

From the secretary's desk

Environmental history is similar to many environmental problems: it does not stop at national borders. The existence of ESEH as an pan-European organisation is a clear demonstration of this fact. The Society aims to encourage collaboration not only between researchers in different countries but also between different institutions – and sometimes the latter is harder to achieve. In order to foster cross-boundary co-operation we have started a survey on the state of environmental history in Europe. We aim to map institutions in Europe that work in the field of environmental history. A further aim is to obtain a picture of the development of the field in Europe and where we stand at the moment. Below you will find a summary of the first findings of the survey.

The most important co-operative effort undertaken this spring was the visit of our secretary to the Forest History Society (FHS) in Durham, NC, to discuss co-operation between the two organisations. For many years the FHS has maintained an on-line searchable bibliography on forest history and environmental history, a service that many of you will surely be aware of. It can be reached at: <http://www.lib.duke.edu/forest/biblio.html>

Our aim is to integrate our bibliography into the FHS database in order to make it searchable and more convenient to use. In addition, we hope to expand the number of European titles by several thousand over the coming years, and to include many non-English titles. By co-operating with the FHS we will create a research tool that will be valuable to European researchers. A more detailed description of the project is given below.

Preparations for the next ESEH conference in Prague have also continued during the past months and right now you can submit a paper or panel proposal for this meeting. More details are on the conference website and in this Notepad. We look forward to your proposals.

On behalf of the ESEH Board,
Jan Oosthoek
Secretary

Second ESEH Conference: Dealing with Diversity, Prague 2003 – Call for papers

The European Society for Environmental History and the Department of Social Geography and Regional Development, Faculty of Science, Charles University, Prague, are pleased to invite proposals for panels, papers and posters for the Second International ESEH Conference. The theme of the conference is 'Dealing with Diversity'.

The Conference Committee especially encourages proposals related to the theme of the conference, but contributions that examine any aspect of human-environment interaction over time are welcome. Scholars from all fields and disciplines are invited. We encourage contributions by graduate students and independent scholars. Oral presentations should be submitted in the form of complete panels of three contributions each. Individual oral papers will also be accepted, but these will be referred to posters as the preferred format.

In order to make ESEH 2003 conference planning easier, please, submit the declaration of intention that you will find at the conference website: <http://www.natur.cuni.cz/ICESEH2003>. The site also provides additional information about the conference and how to submit a paper.

Survey on the state of Environmental History in Europe

A query and suggestion by our regional representative for Italy, Marco Armiero, led to a survey on the state of environmental history in Europe. He wanted to obtain information about the institutional status of environmental history in other European countries in order to increase national awareness of environmental history in Italy. Many colleagues will find themselves in a similar position and we were immediately convinced of the merit of such information. As a first step, we sent out questionnaires to the ten regional representatives of ESEH with four questions relating to teaching and research. These four questions were:

1. In the specified region/country(ies), which universities teach environmental history as a programme or as single courses?
2. In the specified region/country(ies), which universities have environmental history integrated in non-environmental history courses, and if so, which courses?
3. In the specified region/country(ies), which universities have faculty positions for environmental historians and, if so, which position?
4. Are there any governmental programs of research concerning environmental history that you know of in the specified region/country(ies)?

Of the ten questionnaires, six were returned, from the following regions: Russia, Italy, Hungary, France, Germany (no other Germanophonic Countries) and

Spain. Results are much too incomplete to allow any conclusions so far, but we would like to alert you to our effort in obtaining such information. We would appreciate receiving information from the missing countries in this survey. We are preparing an index of all institutions offering training in environmental history, as programme courses, Summer Schools, or in any other way. Results of the countries already covered will be available on our website in due course. Please check if your institution is included if you live in one of the regions already covered: if you have not been included, please submit your information to Sofia Åkerberg, who will include it in the Regional Survey data. In those regions that have not yet conducted the survey, send your information to your regional representative – Sofia will be glad to receive a copy, too. Because of the limited amount of space in these pages we cannot print a directory here. You can find a full list, including the returned questionnaires, on the ESEH web site.

The success of the survey – which will help us, for example, to obtain funding for networking activities between centres and universities with environmental history activities – depends on coverage. We ask you for your help in making your personal and local data available to the Regional Representatives and the Executive Secretariat.

Co-operation with the Forest History Society

In 2000 and 2001 preparatory talks were held by representatives of ESEH and the Forest History Society (FHS) about co-operation with regard to the FHS online bibliographical database. The FHS currently maintains the largest web-searchable forest history and environmental history bibliography, containing over 30,000 titles. In order to take things further ESEH Secretary Jan Oosthoek visited the headquarters of FHS in Durham, NC, and held talks with Steven Anderson, President of the FHS, and other staff members. Based on this visit we came to the conclusion that it would be desirable and feasible to include material in other European languages than English into the database.

Several thousand European titles should be added, most of them in languages other than English. The titles will be annotated in English so that researchers get an impression of the content. To increase the number of European titles in the database and annotate them an editor with sufficient language skills should be employed on a contract basis for a period of two to three years. The FHS and ESEH will put in applications for grants to both European and US agencies in order to fund a European editor. To cover more languages we plan to employ two editors covering different languages in Europe, each working for a period of about one and a half years. The European bibliography editor will be based at the FHS headquarters in Durham, which will provide a desk and computer facilities. Funding suggestions are most welcome and should be directed to Jan Oosthoek.

In order to show that the European environmental history bibliographical project is viable, a demonstration sample of about 20 to 50 titles is desirable. The

new entries received for the demonstration sample will be reviewed after three to six months of the beginning of the project. Every entry received will be scrutinised with regard to the correctness of the format and quality of annotation. For creating the demonstration sample we need your help! We invite you to contribute two to three entries in your respective language in the format set by the FHS and annotated in English. If you would like to contribute titles please contact Sofia Åkerberg (sofia.akerberg@histstud.umu.se) or Jan Oosthoek (k.j.w.Oosthoek@stir.ac.uk) about the details of how to format the bibliographical entries. We will keep you informed about the progress of this exciting project in future editions of the Notepad.

European Society for Environmental History

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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 their web site at <http://www.eseh.org>

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

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