



News

The Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) and the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST) will hold their Joint 4S/EASST Conference 2000 Worlds in Transition: Technoscience, Citizenship and Culture in the 21st Century from 27 to 30 September 2000 at the University of Vienna, Austria. Organizer: Department of Philosophy of Science and Social Studies of Science (University of Vienna). Contact persons: Univ. Prof. Dr. Ulrike Felt (ulrike.felt@univie.ac.at) and Judith Kroell (4SEASST@univie.ac.at). A web-page will be available for extensive information, accessible through:

<http://www.univie.ac.at/Wissenschaftstheorie/>
<http://www.chem.uva.nl/easst/>
<http://its2.ocs.lsu.edu/guests/ssss/public.html/>

The 4th World Multiconference on Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics SCI 2000 will be held from 23 to 26 July 2000 in Orlando, Florida (USA) at the Sheraton World. Further information: <http://www.iiis.org>

Between Nature: Explorations in Ecology and Performance will be the theme of a conference held from 27 to 30 July 2000 organised by the Centre for the Study of Environmental Change & Department of Theatre Studies, Lancaster University, United Kingdom. Between Nature will be a major regional, national and international gathering for anyone concerned with ecology or performance. By bringing together these two domains the event aims to generate new understandings and modes of engagement appropriate to a time when rapid technological and cultural change is disrupting many received boundaries—between aesthetics and ethics, nature and artifice, private and public, knowledge and politics. Further information: <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/users/csec/betweennature>

Our Thanks to Ann Moyal

Ann Moyal is stepping down from the Editorial Board of *Prometheus*. She has been a member of the Board for many years, having previously served as Honorary Editor of the journal, a post she eventually surrendered because she insisted she had no idea what the title meant. Now, as Ann puts it, she simply wants to give someone else a go.

Ann attended the journal's birth more than twenty years ago – she was even there at the conception – and has helped guide its progress ever since. She has published in *Prometheus*, of course, and she has refereed papers submitted to it on the history of science, on telecommunications and on women. And she has performed all the other duties of an Editorial Board member with her customary gusto. While Ann has long been a good friend of the journal, she has also been rather more. For twenty years she has promoted *Prometheus* whenever and wherever the opportunity has arisen, and she has not infre-

quently made opportunity when it would not otherwise have arisen. Ann is not easily daunted. There can be no one who knows Ann – and a great many do know Ann – who is not aware of her connection with *Prometheus*. She has been absolutely relentless in her advocacy. Certainly the editors have never been left unaware of her interest in the journal, and of her opinions on how it should be run. They have not always felt able, or been able, to follow her advice, decorum and the law of libel being powerful constraints, but they have always been the richer for her opinion. Without Ann's influence, *Prometheus* – and it might not have survived without Ann's influence – would have been a duller thing with narrower interests. It would probably have forsaken its original historical bent, and so would have lost the context and sheer civilising influence which only history can provide.

Ann is not retiring. For the Godmother of Australian history of science, retiring is not really an option. She is merely stepping down from the Editorial Board so that someone else can serve the interests of the journal. It is hard to imagine anyone capable of doing this with the remorseless energy and ruthless dedication which Ann always brought to the task. It is harder still to imagine she who wags her finger at government ministers, who taunts the high and mighty with their own pomposity, who pours coffee over the heads of vice-chancellors, settling down by the fire with her quilting. Ann Moyal will no doubt be as active in the interests of *Prometheus* as she has always been, and as ready to offer her advice. The world could not be otherwise.