

N E R V A L ' s D I A R Y

Le voyageur enthousiaste observe ...

*Amsterdam, September 30, 1999,
Hotel Victoria, Damrak, at the 8th EADV Congress*

A European Society for the History of Dermatology and Venereology

A memorable event took place today: the European Society for the History of Dermatology and Venereology (ESHDV) was founded, to the best of my knowledge the first and only supranational society for the history of a clinical discipline of medicine. There exists a (German-speaking) society for the history of ophthalmology (Hirschberg-Gesellschaft), there is a Société Française d'Histoire de la Dermatologie and there is an American History of Dermatology Society, but no European society of sorts.

After preliminary discussions some time ago, French and British dermatologists with historical interests and activities meeting at the Royal Society of Medicine in London on February 25, 1999, made a move and, eventually, 4 *charter members* agreed to invite some more *founding members* to Amsterdam on the occasion of the EADV Meeting and set an example. Today 14 founding members convened here to hold initial discussions about the framework of this new society destined to become a sister society of the EADV (as so many others are: dermatopathology, dermatologic surgery, phlebology, etc.).

The new body will be called ESHDV, will be incorporated under the French Law of July 1901 and have its permanent secretariat at the Hôpital Saint-Louis in Paris. Annual meetings and a general assembly of members are planned at the time and place of the EADV Congresses, the first to be held in Geneva in October 2000. The society will be run by a president, a secretary-treasurer

and a 5-person directorate, the administrative council (4-year terms).

The following persons were present at the founding session: John Cotterill and Richard Staughton, UK, Gérard Tilles and Daniel Wallach, France, Albrecht Scholz, Germany, Xavier Sierra-Valentí and Joaquin Calap-Calatayud, Spain, Jean Goens, Belgium, Nikolai Tsankov, Bulgaria, Stella Fatović-Ferenčić, Croatia, Monika Harms, Switzerland, Lawrence Charles Parish and Anthony V. Benedetto, USA (liaison to the American Society), and Karl Holubar, Austria. (Jana Hercogova, Czech Republic, Sarolta Kárpáti, Hungary, Sarah Brenner, Israel, Torello Lotti, Italy, and Andrew Griffiths, UK, were invited but unable to attend.)

Daniel Wallach was elected Secretary-Treasurer, Richard Staughton and Xavier Sierra-Valentí Vice-Presidents, and Karl Holubar President. The other persons are to function as national or regional delegates, the number to be supplemented by further persons next year. Membership dues will be 15.00 Euro per annum.

Dermatology has a rich history in Europe. Cultivation of this heritage and investigations into the development of the field and its future constitute a fertile ground for research.

Vivat, crescat, floreat.

Pierre Fabre Dermo-Cosmétique, Paris, generously sponsored the foundation dinner at the above hotel.

à bientôt,

K.H., Vienna