



THE ENVIROTECH NEWSLETTER

Spring 2007

Volume 7, Number 1

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Important Dates:

- **Deadline for paper submissions, American Society for Environmental History: July 1 (see page 11)**
- **International Committee for the History of Technology, Copenhagen, Denmark, August 14-18 (see page 12)**
- **Society for the History of Technology, Washington, DC, October 18-21 (see page 12)**

Envirotech Meeting at ESEH a Big Success

By Dolly Jørgensen

We convened a special lunchtime meeting of Envirotech at the European Society for Environmental History (ESEH) conference in Amsterdam, June 5-9, 2007. The meeting was a big success! With 23 attendees, we pulled in almost 10 percent of the registered participants of the meeting, which demonstrates the huge interest in envirotech issues worldwide. The participants came from many countries, including Finland, France, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland, UK, and US. For many of the attendees, it was their first time at an Envirotech meeting, so it was an excellent opportunity for older Envirotech members to make connections with European scholars and for the European researchers to meet each other.

The meeting was chaired by Dolly Jørgensen. We had reports on the current status of the book project (Ed Russell), the 2007 article prize (Frank Uekötter), SHOT sessions and

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Joe Anderson Wins ET Best Article Prize

By Frank Uekötter

At the ASEH conference in Baton Rouge, the Envirotech Prize Committee was able to announce the third winner of our prize for the best essay on the interplay between technology and the environment. The third round met with a response that was exceptional both for its number and the quality of submissions. The committee sees that as proof that the Envirotech Prize is gaining momentum, and that it is being recognized (and sought after) by a growing community of scholars.

It was difficult to make a choice, but in the end, the committee unanimously decided to give the 2007 Envirotech Prize to Joe Anderson for his essay "War on Weeds: Iowa Farmers and Growth Regulator Herbicides," published in *Technology & Culture* vol. 46 no. 4 (October 2005), pp. 719-44. The article stood



Joe Anderson is an assistant professor of history at the University of West Georgia

(Continued on page 2)

More Envirotech News

Volunteers Needed

At our breakfast at ASEH this spring, we discussed subsidizing graduate students for our breakfast at SHOT. We need one or two people who will take this project on - it means setting a figure on how much money we can spend, getting approval from SHOT and getting the subsidy included on conference registration forms. This is a great way to get involved in Envirotech! Contact Ann Greene if you are interested in volunteering at angreene@sas.upenn.edu

New Envirotech Website

Thanks to the hard work of Finn Arne Jørgensen, Envirotech has a spiffy new website! If you have not seen it yet, check it out at <http://www.envirotechweb.org/>. If you have items you'd like to see posted on the website, email them to Finn at fa@jorgensenweb.net. All the newsletters are there, and some select articles from the newsletters will appear as posts on the webpage for easier access. Great job, Finn!

New Envirotech Co-Chairs

Envirotechies extended a heartfelt thanks to Joy Parr for a job well done as she ended her term as the chair of Envirotech. Joy lead with both grace and humor and has

helped to greatly increase Envirotech's prestige and visibility. Fortunately, she will be succeeded by two equally capable co-chairs, Ann Greene and Hugh Gorman. Thanks to Ann and Hugh for taking on the job!

Envirotech Contacts:

Co-Chairs:

Ann Greene

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Best Envirotech Article Prize (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

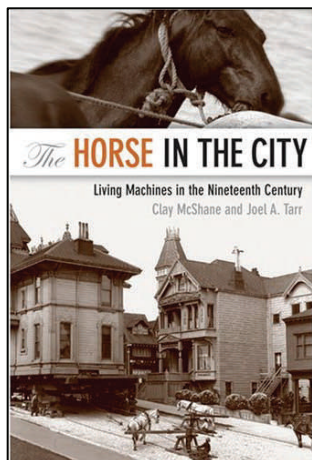
out in several respects. It focused on a neglected topic, as herbicides usually receive far less attention than pesticides. It paid attention to a wide array of factors, including the ecological implications that made for a decline in the effectiveness of herbicides over time, and it breaks new ground in stressing the agency of the farmers. While other publications have focused on experts and the role of the chemical industry, Anderson makes clear that farmers played a crucial role in the growing application of chemicals on post-World War II farms, and we see advi-

sors and industrialists trying to catch up with the farmers' usage patterns in this article. With that, the article provides the innovative thinking on the interplay between technology and the environment that we expect from an Envirotech Prize winner, and it makes for a worthy recipient in a strong field.

The next Envirotech Prize will be announced at the SHOT meeting in Lisbon in 2008. It should be noted that there is no rule against repeat submissions for the prize, provided that the article was published within the time frame specified in the call for submissions.



New Books From ET Members



Clay McShane and Joel A. Tarr, *The Horse in the City: Living Machines in the Nineteenth Century* (Johns Hopkins University Press).

The nineteenth century was the golden age of the horse. In urban America, the indispensable horse provided the power for not only vehicles that moved freight, transported passengers, and fought fires but also equipment in breweries, mills, foundries, and machine shops. Clay

McShane and Joel A. Tarr, prominent scholars of urban life, here explore the critical role that the horse played in the growing nineteenth-century metropolis. Using such diverse sources as veterinary manuals, stable periodicals, teamster magazines, city newspapers, and agricultural year-books, they examine how the horses were housed and fed and how workers bred, trained, marketed, and employed their four-legged assets. Not omitting the problems of waste removal and corpse disposal, they touch on the municipal challenges of maintaining a safe and productive living environment for both horses and people and the rise of organizations like the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. In addition to providing an insightful account of life and work in nineteenth-century urban America, *The Horse in the City* brings us to a richer understanding of how the animal fared in this unnatural and presumably uncomfortable setting.

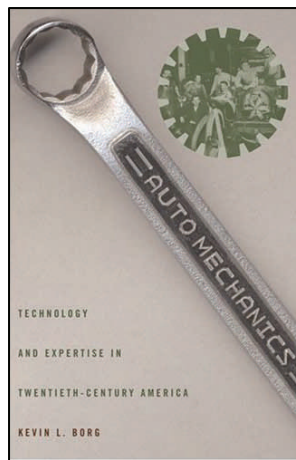
Reviews:

"A fascinating account of the role of horses in shaping the economy and society of American cities during the nineteenth century that contributes greatly to the fields of urban history, environmental history, and the history of human-animal relationships."—Susan D. Jones, author of *Valuing Animals*

"In this careful and richly textured book, Clay McShane and Joel Tarr have shown us how these beasts of burden helped create the modern metropolis and then disappeared from the city streets."—Kenneth T. Jackson, Columbia University

"This innovative and fascinating book goes to the heart of new research that connects the human and animal worlds as never before. In presenting the horse as a 'living machine,' McShane and Tarr help us rethink how cities were built and

how they functioned in the past."—Martin V. Melosi, University of Houston, author of *The Sanitary City* and *Effluent America*



Kevin Borg, *Auto Mechanics: Technology and Expertise in Twentieth-Century America* (Johns Hopkins University Press).

Kevin Borg writes: While I have been mostly a "lurker" on the Envirotech list my forthcoming book has at least one chapter that may be of interest to other list members. In my seventh chapter examines the influence of environmentalism, consumerism, technological developments, and

an activist state in creating the computerized, regulated automobile. I examine under-hood technology from the PCV and EGR valves of the 1960s-70s to On-Board Diagnostics and the "check engine" light in the 1990s. I argue that the computerization of automobiles did not represent the simple unfolding of technological and engineering progress, nor was automotive computerization called forth by consumer demand or market forces. The development and application of automotive diagnostic technologies resulted instead from multiple socio-political pressures—the confluence of environmental and consumer movements, the regulatory imposition of new boundary conditions for vehicle performance, and the individual actions of motorists, mechanics, politicians, state and federal regulators, military defense contractors, and others. All of this activity coincided with technological developments and opportunities in the automotive, equipment, and electronics industries from which actors chose particular tools, innovations, and variations. My perspective in this chapter is, of course, from the repair shop and my main concern has been with how auto mechanics interacted with these socio-technical changes in the automobile. My next research objective is to expand this research and look more broadly at the relationship between environmental science, shifting regulatory conditions and technological changes in various automobile systems. Thus, I am open to any and all suggestions of relevant literature and especially primary source material from catalyst makers, designers/makers of automotive sensors (O₂, MAP, etc.), and designers/makers of microprocessors for automotive use.

Members News

Betsy Mendelsohn Accepts New Position

My news is that I've got a new job in STS that continues to let me adjunct in the History Dept. here at U. Maryland. I'll be teaching a small urban environmental history lecture course and an agricultural history seminar next year.

Beginning June 1:

Director

Science, Technology and Society Programs, University of Maryland, Chestertown Hall, Rm. 1108, College Park, MD 20742

Sara Pritchard Moves to Cornell

During the 2006 - 2007 academic year, Sara Pritchard revised her book manuscript, organized Montana State University's Department of History's third NSF "Mile High, Mile Deep" conference (a joint workshop with the University of Wisconsin - Madison), gave several papers, and advised her first four Master's students, all of whom are con-

tinuing on with their Ph.D.s in environmental history, the history of technology, and/or the history of science. Other changes are on the horizon. After 3.5 good years at Montana State, Sara will be joining the Department of Science & Technology Studies at Cornell University (effective July 1, 2007).

Joe Anderson's New E-mail

Joe reminds everyone that he has a new e-mail address: jlanders@westga.edu.

Jeffrey Stine's Recent Retrospective on Worster's *Dust Bowl* in *T&C*

Jeffrey Stine published a fascinating retrospective essay on Donald Worster's *Dust Bowl* in the latest issue of *Technology and Culture*. The essay is also available on the journal's website:

<http://shot-dev.press.jhu.edu/eTC/eTCmain.html>.

Envirotech at ESEH (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

new website (Finn Arne Jørgensen). Richard Wilk (Anthropology Department, Indiana University) announced that he is looking for manuscripts for publication as the editor of a book series "Globalization and the Environment" with Altamira Press (see <http://www.altamirapress.com/series/>).

The ESEH 2007 conference had the theme "Environmental Connections." Jane Carruthers, University of South Africa, opened the conference with a paper titled "Environmental history: Revitalising connection, context and coherence in historical studies." She argued that connections lie at the core of environmental history, giving it both its direction and its strength. Using the example of Dutch colonization of South Africa, she explored some of the ways environmental expectations led to challenges for both the Europe-

ans and Africans in the early modern period. Carruthers emphasized that environmental history has the opportunity to tell histories across national and cultural boundaries. As a discipline, it has the opportunity to connect new sources – oral, visual, spatial, scientific – and connect new ideas and concepts – similarities, patterns, interactions, continuities, evolution, and differences.

A number of papers at the conference picked up on the theme by focusing on scientific, environmental and knowledge exchanges during colonization efforts, such as the transfer of irrigation technology, importation of botanical specimens and development of national park ideas. Other papers focused on later exchanges, such as the influence of European livestock science on Brazilian cattle ranching in the 19th and 20th centuries and connections between German and American waste-

water treatment design.

The "connections" theme is particularly fitting for envirotech researchers as we work to show the connections between technology and the environment. Much of what Carruthers said about environmental history applies to the history of technology as well. The intersection of history of environment and technology has the opportunity to tell histories that cut across traditional boundaries of nation states, periodization, and historical disciplines.

ESEH normally meets every other year and we plan to continue meeting as a group there. But in lieu of a separate meeting in 2009, ESEH will meet collectively with a number of other environmental history organizations at the World Environmental History Congress August 4-9, 2009 in Copenhagen. Envirotech plans to meet at the 2009 Congress.

Of Interest to Envirotechies

Short Films on Air Pollution

Jeffrey Stine tells us: The Scout Report has reported on several aspects of the AIRNow website before, but this is the first time that we've noticed that they have a very fine selection of short movies on their website. These short films are designed for the general public, and they deal with such topics as air quality control, how ozone is formed, and a special presentation for children on ozone. The films range in length from 13 to 21 minutes, and one can imagine that these multimedia presentations could be used in a variety of classroom settings as they are quite accessible and jargon-free. Additionally, the air quality presentation is available in Spanish, and the rest of their website is definitely worth looking over.

Air Quality Movies [Macromedia Flash Player, Windows Media Player]

<http://www.airnow.gov>

Google Patents

Finn Arne Jørgensen reports: I thought people might be interested in knowing that Google has just launched their patent search engine, containing more than 7 million US patents dating from 1790 to mid-2006. The search results return the US patent abstract, the accompanying drawings (that can be saved to your computer), references to other patents, etc. It is fully searchable just like a regular Google search. This seems like a valuable resource for anyone doing history of technology. For instance, a search for Thomas Edison resulted in 725 patents.

The web page is at <http://www.google.com/patents/>

Cold War Environmental History Conference

Joy Parr reports: A detailed conference report on this meeting can be found at:

<http://www.h-net.org/~diplo/reports/GHI-2007-EHCW.pdf>

Leads Sought on History of Oil

Rebecca Pinkus writes: I am working as a researcher for Canadian photographer Edward Burtynsky on a project concerning the historical and cultural issues of oil. (Yes, it's a very broad topic.) My general aim is to find the largest and most visually interesting expression of this topic, and

my current focus is on abandoned auto industry plants. (This may involve assembly plants or factories that made specialized parts for the auto industry -- or even just remains of the remains.) So my questions to you:

1. If you know of or have been to any interesting locations, would you mind getting in touch with me? (I'm certain that Detroit & Flint, Michigan are good locations; same goes for Windsor, Ontario. The Tarrytown (Sleepy Hollow) brownfield site in New York also looks interesting, and perhaps isn't actually a solo site -- does anyone know about this last one?) I would welcome input on any of these locations.
2. If you have any pictures, would you mind sharing them (as a visual reference, so I can decide if it's worth trekking out to the site.)
3. If you know anyone who would help me gain access to the sites, would you please, please let me know?! (This is usually the biggest challenge.)

As I noted, this topic is quite huge, and the auto industry aspect is just a part of it; if you happen to know of any other visually interesting oil-related industries sites, I welcome suggestions! (I am interested in both abandoned and in-use sites, although I find the abandoned sites a bit more fun and historically interesting.)

Rebecca A. Pinkus, MA

Edward Burtynsky Studios

www.edwardburtynsky.com

Solidarity, Sustainability, and Non-Violence

The June 2007 issue of the SSNV newsletter has been posted: *Solidarity, Sustainability, and Non-Violence* (SSNV) Volume 3, Number 6, June 2007 <http://www.pelicanweb.org/solisustv03n06.html>

This issue includes: Analysis of the U.N. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Review of the Mimetic Theory website; a digest of new human development resources on the web; an invited article on Perils of Elite Pacting, by Patrick Bond, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa.

The July issue will focus on MDG 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability.

Luis T. Gutierrez, Ph.D.

Editor, *Solidarity, Sustainability, and Non-Violence* <http://www.pelicanweb.org/solisust.html>

Walker and LeCain Awarded NSF Grant: Will Compare Japanese and American Reactions to Mining Pollutants

By Evelyn Boswell

Montana State University News Service, Bozeman

Editor's Note: I hope you all will forgive me in advance for including an article on my own work here, but I think the project will be of interest to many of you. By all means, please send me similar news service reports on your own work and I will be happy to include them. Although it is not readily apparent from this article, the research project draws heavily on the new thinking in envirotech many of you have contributed to over the past few years. A better sense of our intellectual foundations and goals may be had by reading the grant abstract at:

<http://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward.do?AwardNumber=0646644>

Two Montana State University historians who see insightful similarities between former copper mines in Montana and Japan have received \$306,000 from the National Science Foundation to investigate and share their findings.

Brett Walker, Tim LeCain and six MSU graduate students will compare how Montanans and Japanese residents dealt with the technology, science and pollution associated with two huge copper mines that existed in the late 1800s and early 1900s. One mine was at Butte/Anaconda, the other at Ashio, Japan.

The mines existed in different cultures, environments and religious contexts, but each used highly-sophisticated technology that had never been used before, Walker said. They had underground electrical systems. They had railroad systems and complicated smelting systems.

Each mine helped modernize its country and allowed it to thrive in an international economy, Walker added. Both operations were entrenched in local politics. At the same time, the mines created environmental disasters that appeared first in species that symbolized the earlier economies of those areas -- cattle in the American West and silkworms in East Asia. Sulfur dioxide fell onto pas-

tures and poisoned the cattle that grazed around Anaconda and Butte. It also fell on mulberry bushes and killed large silkworm colonies in central Japan.

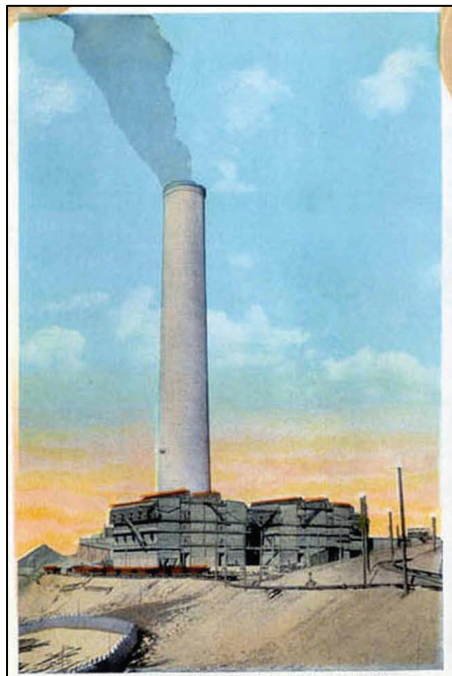
"If you are a Buddhist and believe that all living creatures are part of a continuum of life and everything has a soul, do you view environmental destruction, particularly the death of animals, differently than you do if you're raising livestock in Butte and Anaconda?" Walker asked.

LeCain said, "Two key symbols, cattle and silkworms, suffered very similar effects, but more interesting is that Americans and Japanese, because of their respective cultural differences, had very different readings of these two pollution events."

Walker, head of MSU's Department of History and Philosophy, is an expert in the environmental history of Japan. LeCain specializes in the history of technology, particularly mining technology. In a blending of interests, the researchers will travel to Japan, Butte and Anaconda to examine the mines and the effect they had on the environment. The area around Ashio is much steeper and damper than the Butte/Anaconda area, Walker said. Walker and LeCain will also study historical documents and interview area residents, then write a book on their findings, develop a web site and create interactive maps to show the impact of each mine.

"A lot has been written about both mines, but there have been no comparisons between the two," Walker said. "We are asking different questions, more scientific, ecological and technological questions."

The entire process will continue to develop MSU's graduate program in history which added a doctorate program four years ago, Walker said. The graduate program will have about 25 students in the fall, 11 of them working on their Ph.Ds. Several of the Ph.D. students are working on dissertations that explore the environmental history of mining in Montana.



The 585-foot high copper smelter smokestack at Anaconda, Montana

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Position Open

University of Maryland STS Program

The Science, Technology and Society Program at University of Maryland, College Park, seeks an advanced graduate student or person already holding the Ph.D. to teach our capstone STS course. This is adjunct teaching in an honors program; the students are intelligent, motivated sophomores. We will need lecturers for the fall and spring of the 2007-2008 academic year. People who are interested in learning more should send me an email requesting a detailed description. I welcome your inquiries.

Betsy Mendelsohn

bmendel@umd.edu

Director (beginning June 1)

Science, Technology and Society Programs, University of Maryland, Chestertown Hall, Rm. 1108, College Park, MD 20742

Call for Papers

Ecological restoration and human flourishing in the era of anthropogenic climate change

September 5, 6, and 7, 2008

Clemson University

Sponsored by Clemson University Restoration Institute, College of Architecture, Arts, and Humanities, School of the Environment, Rutland Institute for Ethics, and Department of Philosophy and Religion

Reports this year from the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change place it beyond reasonable doubt that humans are largely responsible for global warming and that the potential consequences are simply unprecedented in scope and magnitude. It is also becoming increasingly clear that some of these consequences are now unavoidable. Preventative measures alone, if enacted, could only head-off the worst. What should be done with the natural world that will be inherited in the wake of the Industrial Revolution, the 20th and the opening decades of the 21st century? As embodied and terrestrial beings, embedded in an emerging and unstable new world climate, how should considerations of justice, ecological and human flourishing influence prescriptive combinations of prevention, mitigation, adaptation, and restoration? What should we believe about ecological restitution or redress to citizens of third-world countries, or future generations? What are the meta-ethical, technological, biological, and geo-political considerations that underlie this range of normative concerns? Our focus will be on issues at the intersection of ecological restoration, global justice, and prospects of well being for human and non-human animals in an era of radical climate change, including the restoration or geo-engineering of large-scale biotic processes and the role of human flourishing in the practice of ecological restoration.

Confirmed speakers include Eric Higgs, Andrew Light and Martha Nussbaum.

Format

To make the conference and its expenditure of energy as useful as possible, the conference format will involve pre-conference paper sharing and preparatory dialogue, a combination of plenary and small group sessions, ample time for discussion both in and outside sessions, post-conference documentation, the creation of a network on the conference

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Call for Papers (cont.)

theme and related issues following the conference, and a conference volume to be reworked thoroughly for publication. Additionally, the organizers have set aside 10% of the conference budget to invest in accountable, well-proven reforestation and wind farming. Novel ways of participating in the conference to avoid CO2 emissions are invited. Ideally, we would have the conference entirely on-line but feel we need face-to-face time on this issue to begin the research discussions around it. As much of the conference as is practically possible for us will involve a sustainable ontology -e.g., recycled paper, on-line archiving, local and humane food sources with reduced packaging, etc.

Proposals

Send the proposal to ERHFconference-L@clmson.edu by November 30th, 2007. The finished papers of those accepted will be due by July 30th, 2008. Proposals should include an abstract of approximately 500 words, an optional explanation of some 200 words explaining the proposal's relevance to the conference themes, a list of current research projects or of publications related to the conference themes, and full contact details (email, phone, address). Graduate students are encouraged to apply. There will be one graduate student scholarship to help with costs.

Organizing and program committee

Allen Thompson, Clemson University Department of Philosophy and Religion

Jeremy Bendik-Keymer, American University of Sharjah Department of International Studies and Le Moyne College
Department of Philosophy

Breena Holland, Lehigh University Department of Political Science and the Environmental Initiative

Deadline: November 30th 2007

Call for Papers

Managing the Unknown:

Natural Reserves in Historical Perspective

Conference at the German Historical Institute, Washington, DC

February 21-23, 2008

Conveners: Uwe Luebken (German Historical Institute, Washington, DC) Frank Uekoetter (Research Institute of the Deutsches Museum, Munich, Germany)

Since the Club of Rome's "Limits to Growth" resource problems have been a major focus of research among environmentalists. Conflicts over water and oil, over mineral deposits and timber reserves are familiar issues in environmental history as well as in ongoing political discussions. The debate over "peak oil" is only the most recent in a long series of debates over dwindling reserves. The underlying assumption in many of these debates is that we have a rough estimate of the size of the remaining material. But what if the situation is not so clear? What if the size of the reserve is difficult to quantify? If the uses are diverse and subject to change? If patterns of use change in the future in ways that cannot be predicted?

Forests, for example, were open to a multitude of uses, and forest reserves were difficult to quantify far into the

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Call for Papers (cont.)

age of scientific forestry. Fishermen usually relied on little more than a vague estimate of available fishing stocks that often had more to do with wishful thinking than actual knowledge. Fertile soils allowed a wide array of agricultural uses; likewise, rivers could be sources of water for drinking and irrigation, sewers for human and industrial wastes, habitats for fish and aesthetic treasures all at once. In discussions of the Amazon rain forests, many environmentalists have pointed to the richness of the genetic pool and the possibility that species facing extinction may have undiscovered uses for humans. In short, ambiguities about natural reserves abound. It is equally clear that reserves play an important role for sustainable development. But given the importance of reserves for sustainability, humankind must address a fundamental question: How can we think clearly about reserves when they are so difficult to describe and quantify?

We invite participants to look at these reserves from multiple angles. One of them is the perspective of a person, group or institution making decisions on a certain reserve. To what extent do reserves of this kind allow a rational approach to resource use? How do people define criteria for rational use in the absence of clear parameters? How do they explain and legitimate decisions that are based on incomplete and deficient knowledge? To what extent does this situation encourage research, and how should we evaluate corresponding efforts? In short, to what extent were restrictions on the use of "unknown" reserves the result of a purposeful resource management, rather than arbitrary acts? Or does uncertainty about the extent of reserves inevitably provoke unsustainable use?

Another important perspective looks at the meaning of reserves for societies in general. The assumption is that reserves as described above frequently act as "buffer areas" that provide a kind of "insurance" for unexpected events. Forests provide a case in point. In the case of a severe winter or war, they can offer firewood in excess of sustainable yields, or large amounts of timber if a fire destroys a city. They store water, and they can be converted into agricultural land if need be. Rich soils and a wide array of domesticated species allow a shift to other modes of agriculture if the dominant crops run into trouble; water reserves act as a backup in case of drought. We are interested in historical case studies that emphasize this function.

Industrialization and globalization have created an unprecedented hunger for resources that seems to set the exploitation of reserves above all else. Are reserves in the modern world -- whether known or unknown -- therefore doomed to be used and consumed at some point? And what does that mean for the sustainability of modern societies? One of the arguments to be explored at this conference is that a society's degree of ecological stability depends to a notable extent on these "hidden" ecological reserves.

Finally, what cultural strategies can we detect in managing unknown reserves? Was the expected depletion of a major reserve perceived as a coming crisis and if so, how did societies react to this development? How has the scientific and popular discourse on natural reserves shaped the way they were used? The conference sees these approaches as complementary to each other, and encourages contributors to combine several perspectives. Since this is a pioneering project, methodological questions will have to be addressed. Theoretical approaches that apply to more than one type of resource are especially welcome. As the conference seeks to look at similarities across national, chronological and topical boundaries, contributions should be open for interdisciplinary communication.

Please send a proposal of no more than 500 words and a brief CV to Bärbel Thomas at B.Thomas@ghi-dc.org (fax: +1.202.483.3430). The deadline for submission is July 15, 2007. Participants will be notified by mid-August.

The conference will be held in English and focus on the discussion of precirculated papers of about 7,000 to 8,000 words (due by January 15, 2008). The GHI will cover the cost for travel and accommodations of participants. Please send inquiries to Uwe Luebken (luebken@ghi-dc.org).

Call for Papers (cont.)

American Society for Environmental History 2008 Annual Meeting

Call for Papers and Posters

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: JULY 1, 2007

Agents of Change:

People, Climate, and Places through Time

Boise, Idaho

March 12 - 16, 2008

The program committee for the annual meeting of the American Society for Environmental History invites panel and poster proposals for its March 2008 meeting in Boise, Idaho. Proposals may address any area of environmental history, but in keeping with the conference themes we solicit submissions examining the intersecting roles of people, climate, and place in environmental history.

The conference site is one of the nation's most rapidly growing cities. Set in the Great Basin desert on the fringe of the Rocky Mountains, Boise has long been shaped by booster dreams of a desert transformed through water works. Today, Boise, like many places, is facing profound changes as global climate and economic trends intersect with its regional demography and environment. The committee encourages panel, roundtable, and poster proposals that focus on the following broad themes:

Agents of Change—Contemporary science and politics have forced public recognition of the importance of natural agents in human affairs, especially climate, while forcing reconsideration of the status of these agents as “natural”. Historians, geographers, and historical ecologists can help advance and refine these perspectives. We encourage submissions from researchers that consider these agents, and whose work spans historical periods, from the modern to the medieval or ancient.

Region and Place— Environmental historians are increasingly questioning conventional views of regions and regionality, through research on places that transcend national boundaries and traditionally-defined regions, and by considering people—including immigrant, diasporic, and refugee communities—as “place makers.” We encourage proposals that rethink region and place in light of dynamic climatic, demographic, economic, or political processes.

Shifting Boundaries – Boise sits amid volatile boundaries: between mountains and desert, public land and private land, urban and rural communities. Similarly, environmental history encompasses multiple methods and disciplines. We encourage proposals that examine how spatial relationships, ecological processes, and intellectual boundaries have shaped our understanding of change, and our views of our own scholarly practices.

The committee strongly prefers complete panel proposals rather than individual papers. Limit panels to three papers (commentator optional) or four papers and no commentator. Plan the length of introductions, presentations, and comments so that your panel leaves ½ hour for discussion. Participants may only present one formal paper, but they may also engage in roundtable, chairing, or comment duties.

To submit your panel or poster proposal, go to ASEH's website (www.aseh.net) and click on "Submit Session Proposals."

Roundtable Submissions: To submit a roundtable proposal, please email the Program Chair, Lynne Heasley at lynne.heasley@wmich.edu for more information. A roundtable proposal typically includes a 250 word abstract describing the goals of the roundtable and the names and contact information for a moderator and 4 to 5 participants. Roundtables must include at least 45 minutes for audience participation.

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

Lynne Heasley, Chair, Western Michigan University (lynne.heasley@wmich.edu) Stephen Bocking, Trent University (sbocking@trentu.ca)

Kimberly Little, University of Central Arkansas (klittle@uca.edu), ksliddle@alltel.net Kevin Marsh, Co-chair, Local Arrangements Committee, Idaho State University (marskevi@isu.edu)

Kendra Smith Howard, University of Wisconsin-Madison, (kendrasmith@wisc.edu)

Conferences

Society for the History of Technology Washington, D.C., 18–21 October 2007

The 2007 meeting, which convenes 18–21 October 2007 at the Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C., will kick off SHOT's two-year fiftieth anniversary celebration and launch its second half century around the unifying theme “**Looking Back, Looking Beyond.**”



Planning is well underway. The meeting will feature a special day-long workshop reviewing accomplishments and challenges in the history of technology; a three-generation plenary session; a luncheon honoring da Vinci medalists; and a rich offering of gatherings, entertainment, and sessions.

Program for ICOHTEC Symposium 2007

The International Committee for the History of Technology's 34th Symposium in Copenhagen, Denmark, 14-18 August 2007

Fashioning Technology: Design from Imagination to Practice is the symposium's general theme. Call for papers is closed, but some of the symposium subthemes are:

- Consequences of design, purposeful and accidental
- National styles in design and technology: myth or fact?
- Embodying design in products
- Social and/or cultural values in the design of products, machines and systems
- Designers: craftsmen, engineers, artists, or something else?
- Fe/male designs: sex and gender in design
- Tweaking technology and products: users as designers
- Imaginary designs: unrealized, utopian and immaterial constructions
- Design history in the context of the history of technology
- Designing consumption from commodities to malls
- Reshaping spaces: landscapes, cityscapes and technoscapes
- The fashioned body: technologies of food, clothing and medicine
- Building technoscience: design in the laboratory

Special features of ICOHTEC's 34th Symposium include the annual Mel Kranzberg Lecture by a distinguished historian of technology, the traditional Jazz Night, several excursions, and a special plenary "Copenhagen Session" of invited scholars. Note: Membership in ICOHTEC is not required to participate in the symposium.

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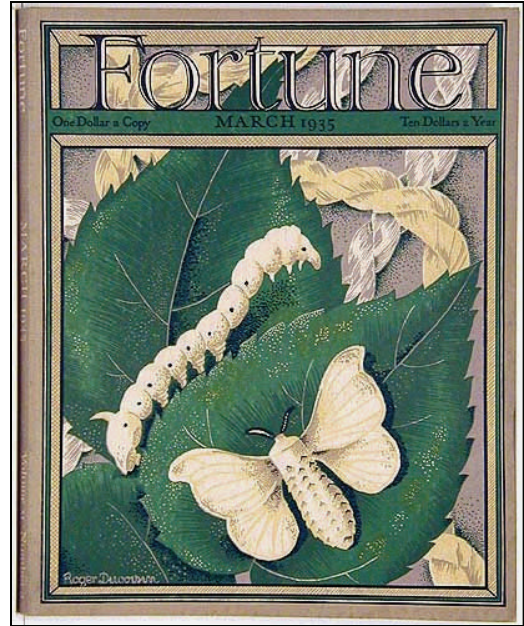
"The grant funds our research, but also funds what is a very vibrant, active graduate program," Walker said.

The researchers said their project isn't meant to demonize copper; they appreciate the computers and other conveniences it allows. LeCain noted that a Boeing 747 contains about 9,000 pounds of copper, a typical house contains 400 pounds, and a car averages 50 pounds. Copper is an important component in video games and computers.

Mining may not be the industry it once was in Butte/Anaconda and Ashio, but it's big in other areas of the world, the researchers said. Other countries are now dealing with the issues that Montana and Japan once faced.

"It's not happening in our back yard right now, but it's not that it's not happening somewhere," Walker said.

LeCain said, "We all have to grapple with this ecological reality. We are not offering easy solutions, but moral dilemmas."



1935 cover of Fortune magazine which featured an article on the Japanese silk industry.