

From the President's Desk

Dear Colleagues,

This letter is written on one of the last days of the semester; by the time you read it many of you will have had their holidays, and I hope we shall all start the fall semester with renewed energy. Among the most important activities of ESEH are our conferences. You will all be aware of the next conference in Florence in February 2005. We held the meeting of the ESEH 2005 Program Committee in Vienna in the last days of June. The committee had a bigger task than ever, with 315 proposals for papers, panels and posters having been submitted. Within the program of the conference we can only accommodate 145 of these, so the committee had to reject more than 50 percent of proposals. While I am sure that the anonymous selection was made to the best of the ability of our committee members, the situation remains a cause for discontent, even more so as we are all aware of the fact that without a presentation many of you cannot get travel subsidies to come. We shall take this problem to the General Assembly (OGM) held in Florence, and I should like to encourage all of you to come and discuss this problem with the board members there. If you have practical suggestions, you are welcome to e-mail them to any of the executive board members prior to the OGM. Nevertheless, the success of the Call for Papers should also be taken as an indicator of the interest in our conferences and in the subject matter of environmental history at large. This, after all, is good news.

I would also like to inform you that ESEH Vice-President Poul Holm has started preparations for a Committee on Education in Environmental History in Europe, which will be formally established at the OGM in Florence. If you have any teaching-related information that Poul should know about, please do not hesitate to write to him directly at pho@hist.sdu.dk.

Finally, a word to all those who use the ESEH website bibliography and would like a more convenient service. In co-operation with the Forest History Society's President, Steve Anderson, Jan Oosthoek is developing ways and means to include material into the FHS database. We hope to be able to report on the progress of this project in Florence.

Let me wish you productive and enjoyable days, hoping to see many of you in Florence,

Best wishes

Verena Winiwarter

New Representative Russia & Additional Eastern European Countries

The ESEH board is happy to announce the acceptance by Professor Daniel Alexandrov of the position of the new Regional Representative for Russia and other post-soviet countries. Professor Alexandrov replaces Alexei Karimov, who died in a tragic car accident last February.

Daniel Alexandrov is director of the Centre of Environmental and Technological History of the European University in St. Petersburg, Russia. Professor Alexandrov is a familiar face in the world of environmental history and history of science. His research interests include historical sociology of environmental attitudes and the history of environmental sciences in Russia in the end of the 19th and first half of the 20th centuries, with an emphasis on modernisation and environmental attitudes. Since 1998 Dr Alexandrov has been a member of the editorial board and referee for the international journal *Environment and History*.

In recent years Dr Alexandrov has organised several workshops and summer schools on environmental history, which have attracted participants from all over Russia. He plans to continue this activity, disseminating knowledge on environmental history and enhancing communication between students in the region.

Professor Alexandrov's institute has a network of environmental historians working all over Russia. The Institute is also planning to produce a biannual Newsletter on Environmental History, which will unite scholars from different parts of the former Soviet Union. Thus the Centre already has a network, which can be efficiently used both to disseminate environmental history knowledge in Russia but also to communicate developments in Russian environmental history to the ESEH community.

The ESEH board is very happy that Professor Alexandrov volunteered to take up the challenge of Regional Representative of such a fast-growing region as Russia and other post-soviet countries and looks forward to a fruitful and long co-operation.

If you would like to contact Professor Alexandrov please use the following address:

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Registration ESEH Conference

Now that the papers and panels for the next ESEH conference in Florence have been submitted and selected the registration for attendance is open. The full conference fee is 200 Euro. Students pay a reduced fee of 120 Euro when they fax or send a photocopy of their student ID together with their registration. You register by paying the conference fee. You can pay by the following methods:

1. Credit Card (VISA/MasterCard/American Express)

Send a fax to Mrs. Manuela Micheluz +39 055 30231290 including the following information:

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- Name and last name (please specify Mrs. or Mr.)
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Additional details on the conference will appear in the November issue of Note-pad. Also, check the conference website <www.eseh2005.unifi.it> throughout the summer and autumn for updates on the conference. Inquiries related to local arrangements should be directed to <info.eseh2005@unifi.it>.

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 <www.eseh.org>.

Notepad Editor: Jan Oosthoek

Items for the next Notepad should be sent by 1 October, 2004 to the address shown below.

All correspondence should be directed to the secretariat:

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