

Second Biannual Report of the European Society for Environmental History, 2003-2005



18 February 2005

Contents:

1. *General Overview*
 - Board & Regional Representatives
 - Membership
 - Legal establishment ESEH
 - Centre for Environmental History initiative
 - Newsletter & website
 - International Co-operation
 - Miscellaneous
2. *Financial report 2003-2003*
3. *Budget 2005*
4. *Project plan 2005-2007*
5. *Appendices*
 - List of committees and committee members
 - Reports from Regional Representatives

Before you lay the Second biannual report of the European Society for Environmental History (ESEH). The report provides an overview for the period between the Second Ordinary General Meeting (OGM) Prague, Czechia, in September 2003 and the Second OGM in Florence in February 2005. The period described in this report does not cover a full two years because of the fact that the conference in Florence had to be organised before April 2005. This was one of the requirements of the main sponsors of the conference, the Tuscan Regional Government. The Report is divided in thematic sections charting the activities and progress of the society with appendices about particular themes. The report also includes a financial report and the accounts.

1. General overview

Board and Regional Representatives

During the second Ordinary General Meeting of the ESEH on Friday 5 September 2003 a new Executive Board and Regional Representatives were elected for the period 2003-2005. The results of the elections were as follows:

Executive Board

- President: Verena Winiwarter, *University of Vienna, Austria*
- Vice-President: Christian Pfister, *University of Bern, Switzerland*
- Vice-President: Poul Holm, *University of Southern Denmark*
- Secretary: Jan Oosthoek, *University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK*
- Treasurer: Ulrich Koppitz, *University of Düsseldorf, Germany*
- Ex-Officio: Mauro Agnoletti, *University of Florence, Italy*

Regional Representatives:

- Benelux, Petra van Dam, *Free University, The Netherlands*
- British Isles, Fiona Watson, *University of Stirling, Scotland*
- Czechia & Slovakia, Leos Jelecek, *Charles University, Czechia*
- Francophone Countries, Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud, *Blaise Pascal University Clermont-Ferrand, France*
- Germanophone Countries Andreas Dix, *University of Bonn, Germany*
- Hungary, Lajos Racz, *Szeged University, Hungary*
- Iberian Peninsula, Manuel Gonzáles de Molina, *Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Sevilla, Spain*
- Italy, Marco Armiero, *Issm-Cnr, Napoli, Italy*
- Nordic Countries, Eva Jakobsson, *Stavanger University Center, Norway*
- Russia & additional Eastern European Countries, Alexei Karimov, *Institute of the History of Science and Technology, Moscow, Russia*

Due to the tragic and premature death of the Regional Representative for Russia & additional Eastern European Countries in February 2004 the board had to find a replacement. In June 2004 Professor Daniel Alexandrov became provisional Regional Representative for Russia & additional Eastern European Countries. Prof. Alexandrov is affiliated to the European University at St. Peterburg, Russia. During the OGM 2005 Prof. Alexandrov hopes to be elected for the position he served provisionally in.

Since the Second OGM the Society has grown with over one fifth. The number of members increased from 335 in September 2003, when the previous General meeting was held, to 424 in February 2005. This is an increase of 21%. ESEH has a membership in 41 countries of which 23,6% are non-European and 76,4% are European. For a breakdown per country see the table below. The most important recruiting ground for new members was the ESEH meeting in Prague in 2003. Recruiting was also done through the website and by means of mouth to mouth advertisement and the as well as the network of Regional Representatives. The membership has been served with a quarterly newsletter, emailed updates about the website and special activities of the society. Members also enjoyed free access to the journal Environment and History published by the White Horse Press.

Total membership: 424
Number of countries: 41

Table 1: ESEH membership per country

Armenia: 4	Finland: 13	Kashmir: 1	Slovakia: 1
Australia: 1	France: 19	Moldova: 1	Slovenia: 3
Austria: 20	Germany: 54	Netherlands: 16	South Africa: 2
Belgium: 6	Greenland: 1	New Zealand: 1	Spain: 14
Brazil: 2	Hungary: 4	Nigeria: 1	Sri Lanka: 1
Bulgaria: 2	Iceland: 2	Norway: 5	Sweden: 25
Canada: 12	Ireland	P.R. China: 2	Switzerland: 25
Croatia: 2	Israel: 1	Portugal: 2	Turkey: 3
Czechia: 14	Italy: 20	Poland: 4	United Kingdom: 41
Denmark: 7	Japan: 3	Russia: 14	United States: 68
			Vietnam: 1

Legal establishment ESEH

The European Society for Environmental History was formally registered at the District Court of Duesseldorf on 10 October 2003 (VR9318) and provisionally granted a non-profit status by the tax office Duesseldorf-Sued on 26. September 2003 (Steuernummer 5106/5744/2073).

The tax office however demanded an amendment of the constitution, article 15.2, which was effected via notary on 25th January 2005.

The amendment was as follows:

OLD: 15.2 The assets of the ESEH after all liabilities have been discharged shall be transferred to the B.U.N.D. e.V. (Bund fuer Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland e.V., Berlin / the German Federation for Nature Protection and the Environment, www.bund.net) or another non-profit organisation registered in Germany having objectives similar to the Objectives of the ESEH. Resolutions on the legacy of the ESEH can only be put into effect after the consent of the German tax authorities.

NEW: 15.2 In case of dissolution or cancellation of charitable aims the assets of the ESEH, after all liabilities have been discharged, shall be transferred to the B.U.N.D. e.V. (Bund fuer Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland e.V., Berlin / the German Federation for Nature Protection and the Environment, www.bund.net) who shall use them for charitable aims directly and solely. Resolutions on the legacy of the ESEH can only be put into effect after the consent of the German tax authorities.

A full copy of the constitution can be downloaded from the ESEH website (www.eseh.org/statutes.html).

Website

The website continued to be one of the main communication channels of ESEH to its membership and the outside world. The number of visitors has been consolidated over the past one and a half years. The size of the site has also expanded at a steady rate and small improvements were made such as the introduction of pass word protection of the membership directory. In the spring of 2004 attempts have been undertaken to create an environmental history portal in co-operation with the website Documenting Environmental Change (DEC) based at the Centre for History and Economics in Cambridge (<http://www-histecon.kings.cam.ac.uk/envdoc/>). Unfortunately, this initiative failed due to the fact that the University of Cambridge did not allow an external organisation to be involved in a website based on their server. We hope that ESEH and DEC can find ways to establish such a portal in the near future. In the autumn of 2003 a website survey was conducted to provide the board with a view how visitors experience the site and what improvements are needed or expected in the near future. For results of the survey and more information about the website see the website report for 2003-04.

Newsletter

The ESEH newsletter continued to be published in the journal *Environment and History* (E&H) throughout the period of this report. The Newsletter appears four times per year in February, May, August and November and is simultaneously published on the ESEH website. Co-operation with the publisher of E&H, Andrew Johnson of White Horse Press, was very smooth and without any difficulties. It is expected that the newsletter will continue to be published in E&H although some discussion is taking place to create an independently published hard copy newsletter some time in the future.

Centre for Environmental History initiative

Since the summer of 2004 the ESEH board is involved in discussions regarding the creation of a Centre for European Environmental History (CEEH) in Neuburg, Bavaria. The proposed centre will be a joint undertaking of the district government of Neuburg-Schrobenhausen, and will be linked to the EU funded Neuburg / Danube – restoration project. The proposed centre will function as the venue for summer schools in environmental history, for small conferences and workshops resulting in publications and as the potential site for an archive for environmental history. The Landratsamt of Neuburg is offering a part-time administrator plus basic office infrastructure to facilitate the necessary founding of an organisation to run the centre. This organisation will be separate from but closely linked to ESEH.

In order to fund the centre ESEH has agreed to apply for funding to European organisations such as the European Union, European Science Foundation (ESF), COST and private bodies such as the Volkswagen Foundation and other sources. In order to prepare these applications and co-ordinate the creation of a CEEH, a provisional committee was set up. A step to formally establish the centre is a workshop to be held in Neuburg consisting of people who are willing and able to put time and effort into the writing of the applications. The meeting is scheduled for 19/20 May 2005.

International co-operation

The ESEH continued to work with a number of organisations including the American Society for Environmental History, the Forest History Society (FHS) and IUFRO. An particularly important development was the creation of the ‘Sociedad Latino americana y Caribeña de

greetings address on the occasion of the Founding of the Latin American Society for Environmental History was delivered by ESEH Ex-officio Executive Board Member Mauro Agnoletti of the University of Florence. The address described the founding of the society as a milestone in Latin American historiographical development and expressed the hope that both ESEH and the Latin American Society will have many occasions for mutual dialogue. The address also invited the new society to join the international network of ICE-HO, the International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations.

FHS and the bibliography

Work on expansion European Environmental History Bibliography continues. This is a collaborative project that is a joint undertaking of the Forest History Society and ESEH. Between 2003 and 2005 an addition 180 titles were collected, mainly through the ESEH website, which brings the total number of European titles up to about 2000 in February 2005. During this period the number of titles submitted declined sharply which suggests that a more focussed effort is needed to collect additional titles. In order to make this happen the FHS and the ESEH prepared a grant proposal for expansion of the European environmental history bibliography. The grant proposal was submitted to the Endowment for the Humanities (US) in July 2004 and the outcome will be known in April 2005. This collaborative project will result in a comprehensive and authoritative bibliography of European environmental history. The titles will be collected by a team of European environmental historians under supervision of an ESEH co-ordinator and the results made available through the international, annotated Environmental History Bibliography (EHB) hosted by the Forest History Society and linked with the ESEH website.

ICE-HO

A website announcing the International Consortium of Environmental History Organizations (ICE-HO) was established on the Forest History Society Website (<http://www.lib.duke.edu/forest/Events/ICEHO.html>). As of February 2005 Consortium has eight members and it is expected that the recently formed Latin American Society for Environmental History will join the Consortium.

The next step is to engage the group in a discussion along collaborative lines. A discussion list was proposed but for now it was decided that the group is small enough to communicate by email. Furthermore, it is suggested to organise an international environmental history conference in 2009.

Miscellaneous

Guidelines for the use of the ESEH logo on websites, printed material and non-ESEH conferences have been drafted. The guidelines are available from the ESEH website (www.eseh.org) or the Secretary.

Guidelines for future conference organisers have been drafted.

2. Financial report 2003-2004

Income and expenses 2003

IncomeBudget 2003	IncomeSort	SumIn BEuro	ExpensesBudget 2003	ByWhom	SumExBEuro
from 2002		38.83	bank fees	Postbank Dortmund	70.80
Fees 01 at conference Prague	Membership Fees	310.00	interests and transfer losses		0.31
Fees 02 at conference Prague	Membership Fees	1,500. 00	Savings Book and Business account	Postbank	8.00
Fees 03 at conference Prague	Membership Fees	2,740. 00	Website Hosting	Schlund GmbH	108.00
Fees 01 after conference	Membership Fees	30.00	Travel Publication Prize Winner in part	Stefane Frioux	240.00
Fees 02 after conference	Membership Fees	150.00			
Fees 03 after conference	Membership Fees	173.94			
Fees 04 after conference	Membership Fees	80.00			
Donations Prague	for Travelcosts Prize Winner	240.00			
savings book	net interests	9.93			
	SUMincome Budget	5,272. 70			
				SUMexpense sBudget	427.11
BUDGET_OUT COME2003	4,845.59		STATE OF ACCOUNT 31.12.03	PostbankGiro	1,825.66
				PostbankSavi ng	3,019.93
				SUM	5,272.70

Sponsors 2003

IncomeSponsoring 2003	IncomeDon ors	SumInSE uro	ExpensesSpons oring2003	ByWhom	SumExSEuro
Foundation sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation	176.24	Notary Vienna	Gratzl	176.24
Foundation sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation	109.21	Notary Gelsenkirchen	Meiwes	109.21
remaining travel Winner	Breuninger Foundation	125.00	Travel Prize Winner in part	Mr Frioux	125.00
Secretariat sponsoring	Bank of Sweden 300	3106.37	Secretariat Umea Univ	Akerberg	3106.37
Secretariat sponsoring	Swedish Env. Protection	1568.88	Secretariat Umea Univ	Akerberg	1568.88
Board meeting sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation	1907.00	Hotel board 1 paid cash	Amadeus	1907.00
Board meeting sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation	450.00	RR Russia hostel, fees	Karimov	450.00
Board meeting sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation	628.20	Treasurer hotel, fee, travel	Koppitz	628.20
Board meeting sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation		hotel, fee, travel RR Brit	Brimblecombe	
Board meeting sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation		travel secretary exec	Akerberg	950
Board meeting sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation		hotel, fee, travel RR Iberia	Barriendos	449
Board meeting sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation		fee, travel RR German	Dix	520
Board meeting sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation		travel SC member	Hermann	580
Board meeting sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation		hotel, fee, travel VicePres	Holm	
Board meeting sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation		hotel, fee, travel RR Nord	Jakobsson	1000
Board meeting sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation		travel RR Russia	Karimov	150
Board meeting sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation		hotel, fee, travel RR Franc	MassardG	737
Board meeting sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation		travel secretary	Oosthoek	530
Board meeting sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation		fee, travel VicePres	Pfister	520
Board meeting sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation		hotel, fee, travel RR Hung	Racz	
Board meeting sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation		hotel, fee, travel	van Dam	
Board meeting sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation		fee, travel President	Winiwarter	
				total	13506.90

Sponsors summary 2003

SponsorIssues2003	Donors	ExpensesSponsoring2003	SumExSEuro
Conference committee Prague	Breuninger Foundation	Travel, Hotel conf.committee	1801.00
Secretariat sponsoring	Bank of Sweden 300	Secretariat Umea Univ	3106.37
Secretariat sponsoring	Swedish Env. Protection	Secretariat Umea Univ	1568.88
Board meeting sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation	Travel, Hotel in part, RRs	4401.00
Board meeting sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation	Travel, Hotel exec. board	1899.00
Board meeting sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation	Hotel refund Boardmembers	1907.00
Foundation sponsoring	Breuninger Foundation	Lawyer / Notary	285.45
part travel prize winner	Breuninger Foundation	Travel Prize Winner in part	125.00
		<i>total</i>	<i>15093.70</i>

Income and expenses 2004

IncomeBudget2004	IncomeSort	SumInBudget	ExpensesBudget2004	SumExBudget
from 2003		4845.59	bank fees	71.35
Fees 04	Membership Fees 2004	330	Website Hosting	108
interests savings book	net interests 2004	29.88	travelcosts EH center Neuburg/Danube	93.27
Breuninger F., Dec.04	Conference 05 Florence	3800	Registration conference Florence 05	2200
	SUMincomeBudget	9005.47		
			SUMexpensesBudget	2472.62
BUDGET_OUTCOM E2004	6,532.85		PostbankGiro 31.12.04	3883.04
			PostbankSavingsbook	2649.81
			<i>SUM</i>	<i>9005.47</i>

3. Budget 2005

IncomeBudget2005	IncomeSort	SumInBEuro	ExpensesBudget2005	ByWhom	SumExBEuro
from 2004		6,532.85	bank fees	Postbank Dortmund	70.80
Fees 04/05 at conference	Membership Fees, ca.	3,000.00	ICE-HO fee 2003-05 (2004)	eseh	150.00
Fees 03/05 after conference	Membership Fees, ca.	3,000.00	Website Hosting incl. bull. Board	Schlund GmbH or else	350.00
interests savings book	interests2005	30.00	Conf. Florence add. travel grants	applicants	1,950.00
			Conf. Florence registration	committee, board members	1,600.00
			Education committee		600.00
			software for bulletin board, ca.		250.00
			registration fees at court, ca.	notary and district court	200.00
			Travel Workshop EH centre Neuburg	invited EU experts, partly	2,000.00
	SUMIncomeBudget	12,562.85	2 Grants EH Bibliography (FHS)	2 graduates, partly	3,000.00
BUDGET_OUTCOME2005	2,392.05				
			SUMexpensesBudget05	SUMexpensesBudget05	10,170.80

IncomeSponsoring2005	Donors	ExpensesSponsoring2005	ByWhom	SumExSEuro	applied for
Conference Florence	Breuninger Foundation	Florence Hotel	Conf. Committee, Board	6410.00	6,410.00
Conference Florence	Breuninger Foundation	Travel ConfCom	Conference Committee Florence	1900.00	1,900.00
Conference Florence	Breuninger Foundation	Travel ExCom	Executive board	1700.00	1,700.00
Conference Florence	Breuninger Foundation	Travel RRs	Regional Representatives	3300.00	3,300.00
Workshop EH Centre	County of Neuburg/D	Travel, Workshop	EU experts		4,000.00
World EH Conf. Preparation	Breuninger Foundation	Travel costs	eseh representative	1000.00	1,000.00
Grant EH Bibliography,	Breuninger Foundation	grant FHS Library	1 graduate		1,500.00

Education committee	Breuninger Foundation	information collection	1-2 students		500.00
			<i>SUM Sponsoring 2005, ca.</i>		<i>20,310.00</i>
				14310.00	

4. ESEH PROJECT PLAN 2005 – 2007

- Investigation into the creation of a Centre for European Environmental History in Neuburg, Germany (CEEH Committee).
- Creation of a Education Committee to promote the teaching of environmental history (Poul Holm).
- Continuation Bibliography Database project; outcome of funding bid from National Endowment for Humanities (US) for expansion of European bibliography (Jan)
- Selection of a Scientific Committee for Amsterdam 2007 (exec board)
- Co-organizing IC ESEH 2007 (Exec Board)
- Securing a book prize for ESEH paper award 2007 (exec board)
- Website development and updating (new Secretary)
- Maintenance of Membership database (New Secretary, Ulrich)
- Participation in ICE-HO (Exec-Board)
- Preparation of Business Meeting and ESEH OGM for Amsterdam 2007 (Exec Board)
- Preparation of candidate slate (NomComm)
- Quartely publication of *Notepad* newsletter (New Secretary)

4. Appendices

Appendix 1

List of committees and committee members

Conference Committee 2005

Mauro Agnoletti (chair), *University of Florence, Italy*
 Gabriella Corona, *CNR, Napoli, Italy*
 Marco Fioravanti, *University of Florence, Italy*
 Richard Hoffman, *York University, Toronto, Canada*
 Leos Jelecek, *Charles University, Prague, Czechia*
 Elisabeth Johann, *IUFRO, Vienna, Austria*
 Susanna Nocentini, *University of Florence, Italy*
 Leonardo Rombai, *University of Florence, Italy*
 Simone Neri Serneri, *University of Siena, Italy*
 Verena Winiwarter (ex officio), *IFF Vienna, Austria, President ESEH*

Nomination Committee (provisional)

Peter Brimblecome (Chair), *University of East Anglia, UK*
 Sofia Åkerberg, *Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Umeå, Sweden*
 Andreas Dix, *University of Bonn, Germany*
 Simone Neri Serneri, *University of Siena, Italy*

Mauro Agnoletti, *University of Florence* (resigned and was replaced by Dr Neri Serneri)

Financial Control Committee

Martina Kaup, *Bielefeld University, Germany*
 Phia Steyn, *University of Stirling, UK*

Education Committee (provisional)

Bernd Herrmann, *University of Goettingen, Germany*
 Poul Holm (Chair), *University of Southern Denmark*
 Timo Myllyntaus, *University of Helsinki, Finland*

ESEH Committee for a Centre for European Environmental History (provisional)

Martin Knoll, *University of Regensburg, Germany*
 Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud, *Blaise Pascal University Clermont-Ferrand, France*
 Verena Winiwarter, *IFF (Faculty for Interdisciplinary Studies) University of Klagenfurt at Vienna*

*Appendix 2***Reports from Regional Representatives****Short report Report on the Benelux**

In the report period, October 2003- February 2005, the environmental history activities in the Netherlands and Belgium centered on the Yearbook of Ecological History (*Jaarboek voor Ecologische Geschiedenis*, www.academiapress.be). As of this spring, we have managed to get the journal back on publication schedule. We worked very hard for that, splitting the editorial committee into two teams, for two consecutive periods, and producing two times two volumes on a diversity of topics simultaneously. Also, after many fruitful years, drs. Myriam Daru left our committee, and we were very happy to welcome two distinguished new editors, dr. Henny van der Windt from the University of Groningen and dr. Marjolein 't Hart from the University of Amsterdam. Another development is that we have found a new distributor in the Netherlands, the publishing house "Verloren" in Hilversum, specialized on both the scholarly and the broader history readership. Together with the publisher in Ghent, Academia Press, this will provide a good basis for future expansion which is important for the development of the field of environmental history.

A number of workshops in the series of the staff seminar of the Chair for Economic and Social History at the Free University in Amsterdam were devoted to the history of water and energy. Following up on that, at the large conference of the Society of the History of Technology (7-10 October 2004, Amsterdam) a session was devoted to four new PhD projects on water history ranging from the early Middle Ages up to the nineteenth century, including Dutch and Flemish ones (www.shot.jhu.edu). Also Dr. Adrie de Kraker and prof. dr. Guus Borger at the Department of Geo- and Bioarcheology of the Free University organised a workshop on landscape history in relation to economic activities in the Southwestern Netherlands in order to initiate a new research project.

For the near future, we expect to intensify our efforts in the electronic newsletter distributed to some 200 readers, in close cooperation with initiatives in Belgium, in particular with Dr. Dries Tys at the Free University in Brussels, who assembled a new reader group.

Petra van Dam

Short Report Czechia and Slovakia

The 2nd International conference of the ESEH held in the capital of Czechia Prague in September 2003 stimulated environmental history development in terms of growing interest in the discipline among more scholars, but unfortunately less among historians, and some environmentalist NGO (e.g. by government subsidized NGO will publish a monothematic issue of a journal distributed to basic and secondary schools, which will be devoted only to environmental history). The extensive reports about conference were published in major Czech historical and geographical journals.

With regard to organizational and institutional background of our discipline, at the beginning of 2004 the Czech Geographical Society Section for Historical Geography and Environmental History was established (chairman Leos Jelecek, secretary Pavel Chromy) which currently has about thirty members. The section's first one-day workshop, with participation of Slovak colleagues, will be held in Prague in May 2005. Mainly of the

fields of research were discussed and also supply the ESEH bibliography by records of Czech and Slovak literature in the field. We cannot be satisfied with hiatus in our internet Journal Klaudyán publishing, caused by private server owner. The Klaudyán publishing will be renewed this year at the server of the Faculty of Science, Charles University. Katarina Pavlickova, the head of Landscape Ecology Department at the Faculty of Science of Komenský University in Bratislava, works as a contact person in Slovakia.

Leos Jelecek

Short report French speaking Countries

Since our last conference, I have tried my best to give the French speaking members of ESEH a sense that it may be interesting to communicate one with each others between two ESEH conferences, exchange information of national interest (those which would not interest people from other countries and do not deserve to appear on ESEH website), and even meet for a French speaking ESEH meeting.

My main effort consisted in setting a double list including

- 1) French speaking members of ESEH (easy from the directory available on our website)
- 2) French speaking people who are interested in environmental history, even if they do not belong to ESEH so far. This proved rather complicated, as it is not easy to find email addresses. The work is still going on.

This being done, I began, a few months ago, to send a sort of newsletter (the word may be too strong, let's say a "periodic message") advertising calls for papers, seminars, references, etc, of my knowledge, which deal with environmental history. I announced in my messages that I would forward any interesting piece of news which would be send to me, but received nothing so far. Of course, this modest initiative does not mean to compete with more substantial places of information (H-environment etc.) but, as I said, to create a sense of belonging to the small community of French speaking researchers dealing with environmental history, and encourage people to communicate.

I also tried to organise a meeting of French speaking members (or, at least French members, as I doubt people will come from other countries), but this initiative was thwarted by the fact that I resigned from my research centre last Summer, having therefore no more infrastructure to welcome this meeting. Finally, it will be held next spring, either at the CNAM in Paris or at the University of Versailles, where other members of ESEH proposed to welcome it. The detailed agenda is still to be set up but it is my intention to organise discussions (after short introductory statements) on subjects like "why do we want to write environmental history in this country where it is so rare?", "what makes the environmental approach different and more relevant?". I also think of inviting researchers who do what I would consider myself as environmental history but who do not want to be called like this (they published several pieces on "natural" catastrophes and mountain environment). We should also discuss the way we could develop environmental history in our country(-ies).

As a French speaking RR, I did my best to advertise the conference we are holding in Florence. I encouraged people to propose panels or papers and to participate, even without giving a paper. I also tried to advertised our prize, without great success this time, I am afraid. But French speakers cannot get the prize every time!

Finally, I began to look for a successor, somebody who will represent French speaking countries at the end of my second mandate and bring fresh air to ESEH board. This has not been too hard a work!

Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud

Short report Hungary

Network organisation: There are four centres of environmental history research and education in Hungary: Eötvös Lorand University (Budapest), Central European University (Budapest), Historical Institute of Hungarian Academy and Szeged University. Of course there are researchers specialised in certain directions of environmental history at other universities and research institute but they don't influence the scientific profile of their institutes. For organising the Hungarian environmental history researchers I took efforts in two directions. With help of Ferenc Glatz (former president of Hungarian Academy of Sciences) we are organising the Special Committee of Hungarian Academy for supporting environmental history researches recently. Secondly I have constructed a website creating a forum for Hungarian environmental history researches (www.jgytf.u-szeged.hu/~raczl).

Environmental history data base: We are trying to collect Hungarian environmental history publications to be put on the website. Preparing this bibliography is one of the most important projects of us.

Environmental history research: In Hungary there are five important directions of environmental history researches recently:

- The most traditional branch of Hungarian environmental history is historical geography. There are representatives in the institutes of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Pál Beluszky, Zoltán Hajdú) and in other universities (Lajos Tímár, Debrecen University).
- The Institute of History at Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest) under the direction of Ágnes R. Várkonyi established the first school and seminar where education and research on environmental history. She and her colleagues are primarily interested in changes of everyday life, forms of economy and farming, and questions of mentality in late medieval and early modern Hungary.
- Other large group of Hungarian scholars of environmental history are situated at the interfaces of history, geography, geology, and meteorology. The well-known representatives are László Kordos (Geological Institute of Hungarian Academy), János Mika (Hungarian Meteorological Service), Andrea Kiss and me (Szeged University).
- Landscape reconstruction was attempted with the tools of medieval archaeology: András Pálóczi Horváth (Károli Gáspár University), József Laszlovszky (Central European University).
- Scientists who view the symbiosis of humans and their animate and inanimate environment as a sort of ecosystem form yet another direction of Hungarian environmental history: Zsolt Molnár (Ecological Institute of Hungarian Academy), Péter Szabó (Central European University), Balázs Borsos (Institute of Ethnography of Hungarian Academy).

Publication of environmental history research results: During 2004 much has been

interesting and important publications. First, Péter Szabó published his Ph.D. thesis about medieval Hungarian forestry in the „British Archaeological Reports” in Oxford. Secondly, Ferenc Glatz and me have written a book titled “Environmental History of Hungary”. This is a concise (environmental) history book summarize the Hungarian history according to the paradigm of environmental history. We hope this book will be published at the beginning of this summer.

Lajos Rác

Short Report Italy

International conferences, panels and seminars

In September 2003 an international conference on environmental history in the Mediterranean countries (19th-20th centuries) has been held in Naples, with scholars from Greece, Spain, Portugal, France, Croatia and, obviously, Italy. The conference was opened by Prof. Donald Worster and the conclusions were made by Prof. Oliver Rackham. The ESEH was one of the promoters of the conference, and all participants received a letter from our president and other materials about the society.

Again, in relation to the diffusion of our discipline in the Mediterranean, I promoted a panel with Spanish and Greek scholars at our last conference in Prague (Tragedy of the commons? Common goods and private property in the Mediterranean world).

Between 2001 and 2002 a series of seminars on environmental history has been held in Naples; among the speakers, there have been some members of our society such as S. Neri Serneri, G. Corona, S. Barca, M. Hall, F. Bruggemeier, G. Massard Guilbaud.

The present conference meeting in Florence could give an important contribution to the diffusion of eh and of our society. We should be grateful to Mauro Agnoletti for his work for that. I only tried to solicit some Italian scholars to present proposals for panels and I gave information about the conference. Furthermore, along with others, I helped to publish the proceedings of the conference. However, for the future I think that we should reflect about the role of the rrs in our biannual conference.

National initiatives

In September 2002 and in September 2003 an interdisciplinary summer school on environmental history for graduate students has been held in Molise, with the support of the regional government, which gave money for about ten fellowships. The topics of the school were: environmental history in general (first year); natural disasters (second years). We had about 50 students for each year. In September 2003 the school was closed by a Donald Worster’s lecture which had a great publicity in the mass media. We are working to open the school again for the next summer.

In 2002 I suggested to promote an inquiry on the environmental history teaching, that was approved by our society and extended to all countries. The questionnaire in Italy has been not only a way of collecting, but also of giving information: in fact by sending the questionnaire, we had the opportunity of contacting a lot of people and informing them about the ESEH activities.

In 2003, the first Italian newsletter on history and environment (I frutti di Demetra. Bollettino di storia e ambiente - Demetra’s fruits. Newsletter on history and environment) has been founded. Six of the nine founders are Eseh members. Now we are going to publish the number five. The first numbers have been sent to all Italian members of the ESEH. For the future, the journal can be bought by a subscription. I think that we could consider the

subscription for the journal. I believe that this periodical publication is the most important activity promoted in Italy for our discipline.

It is difficult to say how many courses on eh are taught in the Italian Universities. Sometimes, under different labels (modern history; agricultural history, history of landscape etc.), there are courses in eh. Sure, they are very few. From the seven courses that I found in 2002, now we should count 11 courses in eh. I achieved that in the last year two Universities in Naples started to offer courses in eh. The publication of a handbook on eh (M. Armiero – S. Barca, *Storia dell'ambiente. Una introduzione*, Roma: Carocci, 2004) is, probably, a sign of this new interest. However, in my opinion in Italy the discipline is very weak.

State of the society

In terms of members, the presence of Italy in the Eseh has remained stable: 17 Italian scholars; furthermore, we should consider the members who live in Italy temporarily (the 2 fellows at the European Institute in Florence). We have tried to involve them in our activities, as the experience of the Portuguese (De Melo) can demonstrate.

Future

About the future, I think that in Italy we should work in two directions:

- 3) To increase cooperation and circulation of information among the members.
- 4) To expand the number of the members.

For both purposes, I am thinking to organize a seminar “Where is the Italian environmental history going?”, inviting all Italian scholars who are interested in our field. And in that occasion, we can organize a presentation of the society.

Marco Armiero

Short Report Nordic Countries

The annual Nordic environmental history event 2004 took place in the Øresund area in the early summer days. The growing environmental history community of the Nordic countries was invited to a well-organized and stimulating conference – “Environmental History over Borders”. The conference was organized in cooperation between Malmö University in Sweden and Copenhagen University in Denmark. As a consequence the conference was mobile between Sweden and Denmark. The conference attendants travelled back and forth between the two universities on the newly built Øresund Bridge.

The conference attracted 50 conference participants from 34 different institutions in 6 different countries. Two countries dominated the conference: Sweden was represented by 29 participants and Denmark by 14.

As there are few appointments in environmental history and most of the environmental researchers are spread out over the Nordic countries these biannual Nordic meetings are of great importance for us. We are free to speak our own languages, though Finnish researchers mostly prefer to speak English. For us who have attended most of these meetings since the beginning of the 90's there is at great joy to meet old friends and we are also pleased to meet the constant stream of newly recruited PhD students.

A total of 12 key note speakers was invited; among others Sverker Sörlin, Timo Myllyntaus, Lars Lundgren and Poul Holm. Most important was to give as many as possible the chance to present their works in progress. In total 41 speeches were delivered. The disadvantage of this kind of strategy when choosing the papers to be presented is of course that in some sessions few participants were present (on the other hand a small group get a

Four themes stood out: marine history, environmental policy, the didactic of environmental history and the environmental history of the industrial society.

In *Environment and History* 10 (2004) "Environmental History in Europe from 1994 to 2004: Enthusiasm and Consolidation" the section on Nordic was written of Per Eliasson, Poul Holm and Timo Myllyntaus.

In the Florence meeting February 2005 I will resign as regional representative for the Nordic countries. It has been a great privilege to follow the ESEH from its foundation and I have great expectations for the coming years. I hope ESEH can gather environmental historians of Europe and become a close research community as the Nordic environmental historians have become by our networks and biannual meetings.

To all European and Nordic friends – thank you for the opportunity over these years to meet so many friendly and interesting people in the ESEH-work.

Eva Jakobsson

Short report Germany, Austria and Switzerland

The period which is covered by this report (October 2003-February 2005) was characterised by a lot of ongoing activities (projects, conferences, PhD-thesis) in many universities and institutes. A lot of disciplines from natural sciences to humanities are now involved in environmental history. Due to this fact and the large size of the community it was necessary to establish a new system of information within the german speaking community. For this purpose I started collecting informations about all issues concerning environmental history within the germanophonic countries and sending it via the E-Mail to all members in these three countries. I started this service at the end of 2004. The response was quite positive as many colleagues told me, that such a regular information is very useful beside the informations from H-Soz-U-Kult, the most important german speaking mailing list. Together with Christian Pfister I wrote the chapter concerning Germany, Austria and Switzerland in the article "Environmental History in Europe from 1994 to 2004: Enthusiasm and Consolidation, ed. by Verena Winiwarter) in the forthcoming volume of *Environment and History* (Vol. 10, 2004, p. 501-530). In this article we could only mention some titles, specially written in english.

Finally only some major initiatives should be mentioned here. The German Historical Institute in Washington with his director Christof Mauch can be seen as one of the major institutional supporters of environmental history in general. With a long series of conferences concerning a broad range of issues in environmental history the Institute gave and still will give a large number of international scholars the chance to present their research. In 2004 the research training programme "Interdisciplinary Environmental History: Natural Environment and Societal Behaviour in Central Europe" at the University of Goettingen, chaired by Bernd Herrmann was founded with the financial support of the German Science Foundation. In this programme issues of social and economic history and cognitive scientific interest will be combined in project studies and metatheoretical investigation. In 2003 the Zentrum für Umweltgeschichte (Centre for Environmental History) was founded at the University of Vienna and should give a larger number of initiatives an institutional framework. Several projects and conferences were organised.

Andreas Dix

Short report United Kingdom and Ireland

First of all I would like to thank Peter Brimblecombe for so generously agreeing to step into my shoes during my maternity leave – he is a very busy man and it was very much appreciated.

Since my return in April 2004, I have continued to circulate information to the UK and Irish members of ESEH. This membership is continuing to grow (though I am not at all sure how up-to-date the ESEH members list actually is) but it could be far larger than current numbers (in the low thirties). I would also admit that I rarely receive any comments or feedback from members and there is thus undoubtedly more that I could be doing to engender a greater community and sense of community within my own time constraints. I would very much like to discuss this with fellow RRs. I myself am finding the use of postcards for the Centre a very useful and easy method of publicising our existence and activities – I wonder if there is scope for such a thing in ESEH. These could then be given to RRs and Board members to distribute at other conferences they attend and as a general method of highlighting ESEH's existence.

The journal *Environment and History*, which I also edit, continues to receive a quarterly notepad from ESEH. I hope that members feel that this is a useful method of communication.

The ESEH is now very pleased to have joined with the European Association for Environmental History (EAEH) in co-hosting an annual meeting in the United Kingdom. The next such conference will take place on Tuesday 24th May 2005 under the theme '**Crossing Landscapes**. When People, Practices or Problems are relocated'. EAEH represents a fairly long-standing body of environmental historians within the UK and we are grateful for cooperation with them.

Fiona Watson