

**20 years of *Annals of the history and philosophy of biology*
– formerly *Jahrbuch für Geschichte und Theorie der Biologie***

The “German Society for History and Philosophy of Biology“ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geschichte und Theorie der Biologie, DGGTB) was founded when around 60 people got together in Jena on June 29, 1991¹. This was noted with great interest not only in re-unified Germany, but also abroad, and researchers from Italy, Holland, France, the United Kingdom, the US, Austria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein were among the 145 founding members. For a long time the society has helped to re-establish the history and philosophy of biology as a discipline at German universities – although a lot remains to be done. In addition, the society and its members have been active in saving collections of books, papers and other materials from departmental and private donors. A museum and archive for the history of biology, founded by Prof. A. Geus (Marburg), and now curated and housed at the Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig, the Biohistoricum in Bonn, is supported by the DGGTB.

From the beginning, the society wanted to communicate research results and its activities to colleagues and a wider audience. For this purpose a journal, *Jahrbuch für*

¹ This is described in detail by Ilse Jahn and Hans Querner in the first issue of the *Jahrbuch* (1994) in the paper “Die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geschichte und Theorie der Biologie: Vorgeschichte, Aufgaben und Ziele“ (pp. 5-19).

Geschichte und Theorie der Biologie was founded. In parallel, the lectures held at the annual meetings were to be published in the *Biologisches Zentralblatt*.² However, because of difficulties in the collaboration with the editors of the *Zentralblatt*, the *Verhandlungen zur Geschichte und Theorie der Biologie* were founded: "A yearbook for the history and philosophy of biology is a novel as the German Society for the History and Philosophy of Biology (DGGTB), which was founded in 1991 and - maybe also in an international comparison - has no equivalent".³

This corresponds to the situation in classical biological disciplines like zoology and botany, where there are long traditions of this type of publications as a way of communicating new results to colleagues and the general public.⁴ The old *Jahrbuch*⁵ was published in 9 volumes, starting in 1994, some of them thematic, and 17 volumes of the *Verhandlungen* have been published. From January 1, 2005 a new group of editors took over the *Jahrbuch*. The publisher also changed, and so did the name of the journal⁶. The present volume is the 8th volume to be printed by the Universitätsverlag Göttingen.

Three editors and one Managing editor are in charge of the *Annals*. The editors represent different subjects and are supported by an international editorial board. In this 20th year anniversary, the publisher and editors have taken the opportunity to renew the editorial board and the managing editor. This volume is the last one coordinated by Volker Wissemann, who was the founding and managing editor in the last ten years of the *Annals*. It is time (from my point of view, V.W.) for a change. Please note, that from now on Dr. Christian Reiß from Regensburg will be responsible for managing the journal. We would like to thank the members of the board for their dedication, and Christian Reiß for his willingness to take over the work.

We plan to publish one volume each year with an emphasis on the biosciences, but are also open for other ideas. It is, for example, possible to publish papers based on M. Sc. or Ph. D. theses in history and philosophy of biology (also as supplementary volumes). All manuscripts will be peer reviewed.

The editors

Giessen & Jena in the summer 2015

² Compare volume 112, issue 2, 1993; volume 113, issue 2, 1994.

³ Jahn & Querner 1994, p. 5.

⁴ For more information see http://www.geschichte-der-biologie.de/links_1.php.

⁵ volume 1/1994- volume 10/2004. In 2002 no *Jahrbuch* was published.

⁶ See *Annals of the History and Philosophy of Biology* 10/2005, pp. 1-2.