



THE ENVIROTECH NEWSLETTER

Spring 2006

Volume 6, Number 1

Documentaries and Discussions

By Jeffrey K. Stine

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At the March 2006 Envirotech breakfast meeting in St. Paul, many discussions touched upon a common concern: how can we convey a more nuanced understanding of the historical interactions of technology and the environment to students and public audiences? Having just read Finis Dunaway's new book, *Natural Visions: The Power of Images in American Environmental Reform* (University of Chicago Press), I thought immediately of film, a reaction reinforced, no doubt, by the well-attended Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital held earlier that month. This year's festival presented 100 documentary, feature, animated, archival, experimental, and children's films at over 50 venues (see www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org). Most screenings were followed by audience discussions, often with the filmmakers themselves and guest experts. The popularity of this citywide festival has grown steadily over fourteen years, and I have always been heartened by the ability of documentaries to stimulate serious conversation among participants of all ages and all backgrounds.

As a charter participant in the festival, the National Museum of American History has

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Important Dates:

- July 1, 2006: Deadline for paper and panel submission for the 2007 meeting of ASEH (See page 10)
- August 15-20, 2006: 33rd Symposium of the International Committee for the History of Technology, Leicester, U.K. (See page 11)
- October 12-15: SHOT's annual meeting in Las Vegas Nevada, USA (See page 11)



Hetch Hetchy Valley as seen from the top of O'Shaughnessy Dam. The valley floor now lies beneath 300 feet of water. (Courtesy Environmental Defense)



Session Reports from St. Paul: The 2006 Meeting of ASEH

”Natural Defense: The Cold War and the Environment in the North American West ”

Panel Summary by Jerry Jessee

The panel “Natural Defense: The Cold War and the Environment in the North American West” at the ASEH meeting in St. Paul, explored the impact of increased militarization of North American western landscapes during the Cold War. In “Missiles or Picnics in Pugetopolis? Conflicting Visions of Seattle’s Fort Lawton in the 1960s” Brian Casserly articulately described the contentious controversy surrounding the Department of Defense’s proposal to establish an anti-ballistic missile base at Fort Lawton in Seattle on land previously designated for return to the city as parkland. Largely through the efforts of Democratic Senator Scoop Jackson, the federal government ceded the land at no cost to the city of Seattle for the establishment of a recreational park. Casserly’s study illuminated the ways that local populations resisted the militarization of the regional landscapes. Derek Larson’s paper “‘Mother Nature Was Not Kind’: USAF Defense Radar and Oregon’s Siuslaw National Forest” showed that the creation of a radar station for nuclear missile detection, provoked little public outcry. Nevertheless, the station experienced many challenges from the brutal winds at the mountaintop where it was

located. Winds were so severe that the station required constant maintenance and rebuilding to sustain what “Mother Nature” had torn down. The impact of the Cold War on landscapes was not limited to the American West, however. Michael N. Crotty in “Uranium Mining and Native Peoples in Western Canada, 1945-1960” revealed the ways that American demand for uranium drew the Dene people of Canada into the Cold War. As laborers in the uranium mines, the Dene suffered constant exposure to radiation, the health effects of which have recently begun to surface. Crotty argued that these people were not merely passive victims of environmental degradation; they actively resisted state and corporate decisions.

John R. McNeill chaired and commented on the panel. McNeill focused the ensuing discussion around the notion that the North American West constituted a “zone of sacrifice,” deliberately “deterritorialized” in the name of national security. Playing around with the idea that the landscape of the West became a colonial satellite to the purposes of the rest of the country, the audience both challenged and confirmed this conception. Considerable discussion involved the role that local politicians and economic “boosters” played in transforming the West.

This panel was indicative of the shifting conceptualizations of the region. Did the U.S. West break free from its colonial status, as Gerald Nash argued, during

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An Envirotech Travel Grant?

By Sara Pritchard
Montana State University

Believe it or not, Envirotech has been up and running since January 2000. Over the past six years, we have developed several institutional and technological mechanisms to promote dialogue at the intersection of the history of technology and environmental history, including the Envirotech list serv, newsletter, website, regular “special interest group” (SIG) meeting at SHOT and ASEH conferences, and the best article prize.

I recently posted an email to the list serv suggesting that we establish a travel grant to support conference presentations by graduate

students and faculty without permanent positions. The most recent SIG meeting at the ASEH conference in St. Paul spurred this idea. At the meeting, Betsy Mendelsohn (our outgoing co-chair) reported that we have about \$1,200 in our bank account. I hope that Marty Melosi, my neighbor at the Envirotech breakfast, won’t mind if I share what he said when he heard Betsy’s update: “spend it!”

I have to agree. We have been collecting dues for several years now. The best article prize is a wonderful way to highlight

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World War II and the Cold War? Or, did this colonial heritage continue? As one historian recently put it, did the increasing presence and largesse of the federal government transform or *deform* the West? The question is open to debate. This panel may take scholars one more step closer to understanding that relationship between the North American West and the United States during the latter half of the 20th century.

“Mining the Margins: Historical and geographical perspectives on mining, expertise and environment”

Panel summary by Arn Keeling

Participants: Katherine Morrissey, University of Arizona (chair); Gabrielle Hecht, University of Michigan; Tim LeCain, Montana State University; Arn Keeling, Montana State University; Jeremy Mouat, Athabasca University (commentator)

This session featured diverse approaches to the social, environmental and technical history of mining, a relatively underexplored field. In “Scenes From the Nuclear Life of Radon,” Gabrielle Hecht interrogated the “technopolitics” of uranium and its radioactive byproduct, radon. In particular, she argued that the “nuclearity” of certain activities, such as uranium mining, was a product not merely of the radioactive properties or hazards associated with these materials, but rather exhibited cultural and political characteristics. In certain colonial settings, particularly South Africa and Madagascar, scientific investigations of nuclear hazards were influenced as much by the racial geographies of labour as they were by technical questions of radon detection or nuclear safety.

Hecht contended that the complex politics surrounding radioactive hazards intersects with wider debates around nuclear power, atomic weapons and global geopolitical struggles.

Similar questions surrounding the uneven geographical consequences of uranium mining arose in Arn Keeling’s “‘A Vast, Cold, Empty Country’: Colonialism and Uranium Mining in the Canadian North.” This paper explored the legacies of wartime and Cold War-era uranium mining in the remote Northwest Territories, and their implications for local Dene aboriginal communities. Uranium mining, he suggested, was facilitated by paradoxical yet long-standing discourses about the Canadian North as both an untracked (and thus unpeopled) wilderness and an untapped resource frontier. Mine development brought wrenching change to the region, and resulted in a variety of health and environmental impacts only now being investigated. Keeling also explored how Dene demands for environmental justice have challenged the “official” history of uranium development in Canada.

Tim LeCain’s paper, “The Heavens and the Earth: Controlling Terrestrial and Sub-terrestrial Environments in 20th Century Western Mining,” provided a conceptual exploration of the scientific, technical and environmental dimensions of hard-rock mining. Drawn from his research on Montana mines, LeCain illustrated how the concepts associated with envirotech provide a useful frame for understanding the dynamic interaction of knowledge, environment and regulation. The paper suggested that, in their search for technical solutions to the environmental problems associated with mining and smelting, mining engineers sought to control and manage both above- and below-ground spaces as an interconnected system. In this sense, the traditional interpretation of mining as an inherently unnatural or inorganic activity misses the mark in its dismissal of how technology wove together the terrestrial and subterrestrial, the organic and the inorganic realms.



“Bus Birds,” to borrow Joy’s term, head out on one of the interesting excursions offered during the 2006 annual conference of the American Society for Environmental History (left). Sara Pritchard and Mark Fiege discuss important Envirotech issues—or perhaps discuss whether there is a good Indian food restaurant near by. (Photos courtesy of Joy Parr)



Documentaries and Discussions

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sponsored over 50 festival film screenings through the years. Few of these documentaries deliberately focused on the reciprocal interplay between technology and the environment, and yet, as readers of this newsletter know well, such relationships are ubiquitous and can provide evocative topics for discussion. This year, the museum featured two films that hold great educational potential for Envirotech scholars, and both are easily available for classroom and public showings.

The first is a work of political advocacy. *Discover Hetch Hetchy* (2005; 19 minutes) won the Best Short Prize at the 2006 Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival in Nevada City, California. Commissioned and produced by Environmental Defense to promote the demolition of O'Shaughnessy Dam within Yosemite National Park's Hetch Hetchy Valley, the film explores an area twenty miles away from Yosemite Valley which was formed by the same geological forces (notably the transforming action of glaciers grinding through granite). Before its flooding in the 1920s, Hetch Hetchy shared much in common with its more famous "twin": spectacular vistas; dramatic waterfalls dropping off sheer granite cliffs; a broad valley floor teeming with wildlife; a wide variety of trees, shrubs, and wildflowers; a sparkling clear river. Hetch Hetchy was hailed for its beauty, but also for its wildness because Yosemite Valley had received the lion's share of use and development during the nineteenth century.

Documentary filmmaker David Vassar (whose credits include *The Spirit of Yosemite*, a stunning 23-minute introduction to the National Park shown exclusively at the park's visitor center) blends the human and natural history of Hetch Hetchy Valley, as he documents this pivotal preservation battle and the dam's eventual impact. Vassar

examines how the dam could be removed, how the valley could be reclaimed (through an ecological restoration effort having profound implications for the study of technology and the environment), and how water impoundments downstream—and outside the park—could supply the storage capacity lost within Hetch Hetchy Valley, thereby ensuring the city of San Francisco and local farmers an uncompromised water supply.

Additional information about the documentary and Environmental Defense's campaign to restore Hetch Hetchy Valley can be found at:

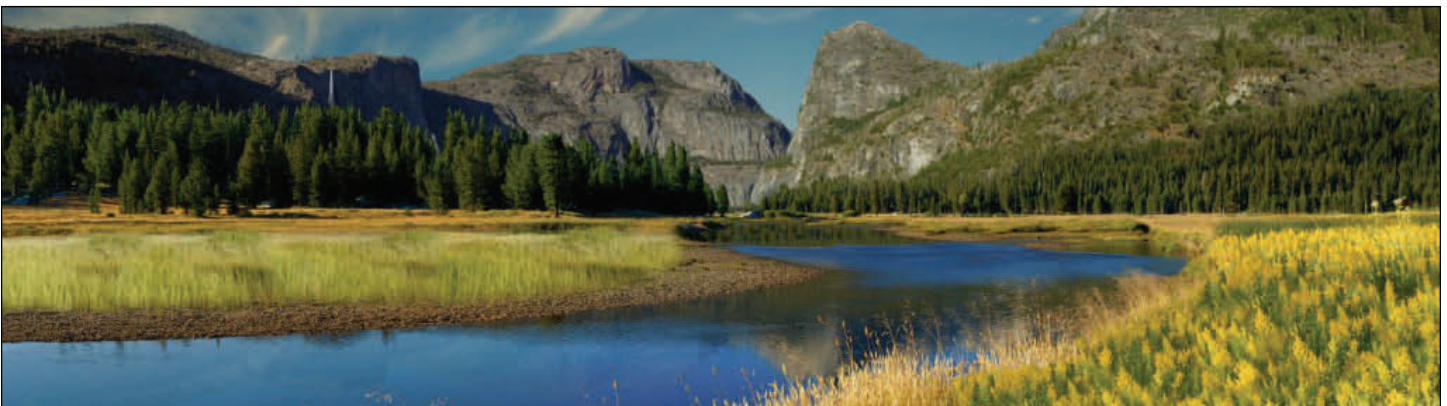
<http://www.environmentaldefense.org/hetchhetchy/>.

At the time of this writing, Environmental Defense was planning to add an online order form to this website. Until that is complete, anyone wishing to obtain a DVD of *Discover Hetch Hetchy* should contact Jennifer Witherspoon at jwitherspoon@environmentaldefense.org or 510.457.2250. She can provide supplemental classroom materials, and can even arrange speakers for screenings within California.

The second film offers a starkly different perspective, one too frequently neglected by environmental and technological historians. *Rolling* (2004; 71 minutes) is a powerful documentary exploring the challenges that confront people confined to wheelchairs. Clearly not a "nature film" in the traditional sense, it is nevertheless a film that can be used with great effect in opening viewers' eyes to a broader range of questions associated with people and their essential technologies in an occasionally unwelcoming urban environment.

Physician/filmmaker Gretchen Berland gave video cameras to three people with different medical conditions and physical challenges and asked them to record their daily lives over the course of eighteen months. She and her production colleagues then turned this footage into a

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An artist's rendering of how a restored Hetch Hetchy Valley might look following the removal of the dam. (Courtesy Environmental Defense)

(Continued from page 4)

moving narrative that allows us an intimate glimpse into the world through the eyes of these three cinematographers. We share in how people with disabilities—and the technologies that enable them to live independent lives—engage with the world around them, and how technological and design choices can profoundly influence those experiences.

Berland had worked as a producer for public television before going to medical school. She combined those skills in 2001 when she undertook a clinical research project at UCLA

aimed at improving health care for the disabled, and began to record experiences outside the controlled environment of the medical center. This unusual project resulted in *Rolling*, which won the Grand Jury Prize for best documentary at the Lake Placid Film Festival and led to Berland's John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation grant in 2004.

Berland, who had initially charged \$15 for copies of her film (essentially recouping her expenses), has used

the MacArthur grant to distribute the film for free, asking recipients to donate \$15 to the charity of their choice. Anyone wishing to obtain a DVD of *Rolling* for classroom or public screening may do so by writing Dr. Berland directly. (Her electronic address is: gretchen.berland@yale.edu. Her postal address is: Gretchen Berland, M.D., Yale University School of Medicine,

Department of Internal Medicine, 333 Cedar Street, P.O. Box 208033, New Haven, CT 06520.) Berland's faculty appointment at Yale allows her to split her time between clinical practice and filmmaking. She is currently working on a documentary dealing with female military personnel disabled in the war



Screenwriter Ernie Wallengren, one of three cinematographers whose lives are featured in *Rolling*. (Courtesy Gretchen Berland)

in Iraq.

There are, of course, hundreds of similar films that might be incorporated in the teaching and public programming related to the concerns and interests of Envirotech. Development of an annotated filmography by this newsletter or Envirotech's listserv would go a long way toward advancing both our field and public understanding of the issues at its core.

Envirotech Travel Grant?

(Continued from page 2)

recent scholarship. However, unlike the average American as well as the federal government, we are actually raising money faster than we are spending it. We should put our dues to good use. It seems to me that a travel grant would be a worthy, productive, and meaningful use of our dues as well as SHOT's matching dollars. It would offer financial support for conference presentations on some area of Envirotech. In addition, supporting colleagues with fewer resources for conference participation is a worthwhile cause we can address (albeit modestly) within our professional community.

What is the state of Envirotech's finances? Our treasurer has the final word on this topic, but we already have about \$1,200 in the bank (and this was before the ASEH meeting). We collect about \$200 at each meeting (SHOT in the fall and ASEH in the spring). In addition, SHOT will generously match up to \$300 annually for "approved" expenses. We currently contribute \$250 to the Envirotech best article prize, but generally have no other expenses.

Responses to my suggestion on the list serv have been few, but positive. Accordingly, I was hoping that we could round up a travel grant proposal committee to work with SHOT and ASEH to make this happen. Betsy Mendelsohn (University of Maryland) and Erik Rau (Drexel University) have kindly agreed to work with me on this.

We have been and will be in touch with SHOT and ASEH powers-at-be in the coming months. We intend to develop a travel grant proposal and submit it to both professional organizations, hopefully before the end of the summer.

We welcome any ideas, suggestions, and concerns about the Envirotech travel grant. Feel free to email me (spritch@montana.edu) and I will forward your comments to Betsy and Erik.



Finnish Project on Environmental Literacy

By Timo Myllyntaus

This spring we have completed a multidisciplinary research project '*Environmental Literacy – Perceiving Nature in Cultural and Historical Context*,' which has been working in the University of Helsinki and the University of Turku for nearly five years. The project, funded by the Academy of Finland and the University of Helsinki, has produced three theses and several articles. The research group focused to study environmental literacy of forests and forested landscapes in Finland, Sudan and Thailand and tried to find out how local uneducated and educated people perceive their environment and its changes.

Two doctoral dissertations by Minna Hares and Anu Eskonheimo have been published as monographs in English, but they are available also as electronic books. The third thesis is a Licentiate dissertation by Seija Niemi and written in Finnish:

- Anu Eskonheimo, *Women, Environmental Changes and Forestry-related Development: Gender-affected Roles of Rural People in Land Degradation and Environmental Rehabilitation in a Dry Region of Sudan*, Diss., Tropical Forestry Reports 29, Helsinki: University of Helsinki, Viikki Tropical Resources Institute 2006, 214 p.

E-book: <http://ethesis.helsinki.fi/julkaisut/maa/mekol/vk/eskonheimo/>

- Minna Hares, *Community Forestry and Environmental Literacy in Northern Thailand. Towards Collaborative Natural Resource Management and Conservation*, Diss., Tropical Forestry Reports 28, Helsinki 2006: University of Helsinki, Viikki Tropical Resources Institute 2006, 220 p. (Editors Note: For more on Dr. Hares dissertation, see page 7 in the Envirotech Members News.)

E-book: <http://ethesis.helsinki.fi/julkaisut/maa/mekol/vk/hares/>

- Seija Niemi, *On the History of Reading Finnish Forested Nature – Changing Relationship between Human and Birch from the 1730s to the 1930s*, Licentiate thesis, Department of Finnish history, University of Turku, 2005, 198 p. (in Finnish). Summary in Finnish: http://www.hum.utu.fi/shistoria/tutkimus/lisensiaattiyot_tiivistelmat.php?id=39&sana=Niemi

Envirotech Member News

For those of you making address changes, recall that Josh Howe is our point person on this, **Joshua Howe** <jhowe@stanford.edu>.

An edited volume by **J.R. McNeill** and **Verena Winiwarter** has just been published: *Soils and Societies. Perspectives from Environmental History*. The White Horse Press, Harris and Cambridge, UK, 2006. More details on the book, including a table of contents, can be found at <http://www.ericademon.co.uk/SS.html>

Peter Thorsheim's book, *Inventing Pollution: Coal, Smoke and Culture in Britain since 1800*, has recently been published in paperback and hardcover by Ohio University Press. It argues that ideas about what was polluting changed radically as a result of industrialization and urbanization, explores the technological and legal solutions that people proposed to address it, and shows that concerns about air pollution played a major role in stimulating a wide range of environmental activism in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Britain. For an exam copy, contact: jwilson1@ohio.edu.

Maurits Ersten is assistant professor in water resources management at Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands. On October 25 2005, he gained his PhD with a thesis entitled

Prescribing perfection. Emergence of an engineering irrigation design approach in the Netherlands East Indies and its legacy, 1830 – 1990

Short summary: The apparent persistency of colonial irrigation elements in Dutch irrigation practice and education is the main source of inspiration for this book; the Netherlands East Indian irrigation regime, consisting of explicit and implicit rules for irrigation design is its subject. The book explains how the Netherlands East Indian irrigation regime developed and how (dis)continuities in irrigation education and practice after Indonesian independence can be understood. The agrarian policy of the Dutch colonial powers is vital in explaining why a Netherlands East Indian approach could develop. The most important founding element in Dutch colonial irrigation (*guiding principle*) was the mutual presence of food and commercial crops (respectively rice grown by peasants and sugar cane by the industry) in the same irrigated area. Consequently, the need for adjustable water control was felt (*design requirement*); to realize such control two types of *artifacts* were needed:

Envirotech Member News (Continued)

management regulations and structures. The innovation pattern of the Netherlands East Indian irrigation regime can be understood as a *mission-oriented innovation pattern*; main carrier of innovation and transformation in the Netherlands East Indies is the colonial state. Within the colonial state, the civil engineers became the most dominating group around 1890. The importance of guidelines and continuing relevance of colonial design rules in modern Indonesian and Delft irrigation practice and education show the essential role of storage in networks: older design guidelines still structure later designers. It took to the 1980's before Delft irrigation education came loose from the colonial frame and allowed some post-War experiences and new concepts from outside the East Indian regime into the courses.

A pdf-version is downloadable on

http://www.library.tudelft.nl/dissertations/dd_list_paged/dd_metadata/index.htm?docname=347633

I have a few printed copies left, and could send one to those who are interested.

Also the journal *Landscape Research* has published an article (based on one of the PhD-chapters) entitled "Colonial Irrigation: Myths of Emptiness" (Vol. 31, No. 2, 147 – 167). This article discusses colonial efforts to develop irrigation in African colonies aimed to improve the colonies' productive capacity. Economic opportunities obviously were an important element of the discourse. It were ideologies of creating new social and geographical landscapes, however, bringing order in the wildness by filling the empty African landscape with modern irrigation facilities, which were dominating the colonial irrigation discourses and practices in African colonies. This article is one of four in a special issue on water and landscape.

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Carl Zimring's book, *Cash for Your Trash*, was released by Rutgers Press in late 2005. For more information, see:

[<http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/acatalog/Cash_for_Your_Trash_2422.html>](http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/acatalog/Cash_for_Your_Trash_2422.html)

New Envirotech member **Pat Munday**, Professor of History & Philosophy with the Technical Communication Department at Montana Tech in Butte. Don't tell anyone, but the environs of Butte have the best cross country skiing, elk hunting, trout fishing, and backpacking in the West.

Teaching: Cultural aspects of technology & communication; technoscience as a sociopolitical phenomena; moral dimensions of professional practice.

Areas of Specialization: Environmental communication; history and philosophy of science and technology; effective communication in the politics of technology; science communication; trout as a modern object/postmodern subject.

Current Research Interest: The role of grassroots environmental organizations in shaping the EPA's record of decision for superfund remedies at seven sites within the Upper Clark Fork River Basin megasite.

Grants & Contracts: Co-grant writer and co-project director of three Trout Unlimited projects for environmental restoration in German Gulch, a watershed heavily damaged by historic placer mining. Total funding \$1.27 million; Contracted to teach historiography and develop educational materials for "American History Teachers: A New Corps of Discovery," a \$757,000 grant from the US Dept of Education to involve K-12 teachers in historical research.

Education: PhD 1990 Cornell University; MA 1987 Cornell University; MS 1981 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; BS 1978 Drexel University.

Gabriella Petrick reports "I have an article coming out in *Agricultural History* entitled "Like Ribbons of Green and Gold": Industrializing Lettuce and the Quest for Quality in the Salinas Valley, 1920-1965. I'm also working on developing, with my colleagues at NYU, a new program in the food system which takes a farm to table approach to food production.

Seija A. Niemi (seija.niemi@utu.fi) reports completion of her licentiate thesis at the University of Turku, Finland:

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Envirotech Member News (Continued)

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“History of Finnish Environmental Literacy in Forests – The changing relationship between Man and Birch in Finland from the 1730’s to the 1930’s.” This study illuminates the changing status of the birch tree, how the Finns have perceived it, and what have been the standards of their environmental literacy during the period between years 1730 and 1930. This period covers both the pre-industrial and the industrial socio-economic changes.

Finland’s forests are relatively largest forests in Europe: out of 30 million hectares are 26 million, 86 % of the surface, covered with the woods. Three most common trees are pine, spruce and birch. The two first mentioned trees have been high valued while the birch tree has had its ups and downs. Three main birch species in Finland are: the downy birches (*Betula pubescens*), the silver birches (*Betula pendula*) and the dwarf birches (*Betula nana*). The birch tree has always been very close to the heart of Finnish people, it is the oldest tree, and the most wide spread tree in Finland, and the silver birch is the national tree of Finland.

Since the 17th century some interest groups, mostly those in power, have feared the extinction of the Finnish forests. The common people have been accused for ravaging the forests. Both groups have read their environment with different environmental literacy. The birch was one of the most common trees, and people used it for many purposes. You could use every part of the birch from top to base, big branches or small branches with or without leaves, inner and outer bark, sap, and even the ashes. At that time the value of the birch was low. In the end of 19th century the birch tree got symbolic value with the Finnish nationalism. It became as a symbol of Finnish people and the country.

From 1870's onwards the economic status of the birch tree rose when the first Finnish spool and plywood manufacturers began to turn spools and plywood out of birch wood. The best birch forests were located in the east-southern parts in Finland, in the same areas, where the slash-and-burn cultivation maintained longest. The Finnish environmental literacy altered from the mode of slash-and-burn cultivation to the mode of spool and plywood industry. Also the grazing, coppicing, suckering and bark taking gradually vanished, and in the end the Finnish forests transformed to the “tree fields” of wood processing industry.

Environmental literacy research is a very interesting challenge. While you make your research you begin to reconsider your own values and attitudes, and your own knowledge over nature. You can use your own environmental literacy skills in many ways. You can become more aware of your environment, recognize and assess the changes in your environment, you can recognize environmental problems, and describe them. A sustainable society needs active, engaged, informed, and competent citizens, who are environmentally literate and can build sustainable solutions from the bottom up.

We're pleased to note that **Eve Buckley** has agreed to serve the group as treasurer for the next three years. You may find her at ebuckley@sas.upenn.edu.

Ann Greene notes that 39 people attended the traditional Envirotech breakfast meeting this year at ASEH 2006. Along with the continuing members, we are happy to recognize 17 new members this year:

Tom Arnold
David Biggs
Eve Buckley
Peter Coates
Ronald Doel
Shen Hou
Jerry Jessee
Ann Johnson
Finn Arne Jorgensen
Kristine Harper
Martha Lance
Sharon Moran
Timo Myllyntaus
Emily Pawley
Michael Rawson
Peter Schulman
Teresa Sabol Spezio

Apologies in advance for any misspellings—reading handwritten names can be difficult!

Sources, Tips, and Tools for Envirotechies

Solidarity & Sustainability Newsletter

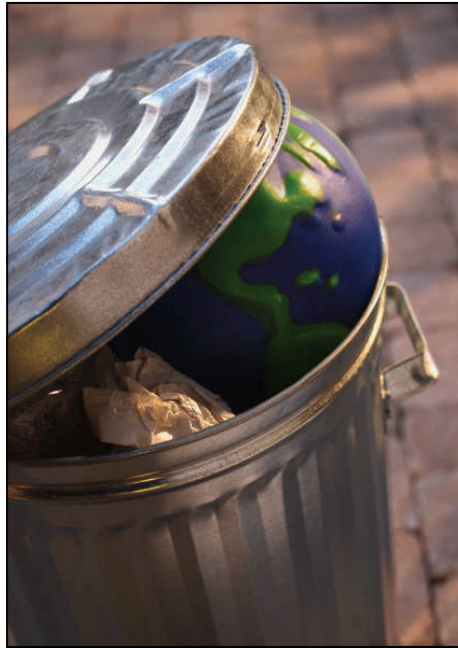
"Solidarity & Sustainability" is a free, monthly research newsletter on the social, economic, and ecological impacts of religious patriarchy.

The May 2006 issue has been posted:

Solidarity & Sustainability ~ Volume 2, Number 5, May 2006 <http://www.pelican-consulting.com/solisustv02n05.html>

This issue continues the theme, "Mimetic Violence in Patriarchal Religions." René Girard's mimetic theory is applied to a concrete episode of psychological violence in a religious institution. The anticipated social and ecological impacts are described. A radical renunciation of violence is indispensable to make progress toward solidarity and sustainability. Religious institutions must show the way by renouncing patriarchy and violence. The June 2006 issue is in preparation. Any feedback is gratefully received and should be sent to Luis T. Gutierrez, Ph.D., P.E., Editor, Solidarity & Sustainability Research Newsletter Home page:

<http://www.pelican-consulting.com/solisust.html> Email: solidarity-sustainability-owner@googlegroups.com



Society for Environmental History conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, participants will propose papers and sessions online. The website hosting the survey that collects your proposals is the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University (CHNM), in Virginia; there's a link at <http://www.aseh.net> that collects your proposals.

CHNM's director of research projects, Dan Cohen, has created a "digital archive" of the Katrina, Rita & Wilma disasters on the Gulf Coast. Given the location of the 2007 ASEH conference in Baton Rouge, you may wish to visit the archive, offer your own recollections, and view those of others, at <http://www.hurricanearchive.org/> (This archive is modeled on the archive that CHNM created for 9-11, a collection now owned by the Smithsonian Institution.)

CHNM is a great place with lots of creative and generous people who work to communicate history through the internet. Their website <http://chnm.gmu.edu> shows the breadth of their interests. CHNM created the survey software and hosts the server that stores your conference proposals as a free service; the program committee downloads them as a database, which

we hope will help things run smoothly.

Please consider visiting the CHNM and Hurricane Archive websites to learn what digital history can do.

Digital Archives at George Mason

Betsy Mendelsohn reports: The 2007 American

Position Announcement

Assistant Professor/Lecturer – General Faculty (non-tenure-track). One-year position.

The Department of Science, Technology, and Society (STS) in the School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS) at the University of Virginia seeks to hire a General Faculty member with research and teaching experience in science, technology and society studies and/or technology policy, for one year, beginning Fall, 2006. STS is an interdisciplinary unit that provides undergraduate courses for engineering students and undertakes research focused on science, technology, society, ethics, and policy. The teaching load will be two courses in the

fall semester and three in the spring semester. All undergraduate courses have STS, communications, and ethics components. A Ph.D. in STS or a related field is preferred. Please submit a letter of application, CV, three letters of reference, and teaching evaluations as soon as possible to: Professor Deborah G. Johnson, Chair, Department of STS, SEAS, University of Virginia, P.O. Box 400744, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4744. We will begin reviewing applications immediately; the position will remain open until filled. The University of Virginia is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

Calls for Papers and Manuscripts

American Society for Environmental History
Annual Meeting Announcement and Call for Papers

Living on the Edge: Human Desires and Environmental Realities

Baton Rouge, LA, 28 FEBRUARY-3 MARCH, 2007

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: 1 JULY 2006

The program committee for the American Society for Environmental History invites panel, paper, and poster proposals for its March 2007 meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Proposals may address any area of environmental history, but in keeping with the conference's theme, the committee specifically solicits submissions examining perceptions of risk and social responses to environmental disasters and the idea of living on the edge: edges of danger, edges of continents, edges of poverty, and the space between history and other disciplines. After the enormous destruction along the Gulf Coast resulting from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, it seems all the more essential to consider the deep complexities of dealing with environmental hazards, and the varying roles of science, government, politics, and community.

The committee supports approaches ranging from the transnational to the personal, from policy to politics, and we encourage proposals by anthropologists, ecologists, economists, geographers, and sociologists. Panels that integrate disparate geographic areas or disciplinary approaches will be particularly favored. By seeking interdisciplinary conversations about environmental disasters and their implications, we hope to cast new light on this subject. However, the committee *strongly* recommends proposals for complete panels. Individual papers are welcome, but they are more difficult to accommodate. To maximize the number of papers yet maintain opportunities for creative exchanges among panelists and the audience, the committee also requests that panel proposals be limited either to three papers and a discussant or four papers and no comment. Participants are limited to presenting only one formal paper, but they may also engage in roundtable, chairing, or commenting duties.

To submit a proposal, go to <http://www.chnm.gmu.edu/tools/surveys/1725/>, and type or paste in the standard information.

Should you have questions, please contact any member of the program committee:

David Louter, Chair, National Park Service (David_Louter@nps.gov)

Betsy Mendelsohn, University of Maryland (bmendel@umd.edu)

Craig Colten, Louisiana State University (ccolten@lsu.edu)

Laura Watt, EDAW Inc. (lawatt@california.com)

Mission statement: The American Society for Environmental History (ASEH), founded in 1977, seeks to promote scholarship and teaching in environmental history, to support the professional needs of its members, and to connect its undertakings with larger communities. The ASEH aspires to advance a greater understanding of the history of human interaction with the rest of the natural world, to foster dialogue between humanistic scholarship, environmental science, and other disciplines, and to support global environmental history efforts that benefit the public as well as the general scholarly community. It promotes these activities through publication of the peer-reviewed journal *Environmental History*, annual conferences, scholarly awards, on-line discussions, conversation with other professional societies, and public outreach.

Calls for Papers and Manuscripts (Cont.)

Pre-announcement: International Water History Association Conference

The 5th Conference of the *International Water History Association* will be organized in Tampere, Finland, on 13-17 June 2007. The call for papers has not been opened yet, but for Envirotechies interested in water history it could be of interest to plan ahead! The International Water History Association (IWHA) is the leading global organization on water history. Biannual Conferences of IWHA are attended by scholars from different disciplines dealing with various aspects of water history ranging from ancient waterworks to sanitation in recent historical times, and from indigenous water symbolism to historical conflicts over water resources.



Conference Announcements



SHOT's next annual meeting will be October 12-15, 2006, at the Imperial Palace - Las Vegas Hotel, in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

The deadline for the [call for papers for the SHOT 2006 Las Vegas meeting](#) has now passed. For more information or to register for the conference, see the SHOT 2006 Conference website:

http://shot.press.jhu.edu/Annual_Meeting/Annual_Meeting_Main_Page.htm

Conference Announcements (Cont.)

The International Committee for the History of Technology

33rd Symposium in Leicester, U.K., 15 - 20 August 2006

Transforming Economies and Civilizations
The Role of Technology

First Circular

You are invited to participate in the 33rd Symposium of the ICOHTEC in Leicester 2006. Please find information on the aims and history of the International Committee for the History of Technology ICOHTEC, the programme, the place and the hosting city of our symposium this year, and, of course, information on accommodation, registration and fees.

For further information please visit the ICOHTEC homepage on www.icohtec.org and contact the local organiser Alex Keller by icohtec2006@le.ac.uk

With kind regards

Hans-Joachim Braun, Alex Keller, Timo Myllyntaus

The symposium opens on Tuesday Evening, the 15th of August 2006, with a University reception, followed by the Kranzberg Lecture. The local registration office will open already at 14:00.

End of symposium, Saturday, 19th of August, 22:00 - after the reception and conference dinner in Abbey Pumping Station and National Space Centre.

Registration for the accommodation in Stamford Hall includes the night 19th-20th of August and the breakfast on Sunday morning.

Post-symposium excursion to Coalbrookdale/Ironbridge possible on Sunday, 20th of August.

The programme of the symposium will contain the Kranzberg Lecture, scientific sessions for three days, excursions, and social events in evenings. A more detailed preliminary programme will be published soon.

The final event will begin in the Abbey Pumping Station, Leicester's own museum of technology. It may be possible to arrange a steaming of the great pumping engines during a reception there. Then the symposium will cross the road to the National Space Centre (NSC), which is an award-winning exhibition of the history and exploration of space, with major artefacts from both the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. programmes. A presentation at the NSC planetarium will be followed by the Conference Dinner.