

President's Message Board

We can look back to a wonderful conference in Amsterdam. We had a great opening session, with a rich and very well tuned lecture by Jane Carruthers from the University of South Africa (Pretoria). Many delegates commented on the high quality of the papers. I received a number of thank you emails from PhD students who were very happy with the new Publishing Workshop. The workshop was also attended by the publishers of *Environment and History* and members of the editorial board of this journal.

The excursions we had planned worked out very well and were favoured with good weather. In Firenze I had encouraged everybody to take along an umbrella and this classical magical trick worked once more: we had a very warm and dry week, except for the hour before the Awards Dinner, when some delegates got caught by an almost tropical rain storm. Much more information about the conference will be available in the extensive reports by the Local Organizers and the Scientific Committee on the ESEH website, soon.

This message is a good opportunity, moreover, to acknowledge the fantastic work done for the preparation of the conference. The members of the Local Organising Committee, Karel Davids, Wybren Versteegen, Adriaan de Kraker and Hans Renes, put in an great deal of work in organizing the plenary poster presentation, the regional sessions and concurrent on-site demonstrations, the map exhibition, and the terrific field excursions on Saturday, not to mention the two years of monthly meetings where we designed the conference. A great thank you also for the professional conference organizer, Nicolette van Erven and her staff of MCCM, who took care of the administration and logistics, in a professional and swift manner. The Scientific Committee did a great job in selecting the papers, arranging the panels together with the LOC, and advising on several issues. We thank Gabriella Corona, who chaired this committee with great zeal, Timo Myllyntaus, Richard Oram, Erik Thoen and Peter Szabo for their work to promote the field of environmental history. Of course such a conference can only be realised when the society is well run. I thank the former Executive Board for their contributions to the conference. Lenka Uhlířová, Ulrich Koppitz, Jan Oosthoek, and Mauro Agnoletti, all advised and encouraged us at difficult moments. Also Lenka took care of the preparation of the beautiful charters handed out as the Best Paper Award (sponsored by the German Institute in Washington) and the (new) Conference City Best Panel Award (sponsored by the Professor van Winter Foundation). Last but not least former president Poul Holm deserves our

special gratitude for chairing the joint meeting of the SC, LOC and the Executive in June 2006 in Amsterdam, with a very demanding agenda.

This message marks the end of an era and the start of a new one. We face the beginning of a new period of conference preparations. The next event will be in Copenhagen, 2009. As is well known by now, this is a joint conference of several societies, united in the ICE-HO, the International Consortium of Environmental History Organisations. Poul Holm is the Head of the Local Organizing Committee and we wish him and his colleagues good luck.

We also start a new period for a renewed Board, for which the elections took place in Amsterdam. We are happy that two members of the old Executive will stay on to share their experience: Mauro Agnoletti (vice-president) and Ulrich Koppitz (treasurer). The new members are Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud (president), Martin Knoll (secretary) and I (vice-president). We started with great enthusiasm. In Amsterdam we held a first meeting with the Regional Representatives – with a high number of new faces, welcome! (see the list below) – and a first meeting of the Executive. About the content of our discussions and our plans, the president will publish her message in the next notepad.

Petra van Dam
(ESEH Vice-President)

In her report above Petra van Dam mentioned a lot of people who have contributed to the success of the Amsterdam conference. On behalf of the Executive Board I would like to thank Petra for the great job she has done as Head of the LOC.

Martin Knoll
(ESEH Secretary)

New secretariat address

Please note that with the election of new members in the Executive Board also the address of the ESEH secretariat has changed. Please direct all correspondence to the address shown at the end of this notepad.

European Society for Environmental History

Executive Board:

President: Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud, *Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales Paris*
 Vice-President: Mauro Agnoletti, *University of Florence*
 Vice-President: Petra van Dam, *VU University Amsterdam*
 Secretary: Martin Knoll, *University of Regensburg*
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Poul Holm, *Roskilde University*

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 Czechia & Slovakia, **Leoš Jeleček**, Czechia
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 Nordic Countries, **Timo Myllyntaus**, Finland
 Russia & additional Eastern European Countries, **Julia Lajus**, Russia

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: Martin Knoll

Items for the next Notepad should be sent before 1 October 2007 to the address shown below.

All correspondence should be directed to the secretariat:
 c/o Dr. Martin Knoll
 University of Regensburg
 Institut fuer Geschichte
 D-93040 Regensburg
 Germany
 phone: ++49/941/9433575
 mail: secretary.ESEH@geschichte.uni-regensburg.de

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