With this newsletter we would like to provide a first review of the ICHS congress in Poznán in August, which we want to continue in the following issue. This congress took place under very special conditions. It was originally planned for 2020 and, accordingly, much of the programme had already been set at the general assembly in Moscow in 2017, even though panels and round tables were added later. However, as is generally known, the congress could not take place in 2020 or 2021. This made it extraordinarily difficult for the organizers. Each and every participant was all the more grateful for the enormous hospitality and professional competence with which the colleagues around Krzysztof Makowski, Ewa Domanská, and Tomasz Schramm made the congress an intellectual pleasure and a highlight of the sociability of our profession. Over 900 participants were registered, of whom 573 (65%) took part in the discussions in person. As the evaluation of the registrations by the organizers shows, 151 (26%) of the participants present in Poznan came from Poland, another 41 from Germany, 39 from France, 27 from Italy, and 20 from the Czech Republic. As many as 182 participants (23%) came from countries outside Europe – 77 (16%) were present on site, the others online –, with fewer participants from the USA and Japan than at previous congresses.

In total, almost 100 panels were held (93), during which near 550 papers were presented (exactly 535). More than 200 presentations (216) took place in the sessions of the affiliated committees and commissions, attended by about 150 people.
The digital presence of the congress was quite impressive, with 1,500 views for the opening session, 1,600 for the closing session, and almost 500 for the award session, during which Sanjay Subrahmanyan was honoured for his impressive work.

In the following contributions, we begin to review the congress in Poznán by presenting some short reports on sections and round tables. In this way, we return to a tradition established within the ICHS bulletin, which in the past endeavoured to give a (as much as possible) complete report on the course of the most recent congress. This reporting has undoubtedly been an important piece of information for all those not present at the congress itself, which has naturally become a historical source par excellence for the history of the ICHS and which is becoming particularly significant with regard to the forthcoming centenary of our organization. However, this tradition has also had a very obvious disadvantage: the ICHS bulletin could only appear after the last report had been received. Anyone who has ever been involved in collecting notes on more than 100 individual events can imagine the worry lines on the forehead of the respective general secretary who pressed and waited until finally the last internal commission had delivered its report. With the ICHS newsletter, the board has opted for a different approach: we will publish reports in various issues of the newsletter and strive for completeness, but we do not confine ourselves (and the information provided) to this criterion. If there are commissions or panel organizers who do not want to report, then we take note of this, encouraging them with some mails to change their mind – but we are accepting if we do not get any news.

In any case, those who have taken the trouble to write a more or less long note about their meeting immediately after the congress will not be kept waiting long. With this step-by-step approach, we also acknowledge that one may have to leaf through several issues of the newsletter to be informed about the majority of the panels at the Poznán congress. However, this will also be simplified as we are happy to take up a suggestion from several member organizations that future newsletters should not only be sent out via the member organizations themselves but also be provided in a complete form on the website so that they can be easily accessed. We would like the associations and commissions to communicate this information channel to all their members, if possible, so that every historian can easily follow what is happening in his or her professional association.

We would like to ask all those who organized and led sections in Poznán or critically observed them to send us their reports. If possible, they should not exceed 2 pages. We look forward to your contributions!

At the same time, this newsletter contains a first preview of the next congress in Jerusalem by documenting the invitation extended by Shmuel Feiner on behalf of the Israeli organizing committee in Poznán. We can all look forward with anticipation to a congress that will take place exactly 100 years after the founding of the ICHS and will address all historians of the world to present their findings and to seek common conversation for the benefit of peaceful academic understanding.

Yours,
Matthias Middell
Good evening, dear Prof. Catherine Horel, the president of the CISH, and Prof. Edoardo Tortorolo, the general secretary; members of the board and the general assembly; my dear colleague Prof. Kryzstof Makowski and members of the organizing committee of this impressive conference here in Poznán, and his excellency Mr. Yaakov Livne, the ambassador of Israel to Poland; friends and fellow historians.

The origins of my family are not so far away from here. My grandparents were born in Częstochowa in the early twentieth century, left Poland in the crucial year 1933, and immigrated to Tel Aviv. I am privileged to be the chairman of the Historical Society of Israel, and it is with greatest pleasure that I welcome you all to this reception.

The modern study of history among the Jews was a European project, which started in Berlin in the early 19th century and then flourished in Eastern Europe. As we learn from the book describing the CISH congress in Warsaw in 1933, a few prominent Jewish historians from New York, Vilnius, and Warsaw participated and discussed the possibility of establishing a world association of Jewish historians. The Historical Society of Israel was established a century later in Jerusalem in 1924, almost at the same time as the establishment of the CISH, and a generation before the establishment of the State of Israel. No one then could predict the tragic events of the Second World War and the Holocaust, which loom above us as dark clouds, forever clouding human history.

Our founding fathers were Prof. Ben-Zion Dinur, an outstanding educator, historian and politician born in the Ukraine, and Prof. Yitzhak Baer, a prominent historian and an expert on medieval Spanish history who was born in Germany. They strove to revise Jewish history from the new perspective of the emerging Jewish nationalism, but they also brought with them from Europe the best tools of historical research. They declared right from the start that the historical science searches for the truth and always has to accept what the historical research uncovers, without ever surrendering to specific ideology, even when it is opposed to general popular opinion. It is no secret that at the beginning of the third decade of the twenty-first century there are many challenges to the study of history worldwide. How should we write and teach in the age of the digital revolution, the so-called crisis of the humanities, the age of false news, post-truth and alternative facts, the weakness of liberal democracies, and many other challenges. Whether facing conspiracy theories, political attempts to limit academic freedom and control historical narratives, or fundamentalist attacks against academia, the mission of the historians who are committed to the critical study of the past is becoming more difficult, but also more crucial and meaningful for the future of our civilization.

Today, I stand here with my Israeli colleagues, and we are honoured and excited to thank you for electing us to host the next CISH congress. As a graduate of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, I was privileged to be the student of the late Prof. Michael Heyd, who some of you may remember as a very devoted member of the board of the CISH. One of his biggest dreams was to host the congress in Jerusalem, and I am glad that we now will be able to fulfill his dream. Meanwhile, I would like to thank our hosts for their warm hospitality. We are deeply impressed by the perfect organization and for taking care of every detail of this congress. We are very lucky to have you as our mentors!
It is extremely meaningful for us having this reception at the Adam Mickiewicz University. Not just the Jewish figures we find in his great work Pan Tadeusz, set in the forests of Naliboki, where my late grandmother was born, but as I have learnt from the study by Prof. Makowski, “The Polish legion”, organized in 1848, “was to carry with it the Collection of Principles conceived by Adam Mickiewicz. Drawing inspiration from the Gospel, it postulated freedom of speech and religion, the equality of rights for all citizens, including women and Jews, and it demanded land for the peasants. The Collection of Principles was to provide not only an ideological platform for the legion’s activities. Above all, it was to delineate the constitutional framework of a future Polish state”.

And now, looking forward to the year 2026, I would like to tell you that we have already begun.

City of Peace, Eye of the World, City of Justice, Eden, City of Truth – these are just a few of the 70 names reflecting the different faces of Jerusalem. As we all know, Jerusalem is a holy city to millions – Jews, Christians, and Muslims alike. Jerusalem is a city with a history stretching back thousands of years, and that is apparent in its very streets and stones. Every brick and stone is loaded with history. Its many and diverse archaeological sites reflect this long history, which encompasses the stories of the various empires, societies, and major cultures that have shaped its human past. Jerusalem’s streets contain vestiges from the days of the Assyrians, Babylonians, Hellenists, Romans, and, of course, the Crusaders and the Abbasid, Umayyad, and Ottoman empires – right up to modern times. We will make sure that the conference will reflect this cultural and historical richness and make full use of relevant local sites to study and illustrate the issues being explored.

We believe that the historic city of Jerusalem is therefore the best place to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the CISH.

Going back thousands years, Jerusalem is one of the oldest cities in the world with iconic landmarks. Beyond the Old City walls lies a new Jerusalem, with the best features of Israel’s Start-Up Nation and modern life – culture, nightlife, and dining. Jerusalem’s unique history, modern infrastructure, the Jerusalem Silicon Valley, and well-developed tourism industry make the city a premier conference destination allowing tens of thousands of participants to enjoy the perfect mix of professional development and cultural exploration.

Dear colleagues, as you probably know Jerusalem is also the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We hope and pray for a peaceful solution, and as historians we believe that visiting the city itself, listening to different opinions, and witnessing closely the everyday life will be a worthwhile experience, an opportunity to learn about the conflict first hand and formulate an opinion.

Beyond the official programme, Jerusalem has many more surprises for the participants and their companions. Distinguished researchers in the relevant fields will introduce the important collections and major archives preserved in Jerusalem. Among the collections to be viewed: Isaac Newton Manuscripts Collection, the Kafka Archives, the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Albert Einstein Archives, and more.

The congress will give participants and their companions the opportunity to explore other parts of Israel, from the mountains of the Negev up to the Sea of Galilee.

We hope the Jerusalem congress will be most memorable. It will take place at the Hebrew University, and we will cooperate with distinguished academic institutes, the Israel Academy of Science, the Institute for Advanced Studies, the new and amazing National Library (just about to open), the Yad Vashem Institute for the Study of the Holocaust, and many more.

In conclusion, we believe that Jerusalem has all that it takes to host the congress in a most successful manner.

Dear fellow historians, we look forward to welcoming you in Jerusalem in 2026!
The third edition of the International Prize for History CISH was awarded to Sanjay Subrahmanyam, for the excellence of his works.

A specialist of the early modern period (15th–18th centuries), he is the author of numerous books, essays, and edited volumes, ranging between studies of India and the Indian Ocean, the early modern European empires, and reflections on global history as a field of research.

Among his many publications, many translated into different languages, a few may be mentioned here.

*Aux origines de l’histoire globale* (Leçon inaugurale au Collège de France), Fayard, 2014.


Civil war is considered, at the geopolitical level, as a major form of organized violence, particularly insidious for two characteristics that set this form aside from interstate conflicts: length and proneness to relapse. In relation to this, it is interesting to note that eminent contemporary voices have remarked upon the lack of a political theorization of civil war.

With regard to the Greek-Roman world, the situation is partly different. Even though the concept of civil war was not invented by it – although some scholars tend to conceive of it as the primary form of organized conflict – the Greek-Roman world experienced it deeply and with terror. As a result, this experience produced thorough reflections on the topic. Scholars of the ancient world continuously contemplated the topic.

The relevant literature is sound and vast, with a renewed interest in the ways of managing internal conflicts and a focus on its less institutionalized aspects.
Such complex and plural stances mirror the complexity of the issue. Indeed, we cannot forget that conflicts were looked at from different standpoints; for instance, the two concepts of stásis and bellum civile present different shades of meaning between the Greek and the Roman world and indicate a wide and flexible evaluation of conflict and its dangerousness. The aim of this specialized theme was to reflect upon the “pacifying practices” of civil conflicts in the Greek-Roman world, both at the level of individual historical realities and of theory.

Cinzia Bearzot (“Après la guerre civile. Athènes en 403 av. J.-C.”), focusing on the Athenian events of 404/403 BC, highlighted the lexical problems and semantic valences of the terms stasis and polemos, as well as the strategies of appeasement, primarily amnesty and the different views by contemporaries on the same issues – among them also resistance, of course. Thus, after the civil war of 404/403, the Athenians experimented with different strategies: the renunciation of revenge (with understandable resistance), the rebuilding of the community on the basis of common values, and the reappropriation of effective slogans, such as homonoia and soteria. With these strategies, they managed to overcome the fracture brought about by the fact that, in a context of stasis, the citizen becomes the enemy.

Adam Ziółkowski (“Sediones, Certamina civilia, Secessiones: The Roman Way of Coping with Internal Crises during the Early and Middle Republic”) investigated historical realities that are described in later sources: the major crises, conventionally dated to 494, 449, 376–367, 342, and ca. 287 BC, called in our sources seditiones, certamina civilia, secessiones, and at least once, allusively, bellum. Now, there is no doubt that the very existence of the plebeian organization and the memory of its early fights greatly contributed to the maintenance of the revolutionary spirit in the Roman society. Though one might observe that as regards the plebs’ first aim of going beyond mere survival – gaining access to the higher magistracies and the Senate – the “blame” fell just as heavily on the patricians, having shut themselves in behind the auspicial wall. But the real reason was entirely different: it was a truly gigantic sum of individual economic problems, proportional to the magnitude of the Roman community since its transformation and prodigious growth.

Valentina Arena (“An Intellectual Answer to the Problem of the Civil Wars?”) focused on the theoretical elaboration of three key magistrates for the late republican conflict, namely the consul, the praetor, and the censor. Such elaboration would obviously have been impossible without the participation of antiquarians in this construction, which in fact also influences our perception of them.

Frédéric Hurlet (“L’aristocratie romaine au sortir de la guerre civile: modalités et enjeux de la recomposition politique augustéenne”) reflected on the destiny of oligarchy, in particular the aristocracy after the civil war. The methods of appeasement chosen by Augustus were multiple. They consisted first of all, if not in showing clemency to enemies who were senators, at least in spreading the idea that he had behaved in this way. Then, it was a matter of recomposing the Roman Senate. Finally, it was necessary to create a new atmosphere in which he appeared as a reassuring figure who was able to appease the senators by making them understand that he was the guarantor of a rediscovered security and the best bulwark against the return of civil wars, which were henceforth abhorred.

The debate was very lively and the satisfaction of the rapporteurs very broad, as was reiterated to me even days later; we hope that a volume of the proceedings will emerge from these papers.

ST25 The Councils and the Churches (History of an Institution through Texts, Ideas and Practices)
By Davide Dainese

The panel held on Thursday, 25 August, by Alberto Melloni on the theme “The Councils and the Churches (History of an Institution through Texts, Ideas and Practices)” aimed at developing a permanent Fondazione per le scienze religiose (FSCIRE) workshop at the European Academy of Religion to reflect on the different understandings of the councils in certain confessions and ages of the Christian churches in order to develop a possible global history of Christian councils in the near future. Most of the panelists’ papers followed up on the publication of the first seven tomes of the Corpus Christianorum collection, Conciliorum Oecumenicorum Generaliumque Decreta, edited by Alberto Melloni and published by Brepols. This series offers a comprehensive panorama of how conciliarity was adopted and shaped into different confessional frameworks. Furthermore, it demonstrates that in all the churches, whatever the
conciliar theory might imply, synodality finds a way to be celebrated, both dividing and unifying the positions that enter into the conciliar process. The panel was held in a hybrid format. In the first session, chaired by Emanuela Prinzivalli, Davide Dainese, Philippe Blaudeau, and Nazenie Garibian presented their research. Davide Dainese’s paper (“Council in the Early Churches: Shaping an Imperial Institution”) dealt with the First Council of Nicaea against the background of the previous conciliar tradition and showed that Nicaea was in the midst of a conflict that would end only in a region that, at the end of the Council of Trent, was quite distant. Philippe Blaudeau (“The Brigandage of Ephesus (449): Perfect Counter-example of Synodal Functioning?”) treated the Council of Ephesus of 449 as an example of a wide-scale geo-ecclesiological conflict (Alexandria vs Constantinople, Alexandria vs Antioch, Alexandria vs Rome) played out over issues of lesser or greater magnitude. Nazenie Garibian (“The Armenian Experience: Church and Councils in another Christendom”), who connected remotely, offered a comprehensive summary of the types of Armenian conciliarity, which were clearly distinguishable for the first millennium and then became more rarefied in the second, and of the documentation produced.

The panel’s second session was chaired by Kirsi Stjerna, who connected remotely, and featured Émilie Rosenblieh, Mathijs Lamberigts, and Augustinos Bairactaris. Émilie Rosenblieh (“Conciliar Pragmatic Literacy in the Fifteenth Century, with Special Reference to the Council of Basel”) spoke in person on the basis of edited documentation (COGD II) and unpublished sources and dealt with the process of production of the Basil conciliar decrees, illustrating the role of the main actors (especially the notaries). Mathijs Lamberigts (“A [non]reception: The Case of Trent in the Low Countries”), who spoke remotely, examined the difficult reception of the Council of Trent in the Low Countries, highlighting the main reforms enacted in a region that, at the end of the Council of Trent, was in the midst of a conflict that would end only with the Peace of Westphalia. Augustinos Bairactaris (“Primacy, Conciliarity, Autocephaly and Consensus of the Orthodox Church”) offered an ecumenical and missiological perspective on Orthodox ecclesiology, with a particular focus on the issue of Ukrainian autocephaly. Alberto Melloni closed the proceedings with a historical reflection.

Overall, the panel was well attended by in-person participants, who were active during the discussions at the end of each session.


Round Table: Limits to Free Expression about the Past
By Luigi Cajani

I chaired the round table “Limits to Free Expression about the Past”, organized by Antoon de Baets. In my introduction, I highlighted the place of this round table in the context of the ICHS commitment so far to protect historians’ freedom of research, starting with the amendments to art. 1 of the statutes in 1992 and 2005; the stance against the EU Framework Decision on Combating Racism and Xenophobia by means of Criminal Law in 2007; the organization of the special session on the theme “Historical Research, Ethics and Law” at the Amsterdam conference in 2010; and finally the recent declaration against Russian president Putin’s abuse of history in the ICHS newsletter from July 2022. Antoon de Baets afterwards gave a broad and detailed theoretical overview of the issues related to “Memory and Tradition as Limits to the Freedom of Expression on History”. He was followed by a presentation on the role of archives by Trudy Peterson and another on hate speech by
Toby Mendel. Nikolay Koposov was unfortunately absent because of health problems, and I read his abstract on the history of French memory laws since the 1789 revolution. I finished with an analysis of the negative impact of the EU Framework Decision on historians. The round table was attended by about 30 colleagues who joined a lively debate. There was a general agreement that not only historians but also history teachers are at risk of control and censorship by not only political powers but also social agents who use the increasing number of laws on history adopted both in authoritarian and democratic states, although with meaningful differences. To contrast this trend, action by national historians’ organization and non-governmental organizations (like the Network of Concerned Historians) are considered very important, and above all a constant and stronger support of the ICHS has been recommended.
CONCLUDING REMARKS BY THE CISH SECRETARY GENERAL

Ladies and gentlemen,

it has been my 6th CISH Congress since 1995 in Montreal and by far the one that has taken place in the most dramatic circumstances. After a two-year-long pandemic and the attack on Ukraine, it has been quite an achievement that the 23rd congress of CISH-ICHS has been successfully concluded. The local organizing committee has done a tremendous job in providing the participants with optimal conditions and exquisite hospitality. It is not the time and place to analyze in detail the topics that the distinguished historians have been discussing and the approaches to the past developed during the fruitful five days of the congress. There are so many lessons learned that will take up some time to digest and really understand. New conceptual ways to understand how to make sense of the complexities of the past have been proposed and discussed. The major themes have focused on relevant aspects of the contemporary perception of the world, human and non-human.

The enduring perception that history must have a global perspective has been discussed, although with an increasing interest in forms of coexistence that emphasize diversity and peculiarity rather than the homogeneity inherent in the notion of globality. We will all have time to reflect on these topics, and with the insightful thoughts shared with us by the distinguished speakers at the opening ceremony, prof. Olufunke Adeboye, prof. Dipesh Chakrabarty and prof. Ewa Domanska, and by the CISH-ICHS laureate prof. Sanjay Subrahmanyan.

Let me, however, recall something that has been prominent in the previous week. The first remark comes from the prize that has been awarded for the best poster. I don’t want to comment on the quality of the posters, which, by the way, is excellent. I want to draw your attention once again to the fact that the future is indeed founded on the past and knowing the past is essential for living a good life. But it is also important to give the past and the people who study the past a bright future. Acknowledging the merits of young scholars is crucial to our discipline. The 23rd congress of CISH-ICHS has done an excellent job in that respect.

The second remark is that the extraordinarily heartfelt hospitality of our colleagues at the Uniwersytet Adama Mickiewicza restored a sense of community, of oikumene of the historians, that the long pandemic and the tragic events not far from here had eclipsed.

It has been refreshing to enjoy the company of so many bright fellow historians and restore a much-needed sense of community among kindred spirits.

Therefore: Dziękuję bardzo i do zobaczenia w Jerozolimie!

Edoardo Tortarolo
Poznań, August 27, 2022

CISH Secretary General Edoardo Tortarolo
MEETING OF THE CISH BOARD

On October 9, 2022, the Board met for a first online session after the Poznán Congress. Krzysztof Makowski reported on the first evaluation of the congress by the local organizing committee and provided figures on participants, panels and roundtables held, and online attendance during the congress. The Board reaffirmed its gratitude for the dedicated preparation of the congress organization and the tremendous hospitality experienced by all participants in Poland.

At the same time, the Board devoted itself to initial reflections on the lessons to be learned from the congress for the future organization of the work of ICHS. This discussion, in which among other things a determination of the panel topics closer to the congress, a stricter nomination process of participants already when applying for panels, the formulation of an overarching congress theme (instead of several grand themes) and a shortening of the congress as well as the necessity to find a common position on the question of a possible hybrid organization of the congress in the future, were mentioned, will be continued at the next meetings in order to present them consolidated at a general assembly to all member organizations.

Regarding the newsletter, the Board decided to publish it in full on the website in the future, so that all individual members of the member organizations have direct access. Encouraged was the invitation of further authors for reports on the panels at the Poznán Congress. A future issue of the Newsletter will be devoted to the preparation of an updated history of ICHS, which seems desirable in view of the 100th anniversary of ICHS.

The next meeting of the Board will be held in January 2023, also online.
Content

Editorial
Shmuel Feiner, Speech at the Reception, CISH congress, Poznán, 23 August 2022
Sanjay Subrahmanyam awarded the 2020/2022 International Prize for History CISH

Reports on Panels and Round Tables
Concluding Remarks by the CISH General Secretary
Meeting of the CISH Board, 9 October 2022

Comité international des sciences historiques

CISH General Secretary: Edoardo Tortarolo
University of Vercelli
Piazza Sant’Eusebio 5
13100 Vercelli – Italy
edoardo.tortarolo@uniupo.it

Editor of the Newsletter: Matthias Middell
Leipzig University
Global and European Studies Institute
Emil-Fuchs-Straße 1
04105 Leipzig – Germany
middell@uni-leipzig.de