

**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL  
FOR PHILOSOPHY  
AND HUMANISTIC STUDIES**

*Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines*

**BULLETIN**

**1954-1955**

**C.I.P.S.H.**

**PUBLISHED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF UNESCO**

**UNESCO HOUSE**

**19, AVENUE KLÉBER - PARIS XVI'**

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**TWO YEARS  
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## BULLETIN

Three Bulletins, devoted respectively to 1949, 1950, and the three years 1951, 1952 and 1953, have successively reviewed the activities of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies since its establishment in January, 1949.

The present Bulletin summarizes the principal undertakings of the Council from January 1, 1954, to December 31, 1955.

## INTRODUCTION

In 1954 and 1955, the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies continued the task it had undertaken in 1949. On January 1, 1954, it included twelve member organizations—the International Academic Union, the International Federation of Societies for Philosophy, the International Committee for Historical Sciences, the International Permanent Committee of Linguists, the International Federation of Associations for Classical Studies, the International Union for Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, the International Commission for Folk Arts and Folklore, the International Committee for the History of Art, the International Association for the History of Religions, the International Federation for Modern Languages and Literatures, the International Union of Orientalists, and the International Society for Musicology—to which was added, on September 29, 1955, the International Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences. (1).

The C.I.P.S.H. may henceforth justifiably consider itself representative of the various fields which, together, make up the realm of humanistic studies. Further improvements, certainly, may still be foreseen; some gaps still remain to be filled; changes may still be made—but the framework of the C.I.P.S.H. has now been set and the task it had set for itself in this respect has been successfully carried out.

The growth of the Council brought with it a certain number of needs which began to appear as early as 1952 and 1953. The Constitution adopted by the C.I.P.S.H. at the time of its foundation in 1949 had been drawn up for an organization much less broad in its membership than the present Council. The Standing Committee, which included one representative of each organization, had rendered the greatest service up to 1953. Before that time it retained the character of a limited executive committee. But since the growing number of member organizations automatically entailed a corresponding growth of the Standing Committee, the Committee tended more and more to become a kind of duplicate of the General Assembly. On the other hand, the need for frequent and rapid meetings of members of the Board—meetings not provided for in the

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(1) See the list of officers of member organizations (page 57 ).

Constitution—was more and more acutely felt. The directive organs of the C.I.P.S.H. developed on a triple level—General Assembly, Standing Committee, and Board—and the Standing Committee gradually lost its reason for existence, caught between the two other organs of the Council.

These considerations incited the members of the Third Ordinary General Assembly of the Council to adopt the principle of a revision of its Constitution. This revision made two principal changes: It did away with the Standing Committee and replaced it as the executive body of the C.I.P.S.H. by a Board composed of seven members chosen *ad personam* but with consideration for geographic distribution and for distribution among the various fields of study. It also transferred to the General Assembly all the financial powers of the Standing Committee, and provided for meetings of the Assembly every two years instead of every three.

The text of the new Constitution may be found at the end of the present Bulletin (Annex B, page 61 ).

At the same time as it revised its organizational structure, the Council continued to concern itself with its geographic basis.

The problem facing the Council was many-sided: For one thing, a way had to be found to associate with the work of the C.I.P.S.H. learned organizations throughout the entire world. Secondly, the foundation of such organizations had to be encouraged in countries where they did not yet exist; and, lastly, a way had to be found to establish temporary connections in countries where the foundation of such organizations might take a certain length of time.

The Council attacked all these questions simultaneously. It asked all its member organizations to take strong measures to make or to keep their structure very broadly international in character. Considerable progress has already been made along this line. All the member organizations of the C.I.P.S.H. are now represented in at least three regions of the world, most of them in four and several in all five.

The Board particularly stressed, on several occasions, the necessity not only for admitting all organizations of a proven scientific character which might ask to be affiliated with member organizations of the C.I.P.S.H., but also for stimulating such requests by making known the aims of the C.I.P.S.H., by establishing contacts with scholars of all countries, and by encouraging in every manner the establishment of national committees which might affiliate with the different branches of the Council. Finally, to provide for countries where delays in organization are inevitable, the General Assembly adopted, at the suggestion of the Board, the following resolution:

« In order to facilitate the widest possible participation in its activities, the Council is empowered, as an interim measure, to recognize a corresponding committee in a country or region where there do not yet exist learned societies and academies which normally form the base for the Council's member organizations.»

This resolution found its first applications in Uruguay and Iran, where national committees for philosophy and humanistic studies have been formed. It is most desirable that such examples be followed elsewhere; and the Council, for its part, is deeply and sincerely grateful to

scholars who thus agree to establish a national group in order to make possible closer international scientific collaboration.

The goal of the C.I.P.S.H. remains, of course, the establishment of a broad network of scholars grouped according to their fields of study. But the national committees can constitute the elements of these organizations and furnish the nucleus around which, in each particular realm, a specialized committee can be formed.

Fruitful collaboration has continued to develop between the C.I.P.S.H. itself and other international organizations, including, first of all, U.N.E.S.C.O. To carry out resolutions voted by the U.N.E.S.C.O. General Conference, the Council agreed to undertake a certain number of tasks which will be enumerated in the following chapters of this Bulletin. Within the framework of the investigation concerning the possibilities for broadening the teaching of the humanities, of the program of translations of works representative of the various cultures, and, finally, of the investigations concerning the role of humanistic and classical culture in the contemporary world, the C.I.P.S.H. has provided U.N.E.S.C.O. with all the assistance requested.

The most cordial collaboration has also been pursued with international non-governmental organizations of a scientific character, especially with the International Council of Scientific Unions, the International Council of Organizations of the Medical Sciences, the International Council of Social Sciences, the International Council of Music, and others.

A list of works published under the auspices of the Council appears in this Bulletin, as in earlier ones. Bibliographies continue to make up the greater part of these publications. They also continue to meet with the gravest difficulties, and some of them have sent out cries of alarm. The C.I.P.S.H. has done everything in its power to help to continue, but an increasingly serious situation has been created by the ceaselessly growing number of organizations entitled to receive subsidies, without a corresponding increase in the resources available. The bibliographers will have to strive for an increase in their sales, which is the only means of providing them with the security they now lack.

It goes without saying, however, that the Council will do everything it can to continue to support these indispensable tools of the scholar. The C.I.P.S.H. fully realizes their importance and the difficulties with which they have to contend.

Outside of the assistance given to publications, the C.I.P.S.H. has continued its help to a certain number of international scholarly meetings—congresses, symposia, committees of experts. In this field, too, difficult problems have sometimes been met. One of these is the timing of congresses. Highly respectable traditions and differing habits have led to the greatest variety where this question is concerned. Some congresses have been meeting every two years, others every three, still others every four or five. The Council's General Assembly and Board have tried, on several occasions, not to impose a fixed rule on the various organizations, but to set a general policy which would permit an equitable distribution of subsidies.

After careful study, it was decided to reserve C.I.P.S.H. assistance to organizations whose congresses are held once every five years. Such an interval will have the advantage of permitting the appropriation of more important sums to the various congresses. And in most sciences, no matter how rapid their progress, a quinquennial review seems to satisfy the great majority of specialists.

The overlapping of meetings has also been the subject of some study by the Council. It is natural that certain periods of the year are chosen in preference to others by the organizers of meetings, and the result is a very limited number of available weeks, which brings about coincidences of date that are often unfortunate. The only means of remedying this difficulty is to do what several organizations—which we wish to thank here—are already doing: to keep the Council informed as exactly and as promptly as possible of the various dates chosen. If this system is followed—but only if it is—the C.I.P.S.H. will be able to play an effective role in the distribution of congress dates. It should be understood, of course, that this role is and should be of a purely informational character: the C.I.P.S.H. is merely the agent of the scholarly organizations which make up its membership.

All the international meetings which have been held under the auspices of the C.I.P.S.H. have been highly successful. The organization of work, the system of publication of reports and proceedings adopted have been found entirely satisfactory. Important results have been obtained. These meetings are one of the most encouraging forms of the collective work which henceforth parallels and reinforces individual efforts.

Finally, since its establishment in 1952, the magazine *Diogenes* (whose contents for 1954-55 are summarized on page 49 of this Bulletin) has developed considerably. Six parallel editions are at present published: in Arabic, English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. The interest in the magazine shown by a broad audience is most encouraging. Some of the editions have already had a relatively long existence; others, like the Italian and Arabic editions, are still in their beginnings. A perfect synchronization of the various editions is extremely difficult to achieve. But the contents are identical in the different languages and *Diogenes* may justly claim to serve as a solid and efficacious link among different fields and cultures.

Through the scholarly contributions which it has succeeded in obtaining, through the cultivated public which it touches, through the interest which it arouses, the review brings the Council the most valuable assistance.

Such are some of the activities in which the C.I.P.S.H. engaged during the years 1954 and 1955. In the face of the large number of projects which have been proposed, and which are still being proposed, they obviously constitute a very small effort. But at least the Council may realize that it has acquitted itself honorably of the tasks which it had decided to undertake. If it has succeeded in its mission as a leader, it owes its success above all to the support which it has received from two sources: on the one hand, its member organizations; on the other hand, U.N.E.S.C.O.



Despite their small secretariats, almost always made up of volunteers, all the member organizations have continued to give the C.I.P.S.H. their constant and devoted support. It is not without the strongest scruples that the Secretariat of the Council has asked eminent scholars to give long hours to thankless administrative tasks, yet they have always accepted these tasks selflessly and with good grace. The C.I.P.S.H. has always tried, and is still trying, to reduce to a minimum these necessary tasks. It wishes here to express its sincere gratitude to all those who have kept it informed of meetings, publications, and activities of the member organizations, and who have painstakingly prepared the financial reports, the requests for subsidies, and all the other too-numerous papers which the Council tirelessly keeps asking them to provide.

Finally, the Council's gratitude goes to U.N.E.S.C.O. It is obvious that it would have been impossible for the C.I.P.S.H. to carry out its different projects without the aid generously given by this organization. But U.N.E.S.C.O.'s aid does not consist only in the granting of subsidies: the Council has always received from U.N.E.S.C.O. moral support and an understanding of its problems which must be stressed here. To the Director General of U.N.E.S.C.O., to the members of its secretariat who are constantly giving their assistance to the C.I.P.S.H., we should like to renew the most sincere thanks of our organization.