

President's Message Board

Dear Colleagues,

The ESEH General Assembly of our conference, held in Amsterdam in June 2007, elected a new Executive Board. It also renewed the appointments of the Regional Representatives (RRs) who, according to our constitution, form the Board with the Executive. You will have seen the list in the former Notepad. Since the creation of ESEH, RRs have been elected on the basis of a linguistic area. The aim was sensible and clear: to operate beyond a strictly national representation while maintaining a manageable number of members in the Board.

The reality proves to be tricky: few languages are spoken in more than one country in Europe. With a greater number of countries now represented in our society and wishing to be represented in the Board as well – something we can be proud of – this system has its limitations. It was easy to decide that a German speaker would represent Germany, German speaking Switzerland and Austria, and an English speaker Ireland and UK. Nordic members generously agreed to a single representative for four countries despite their own diverse languages. But in many other European areas, for historical and linguistic reasons it is difficult to feel properly represented by somebody who does not speak your language. The rationale of linguistic representation, once it is strictly implemented, would soon make ESEH Board unwieldy and unmanageable, and just the opposite our society's needs. This is the reason why one of the tasks the new Board will have to grasp is the invention of a different, more satisfactory and consensual system of representation.

How should we proceed in order to elect a Board in which our members feel well represented without this Board becoming too large? This is the "homework" every member of ESEH is asked to consider. All contributions will be welcome and taken into consideration, preferably before the end of the year. Please send your ideas to Martin Knoll, ESEH secretary.

The ESEH conference is usually biannual. The next conference would normally be held in 2009. But there will be no specifically ESEH conference in 2009; it will be more than that! The first World Congress in Environmental History will take place from 4th to 9th August 2009 in Copenhagen, organised by the International Consortium of Environmental History Organisations (ICEHO), to which ESEH belongs, along with many other organisations. Steven Anderson, President of the Forest History Society, chairs ICEHO, and ESEH former

President, Poul Holm, chairs the Local Organisation Committee of the congress. Another former ESEH President, Verena Winiwarter, chairs the Programme Committee, and other ESEH members also take part in it, including your current ESEH President. All are already working to make this congress an exciting and stimulating event, and I would like to ask all ESEH members to consider this congress as “theirs”, that is, in feeling really concerned with and involved in the programme. At the time this notepad will be published, the call for papers will be advertised on the Congress website <http://www.wceh2009.org/>. Give it a hearty welcome. Ensure that you and as many of our colleagues as possible offer papers and participate in some form of scholarly activity.

With greetings from Paris,
Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud, President

Call for organisers: 2011 ESEH Conference

The European Society for Environmental History seeks an organiser for its 6th conference in 2011. It is our aim to stage this event in alternating regions of Europe. Also we wish to strike a balance between a venue which is well accessible by public transport, yet provides sufficient seclusion to stimulate an intensive exchange of ideas. After two recent conferences in Northwestern European cities, we especially invite candidates from Eastern and Southern Europe to consider this project, but all proposals will be examined. The basic lay-out of the conference is a four days event where we host some 200 papers and posters in parallel sessions and expect some 300 participants. Candidates should contact our secretary for further details, preferably before 1 January 2008. Reports on the previous conferences are to be found at our website: www.eseh.org.

Once more: New secretariat address

Dear Colleagues,

As I will leave University of Regensburg to assume a position as assistant professor at the Technische Universität Darmstadt on 1st October 2007, the address of ESEH-secretariat changes once more. Due to the generous assistance by the webmaster of Regensburg's Historical Institute the current e-mail-address of the ESEH-secretariat will stay online. Please direct all correspondence to the address shown at the end of this notepad.

Martin Knoll, ESEH Secretary

Visit our website!

We would like to encourage you to visit our society's website : www.eseh.org. You find there regularly updated news items such as calls for papers, announcements of new publications etc.

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**, *Technische Universität Darmstadt*
 Treasurer: **Ulrich Koppitz**, *University of Düsseldorf*

Ex officio:

Poul Holm, *Roskilde University*

Regional Representatives:

Benelux, **Adrian de Kraker**, The Netherlands
 British Isles, **David Moon**, England, UK
 Czechia & Slovakia, **Leoš Jeleček**, Czechia
 Francophone Countries, **Stephane Frioux**, France
 Germanophone Countries, **Christian Rohr**, Austria
 Hungary, **Lajos Racz**, Hungary
 Iberian Peninsula, **Antonio Ortega Santos**, Spain
 Italy, **Simone Neri Serneri**, Italy
 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 its web site at www.eseh.org.

Notepad Editor: Martin Knoll

Items for the next Notepad should be sent by 1 January 2008 to the address shown below.

All correspondence should be directed to the secretariat:

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Online Access to the current volume of *Environment and History* is free for ESEH members – ask the Secretary for more details.