

From the President's desk

Dear Colleagues,

Coming back from the ASEH-conference in Providence, Rhode Island, I am writing to you with a lot of stimulating papers and discussions still vividly recollected. Some excellent papers were on teaching Environmental History in the classroom, a topic which has been on my mind for a long time. In the past months, several European colleagues have approached me asking if ESEH could not have a committee dealing with the teaching of environmental history. A European effort towards collection and/or exchange of teaching-related material would certainly be beneficial.

ESEH statutes allow for the establishment of committees (we already have a prize committee and we are still seeking members to volunteer for the financial control committee – please volunteer!). I would like to encourage you to devote some time and attention to developing communication about teaching, and eventually to form such a committee. If you wish to be part of such an initiative, please write to Jan Oosthoek (note his changed e-mail address) and we will inaugurate the committee at the ESEH conference in September.

This Notepad brings the second slate of candidates for Regional Representatives of ESEH to your attention. We hope that you will enjoy reading them. Please also plan to come to the General Assembly held during the IC ESEH in Prague to join us in discussing and electing our Representatives. If you have any suggestions and comments, please feel free to write to me or to Jan.

Time has come to thank our executive secretary Sofia Akerberg, for her excellent services for ESEH. She is leaving us for a scholarly project, and we wish her the best of luck. We are particularly pleased that Sofia has offered to continue working for ESEH on a voluntary basis. Welcome to the ranks of the volunteers, Sofia! The remaining funds at Umeå University will be used to work on the bibliography, details of which can be found below.

While ESEH is certainly a success story, founding it as a legal entity has proved to be immensely complicated. We are now – thanks to the untiring efforts of Christian Pfister and Ulrich Koppitz – nearing a solution. I sincerely hope that we will be able to announce the formal juridical existence of ESEH at the conference in September.

I very much look forward to seeing many of you in Prague. For those who cannot come, abstracts of the papers will be available at the conference website.

Kind regards,

Verena Winiwarter

President

Change in contact details ESEH

At the end April Sofia Akerberg will be leaving her post as ESEH executive secretary to take up a postdoctoral research position. For this reason our secretary, Jan Oosthoek, will become the contact person for ESEH, its newsletter and the website. Please send all correspondence for ESEH from 1 May 2003 to:

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10 Spence Terrace
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Email: oosthoek@onetel.com

Sofia has been instrumental in further expanding ESEH's activities after its first meeting in St. Andrews in 2001. She has played an important role in firmly establishing the Society and we are happy that Sofia is not completely leaving us but that she will continue working for ESEH as a volunteer. The Board wishes to thank Sofia warmly for all the hard work she has done for ESEH as executive secretary and we wish her all the best for the future and with her new job.

Progress on the European bibliography

In April 2002 ESEH started its co-operation with the Forest History Society (FHS) to expand and improve its existing bibliographical database of European Environmental history. The aim of this expanded database is to incorporate it into the searchable FHS bibliography available on the Internet. The idea behind the bibliographical project is to add hundreds, if not thousands, of European titles, most of them in languages other than English. The titles should be annotated (including abstracts) in English.

When the bibliographical project started we had 1675 titles in the bibliographical database. Since then we have added another 131 titles, most of which were received after the introduction of electronic submission forms for bibliographical entries on the ESEH website in November last year. However, most of the submitted titles are missing abstracts, keywords and other annotations. Only 78 of the titles in our database have some sort of annotation at present, which leaves us with about 1728 titles that are not annotated in English. In addition there are 31 titles for which date of publication is missing, 948 titles without keywords and some titles, especially non-English ones, that need checking for accuracy.

In order to expand and improve the bibliography further we kindly ask our members to assist us in collecting missing data. You can help us in three ways:

- Firstly, by submitting abstracts and keywords for titles in the bibliography that are not annotated at present, and translations of material in languages other than English.
- Secondly, by checking existing titles in the bibliography for the accuracy of

author, title, publisher and date of publication, pages etc. Especially important are titles without a date of publication, which you can find in the 'Undated Titles' list.

- Thirdly, by submitting new relevant titles (Note that the year 2002/3 is still rather under-represented in the bibliography). Please check if the title you submit is already in the bibliography, in order to prevent duplication.

The easiest way to submit new titles, corrections or abstracts is through our website using the bibliographical submission forms. Point your browser to www.eseh.org and select 'Submit new Title' under 'Bibliography' in the menu. Alternatively you can send new entries or corrections by email. Instructions for email submissions can be downloaded from the bibliography pages at the website or they can be obtained by writing to the secretary.

We should like to thank all those who have kindly submitted titles for the bibliography over the past year. Please continue to help us further expanding and improving this valuable research tool. If you would like more information about the bibliographical project please do not hesitate to contact the secretary Jan Oosthoek (oosthoek@onetel.com).

Profiles of ESEH Regional Representatives - Part 2

In the previous Notepad we published six profiles of ESEH Regional Representatives (RR) in advance of the elections in September. The aim of this is to enable voters in the next general assembly to reach informed decisions. In this issue the remaining representatives, from Hungary, Italy, and the Nordic Countries, introduce themselves. The profile of our Russian/additional eastern European countries Representative Alexei Karimov was unavailable for this Notepad and will be published on the ESEH website as soon as available. The profile of the new RR for the Netherlands, Petra van Dam, is also included. Again we would like to draw your attention to the fact that the Balkans, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey still do not have representatives. Suggestions for new representatives are welcome and should be mailed to ESEH secretary Jan Oosthoek.

Lajos RÁCZ, Hungary

The most important tasks for the year 2002 were the following:

The creation of the network of Hungarian environmental history researchers. The creation of this network will help the flow of information, which in the course of this year meant two things: the availability of conference news and the spread of bibliographical information. In addition a repertory of researchers dealing with environmental and historical environment studies in Hungary was produced and put online at the ESEH website. We plan periodical updates, and plan to supplement the bibliography.

One of the most important events this year was the summer course 'People and Nature in Historical Perspective', organised at the CEU (1–12 July), with the participation of 33 students from Eastern and Central Europe. The international team of instructors for the course included Verena Winiwarter and Rudolf Brázdil from ESEH.

In order to present the results of international research, we also plan the translation and publishing of centrally important books on historical environment studies. In 2002 I translated John McNeill's *Something New Under the Sun. An Environmental History of the 20th Century World*. This book will hopefully be published in Hungarian in 2003.

A bibliography of research done in Hungary in 2002 will shortly be ready. We have succeeded in providing a financial basis for the publishing of a book which will present the results of Hungarian research in this field in a comprehensive treatment. The working title of the projected English volume is *Environmental History of Hungary in the European Context*, and its manuscript will be completed by the autumn of 2003.

Marco Armiero, Italy

I am an historian of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Italy, and I work as researcher at the Institute for the Study of Mediterranean Societies – National Research Council, and teach Modern History at Istituto Universitario Orientale (Naples). My research interests are in the history of woods, of fishing from different methodological perspectives; and North American environmental historiography (I spent a short period of research at Kansas University).

I consider two things very important: co-operation among scholars and promotion of meetings, seminars, schools etc. For this reason, I organised a series of seminars in Naples with scholars from different disciplines and countries. I also promoted a summer school last September with 40 students (10 with scholarships) from different faculties.

Future activities:

- A group of Italian environmental historians are going to publish a newsletter.
- I am trying to strengthen the co-operation among environmental historians in Southern Europe.
- I'd like to repeat the very successful summer school, but making it more international.
- I also hope to promote EH in the Italian academic world.
- I'd like to increase the number of Italian members of ESEH.

I think we should have more occasions to meet each other, to speak about the future of our association and of the discipline.

Petra van Dam, Benelux

My first steps towards environmental awareness were my contributions to actions against acid rain and other environmental disasters organised by the Dutch environmental movement in the eighties. I became an enthusiastic environmental historian when I started to study the history of the Dutch wetlands. Over the years I have become more interested in how people solved their environmental problems in the past than analysing how such problems came into being.

As a university researcher at the Free University in Amsterdam and research fellow of the Royal Academy of Arts and Sciences of the Netherlands, I teach and advise on several research projects regarding the medieval and early modern environmental history of the Dutch coastal region under themes such as water management, landscape change, exploitation of natural resources such as clay, salt and peat. To promote environmental history in the Dutch speaking parts of the Netherlands and Belgium (Flanders), I am editor of the *Jaarboek voor Ecologische Geschiedenis*.

I regard ESEH and in particular its conferences as a very important means of establishing contacts throughout Europe. In the future, there should be no need anymore for young scholars to cross the ocean to meet fellow environmental historians from Europe. To this end, I have contributed to the founding of ESEH by acting as secretary of the Scientific Committee selecting the papers for the 1999 First Conference in St. Andrews. Currently I am chair of the Nominating Committee for the elections in Prague 2003. I have taken over Myriam Daru's tasks as Regional Representative for the Benelux since she wishes to resign earlier than the elections. I am eligible as RR until summer 2007.

Eva Jakobsson, Nordic Countries

In April 1999 I participated at the founding meeting of the ESEH. Visiting the ESEH homepage in December 2002, I observed how far the society has come since its founding. However, ESEH has to formulate new challenges.

In my opinion, the next goal for the ESEH is to broaden the scholarly activity of the organisation. For instance: as a consequence of the fact of European language diversity, the organisation should support translations of important (theoretical and empirical) European works in environmental history. Initiating the publishing of a European environmental history would be a future task for the ESEH. To promote a higher degree of debate – such as what constitutes the European in European environmental history – ought also to be an ESEH responsibility. ESEH should work for the creation of sub-groups in cross-border European environmental history. An organisational matter for ESEH is to include Regional Representatives, along with the ESEH executives, as working members of the ESEH board.

Regional Representatives are the ears and voices of ESEH. As such they must register and report to the organisation local developments in environmental history as well as disseminate news of ESEH activities in their respective regions. So far I have tried to fulfil these duties by emailing a Nordic newsletter about every second month to Nordic scholars that have expressed their interest in our field. These newsletters are dispatched to 114 addresses (Denmark: 10, Finland: 14, Iceland: 1, Norway: 16, Sweden: 73). The newsletters regularly include ESEH activities and information sent to me by members of the list.

European Society for Environmental History

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 Russia & additional Eastern European Countries, Alexei Karimov, Russia

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

Items for the next Notepad should be sent by 1 July , 2003 to the address shown below.

All correspondence should be directed to the secretariat:

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