In 2005, the Arc, which stretches across 10 countries from Norway to the Black Sea, was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Observations for the Arc from Tartu were made using the Fraunhofer refractor.

There was a discussion about the possible theme for the 31st conference. No decision was reached. The consensus was that the theme should be as broad as possible in order to attract as many papers as possible. Suggestions are welcome.

Since some previous conferences had omitted “philosophy” from the title, it was decided to keep the general name of the conference: Baltic Conference of History and Philosophy of Science.

2. Report on the association's journal *Acta Baltica Historiae et Philosophiae Scientiarum*

The report was made by the journal's Editor-in-Chief Peeter Müürsepp. The journal is doing well and is receiving quite a large number of papers. But there is a big lack of peer-reviewers for these

articles. In 2022, an application to the Web of Science was submitted. Latvian authors were encouraged to send articles. A special issue of only Ukrainian authors is being considered. The financial situation so far is good.

P. Müürsepp has also become the Editor-in-Chief of ICON, the journal of the International Committee for the History of Technology (ICOHTEC). He welcomes papers from historians of technology.

Juris Salaks inquired about the status of the journal *The Vilnius Medical History Almanac*, which is a serial publication of the Vilnius University's medical faculty. R. Kondratas edited the third and fourth volumes of the *Almanac* while he was still at the university. The VU medical faculty will have to decide about its future.

J. Salaks said that the Riga Stradiņš University could cover translating and editing expenses for some articles, if necessary.

M. Kallinen suggested that there might be peer reviewers from the academics at Oulu University.

### 3. History of the BAHPS

B. Railienė brought up the need to save, organize and archive important documents and publications of the Baltic Association of the History and Philosophy of Science (BAHPS) and its constituent associations. Everyone agreed that this was an important thing to do, and briefly discussed the kinds of documents and publications that should be preserved and eventually digitized. The first step would be to prepare the archives preservation guidelines.

### 4. Conference resolution

B. Railienė suggested that the conference adopt a resolution to address the research councils of Lithuania and Estonia to include the “history of science” in the list of science fields. In Latvia, it is included. The resolution was adopted, and R. Kondratas will write a letter of appeal in the fall.

### 5. BAHPS Presidency

As the Chairperson of the association of the organizing country of the next conference, Peeter Müürsepp assumed Presidency of BAHPS.