

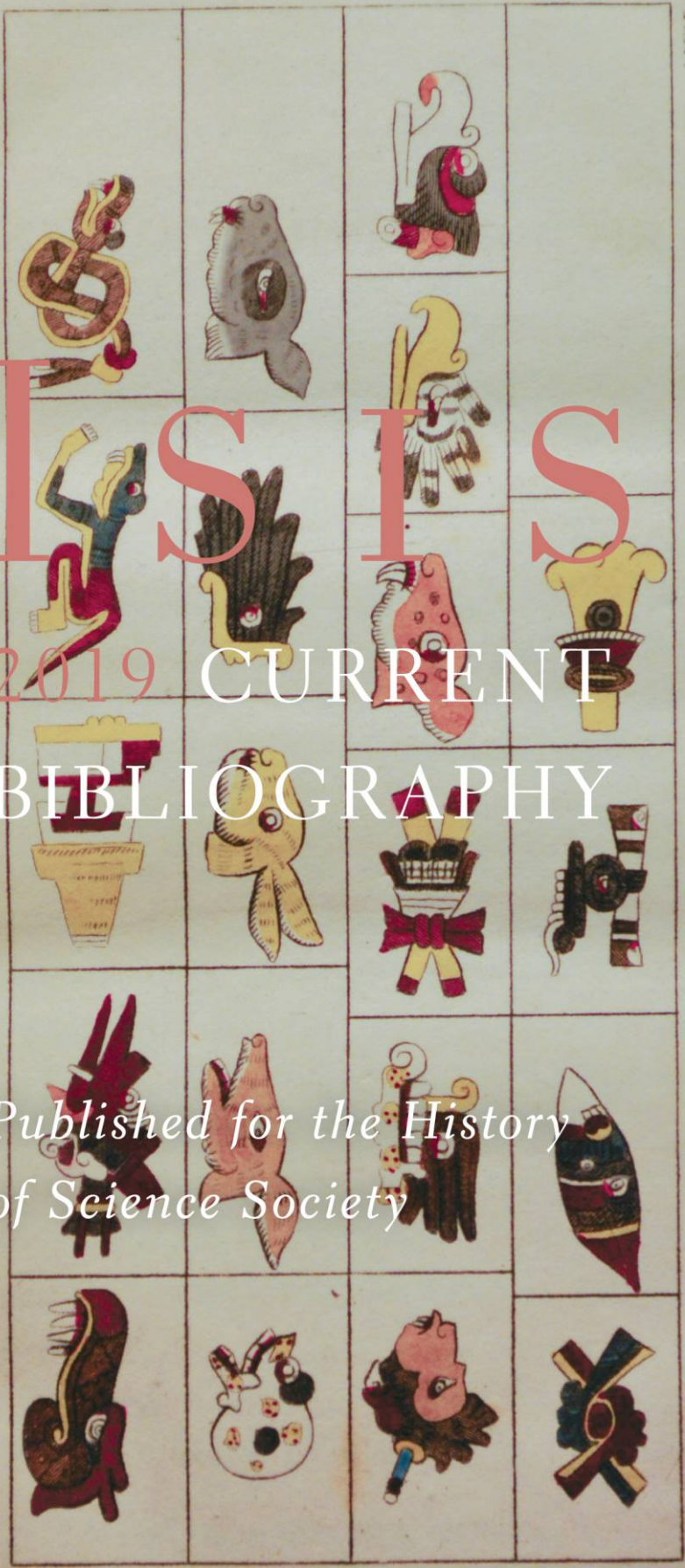
Signs of the Days in the American Almanac.

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LISTS

2019 CURRENT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Published for the History of Science Society



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OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND ITS CULTURAL INFLUENCES

2019

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General Introduction

Much has happened this past year at the IsisCB office. Some of that will be evident in the volume you hold in your hands, but some of these activities will show fruit later on.

First of all, I am excited to announce the second in the series of bibliographical essays. This one is by Luís Tirapicos at the Interuniversity Center of the History of Science and Technology, University of Lisbon. His essay, "Bibliographical Evolutions: From Archaeoastronomy to Astronomy in Culture," provides us with insight into the rise and professionalization of this relatively new interdisciplinary field that studies science and natural knowledge in past cultures. In addition, Tirapicos, who is one of the Contributing Editors of the IsisCB, has added over 160 citations this year in this area, significantly expanding the bibliography's scope and coverage.

Following this, readers will also find two texts related to last year's bibliographical essay by Francesco Luzzini: a letter to the editor by Marco Beretta at the University of Bologna and a response by Luzzini. Luzzini's initial essay painted a gloomy picture of recent developments in the scholarly institutions of his home country, and Beretta seeks to offer a corrective. These two Italian scholars have very different views on the institutions and scholarship in history of science in Italy, past and present, and I urge readers to evaluate both letters and consider the issues that each raises.

Both the bibliographical essays and the letters have been reviewed and discussed with the Isis editorial office, and I want to thank both Floris Cohen and Matt Levine for their help in evaluating these pieces. All bibliographical essays are peer reviewed. I wish to again thank Ron Watkins for his copy editing of the bibliographical essay.

The most disruptive, but necessary, change this year has been the revision of our printing procedures. This year the 2019 *Isis Current Bibliography* was formatted and typeset using entirely new scripts. These new scripts, which work

more smoothly with the current database, are a major update of the in-house typesetting system that I use. The original typesetting and layout was designed and coded by Sylwester Ratowt in 2002 and then modified by him periodically over the years. Last year, he did a major redesign to accommodate the bibliographical essays.

This year's new set of scripts was written by Julia Damerow, who does all of the development for the IsisCB Explore site. Her expertise made it possible to utilize Ratowt's careful design and adapt it better to the current data structure. The bulk of this volume is typeset in LaTeX, a typesetting tool widely used in the sciences. In order to accommodate both user and printer requirements, the LaTeX files for the *Isis Bibliography* are built in several stages and the two main sections are merged and several supplementary pages are then added.

The most heavily scripted part of this process is the work in building Part III, the formatted bibliography, which entails two major tasks. First, the thousands of bibliographical records are collected and organized into three different parts—the classified section, the book review section, and the indexes—which are then numbered and cross-referenced. Second, each record is formatted into properly structured bibliographical citations.

Due to the printing deadline, I unfortunately had to cut short the development process. In addition, proofreading was more challenging, and I did not have as many eyes on the entries as usual. As a result, readers may find that this year's volume is a little rougher than normal. I explain more about this in my short introduction to Part III. That said, I am generally quite pleased with the revision and anticipate that next year, we will be able to provide a more robust printout.

I want to especially recognize Julia Damerow for her continued expert help with this project. I have acknowledged her help in the IsisCB blog (<http://isiscb.org/introducing-julia-damerow>), but I must point out that her work on the

IsisCB has been critical to its current success. She has extraordinary talents as a software engineer and is very easy to work with.

Damerow is one of a growing group of largely unseen data scientists who are becoming indispensable to scholars throughout the humanities. She holds a doctorate from Arizona State University, having written her dissertation about the development of a new research system for computational history and philosophy of science. As such, she has extensive expertise in understanding the application of data science and computational methods to the humanities. This fall, she published an article in the Focus section of *Isis* discussing the challenges of working with digital resources of all kinds.

In a related note, since the last publication of the *Isis Bibliography*, I worked with members of the Technology and Communication Commission of HSS (Kate Sheppard and Margaret Gaida) on a survey about digital research in the discipline. As part of that survey, I asked about the usefulness of the four versions of the bibliography—the hardcopy annual bibliography, the freely available PDF of the annual bibliography, the HSTM database hosted by EBSCO, and the IsisCB Explore system. My initial conclusion suggests that this annual bibli-

ography still has a place in the discipline. About 35 percent of respondents found the printed copy to be useful or essential to their work, which was about the same percentage as those rating the usefulness of the PDF and the HSTM database. Only the Explore system topped that with 46 percent giving it strong marks. While print still seems to be holding its own among many readers, there is a sizable opposition to print, people who don't find the annual bibliography useful: 16 percent of respondents believed that the printed copy was not important, as compared with only about 5 and 6 percent who felt the same about the online databases.

Finally, I want to mention that this past summer, I held a meeting of my Contributing Editors in Utrecht, following the History of Science Society's annual conference. There, we discussed ways to expedite the collaborative possibilities of the online curation system that I am using. These are important discussions because it is my goal to build ever greater collaboration with scholars in all of our subfields so that this database will become more comprehensive and, thus, more useful for everyone.

Onward and upward.

Stephen P. Weldon
Norman, Oklahoma

Reply

I understand that Marco Beretta did not appreciate the autobiographical remarks in my essay. Actually, I was asked to write the piece just because of my personal experience on the subject, and depriving the text of any autobiographical considerations would have been as impossible as inappropriate. Mentioning “names” or “cases,” however, was neither my purpose, nor my task, the latter belonging to the judiciary (which in fact is quite busy in this regard).¹

Unfortunately, the distortive habits I have described are not “presumed.” As every Italian scholar knows, it is still very easy for well-connected candidates to obtain academic positions “with just a handful of publications, not necessarily in the history of science”; and even an extremely concise list of references attesting to how broken the academic recruitment system is in Italy (and how the ANVUR rules have boosted self-citation, conformism, and clientelism among scholars) would be too long to be reported here. Nevertheless, besides mentioning again the references in my essay,² I suggest some other recent articles³ which—I hope—will prove that I feel all but “nostalgic” for the past, the past being still pretty much present.

I never said that journals like *Olivo e Olio* or *Perfumer & Flavorist* were included in the “list of history of science journals.” Here, Beretta confuses the “A-Class” lists with the “scientific” journals lists.⁴ Some confusion seems also to surround his assertion that I did not grasp “the difference between the center and the peripheries” because “Anglo-American” scholarship is not as engaged as Italian scholarship in textual criticism: actually, this is the very reason why I described critical editions in the history of science as an Italian excellence (although excellent projects of this kind are being carried out also in the English-speaking world,⁵

¹For a significant (but incomplete) list of recent cases, see <https://www.trasparenzaemero.org/notizie/categories/ricorsi>.

²Francesco Luzzini, “Bibliographical Distortions, Distortive Habits: Contextualizing Italian Publications in the History of Science” *Isis* 109, no. S1 (2018): 1–13, on pp. 9–11 (notes 23–29).

³Alberto Baccini, Giuseppe De Nicolao, and Eugenio Petrovich, “Citation gaming induced by bibliometric evaluation: A country-level comparative analysis,” *PLoS One* 14, no. 9 (2019); Walter Lapini, “Lucrezio ai tempi dell’ ANVUR,” *Giornale Critico della Filosofia Italiana* VII, no. 13 (2017): 589–608; Lapini, “La nostra università ha bisogno d’ aiuto,” *Corriere della Sera*, 10 June 2019; Carlo Sini, “Gorgia, dicci chi sei,” in *La Scuola dell’ Ignoranza*, eds. Sergio Colella, Dario Generali, and Fabio Minazzi (Milan: Mimesis, 2019), pp. 99–102. A strictly related, and still heatedly debated, issue is the conflict of interest caused by those full professors who are also editors of scholarly journals and whom ANVUR appointed as “experts” in charge of drafting the journal lists. This could also explain why several Italian journals which had joined the international protests against the “metric ranking” attempted by ERIH in 2009 are now far from zealous in opposing the quantitative rules of ANVUR (see <https://www.roars.it/online/lenigmistica-dianvur-trovate-le-differenze/comment-page-1>).

⁴The difference is explained in Luzzini, “Bibliographical Distortions, Distortive Habits,” pp. 9–11.

⁵Important, but not exclusive examples are the following online resources: the Newton Project (see <http://www.newtonproject.ox.ac.uk>), the Oxford Francis Ba-

and I am surprised that Beretta ignores this fact). In any case, I said that critical editions are becoming less common, not that they are not produced anymore—and *Nuncius*, although commendable in this respect, is not the only Italian journal regularly featuring editions of unpublished sources.⁶

The final part of the letter contests the main historiographical thesis of my essay, which is the role played by the School of Milan and by philosophy in shaping the history of science in Italy after World War II. Of course, this interpretation is not meant to suggest that important historians of science had not existed before: during the positivist period, authors—mainly scientists—like Guglielmo Libri, Raffaello Caverni, Aldo Mieli, Antonio Favaro, Gino Loria, and Federico Enriques produced many seminal works. However, the influence of this tradition was severely undermined by the hegemony of Croce’s idealism and by the enactment of the racial laws during Fascism (Mieli, Enriques, and Loria were of Jewish descent). Thus, it was essentially (but, I repeat, not exclusively) with the studies promoted by the *Scuola* that our discipline in Italy could flourish again, and these studies included also the re-evaluation of Vailati’s thought. Hence the special connection between the history of science and philosophy that still exists in Italian scholarship—and hence the reason why the (questionable)⁷ assertions that Vailati considered himself “more a philosopher than a historian” and that he “wrote very little on the history of science” reveal, in my view, some lack of understanding of the subject.

The School of Milan trained many important academics throughout the 20th century. It would have been impossible to mention all of them in my essay, due to the length restrictions. On the other hand, it would have been equally impossible not to mention Ludovico Geymonat and Paolo Rossi, for it is an established fact that both of them were key members of the *Scuola*: Geymonat became professor in Milan precisely because of Antonio Banfi (with whom he was a long-time collaborator), and Rossi was pupil and assistant to Banfi in the early 1950s. Moreover, both Geymonat and Rossi collaborated with Giulio Preti.⁸

I hope I managed to dispel some of Beretta’s doubts. I remain at his disposal for any further assistance in this matter.

Francesco Luzzini, *Max Planck Institute for the History of
Science, Department I*⁹

con (see <http://www.oxfordfrancisbacon.com>), the Thomas A. Edison Project (see <https://jhupbooks.press.jhu.edu/title/papers-thomas-edison>), the Sloane Letters Project (see <http://sloaneletters.com>)

⁶Other significant, but not exclusive examples being *Technai*, *Bollettino di Storia delle Scienze Matematiche*, *Geographia Antiqua*, *Galilaeana*, and *Bruniana & Campanelliana*.

⁷See the studies provided by Mauro De Zan, the foremost historian of Giovanni Vailati (these are mentioned in Luzzini, “Bibliographical Distortions, Distortive Habits,” pp. 3–4, notes 2–4).

⁸*Ibid.*, pp. 5–6 (see also notes 8–11).

⁹Francesco Luzzini is affiliate scholar at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin. His work focuses mainly on natural philosophy, the Earth/environmental sciences, and medicine in early modern Europe, with a methodological emphasis on interdisciplinarity, digital

humanities, and textual criticism. His latest book *Theory, Practice, and Nature In-between* (Edition Open Sources, 2018) is a critical edition of Antonio Vallisneri's manuscript *Primi Itineris Specimen* (1705).