

### From the President's Desk

Dear Colleagues,

By the time you read these lines, close to April 2004, ESEH will be nearing its fifth anniversary. It all began at a meeting in Dietramszell, Germany, sponsored by the Breuninger Foundation. The foundation still continues to fund part of our activities, which greatly enhances our possibilities for developing ESEH, and it was even more crucial in the initial phase. The support given to a group of people who, until a few weeks ago, could offer no legal proof of their existence, has made ESEH possible. I am very grateful to the Foundation, personified by Dr Helga Breuninger and her two assistants, Volker Hann and Marc Herbeck, for their interest in and dedication to environmental history.

We are busy preparing the third ESEH conference. The shortened interval of 1.5 rather than 2 years makes it necessary to work with strict deadlines for abstract submissions: please take note of them from this notepad or from our website. I would like to welcome the members of the International Program Committee for Florence and thank them in advance for their service, which they will also have to perform to a tight schedule. Please do send in applications for the ESEH publication prize, and do let us know about activities to be announced on the website. We shall continue our efforts to develop ESEH services for education and we plan to install a formal committee at the 2005 conference. All your suggestions on any ESEH matter are welcome: please write either to Jan Oosthoek, our untiring secretary, or to me. For reduction of membership fees, Ulrich Koppitz is the person to contact.

With my best wishes for the spring term,  
Verena Winiwarter

### ESEH conference 2005

Third International Conference  
'History and Sustainability'  
February 16–19, 2005, Florence, Italy

The European Society for Environmental History and the Università di Firenze, Dipartimento di Scienze e Tecnologie Ambientali Forestali, are pleased to invite proposals for panels, papers and posters for the Third International ESEH Conference.

The theme of the conference is 'History and Sustainability'. 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.

### **Submitting a proposal**

In order to make ESEH 2005 conference planning easier, please submit your proposal via the website form at: <[www.eseh2005.unifi.it](http://www.eseh2005.unifi.it)>. In due course, the site will also provide additional information about the conference.

### **Panels**

A panel consists of three papers of 20 Minutes each, with 30 minutes of discussion time (panel duration: 90 minutes). Panel submitters can, but do not need to, propose a chairperson. There are no commentators, discussion is with the audience.

### **Papers**

The committee will consider individual paper submissions, but presenters should be aware that the committee cannot guarantee thematically consistent panels for such papers.

### **Posters**

We especially encourage the submission of posters, which will be introduced by authors in a 3-minute statement in the poster plenary session.

### **Submission and Deadline**

Scholars are invited to submit proposals of no more than 600 words per paper in any of the above categories in English by **20 May 2004**. If you cannot access the web-form on the conference site, send an e-mail to the ESEH secretariat, <[oosthoek@ontel.com](mailto:oosthoek@ontel.com)>.

Please be aware that submissions reaching us after the deadline cannot be processed to guarantee a speedy evaluation and leave time for presenters to apply for travel grants.

### **Program Committee**

An international committee will be responsible for selecting the papers. It consists of Joan Martínez Alier (University of Barcelona, Spain), Richard Hoffmann (York University, Canada), Leos Jelecek (Charles University Prague, Czechia) and Elisabeth Johann (IUFRO, Austria)

## **Publication Prize**

The European Society for Environmental History (ESEH) is soliciting submissions for its Publication Prize. The prize is intended to identify superior research in the environmental history of Europe carried out by younger scholars from all countries. The prize will be awarded for the best article published in an academic journal since the year 2001 and will be awarded at the next ESEH meeting in February 2005 in Florence.

The ESEH publication prize is intended for an article on any subject in European environmental history published by a graduate student or scholar whose Ph.D. was not awarded before 2001. The winner will receive a prize of

Euro 500 as well as travel support (if needed). The German Historical Institute in Washington is sponsoring the prize. Applicants are asked to submit one copy of their published article by mail to the address below. The article can have been published in any European language. If the article was not published in English, however, applicants are required to submit a one-page summary in English of their article with their applications. Complete applications must be received by 31 July 2004.

Send applications (one paper copy) to:  
 ESEH Publication Prize  
 German Historical Institute  
 1607 New Hampshire Ave., N.W.  
 Washington, DC 20009-2562  
 USA

### **2003 titles for the bibliography**

We are encouraging scholars to send the titles of their 2003 publications to ESEH for inclusion into the annual environmental history bibliography. The list will also be included in the bibliography of the Forest History Society.

Submission guidelines can be found on the ESEH website at <[www.eseh.org](http://www.eseh.org)>. Alternatively you can obtain the guidelines from the ESEH secretariate by emailing to: <[oosthoek@onetel.com](mailto:oosthoek@onetel.com)>

### **Postgraduate opportunities in Göttingen, Germany**

Recently the German Science Foundation has provided funding for a Research Training Group in Environmental History at the University of Göttingen, Germany. Operation will commence on 1 July 2004.

Research Training Groups (*Graduiertenkollegs*) provide doctoral students with the opportunity to work within a co-ordinated research programme run by a number of university teachers. Doctoral students are incorporated into the research work being done at the participating institutions. The study programme aims to complement and extend the doctoral students' individual specialisations and to provide a structure for co-operation

Further details on RTGs may be found at <[http://www.dfg.de/en/research\\_funding/coordinated\\_programmes/research\\_training\\_groups/index.html](http://www.dfg.de/en/research_funding/coordinated_programmes/research_training_groups/index.html)>.

The RTG "Interdisziplinäre Umweltgeschichte" will focus on four topics:

- Raumnutzung und Raumerfahrung im Mittelalter;
- Eindämmung von Natur: Viehseuchen, Schädlingsbekämpfung und Flussregulierung von der Frühaufklärung bis zur Mitte des 20. Jahrhunderts;
- Konflikte um naturale Grundstoffe vom 18. bis zum 20. Jahrhundert,
- Umweltwahrnehmungen und ihre Verdinglichungen

The RTG offers funds for 13 doctoral students for 3 years each (app. 900 Euro pm). Interested parties are encouraged to contact the speaker of the RTG, Prof. Dr Bernd Herrmann, at <anthro@gwdg.de>. Students from outside Germany are encouraged to apply – a reasonable command of German is required.

## European Society for Environmental History

### Executive Board:

President: Verena Winiwarter, *University of Vienna*  
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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>.

**Notepad Editor:** Jan Oosthoek

Items for the next Notepad should be sent by 1 April 2004 to the address below.

All correspondence should be directed to the secretariat:

ESEH Secretary, Dr Jan Oosthoek  
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 E-Mail: oosthoek@onetel.com