



Call for papers

CNHS-NCGW symposium – 18 March 2025

Since it was founded in 1958, the National Centre for the History of Science (CNHS-NCGW) has been involved in research into the history of science, both through high-level scientific work and through activities popularising the history of science and technology. This year, the centre is organising a symposium devoted to:

The time of the Houzeau de Lehaie brothers: the swansong of self-taught scientists (long 19th century).

In Belgium, the Houzeau de Lehaie brothers embody the figure of the gentleman scientist and self-taught man who made his way to university professorships or/and official positions. Although lacking a full university education, some were able to develop original approaches in their scientific fields. For the brothers and many of their peers, science was as much about elucidating “laws” as about managing society, and they took part in the liveliest philosophical, scientific and political debates of the so-called long nineteenth century (1800-1914).

The CNHS-NCGW symposium will examine the training, practices, works, social networks, and philosophical and political views of self-made scientists, some of whom gained national or international recognition. It will scrutinize the lives and careers of these producers of theories, ideas and scientific research in a century in which sciences were becoming increasingly professionalized and specialized (in terms of tools, resources and teaching). These dynamics would ultimately lead to the gradual marginalization of self-taught scientists, an aspect which the symposium aims to address.

Please send your paper proposal to : sglansdorff@astrolabium.be.

Submission deadline : **25 october 2024**.

The symposium will be held in **KBR (Royal Library of Belgium)**.

Papers are welcome in english, french or dutch.