

ICOHTEC NEWSLETTER



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Newsletter of the International Committee for the History of Technology ICOHTEC

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Editorial

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Thank you for your paper and session proposals for the ICOHTEC&TICCIH
Conference 2010; the Program Committee will contact you within the next weeks.

The conference report of this newsletter focuses on the history of transport and
mobility: it is dedicated to the Annual Meeting of the International Association for the
History of Transport, Traffic and Mobility (T2M) which took place in Switzerland in November
2009.

Best wishes
Yours Stefan Poser

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I. Conference Report

Annual Meeting of the International Association for the History of Transport, Traffic and Mobility (T2M)

Verkehrshaus der Schweiz, Luzern, 5 – 8 November 2009

Stefan Sandmeier, Historisches Seminar, Universität Basel, stefan.sandmeier@unibas.ch

Every kind of movement of people, goods and information through space and time consumes energy. Therefore, the history of traffic, transport and mobility is interwoven with the history of energy sources. This relation and the different kinds of innovation connected to it defined the theme «Energy and Innovation» of the 7th annual conference of the International Association for the History of Transport, Traffic and Mobility (T2M). On four days, historians, sociologists, transportation planners and engineers discussed a great variety of issues related to the topical framework. The Swiss Museum of Transport in Lucerne with its large exposition and its well-equipped conference centre proved an ideal place to host this interdisciplinary discourse. The locomotives, cars, ships and airplanes on display made the notions of energy and innovation tangible and thus ideally counterbalanced the more abstract talks and discussions.

In his introductory lecture, PATRICK FRIDENSON (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales Paris) emphasized the importance of historical perspectives on the topics of energy and mobility. Historians, he argued, had to ask about path dependent developments and locked-in situations like the oil-driven development of modern mobility or the lock-in of the combustion engine in cars. Historical analysis could also show that paths can be altered. As a driving force for such change Fridenson identified social, political and economical currents that could induce innovation. Especially socio-economic factors such as consumer behaviour and the emergence of niche markets could play equally vital roles in innovation processes as could technical developments or the need for infrastructures. Neither of them should therefore be underestimated, as Fridenson exemplified on the cases of the developments of hybrid cars and the A380 airplane.

The environmental historian CHRISTIAN PFISTER (University of Bern) took up the thread of energy, innovation and society in his keynote speech. He outlined the history of western

civilization as a history of progressing technical abilities to find new energy resources and exploit them efficiently. Social, cultural and economical developments such as the shift from agricultural to industrialized society are in his view closely connected to Schumpeterian innovation cycles related to energy: The invention of bridle and harness enabled people to use the power of animals to plough their fields more effectively. Growing crop yields led to population increases and subsequently to societal transformations. Similarly, the invention of the steam engine made possible large-scale mining of iron ore and coal, two important incentives of industrialization. As the most recent example of this «energy-drives-innovation»-mechanism Pfister mentioned the shift from coal to oil as main energy source after 1950 and the changes this triggered for industrial production, transport and consumption. His notion of energy as the main source of innovation was challenged, though: several speakers from the audience argued that energy could only be one of many different factors for such comprehensive developments as industrialization. Nevertheless, Pfister made a strong case for his belief that historians should take energy and its effects into account when trying to explain innovation – especially in the fields of technology and transportation.

With 150 participants from 21 countries, this year's conference happened to be the biggest T2M meeting to date. 80 speakers in 24 parallel sessions contributed to an abundance of talks and discussions. Embracing the conference theme, several sessions explored the interrelations of mobility, energy and innovation from different angles: Problems of energy consumption caused technical innovation in transport systems such as railways or airplanes. The political and economical implications of different fuels were discussed as well as forms of mobility depending only on the energy produced by their users like bicycles and pedestrians. Some sessions were concerned with political, economical or touristic aspects of transport systems and infrastructures. Others focussed more on social and cultural aspects of mobility such as «car culture at the European periphery», the phenomena of «mobile cocooning».

One particularly interesting session from this social and cultural field was dedicated to unintended consequences of early automobility. Traditionally, the boulevards, streets and squares of cities were places where people worked and met. Traffic was a part of this *mélange*, but not the all-dominating aspect it became with the appearance of cars and motorbikes during the first decades of the 20th century. Although cars were a privilege of the upper classes, it was not only the poor who were hostile to them as MASSIMO MORAGLIO (University of Torino) demonstrated on some cases from northern Italy. With their speed and their «unhealthy fumes», cars not only shunted working people and playing children from «their» streets but also the bourgeois who had to find new ways to promenade. In this particular context, the shared contempt for these new means of transport united people across all social classes.

The «perils of automobility» were at the centre of MIKE ESBESTER's (University of Reading) talk: He portrayed the attempts of the British car industry, automobile associations and authorities to create «safe and responsible road users». Their message that «motoring is not

dangerous and accidents can be prevented» was brought to the public by way of traditional educational measures (schooling of car drivers and pedestrians alike, leaflets and posters). More imaginative were ideas like creating board games and printing cards that could be collected by kids. Adults were addressed on milk bottles or beer mats. The cause for all these efforts was rather profane though: It was easier and cheaper to invest in road safety training than to change road design or invest in technical safety measures on the cars.

Relating to the topics of both previous speakers, BARBARA SCHMUCKI (University of York) traced «innovations at the crossroads» through the years. Engineers and planners tried to confine pedestrians to sidewalks and wanted to discipline their movements across streets. Between 1920 and 1970, written signs, Zebra crossings, guard rails, different types of blinking beacons and traffic lights were invented. But still, people seemed not to respond to this kind of «education» in the intended way. Although the physical safety measures were complemented with educational programmes in the media, Schmucki concluded that all these efforts were futile. They failed because they did not take into account the basic incompatibility of pedestrians and the modern, car-centred road design optimised for fast traffic flows.

Reflecting the stormy development the field of transport and mobility has undergone during the past two centuries (and mirroring the geographical distribution of T2M members), a majority of the presented papers covered 19th and 20th century subjects from Europe and North America – only few talks took notice of earlier periods of transport history or of issues concerning Africa and Asia. Nonetheless, one session comparing pre-industrial forms of road transport in Europe, Russia and China, came quite close to bridge both these gaps while a second featured two talks on tourism in the Arab world and Iran.

Another of the few shortcomings of this conference was the seeming lack of reflection on theoretical and methodological matters of transport history. However, the third keynote speech at the close of the conference hinted at these topics. Transport planner KAY W. AXHAUSEN (Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich) compared approaches used by transport and spatial planners and historians. According to Axhausen, what sets planners and historians apart is their understanding and use of models: While historians deconstruct and contextualize past developments and try to understand them en detail, planners want to gain oversight. They construct models in order to generalize the factors contributing to a problem and to simulate future developments of that problem.

Although this thinking in generalized terms and models has its merits, it has its dangers too: Despite the achievements of modelling and simulation, models only are mathematical approximations of real-world problems – they have to simplify the problems in order to provide oversight. As was pointed out in the following discussion, they can deal with quantifiable things, but they do not satisfactorily take into account «soft» factors such as cultural and psychological circumstances. Planners tend to forget this and sometimes put too much store in their models. Axhausen argued that with their work of analyzing historical data and contextualizing (planning) actions of the past, historians could «confront models with the

real world» and thus act as a corrective to the planners' somewhat over-optimistic use of models.

Please find the report and the conference overview in: H-Soz-u-Kult, 16.01.2010, <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=2955>.

II. New Conferences

17 – 19 February 2010

Financial Crises: Historical Perspectives

APEBH 2010 Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History Conference

(Organised by the Economic History Society of Australia and New Zealand)

Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand)

For more information please visit <http://apebhconference.wordpress.com/>

18 February – 19 February 2010

„Forschung tut Not“ – Technikgeschichtliche Jahrestagung des VDI 2010

Universität Bochum, Germany

Please find the program on http://www.gtg.tu-berlin.de/mambo/mambots/editors/tinymce/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=903&Itemid=267

Please contact for registration: Prof. Dr. Helmut Maier, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Technik- und Umweltgeschichte, helmut.maier@rub.de

1 March 2010

Les expositions universelles en France au XIXe siècle

Techniques, publics, patrimoine

Paris

For more information please visit <http://afhe.ehess.fr/document.php?id=745>

Please contact Volker Barth, vbarth@ehess.fr

6 – 9 May 2010

History of Science in Practice

Athens, Greece

CFP – Deadline **15 February 2010**

We are pleased to announce the International Conference "History of Science in Practice", organized by the Programme of History, Philosophy and Didactics of Science and Technology (National Hellenic Research Foundation and University of Athens) and the

Hellenic Society of History, Philosophy and Didactics of Sciences. The Conference will be held in Athens, Greece from 6th to 9th May 2010 and updated info will be available at <http://www.hpdst.gr/events/conferences/history-of-science-in-practice>

As its title suggests, the Conference will explore the possibilities of putting history of science into practice, both in teaching and in communication with the public. The Conference will focus on the following themes:

- Exploring the creation of a common European textbook of History of Science
- Using History of Science in formal and informal teaching of science
- Examining epistemological problems in the teaching of History of Science
- Appraising what a History of Science Museum can offer to the public
- Examining the preservation of contemporary scientific heritage.

Conference papers will be published in the Proceedings volume. Selected papers will appear in a special issue of the journal History of Scientific Ideas:

<http://www.hpdst.gr/publications/hsi>

Invited speakers:

- Fabio Bevilacqua, Physics Department "A.Volta", University of Pavia
- Michel Blay, Director of the Centre d'Archives en Philosophie, Histoire et Édition des Sciences, ENS-CNRS
- Christopher Cullen, Director of the Needham Research Institute, Cambridge
- Liu Dun, Institute for the History of Natural Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences, President of the Division of History of Science and Technology / International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science
- Wilfrid Hodges, President of the Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science / International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science
- Jeff Hughes, University of Manchester, President of the British Society for the History of Science
- Catherine Jami, REHSEIS-UMR 7219 (CNRS & Université de Paris-Diderot)
- Vincent Jullien, Department of Philosophy, University of Nantes
- Eberhard Knobloch, President of the International Academy of History of Science
- Alexandre Kostov, Institute of Balkan Studies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
- Helge Kragh, University of Aarhus, President of the European Society for the History of Science
- Jay Malone, Executive Director of the History of Science Society
- Alexandar Petrovich, Faculty of Philology and Arts, University of Kragujevac, Serbia

Submission of papers:

Abstracts must be submitted using the Abstract Form at

<http://www.hpdst.gr/events/conferences/abstract-upload>

All abstracts will undergo a peer review process. Abstracts should be uploaded electronically to the Congress website between 1 December 2009 and 15 February 2010.

Registration:

Participants to the Conference are kindly asked to register on-line at

<http://www.hpdst.gr/events/conferences/registration>

Registration will open 1 December 2009.

Please visit: <http://www.hpdst.gr>

Contact information:

Constantine Skordoulis: kskordul@primedu.uoa.gr

Efthymios Nicolaidis: efnicol@eie.gr

Antigone Nounou: amnounou@gmail.com

Gianna Katsiamboura: katsiampoura@gmail.com

You may also use the following contact form: <http://www.hpdst.gr/contact>.

7 – 8 May 2010

1IWHE International Workshop on the History of Environment and Global Climate Change: Water, Ecology, De-forestation, Agriculture, Politics and the Management of Nature

Braga, Portugal

(No deadline mentioned)

This two-day international workshop aims to bring together the leading scholars sharing a common interest in the environmental and climate histories to deliberate on the subject. The present workshop will make an attempt to address the broad areas of environmental concern in human societies across the globe and the complex patterns of the human- nature relationships by focusing on the history of climate change.

At the beginning of the twentieth century a major chunk of scientists believed that climate of the world had been essentially constant over at least five thousand years. In the next 100 years this assumption fell through. The possible effects of past climatic shifts on human activities are yet to be explored. Historians have paid little attention to this aspect until in the 1950's and 1960's. Thanks to the efforts of the scholars of the Annale School like Braudel and Ladurie. It is urgent for the historians to understand that climate history is central to the recently unfolding sub-discipline of environmental history. It is also intimately connected with history of waters in more ways than one. Earth's hydrological cycle - the sun-powered movement of water between the sea, air, and land - is an irreplaceable asset that human actions are now disrupting in dangerous ways. Although vast amount of water reside in oceans, glaciers, lakes, and deep aquifers, only a very small share of Earth's water - less than one -hundredth of 1 percent - is fresh, renewed by the hydrological cycle, and delivered to land. That precious supply of precipitation - some 110,000 cubic kilometres per year - is what sustains most terrestrial life. Like any valuable asset, the global water cycle delivers a steady stream of benefits to society. Rivers, lakes, and other freshwater ecosystems work in

concert with forests, grasslands, and other landscapes to provide goods and services of great importance to human society. The nature and value of these services can remain grossly underappreciated, however, until they are all destroyed or gone. Climate history calls for an in-depth understanding of the inter connections between water resource on the one hand and deforestation, rainfall, river flows, soil erosion, climatic change, global warming, draught, famine, and various natural calamities on the other.

Climatic change through a long duree period and its impact on the rise or decline of civilizations are now worth looking into. Rising or falling temperatures, monsoon behaviour, melting of snow on the mountains, rising sea levels, more powerful storms and cyclones may have a message to convey regarding the interactions of the humans with the natural world. In Asia, Africa and the Asia Pacific in particular, climate had been central to the growth or prosperity of human civilizations. It was most crucial to rice production or settled agriculture. There is little disagreement among the scholars engaged in Environmental History that history of climate is important to the discipline. The proposed International Workshop on the History of Climate is the first of its kind and it will address some of the fundamental questions most relevant to the very discipline of Environmental History.

We extend to you a warm invitation to attend this prestigious workshop. However, no travel grants will be offered to the participants.

Please visit <http://www.cie-portugal.com/>.

Please contact Angela Mendonça and Ranjan Chakrabarti, cie.1iwhe@gmail.com.

6 – 7 June 2010

Technikhistorisches Forum für Doktorand/innen und Habilitand/innen / Workshop for PhD Students and Young Researchers

Gesellschaft für Technikgeschichte (GTG)

Deutsches Museum, München

CFP - Deadline **28 February 2010**

Please contact Prof. Dr. Martina Hessler, hessler@em.uni-frankfurt.de, and Prof. Dr. Karin Zachmann, Karin.Zachmann@mzwtg.mwn.de

5 – 7 August 2010

Bringing Science and Technology into Environmental History - International workshop

Trondheim, Norway

CFP – Deadline **5 February 2010**

This workshop focuses on the intersection of STS and environmental history, paying particular attention to how conceptual tools, approaches, and insights from science and technology studies might enrich historical studies of interactions between humanity and the natural world. We aim to bring together a variety of international scholars, primarily

environmental historians but also historically-minded sociologists, ethnographers, and anthropologists to consider how, for instance, the social construction of science, public understanding of science, actor-network theory, and technological systems can be used in historical studies of human-natural interactions. Participants will present papers that develop specific empirical case studies while also being explicitly reflective about the STS methodological basis and theoretical contributions of that study.

The workshop is limited to 14 participants. Each participant will prepare a draft text that will be pre-circulated to workshop attendees in June 2010. At the workshop, each paper will be briefly presented by the author and then fully discussed by the group in a one-hour session. After the workshop, participants will be asked to revise their papers for possible inclusion in an edited volume to be submitted to an international academic press.

Please visit <http://sts-eh2010.miljohistorie.net/call-for-papers/>.

Please contact the organizers Dolly Jørgensen (Norwegian University of Science & Technology), Finn Arne Jørgensen (Norwegian University of Science & Technology), and Sara Pritchard (Cornell University) by sts-eh2010@miljohistorie.net.

16 – 19 September 2010

Contemporary medical science and technology as a challenge for museums

Copenhagen

CFP – Deadline **28 February 2010**

Here's the announcement for a cross-disciplinary conference to be held here at Medical Museion next September:

The 15th biannual conference of the European Association of Museums for the History of Medical Sciences (EAMHMS) will be held at the University of Copenhagen, 16–19 September, 2010.

This year's conference focuses on the challenge to museums posed by contemporary developments in medical science and technology.

The image of medicine that emerges from most museum galleries and exhibitions is still dominated by pre-modern and modern understandings of an anatomical and physiological body, and by the diagnostic and therapeutical methods and instruments used to intervene with the body at the 'molar' and tangible level — limbs, organs, tissues, etc. The rapid transition in the medical and health sciences and technologies over the last 50 years — towards a molecular understanding of human body in health and disease and the rise of a host of molecular and digital technologies for investigating and intervening with the body — is still largely absent in museum collections and exhibitions. As a consequence, the public can rarely rely on museums to get an understanding of the development and impact of the medical and health sciences in the last 50 years. Biochemistry and molecular biology have resulted in entirely new diagnostic methods and therapeutic regimes and a flourishing biotech industry. The elucidation of the human genome and the emergence of proteomics

has opened up the possibility of personalised molecular medicine. Advances in the material sciences and information technology have given rise to a innovative and highly productive medical device industry, which is radically transforming medical practices. But few museums have so far engaged seriously and in a sustained way with these and similar phenomena in the recent history of medical sciences and technologies.

The contemporary transition in medical and health science and technology towards molecularisation, miniaturisation, mediated visualisation, digitalisation and intangibilisation is a major challenge for the museum world; not only for medical museums, but also for museums of science and technology, and indeed for all kinds of museums with an interest in the human body and the methods for intervening with it, including art museums, natural history museums and museums of cultural history.

Contemporary medicine is not only a challenge to exhibition design practices and public outreach strategies but also to acquisition methodologies, collection management and collection-based research. How do museums today handle the material and visual heritage of contemporary medical and health science and technology? How do curators wield the increasing amount and kinds of intangible scientific and digital objects? Which intellectual, conceptual, and practical questions does this challenge give rise to?

The meeting will address questions like (but not limited to):

- How can an increasingly microanatomical, molecularised, invisible and intangible (mediated) human body be represented in a museum setting? Does the post-anatomical body require new kinds of museum displays?
- How can museums make sense of contemporary molecular-based and digitalised diagnostic and thereapeutic technologies, instrumentation and investigation practices in their display practices?
- How can museums make use of their older collections together with new acquisitions from contemporary medicine and health science and technology?
- What is the role of the visual vs. the non-visual (hearing, smell, taste, touch) senses in curatorial practice and in the public displays of contemporary medical science and technology?
- What can museums learn from science centers, art-science event venues etc. with respect to the public engagement with contemporary medical science and technology? And, vice versa, what can museums provide that these institutions cannot?
- How can museums draw on bioart, 'wet art' and other art forms to stimulate public engagement with the changing medical and health system?
- How does physical representations of contemporary medicine in museums spaces relate to textual representations in print and digital representations on the web?
- How can museums integrate emerging social web technologies (Wikipedia, Facebook, Twitter, blogs, etc.) in the build-up of medical and health exhibitions?

- What kind of acquisition methods and policies are needed for museums to catch up with the development of contemporary medical science and technology, especially the proliferation of molecular and digital artefacts and images?
- What kind of problems do museum encounter when they expand the acquisition domain from traditional textual, visual and tangible material objects to digital artefacts (including software, audio- and videorecordings, and digitally stored data) and non-tangible scientific objects.
- How can participatory acquisition, crowd-sourcing, wiki-based methods, etc. ('museum 2.0') be employed for the preservation and curation of the contemporary medical heritage?
- How can curatorial work in museums draw on medical research and engineering and on academic scholarship in the humanities and social sciences? And, vice versa, how can museums contribute to medical teaching and research and how can their collections stimulate the use of physical objects in the humanities and social sciences?

The conference will employ a variety of session formats. In addition to keynotes and sessions with individual presentations of current research and curatorial work there will also be discussion panels and object demonstration workshops.

We welcome submissions from a wide range of scholars and specialists — including, for example, curators in medical, science and technology museums; scholars in the history, philosophy and social studies of medicine, science and technology; scholars in science and technology studies, science communication studies, museum studies, material studies and visual culture studies; biomedical scientists and clinical specialists; medical, health and pharma industry specialists with an interest in science communication; engineers and designers in the medical device industry; artists, designers and architects with an interest in museum displays, etc. We are especially interested in presentations that involve the use of material and visual artefacts and we therefore encourage participants to bring illustrative and evocative (tangible or non-tangible) objects for demonstration.

The meeting will begin on Thursday 16 September (noon) and end on Saturday evening 19 September, 2010.

100-300 word proposals for presentations, demonstrations, discussion panels, etc. shall be sent before 28 February 2010 to the chair of the program committee, Thomas Soderqvist, ths@sund.ku.dk.

A meeting website for registration and hotel bookings will be established in early January 2010. A number of hotel rooms will be pre-booked.

Programme committee:

Ken Arnold, Wellcome Collection, London

Robert Bud, Science Museum, London

Judy Chelnick, National Museum of American History, Washington, D.C.

Mieneke te Hennepe, Boerhaave Museum, Leiden
Thomas Soderqvist, Medical Museion, University of Copenhagen (chair).

Local organising committee:

Anni Harris, Bente Vinge Pedersen, Carsten Holt, Morten Bulow and Thomas Soderqvist,
Medical Museion, University of Copenhagen.

For further information about the academic programme, please contact Thomas Soderqvist,
ths@sund.ku.dk. For practical information about travel, accommodation, etc., please contact
Anni Harris, konference2010@sund.ku.dk after 4 January 2010.

15 – 17 September 2010

**Form Automation to Computerised Design: Industrial Engineering, Machine Tools, and
Digital Frontiers, 1930s – 1980s**

Paris

CFP – **Attention please: deadline 1 February 2010**

To honour the centenary of Pierre Bezier, the eminent French engineering designer (40 years at Renault after starting at a small design company), the University of Evry and its partners are convening a conference focused on post-1930 developments in areas to which Bezier made major contributions: machinery and industrial automation, controls and computation (Bezier curves), computer visualization for design, and the diffusion of mechanical/technical knowledge.

Key questions the organizers invite papers to address include:

- What significant innovations in machine tool design/capability/control were adopted in the industrial countries and developing nations' industries across the half century after 1930? How was such innovation organized and undertaken by engineers, designers, computer specialists, foremen, skilled workers, managers, users, etc.? What political, enterprise, or competitive strategies impelled such advances?
- What new sources and methodologies can be used to link standard visual and written discourses about machine tools and computers to artifacts and practices in use? What discourses emerged about automation and digital processing, enthusiastic and critical, and how did they affect channels of communication and/or patterns of technical imitation and appropriation internationally?
- How did ideas and ideologies about modernity and modernization and about machine tools' iconic status evolve across these decades? What impact did such perspectives have on the industrialization process?
- Through what means and with what efficacy were the new knowledge and practices these innovations generated shared among firms, industries and nations? What consequences arose from differences in diffusion?

- To what extent did computer-based innovations create problems even while solving other difficulties? How did enterprises and shop floor personnel manage the complexities that resulted?

Proposals, in English or French, should be submitted to helene.marechal@univ-evry.fr by 1 February 2010. Each proposal should be sent in two files. 1) Describe the planned paper: "Proposition PB&MO" plus, in the title, a short identifying phrase, such as "Control Innovations;" the proposal should not exceed 300 words. 2) Information about the author(s): "Proposition PB&MO" plus the author(s) last name(s). Biographical information should not exceed 400 words. The two-file approach assures blind review. Authors will be contacted by 1 March 2010. Among the 14 member review committee are: Patrick Fridenson (EHESS), David Edgerton (Imperial College, London), Anne-Françoise Garçon (Paris-1); Kazuo Wada (University of Tokyo), Philip Scranton (Rutgers), and Thomas Welskopp (Bielefeld).

Funding for presenters' transportation and lodging will be provided. A visit to Renault's R&D division and one of its main plants will be offered. Also, the weekend following the conference features a national historic heritage festival. Those attending who wish to visit classic and modern sites will find many locations open to visitors that weekend which are not available at other times. Publication of a collection of edited papers is expected.

Questions? Please contact Dr. Alain Michel: Alain.MICHEL@cite-sciences.fr

30 September – 3 October 2010

2010 Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT)

Tacoma, Washington

CFP – Deadline **31 March 2010**

The Society for the History of Technology will hold its annual meeting in Tacoma, Washington from September 30 to October 3, 2010. The Program Committee invites paper and panel proposals on any topic in the history of technology, broadly defined. Sessions dealing with non-Western technologies are particularly welcome. Of special interest for 2010 are proposals that engage in themes that resonate with the concerns of the specific locale.

These include:

Consumption: In the popular imagination, the Tacoma-Seattle area is associated with several important corporate entities (Boeing, Microsoft, Nintendo, Starbucks, etc.) whose goods and services are deeply embedded in global consumer culture. At a moment in time when consumption, sometimes excessive, sometimes globalized, sometimes exploitative, is of great concern to both the public and policy-makers, Tacoma is an appropriate place for historians to (re)consider technologies of consumption. We are especially interested in papers that see production and consumption as coterminous processes and which historicize consumption as part of broader processes in the history of technology. We define consumption very broadly to include the public's active engagement with technologies and

technological systems, which may include environmental, communications, and obsolete technologies.

The Program Committee encourages sessions dealing with topics appropriate to the meeting location, such as aerospace and maritime history, labor history, forest products, information technology, and themes relevant to the Pacific world. We also encourage historians of technology to reach out to scholars in aligned and/or related fields when constructing research proposals as one way to create a more interdisciplinary environment. Finally, we invite papers and panel proposals that emphasize the *longue durée*, particularly those that problematize demarcations such as modern/premodern, colonial/postcolonial, and preindustrial/industrial. As always, sessions dealing with pre-modern, Medieval, and ancient topics are especially welcome.

The Program Committee's highest priority in evaluating paper and panel proposals is scholarly excellence. The Committee welcomes proposals for individual papers or sessions, as well as works-in-progress from researchers of all stripes (including graduate students, chaired professors, and independent scholars). It welcomes proposals from those new to SHOT, regardless of discipline. Multinational, international, and cross-institutional sessions are also desirable. We especially encourage proposals from non-Western scholars.

For the 2010 meeting the Program Committee continues to encourage unconventional sessions; that is, session formats that vary in useful ways from the typical three/four papers with comment. These might include round-table sessions, workshop-style sessions with papers that are pre-circulated electronically, or "author meets critics" sessions. We also welcome poster proposals for presentation in poster sessions. Please note that in general we discourage panels with more than three papers.

The deadline for proposals is 31 March 2010. Please submit your proposals to shot.tacoma2010@gmail.com.

Proposals for individual papers must include:

1. a one-page abstract (maximum 600 words)
2. a one-page curriculum vitae, including current postal and e-mail addresses

Proposals for complete sessions must include:

1. a description of the session that explains how individual papers contribute to an overall theme.
2. the names and paper titles of the presenters
3. for each presenter, a one-page summary (maximum 600 words) of the paper's topic, argument(s), and evidence used
4. for the commentator, chair, and each presenter: one-page c.v., with postal and e-mail addresses

Please indicate if a proposal is sponsored by one of SHOT's special interest groups.

Submission Instructions:

1. Materials should be sent as a single text attachment to an e-mail message to the Program Committee Chair, Asif Siddiqi at shot.tacoma2010@gmail.com
2. Proposals for complete sessions as well as individual papers should be submitted in one file.
3. Please adhere to the 600-word limit for each paper. Use no unusual fonts or special formatting, and save your attachment either as a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx) or as a Rich Text Format (.rtf) file. Nearly all word processing programs, including those used on Apple computers can save text in the Rich Text Format. Do not use Adobe Acrobat (pdf).
4. Name your attachment with your last name and the word 'proposal', e.g. 'Smith_proposal.doc'.
5. A session organizer should also deliver a description of the overall session. If you are organizing a session and proposing a paper in that session, you will be delivering both an "abstract" and "proposal", plus your c.v.
6. If you are proposing a non-traditional session you may indicate that in the "abstract." These also require a curriculum vitae.

General information:

While SHOT rules exclude multiple submissions (i.e., submitting more than one individual paper proposal, or proposing both an individual paper and a paper as part of a session), scholars may both propose a paper and serve as a commentator or session chair.

Generally speaking, the Program Committee discourages scholars from presenting papers at two consecutive meetings held in North America. Exceptions can be made for scholars travelling from overseas. Individuals are always welcome to serve as chairs and commentators and are encouraged to let the Program Committee know if they are available.

For more information about the Society for the History of Technology and our annual meeting, please see the SHOT webpage: <http://www.historyoftechnology.org/>

For questions, please contact SHOT Secretary Bernie Carlson at shotsecy@virginia.edu or Jane Carlson, Admin Assistant to Exec. Sec, Society for the History of Technology, Charlottesville, VA, shotsecy@virginia.edu.

6 – 8 October 2010

Big Stuff 2010: On the Conflict and Avoidance of Conflict between the Display and Conservation Requirements of Large Technology Objects within the Museum Setting.

Imperial War Museum, Duxfox, UK

CFP – Attention please: deadline 31 January 2010

The Imperial War Museum is delighted to announce Big Stuff 2010, hosted at IWM Duxford, near Cambridge, on 6th – 8th October 2010. We now invite proposals for presentations at this event.

The theme of the conference will be the conflict and avoidance of conflict between the display and conservation requirements of Large Technology Objects within the museum setting. It is anticipated that day one will cover conservation, day two will cover display and day three, to be held on-board HMS Belfast in London, will look towards generating compromise between the two disciplines.

The international programme committee will be looking for case studies, where conflict arose in a project dealing with display and conservation that detail the nature of the conflict, the manner in which the conflict was handled and resolved and how the conflict could have been avoided. Proposals should include the title of the presentation, details of all contributors and the contact details of the proposer. Proposals should be no more than 250 words. Successful speakers will be required to submit their full paper electronically not less than four weeks in advance of the conference for inclusion, digitally, within the conference delegate pack.

Please contact Chris Knapp, Conservation Manager, Imperial War Museum, Duxford, cknapp@iwm.org.uk

24 – 28 October 2011

Resource Utilizations and Impacts. First Conference of East Asian Environmental History (EAEH2011)

Taipei, Taiwan

(Deadline not yet mentioned)

The newly established Association of East Asian Environmental History invites papers for its first conference which will be hosted by Academia Sinica, Taipei. The General Theme is: “Resource Utilizations and Impacts”.

The First Conference of East Asian Environmental History (EAEH2011) aims to provide an opportunity for scholars to learn from each other and to identify important environmental issues with historical perspectives. We need to gain new insights through comparative studies and to learn from each other with regard to methods and sources. We invite papers dealing with themes suggested above for East Asia in any period. Although the study of environmental history is closely related to local histories and situations, we need to explore and identify common factors that have been influential beyond local and national boundaries.

Suggested themes:

(1) Energy, (2) Forest, (3) Land and Sea, (4) Water (river, lake, reservoir, and underground water), (5) Disaster and Prevention, (6) Pollution, (7) Health and Disease, (8) Ethics and Justice.

Please visit <http://www.aeah.org/eah2011.htm>

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III. Recently Published Books

Farrenkopf, Michael, et al. (eds.): Glück auf! Ruhrgebiet. Der Steinkohlenbergbau nach 1945. Katalog der Ausstellung des Deutschen Bergbaumuseums Bochum. Deutsches Bergbau Museum, Bochum 2009.

The contributors of the book analyse the history of coal mining in the Ruhr Region from the Post war period until today. The boom time is reflected as well as the period of downscaling of coal mining, which will be stopped in the Ruhr region at least in 2018. A detailed chapter is dedicated to technologies of mining. Among the contributors are ICOHTEC members as Reinhold Bauer, Michael Farrenkopf and Wolfhard Weber.

König, Wolfgang (ed.): Technikgeschichte. = Basistexte Geschichte 5. Frank Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart 2010.

The reader contents important articles which document the development of the history of technology in the 20th century, among others from Conrad Matschoss, Reinhard Rürup, John M. Staudenmaier, Wiebe E. Bijker, Thomas P. Hughes, and Joachim Radkan.

König, Wolfgang: Technikgeschichte. Eine Einführung in ihre Konzepte und Forschungsergebnisse. = Grundzüge der modernen Wirtschaftsgeschichte 7. Franz Steiner Verlag, Stuttgart 2009

In the first part of this book, Wolfgang König discusses the most important concepts of the history of technology like innovation, technological style, social construction, systems, networks, and so on. The second part summarizes the research results on the technological development from the Industrial Revolution until today.