

From the President's desk

The ESEH website has undergone a major overhaul during the summer. Thanks to the hard work of ESEH Vice-President and webmaster Jan Oosthoek, we now have a state-of-the-art content management system. The virtue of the new site is that it allows for easy updating without the hassle of programming and it boasts new tools such as forums and calendar functions. In the next few months we shall be exploring the possibilities of the new means of communication, which will be put to their first big test as we issue the invitation for panels for the upcoming ESEH conference. More information is provided in this issue of Notepad.

The fourth ESEH conference will be held from 5 to 8 June 2007 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, with the challenging theme 'Environmental connections: Europe and the wider World'. As we prepare for this theme, I encourage all members to utilise the new website as a tool, to announce and identify members of panels through use of the discussion board.

As a means of increasing benefits to members of ESEH, parts of the website will be password-protected. These sections will be open for material that is not yet ready for publication but which is still deemed useful to aid members' teaching and research. These sections will only be available to paid-up members. The website enables you to pay by credit card.

At this point I want also to thank the University of Southern Denmark and the IT staff in Esbjerg for generously hosting and maintaining the new web server at a fraction of the costs we paid for the old commercially-hosted site.

I hope that you will find the new site useful and will visit it on a regular basis.

Poul Holm

President, ESEH

ENVIRONMENTAL CONNECTIONS

Europe and the wider World

The European Society for Environmental History invites proposals for panels and posters for its upcoming 4th conference in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 5–8 June 2007.

Environmental historians increasingly work on a global scale, addressing global issues or comparing local and national experiences with other locales.

Given the interconnectedness of all parts of the planet in matters ecological, this makes excellent sense. Europe has had longstanding relationships with the rest of the world from the beginning of historical time, causing both enrichment and depletion of biodiversity and habitats. Lively exchanges of humans and other biota, and of environmental ideas, techniques and practices, existed from Antiquity onwards with Asia and Africa, and from the end of the Middle Ages onwards these extended to the Americas, Australia and New Zealand. The Netherlands, a country with a long tradition of global exchange, was one of the first nations to foster environmental awareness.

The challenging theme for the 4th conference of the European Society for Environmental History in Amsterdam, hosted by the *Vrije Universiteit* (Free University) in Amsterdam is therefore

‘Environmental connections: Europe and the wider World’.

Proposals for panels and posters are invited, in particular for the following thematic strands:

- exchange of biota (both intentional and unintentional)
- exchange of environmental techniques and practices (in particular regarding water, such as for drainage, irrigation, preparation of drinking water, cleaning of waste water)
- climate changes
- environmental movements and organisations
- monitoring the resources of the earth

Submission of abstracts: 1 February 2006 – 1 June 2006.

Panel proposals should include a cover page with panel title, list of participants (including chair), and individual paper titles; a session abstract of 250 words, three individual paper abstracts of 250 words and a one-page c.v. for each participant. Poster proposals should consist of an abstract of 250 words and a one-page c.v.

Participation from scholars living in countries with low levels of financial support for research and conferences is strongly encouraged.

Follow the conference news at the website of the ESEH: www.eseh.org

Redevelopment of ESEH website

Over the summer months the ESEH website has undergone a complete facelift in order to make it ready for new services and future expansion. The site has also moved from a server in Germany to a dedicated server at the University of Southern Denmark in Esbjerg. The dedicated server means that it only hosts the ESEH site and can handle a very large website as well as large volumes of

traffic. The new website is based on a so-called content management system, which provides an easy and quick means to add material without the need to have any knowledge of building websites. However, the most important change for members is the provision of new services which include the following:

- A discussion board for members
- Submission forms for sending address change
- News feeds
- Searchable membership directory
- Article library (future development)
- Space for collaborative writing (future development)
- Membership renewal (future development)
- Ability to post new material to the site.

The discussion board, membership directory and articles will only be accessible to paying members and will be password protected. The posting of new material will also be restricted to members. Over the course of this autumn, members will be informed about the password to access the restricted areas of the site.

Although the site is completely redeveloped the web address remains the same as ever: www.esch.org. We hope that you enjoy the services of the new website and in case you have any comments, suggestions for improvements or questions please contact Jan Oosthoek <k.j.w.oosthoek@ncl.ac.uk>.

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>.

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Items for the next Notepad should be sent by 1 January, 2006 to the address shown below.

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