Envirotech Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

New Ph.D. Program Announcement
Paul Israel writes...

The History Department at the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, in association with the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), announces a new Ph.D. program in the History of Technology, Environment, and Health (HTEH), commencing Fall 2001. Drawing together faculty from each of the Rutgers campuses and NJIT, the program emphasizes cross-disciplinary preparation for original research, along with mastery of key literatures in these three areas of historical studies. Though centered in the history faculty, this program involves specialists in areas as diverse as urban studies, public policy, human ecology, and anthropology, and draws on faculty in global and comparative history. Students will also be invited to participate in a two-year seminar (2001–2003) in Industrial Environments at the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis.

The program will prepare students for academic careers and work in public history—policy research in the public and private sectors, ar-

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Envirotech an Official SIG

By Jim Williams

Envirotech is now the official technology and nature special interest group (SIG) of the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT). At its spring meeting, SHOT’s executive council conferred this SIG status on Envirotech. With it comes the right to sponsor a session at annual SHOT conferences and matching fund support for activities such as newsletter publication and so forth. Envirotech also can have its treasury held by SHOT.

While co-chairs, Sara and Jim, still see Envirotech as a group belonging to both SHOT and the American Society for Environmental History (ASEH), the special standing that official SIG status with SHOT gives Envirotech should benefit our efforts to further all our scholarship dealing with technology and the environment.

SHOT 2001 Meeting Info

By Sara Pritchard

Envirotech has another big presence at this fall’s SHOT conference.

Thursday’s field trips include an “environmental tour” (a trip to Big Basin and the Monterey Bay Aquarium) and a “San Francisco Bay tour” that includes a visit to the Army Corps of Engineer’s hydraulic model of the Bay Area, a trip to the Corps’s projects on the Bay, and a historic trek through The City.

An official SHOT special interest group (SIG), Envirotechers will meet for lunch on Friday, October 5th at 11:45 am at the Gordon Biersch Brewery.

Panels of special interest at this year’s SHOT conference include:

- Ecology and Technology
- Rivers as Technology: The Intersection of Human Design and Nature
- State-Sponsored Technologies of Power and Modernity in the Rural Landscape
- Tracked, Piped, and Paved: Infrastructures of the Modern City
Rutgers Ph.D. program (continued)

chives, and museums. The IEEE History Center and the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research are among several Rutgers centers offering opportunities in policy research. The Thomas A. Edison Papers and the Rutgers Library Archives provide training in archives and scholarly editing. The extensive connections between scholars in HTEH and the museum world, as well as the Edison Papers’ connections to the Edison National Historic Site, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Henry Ford Museum, provide opportunities for training in museum work.

Applicants will be eligible for five-year tuition and stipend fellowships.

Website: http://hthe.rutgers.edu/

Inquiries: Dr. Paul Israel, Thomas A. Edison Papers (732/932-8511); pisrael@rci.rutgers.edu

Applications: Office of Graduate and Professional Admissions, 18 Bishop Place, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 (732/932-8231)

http://history.rutgers.edu/grad/app_info.html

Dues . . .

By Erik Conway

At the founding meeting of Envirotech, the members voted to establish annual dues at $5 to pay for activities of its members, including the newsletter. The list of members who are paid up for the 2000-2001 academic year are listed on page 3. We’ll be collecting dues for the 2001-2002 academic year at the SHOT meeting in San Jose and at the ASEH meeting in Denver in March 2002, or send payment in the form of a check for 5 USD payable to Jim Williams. Mail to him at 790 Raymundo Avenue, Los Altos CA 94024-3138. Thanks!

At our SIG lunch meeting in San Jose, we’ll be discussing and outlining plans for using our 2000-2001 funds, which amount to $315. The Society for the History of Technology will match non-food & drink expenses up to $300/year. Your ideas on the subject are welcome!

Envirotech listserv instructions . . .

By Sara Pritchard

To SUBSCRIBE:
Send a message from your preferred email account to majordomo@lists.stanford.edu with ‘subscribe envirotech’ (without quotation marks) in the first line of your message.

To UNSUBSCRIBE:
Either 1) send a message from the email account from which you originally subscribed to majordomo@lists.stanford.edu with ‘unsubscribe envirotech’ in the first line of your message or 2) if you no longer have access to that account, send a message to majordomo with ‘unsubscribe envirotech yourname@server.edu’ (example: janesmith@beboopuniversity.edu). Note: for option #2, your name and server name must exactly match your original subscription.

To POST a message:
Send your message to envirotech@lists.stanford.edu. Please use the subject line to identify the topic of your message. Please be sure and use a format that is accessible to most computers. If you have lengthy reports, highly formatted files, or other data-heavy messages, we suggest that you send a shorter message pointing interested individuals to an appropriate website.

A small caveat: The Envirotech list serv is more low tech than we would like. It doesn’t have as many features as many list servs do (or rather, our list serv owners haven’t had time to figure out these features!). Thanks for your patience in dealing with the list serv’s quirks and limitations.

A gentle reminder: As you change email accounts (or change primary email accounts), please unsubscribe and resubscribe as necessary. Also, if you do not have email access for extended periods of time, please unsubscribe and resubscribe so that the list owner does not get “inbox full” messages. Thanks again for your patience and cooperation!
News from the Membership
Compiled by Erik Conway

Buck Foster writes: I am currently working on my dissertation about the Meridian Expedition using remote sensing techniques. I completed a NASA fellowship in the Spring, and ASEH has accepted my paper about The American Civil War and the Weather for the Denver meeting. Email: btf1@ra.msstate.edu

Eva Jakobsson reports that her address has changed to: RF - Rogaland Research Company, Postboks 8046, 4068 Stavanger, Norway. E-mail: eva.jakobsson@rf.no

Betsy Mendelsohn started a postdoc in the history of technology and environment at University of Virginia this fall. She may be reached at btm5d@virginia.edu.

Sara Pritchard reports that she received her Ph.D. in History from Stanford University in June 2001. She is now a postdoctoral associate in environmental and agricultural history at MIT for the 2001-2002 academic year. Email: spritch@mit.edu

Marty Reuss writes: I will be a Dibner Fellow at MIT from the beginning of September to the third week in January. My office address will be: Dibner Institute, MIT E56-100 38 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA 02139. E-mail: mreuss@dibinst.mit.edu (I will also tap into my Corps e-mail site once in a while, but the MIT e-mail address will get during the day). Office phone: 617-253-3970.

Adam Rome reports that his book, The Bulldozer in the Countryside: Suburban Sprawl and the Rise of American Environmentalism, came out this spring. He’s hard at work now as the editor-to-be of the journal Environmental History. Of course, he would welcome good manuscripts on technology and the environment, about all periods and places! Email: axr26@psu.edu

Frank Uekoetter, Bielefeld University, Germany, has completed his dissertation “From the Smoke Nuisance to the Environmental Revolution: Air Pollution Control in Germany and the United States of America, 1880-1970”. Email: frank.uekoetter@web.de

Thomas Zeller has moved to Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, where he is assistant professor for the history of science and technology.

New Members

Frank Popper writes: I am a city planner, teach at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University, and in fall 2001 will be a visiting professor at the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at Princeton University. My wife Deborah Popper and I invented the concept of the Buffalo Commons to describe the likely environmental future of much of the rural Great Plains. Email: fpopper@rci.rutgers.edu

Kim Todd is an associate editor at the national headquarters of the Sierra Club in San Francisco and also works as a freelance science and environmental writer. Her book, Tinkering with Eden, a Natural History of Exotics in America, was published in January 2001 by W.W. Norton. Email: ktodd@saber.net

Terence Young writes: I am a geographer investigating the impact of transportation technology on ideas about nature. In particular, I'm researching a book on camping in America. I just started work at California State University, Long Beach but have taught also at Clemson University, George Washington U, Mary Washington College, UCLA, and University of Southern California. I teach urban, environmental, and recreational courses. Email: tyoung@csulb.edu

2000-2001 Dues Paid

Apsey, Mike
Black, Michael
Booker, Matthew
Boxer, Baruch
Castonguay, Stephane
Conway, Erik
Cooper, Alex
Coopersmith, Jonathan
Cutcliffe, Stephen
Dell, Twyla
Elkind, Sarah
Foster, Buck
Freiburger, Dana
Gorman, Hugh
Greene, Ann
Huggard, Chris
Hughes, Don
Kaup, Martina
Kirsch, David
Knowles, Anne
Laird, Frank
Lang, Bill
Little, Kim
Loeb, Alan
MacCleery, Doug
Melosi, Marty
Mendelsohn, Betsy
O’Conner, Richard
Platt, Harold
Pritchard, Sara
Quivik, Fred
Reuss, Marty
Rome, Adam
Russell, Ed
Schmid, Sonja
Schneiders, Robert
Scranton, Philip
Selig, Erica
Sline, Jeffrey
Tarr, Joel
Tassava, Christopher
Taylor, Joseph
Thorsheim, Peter
Todd, Ed
Todd, Kim
Tornlund, Erik
Uekoetter, Frank
Wheeler, Jerry
Williams, James
Wilson, Robert
Zeller, Tom
Are Animals Technology?

During July, the Envirotech mailing list hosted a fascinating thread centered on the question of whether animals could be considered technology. This went on for about a week and raised some thought-provoking issues. Jim Williams compiled all the messages into an archive that’s available at:

http://www.geocities.com/erech/
News from ASEH 2001

By Sara Pritchard

Envirotech had a strong presence at this year’s conference of the American Society for Environmental History (ASEH) in Durham, NC in March 2001.

Envirotech sponsored one of the themed breakfasts, a new and promising ASEH tradition. Over sixty conference participants (of 400 total at the conference!) attended the Friday morning breakfast despite the early hour. After everyone introduced themselves, the first Envirotech newsletter was distributed, and a few announcements were made, we tried to have a general conversation about the intersection of environmental history and the history of technology. However, the noisy air-conditioning, room layout, and wonderfully large turn-out made it difficult to converse. Most of breakfast was then devoted to getting acquainted with colleagues at each table. Halfway through the breakfast, everyone rotated seats in an academic version of musical chairs in order to get to know more people. Over the course of the conference, a number of conference participants said that they liked having the opportunity to mingle and meet others with similar interests. Envirotech plans on hosting another breakfast at next year’s conference in Denver, CO.

Several ASEH panels of particular interest included:

- Breaking the Knowledge Barrier: Experts as Environmental Advocates in Technological Controversies
- Cars, Consumers, and the Environment
- Mining the Past: Mining and Social Movements in the 20th Century
- Nature and Technology: A Roundtable Commentary
- Unruly Rivers: Human Causes of and Responses to Urban Flooding

ICOHTEC 2002 CFP


ICOHTEC http://www.icohtec.org/ is an international scholarly organization associated with the International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science and UNESCO. ICOHTEC’s aim is to foster cooperation in the history of technology among scholars from all parts of the world, and to that end holds an annual symposium and publishes the annual journal Icon.

The ICOHTEC Program Committee welcomes proposals for individual PAPERS and SESSIONS (3 or more papers) for its 29th Symposium in Granada, Spain, June 22-26, 2002. In recognition of the unique place that Granada holds in the history of the Mediterranean, we have chosen the general theme of “Technology, Cultural Interchange and Globalization” for the Symposium. ICOHTEC invites members as well as non-members to organize sessions for the Granada Symposium or to offer individual papers.

The Program Committee especially encourages proposals dealing with the history of technology within this general theme. But, as is common with ICOHTEC Symposia, papers and sessions on other themes of interest to the history of technology also are welcomed. Proposals must conform to the length limitations listed below (references, tables, etc. may be appended).

PAPERS: Submit 500-word abstract and a one-page c.v.

SESSIONS and SYMPOSIA: Submit an abstract (250 words) describing the session or symposium as a whole, an abstract (500 words each) from each of the participants, and a one-page c.v. for each participant and for the session chairperson.

ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY January 15, 2002. Please submit abstracts and c.v.’s by email. If you cannot submit your proposal electronically, you may submit four copies by regular mail postmarked not later than January 10, 2002.

Several theme sessions already are being organized, which include:

I. Gunpowder and explosives: recent research and future themes (Org: Brenda Buchanan)
II. The cultural landscape of technology (Org.: R. A. Buchanan)
III. Creativity: science, technology and the arts (Org: H. J. Braun)
IV. Women and technology (Org: Eva Vamos)
V. Technology and the environment (Org: J. Williams)

(Individuals wishing to participate in one of these sessions should contact the Program Committee Chair by email to be put in touch with the session organizer.)

STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS: In cooperation with the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), ICOHTEC has some funds available to help defray travel expenses of students who present papers. If you wish to be considered for an award, please indicate if you are a student and a current member of SHOT and/or ICOHTEC.

PROGRAM SUBMISSIONS:
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Cupertino CA 95014 USA
Phone: 650-960-8193

ICOHTEC welcomes new members. Annual dues are 25US$ or 30 Euros. Student dues are 10US$ or the equivalent in Euros. Submit dues to the ICOHTEC Treasurer:

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Fax: +49 234 70 94 128
Wolhard.Weber@ruhr-uni-bochum.de
INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENTS: CREATIVITY AND CONSEQUENCES

Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis (RCHA)
2001-2003 Project

2001-2002 SEMINAR SCHEDULE

All seminars take place from 11 am-12:30 pm Tuesdays in the Seminar Room at 88 College Avenue (unless otherwise noted) and are followed by a catered lunch. Papers for Tuesday luncheon seminars are available at 88 College Avenue one week prior to the seminar date and may be obtained by stopping at the Center or contacting the RCHA at 732-932-8701 or rcha@rci.rutgers.edu

FALL 2001

September 19 (Wed., 4:30 pm) INAUGURAL Keynote Address: Christopher Sellers (SUNY-Stony Brook) The Many Faces of the Factory in Post World War II Suburbia: An Eco-Cultural Perspective (Assembly Room, Winants Hall, College Avenue Campus).


October 2 Roger Balm (Rutgers) The Iron Muse: Art, Evidence, and the Geoaesthetics of Industry

October 9 Carla Yanni (Rutgers) The Architecture of the Insane Asylum: Victorian Psychiatry and the Environmental Cure

October 16 Sandra Sufian (RCHA) Pathological Landscape: Malaria and the Sanitization of the Land in Mandatory Palestine, 1920-1947

October 23 John Cumbler (Univ. of Louisville) Water--How Much, Where Is It, and What's It Like: Riparian Rights in Nineteenth-Century New England

October 30 Julie Kimmel (Philadelphia University/RCHA) Adjusting to Industry: Psychology Answers the 'Labor Question,' 1900-1940

November 6 Susan Smith (RCHA) Statistics and the Industrial Landscape in Nineteenth-Century Russia

November 13 William Jones (Rutgers) How "Black Folk" Survived in the Modern South, or the Exoticization of African American Working Class History

November 20 (Thanksgiving week) no seminar

November 27 Dorothee Brantz (University of Chicago) Death and Pollution in Urban Space: Slaughterhouse Reform in 19th-Century Paris and Berlin

December 4 Jadwiga Pieper (Montclair State University/RCHA) Industrialization, Modernization, and Urban Environments in Chile: Gendered Spaces, Changing Duties, and Women as Saviors of the Nation

SPRING 2002

January 22 James Webb (Colby) Industrialized Rainforests: The Ecological Transformation of the Highlands of Sri Lanka, 1820-1900

January 29 Lynn Swartley (RCHA) Agrarian Land Use and Tenure in the Lake Titicaca Basin of Bolivia in the 19th and 20th Centuries

Feb 5 Jill Payne (Univ. of St. Andrews) Re-creating Home: British Colonists in 19th Century South Africa

Feb 12 Greg Hise (University of Southern California/RCHA) "so that the forest will not be ruthlessly destroyed or the appearance of the place injured": Converting Common Land into "Productive Property" in Nineteenth-Century Los Angeles

Feb 19 Paul Sutter (University of Georgia) Pulling the Teeth of the Tropics: Environment, Disease, Race, and the U.S. Sanitary Program in Panama, 1904-1914

Feb 26 Deborah Popper (CUNY-College of Staten Island/RCHA) Unsettling America: Population Flows and Environmental Change in the Nineteenth Century

Mar 5 Donna Rilling (SUNY-Stony Brook) Airing Dirty Linen: Industrial Waste and Responses in the Nineteenth-Century Textile City

Mar 12 Michele Rotunda (Rutgers) Exploring Human Nature and Human Environments: Inebriety in the Industrial Era

Mar 19 (Spring Break) no seminar

Mar 26 Rudy Kosher (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison) Organic Machines: Cars, Drivers, and Society in Interwar Germany

Apr. 2 Joseph Gabriel (Rutgers) Between Heaven and Hell: Psychoactive Drugs and the Geography of Desire in America, 1877-1933

April 4-6: SPRING CONFERENCE: Industrializing Organisms: Plants, Animals and Technology (University Inn and Conference Center, Douglass Campus)

Apr. 9 Joseph Melling (University of Exeter) Bargaining with the Body? The Roles Played by Employers, Workers and Doctors in the Battle with Industrial Silicosis in the United Kingdom, 1890-1939

Apr. 16 Stephen Meyer (Univ. of Wisconsin—Parkside) The Degradation of Work Revisited: The Inhuman Work Environments of American Auto Plants, 1920-1940

Apr. 23 Scott Bruton (Rutgers) Expropriating Native American Prehistory: Archaeology, Civic Mythology, and the Narrative of Human Industrial Progress in St. Louis, 1869-1914


May 7 Lisa Herschbach (NJIT-Rutgers, Newark/RCHA) Immunities of Industry: War, Work, and the Making of the Modern Mind

May 14 Matthew Guterl (Washington State University) Sugar, Labor, and Disease in Cuba, Natal, and Louisiana, 1850-1880
Notable New Books


International Water History Association News

By Marty Reuss

I want to report that the International Water History Association, which met in Bergen, Norway, in early August, was a tremendous success, with around 250 attendees and over 200 papers. Representatives came from over 70 nations. The members approved by-laws and "elected" (there was no competition!) officers and the Executive Council. Richard Coopey from the University of Wales is the first President. Donald Jackson is serving as Treasurer, and I am on the Executive Council.

About this newsletter.

This newsletter is put together by Erik Conway of NASA, primarily for electronic distribution in Adobe Acrobat format. If you'd like to receive it printed on bleached dead plant fibers or know someone who would, please contact the editor:

Erik: Olorin@att.net