

**TRIBUTE TO A GENERATION**  
**The 12th International Conference on the History of Science in East Asia**  
**(12<sup>th</sup> ICHSEA)**

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**Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, USA**  
**JULY 14-18, Monday-Friday, 2008**

**International Society for the History of East Asian**  
**Science, Technology, and Medicine (ISHEASTM)**

*“Tribute to a Generation”*

The International Society for the History of East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine (ISHEASTM) held its Twelfth International Conference at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, July 14-18, 2008. The central theme was a “Tribute to a Generation.” Among the “High Ancestors” of our organization most members would include Joseph Needham, Yabuuti Kiyosi, Zhu Kezhen, Li Yan, and Qian Baocong. In addition to providing a forum for the latest scholarship in the history of science, technology, and medicine in East Asia, at our 2008 conference we also honored our field’s “Second Generation”: Professors Li Di, Pan Jixing, and Xi Zezong in mainland China, Nakayama Shigeru, Yamada Keiji, and Miyasita Saburo in Japan, Jeon Sang-Woon in Korea, Ho Peng-Yoke in Malaysia, and Nathan Sivin and Charlotte Furth in the United States. Each one of these scholars laid the foundations in scholarship, publications, infrastructure, institutional commitment, and training during the second half of the 20th century for the global ISHEASTM community at work today.

***Participants:***

While it is important to celebrate the contributions of our intellectual predecessors, we also looked forward by including over 40 graduate students in addition to about 200 senior and junior scholars in the field. There were 43 panels and 58 separate sessions covering new research in the history of mathematics, astronomy, technology, geology, medicine, public health, and the life sciences in East Asia. About 250 scholars participated in this conference from the following 18 different countries and regions: Australia, Austria, Canada, China, England, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, and Vietnam.

***Sponsors:***

The Chemical Heritage Foundation, The Hitachi Foundation, The International Society for the History of East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University—Dean’s Office, Zanvyl Krieger School of Arts & Sciences, Department of History, Department of the History of Medicine, Department of the History of Science and Technology, and the East Asian Studies Program—Princeton

University, Program in East Asian Studies and Program in the History of Science—  
The University of Pennsylvania, School of Arts & Sciences and Department of the  
History and Sociology of Science.

***Local Organizing Committee:***

***Co-chairs:***

Marta Hanson, Department of the History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University

Morris Low, Director of Asian Studies, Univ. of Queensland, Australia

***Local Organizing Committee Members:***

Carol Benedict, Department of History, Georgetown University

Rachel Core, Department of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University

Akiko Ito, University of Minnesota Medical School

Sharon Kingsland, Chair, Department of the History of Science & Technology,  
Johns Hopkins University

Randall Packard, Chair, Department of the History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins

Christine Ruggere, Associate Director, Department of the History of Medicine, Johns  
Hopkins University

Pierce Salguero, Department of the History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins

Min Suh Son, Department of the History of Science and Technology, Johns Hopkins

Michele Thompson, Department of History, Southern Connecticut State University

Yuan Yuan Zeng, Department of Anthropology, The Catholic University of America

***Public Lectures, Symposium, and Plenary Sessions:***

There were two public lectures—Simon Winchester talked about his new book on  
Dr. Joseph Needham *The Man Who Loved China* July 14th the first night of the  
conference and Prof. Timothy Brook concluded the conference July 18th with a  
public lecture on his new book *Vermeer's Hat* at the Walters Arts Museum. A public  
symposium on “The Archimedes Palimpsest and Archimedean Mathematics in  
China” was also hosted by the Walters Art Museum. Following the theme of the  
conference, the plenary sessions began with a Memoriam in honor of the late  
Professor Li Di (1927-2006) and concluded with Nathan Sivin’s “Personal  
Reminiscences of a Generation.” The following eight plenary lectures addressed  
current debates and issues of the field: “The State of the Field of the History of  
Mathematics in China,” “East Asian Scientists and Nobel Prizes,” “The Asian Turn  
Toward Science Technology Studies (STS),” “When Health was Freed from Fate-  
Some Thoughts on the Liberating Potential of Early Chinese Medicine,”  
“Representing the Body in Edo Japan,” “Becoming Alternative: Chinese Medicine in  
the Modern World,” “From Hierarchies to Processes: Integrating Chinese Medicine  
into Modern Health Care Systems,” and “Proprietary Issues in 17<sup>th</sup>-Century China:  
Technology, Culture, and Beyond.” See Conference website for details. Several of  
these lectures will be published in the society’s journal *East Asian Science, Technology,  
and Medicine*.

Information on the conference and the program are available on conference website.

<http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/histmed/news/eastm.index.html>

The Book of Abstracts may be purchased for \$10 including postage.

Funds will go to the Society.

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