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BULLETIN

13

November 1979 Novembre

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

In October 1980, an unprecedented academic event will take place in Toronto with the joint meetings of the History of Science Society (HSS), the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), The Society for Social Study of Science (SSSS), and the Philosophy of Science Association (PSA). Never before have all four met simultaneously and the potential value of this event could be great for Canadians. All of these organizations are based in the USA but all have Canadian members. Here, in Canada, we have too few scholars in any one of these disciplines to sustain separate organizations; instead, we have relied upon the Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Science (CSHPS) as an umbrella organization. Curiously, though, CSHPS has been lukewarm about participating.

In one week, the interest generated by these meetings could stimulate the study of science and technology in Canada as no event in the past, or the continuing work of CSHPS ever has. But active participation is required. Bruce Sinclair, of the University of Toronto's Institute of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, is chairing a group which will organize local arrangements. CSHPS has struck a committee (Trevor Levere, Arnold Roos, and Charles Morgan), to investigate possible participation of that society. What is clear to many of us is that the one area in which we can show our American confreres what we are doing is in Canadian science and technology. These are topics that generally won't be discussed by the HSS, SHOT, PSA, or SSSS. This requires two things of us: provide a first-class programme on our subject at Toronto, and turn out in large numbers to listen and participate. Prof. Sinclair and Prof. Levere are open to any and all suggestions.

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