

HPS&ST Note

Inter-Divisional Teaching Commission of the International Union for the History and
Philosophy of Science

August 2015

Dear HPS&ST Colleagues,

Some matters to relate.

Jaakko Hintikka's passing

It is sad to relate that Jaakko Hintikka, a person who was the occasion for the formation of the IHPST group and more broadly of contemporary concerns with HPS&ST research died on August 12.

An obituary for Jaakko, written by his student Ilkka Niiniluoto who is professor of theoretical philosophy at the University of Helsinki is attached.

Also attached is a file with some pages from the Introduction of the recently published *International Handbook of Research in History, Philosophy and Science Teaching* (Springer 2014).

These pages detail Jaakko's crucial role in a process that led to the creation of the International History, Philosophy and Science Teaching Group and a few years later to the publication of the journal *Science & Education*. Jaakko's 1987 invitation to me to guest edit a special issue of *Synthese* journal on the subject of 'HPS&ST' is what got the current, at least Anglo-American, HPS&ST research ball rolling by bringing together into one community diverse scientists, educators, historians, philosophers and cognitive scientists who till then were all largely working in isolation.

By good fortune, I was at the recent DLMPs congress in Helsinki and met with Jaakko, showed him the *Handbook* which was on display, and pointed out his very positive mention in its introductory pages. He was pleased to know that so much had come from such a small gesture. He was in good form and good spirits; but sadly died just a few days later.

Gratis Downloads of SC&ED Articles

To mark the occasion of my retirement as editor of SC&ED and the appointment of Kostas Kampourakis as my successor, Springer have made nine journal articles 'open access' where they can be freely downloaded until September 30.

The package of nine articles, along with Kostas' invitation to submit to the journal, can be accessed at:

http://www.springer.com/?SGWID=0-0-1500-2451081-0&utm_campaign=CON26379_1&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_source=email&wt_mc=email.newsletter.8.CON26379.internal_1

Among the articles are the following relating directly to my retirement:

- [Reflections on 25 Years of Journal Editorship](#) - Michael R. Matthews
- [Succeeding Michael R. Matthews](#) - Kostas Kampourakis
- [What Makes a Life Worth Living? An Essay in Honor of Michael Matthews](#) - Gerald Holton
- [Religion, Misallodoxy and the Teaching of Evolution: The Influence of Michael Matthews](#) - Michael Ruse
- [Science & Education in Educational Perspectives: Recognizing the Contributions of Michael R. Matthews](#) - Zoubeida R. Dagher, Peter Hering

I am honoured that Springer have made this gesture, and I am both grateful and humbled by the words written by Kostas, Gerald, Michael, Zoubeida and Peter. A very nice note on which to conclude a 25-year term.

Ernst Mach Centenary Conference 2016

Ernst Mach (1838-1916) – Life, Work, and Influence: An International Conference
University of Vienna and Austrian Academy of Sciences, June 16-18, 2016

The Call for Papers and other information is available at:

<http://www.univie.ac.at/ivc/MachCentenaryED.pdf>

Questions can be directed to the local organizer Friedrich Stadler:
Friedrich.Stadler@univie.ac.at

Unfortunately Mach's sterling and insightful work as an educator, both a theorist and practitioner, is not as well-known in the Anglo-American community as it deserves to be. If known at all, his work is often dismissed in the more general trite dismissal of all things positivist. In part to repair Mach's image I did write some pages on him in the Routledge book which is linked below in my signature. The Mach pages are attached.

Regards,

Michael

Nb The Abner Shimony obituary that I recently circulated is now on the web at:

<https://goo.gl/ELDJQE>