

From the board

The year 2001 has been exciting for the European Society for Environmental History (ESEH). From 4-8 September 2001, only two and a half years after its establishment, the Society held its first conference in the Scottish golf and university town of St. Andrews. The conference was hosted by the Centre for Environmental History and Policy, a co-operation between the universities of Stirling and St. Andrews, and attracted 161 delegates from all over Europe and beyond. It was the first time that so many scholars working in European environmental history had gathered. For the organisers and delegates alike it was a very inspiring experience to meet many foreign colleagues for the first time, after having worked in relative isolation for many years. The vibrancy of the discussions and the quality and wide range of the papers clearly showed that environmental history in Europe is a rapidly developing field.

Future developments are already becoming visible. Immediately after the conference preparations began for the second ESEH conference, to be held in Prague. In the meantime the number of members has continued to increase – at the time of writing (January 2002) it is approaching the three hundred mark and will certainly rise further in the coming year. With the recent opening of our Executive Secretariat in Umeå in Sweden, ESEH will be more accessible to its members and its activities and services will become more comprehensive.

Another important development is the publication of this first Notepad section in *Environment and History*. We thank the editors and White Horse Press for providing space for the Notepad section. The Notepad section serves as the newsletter of the ESEH, and will be simultaneously published on the ESEH web site, where it can be viewed in PDF-format. We invite readers to send items for the next Notepad section to the ESEH executive secretariat.

The board is convinced that the Notepad section and the other activities of ESEH will bring scholars from different backgrounds and nationalities together and overcome language and disciplinary boundaries, furthering the society's goal. We hope that you find this Notepad section and other services of ESEH useful and we look forward to your comments and contributions.

On behalf of the ESEH Board,
Jan Oosthoek
Secretary

Executive secretariat

In January 2002 an ESEH executive secretariat was established at the University of Umeå in Sweden. The Secretariat has been made possible through the effort of Sverker Sörlin, Vice-President of the Society, who secured Swedish funds to employ a part-time executive secretary. Sofia Åkerberg, who just finished her PhD in environmental history at Umeå, took up this post with much enthusiasm and will run the secretariat during 2002. The secretariat will be funded for one year with a possible extension for 2003.

The task of the executive secretary is to support the ESEH board in their work. All inquiries and contributions should be sent to her:

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Communication

ESEH is still young, and communication lines between our Regional Representatives, the Executive Secretary and other board members still need to be developed. As a rule of thumb, we ask you to send bibliographical information or material of international interest for the web site to Sofia with a copy to your regional representative. Non-English material of primarily regional interest should be sent to your regional representative, who will distribute your information in her or his network, with a copy to Sofia. Below you will find a list with contact details of the regional representatives.

Membership

ESEH invites scholars and scientists working in the field of environmental history to join the society as members. You can register by filling out the registration form on our web site or by contacting the executive secretariat. Membership will enable you to receive all information and is provided at a very moderate fee, which will only be collected in 2003. Substantial discounts for conference fees and journal subscriptions are under negotiation. The membership fee is 20 Euro per year; students and unwaged pay a reduced fee of 10 Euro. To minimise transaction costs, collection of membership fees will take place in

conjunction with our biennial conferences. For those who cannot attend, other arrangements will be made in due course.

Another benefit of ESEH membership is access on-line to the articles in this journal at <http://www.ingenta.com/journals/browse/whp/eh>. Four times per year you will receive an e-mail giving you the contents list and a password that gives you access to the current issue.

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ESEH Conference 2003: 'Dealing with Diversity'

The second international conference of the European Society for Environmental History will take place at Charles University in Prague from 3 to 6 September 2003. The host institution will be Department of Social Geography and Regional Development, Faculty of Science, Charles University (the oldest university in Central Europe, founded in 1348). In the Czech Republic this department is a leading centre for research and teaching of historical land use, historical geography and, last but not least, environmental history.

Submissions for entire sessions of three papers are encouraged, but single papers and in particular posters will also be considered. In addition to faculty members, we invite graduate and postgraduate students to submit proposals. A limited number of bursaries for students, especially from post-communist countries, will be available upon request.

Further details, including first Call for papers will be available from February 2002 on the Local Organising Committee web page <www.natur.cuni.cz/ICESEH2003> or the ESEH web site.

Web site and bibliography

The web site at <<http://www.eseh.org>> is ESEH's main communication platform. The site is updated once a month and contains information about the society, calls for papers, conference announcements, a job guide and links to other relevant sites. A special feature is the searchable membership directory, which contains details about research interests and affiliation of our members. The directory is a valuable tool for finding scholars working on specific topics and we hope that this facility will stimulate further collaboration in European environmental history. If you have an item for the web site, please contact our executive secretary, Sofia Åkerberg (sofia.akerberg@histstud.umu.se)

Linked to the web site is the bibliography of European environmental history. The bibliography is a list of titles concerning European environmental history published since 1993, comprising over 1200 titles so far. By the end of February the bibliography for the year 2001 will be added to the eight previous lists. These bibliographical lists are still very incomplete and will be expanded over time but in order to do so we need help from all scholars and scientists working in the field of environmental history. If you are aware of the omission of any literature

published since 1993, please do send us the bibliographical data, preferably by e-mail to Sofia Åkerberg. Alternatively you can fill out the title submission form on the ESEH web site. At present the ESEH database is not searchable or annotated, but in the near future we hope to develop it further by linking the European bibliography with that of the American Forest History Society (www.lib.duke.edu/forest/biblio.html).

Volunteers for ESEH

ESEH is happy to announce the completion of the first ESEH volunteer project. In December Susanne Dobrovlny, a graduate student of history at Vienna University, helped to prepare the ESEH bibliography for the year 2001. Susanne is currently writing a thesis dealing with environmental problems in 19th century London, focusing on river pollution. She contacted the ESEH in October, offering to work as a volunteer for the Society during November. Susanne has done fine work by putting hundreds of titles into the bibliographical database. We would like to thank Susanne for her hard and excellent work, which was of great help in preparing the bibliography for 2001. The board welcomes volunteers to help with the bibliography or other community services. Please contact our executive secretary Sofia Åkerberg (sofia.akerberg@histstud.umu.se)

H-Environment discussion list

Since mid-2000 ESEH has been involved in the H-Environment discussion list, which is part of H-net. H-environment is an e-mail based communication medium. Perhaps the best way to understand the value of the H-environment List is to engage in it. The forum is the place to get more involved in the field of environmental history and as a subscriber to the list you feel truly part of an international community of scholars. Many of the leading scholars in the field participate in the discussions here.

Instead of searching for information about upcoming conferences or keeping track through journals of developments within the field of environmental history, information and discussions arrive daily in your mailbox. The list is more interactive and faster than any other means of communication within the academic and research world!

To subscribe to the list visit the subscription page on the H-net web site at <http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/lists/subscribe.cgi>.

European Society for Environmental History

Executive Board:

President: Verena Winiwarter, *University of Vienna*

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ESEH aims to promote environmental history in Europe, by encouraging and supporting research, teaching and publications in the field. The ESEH maintains a web site at <www.eseh.org>.

Items for the next Notepad should be sent by April 1, 2002 to the address below.

All correspondence should be directed to the executive secretariat:

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