

Sent via email, September 8, 2022

Dear all

Thanks for giving me the opportunity to say a few words, although I am not with you. I apologize for that. At first congratulations, Maria and the other who now have the responsibility, for its 40th birthday. We are all thankful to those who founded the Commission.

I was president of the Commission in the period after the start and before it became solidly consolidated, from 1997 to 2005. In this time the in-between-conferences became important events. I think especially of the one in Cambridge in 1999 in the beautiful building of Newnham College, mainly organized by Joan Mason (who is no longer among us) and dedicated to 'Women Biographies' and the one in Prague in 2003, mainly organized by Sona Strbanova on 'Women Scholars and Institutions'. From the last extensive and great proceedings have been published. I have a pdf-file of it. Maybe that can be published on the website of the Commission?

For me in the beginning the Commission was like a 'warm bath'. I felt myself supported as a female historian of science and inspired in my interest in women and gender in science. In the course of time, it stimulated my leadership capabilities. I owe the Commission a lot.

I hope to meet you at a next meeting.

Warm regards

Ida Stamhuis