

ICOHTEC

NEWSLETTER



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N° 70, January 2011

Newsletter of the International Committee for the History of Technology ICOHTEC

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Editorial

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The conference report which you will find in this newsletter is dedicated to a continent and a subject which might become increasingly interesting for research of historians of technology: the development of urbanisation and of the consumer society in Africa.

The deadline of the call for papers of our Glasgow symposium (2 – 7 August 2011) is in a few days on **31 January 2011**. If you are in a hurry you still have the weekend for thinking about your proposal. It will be a pleasure to meet you in Glasgow in one of the oldest European universities.

Best wishes
Yours Stefan Poser

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I. Conference Reports

Elite Formation, Consumption and Urban Spaces – Cultural Perspectives on African Decolonization

Humboldt-University of Berlin in November 2010

Sebastian Klöß, Berlin, sebastian.kloess@geschichte.hu-berlin.de

African decolonization is usually seen as a political process in which European politicians and their new African counterparts signed treaties and shook hands. The cultural aspects of decolonization, however, are mostly neglected. The aim of the conference “Elite Formation, Consumption and Urban Spaces – Cultural Perspectives on African Decolonization”, organised by the sub-project “Political Representations in Transnational Spaces of African Modernity” of the Collaborative Research Centre “Representations of Changing Social Orders” at Humboldt University, Berlin, was to show that not only was decolonization a political but also a profoundly cultural process. Therefore, the organisers Regina Finsterhölzl and Daniel Tödt wanted to shift the focus to new social spaces and groups within the rapidly growing African cities during decolonization. Finsterhölzl and Tödt argued that these actors often portrayed themselves as ‘modern’ and that their emerging social practices played an active part in moving the boundaries of social distinction in colonial societies. As particularly crucial aspects, the organisers identified new marketing strategies, schools, associations and urban spaces like dance halls.

The first panel highlighted the cultural and social importance of consumption and advertising during African decolonization. ANDREA SCHEIBLER (Oxford) illustrated how members of Nairobi’s so-called Tai Tai class defined themselves mainly by consumption in the 1950s. The members of this class showed a tendency to replicate Western life-styles. European clothes, for example, became a marker of distinction, identity and self-expression. Whereas other Kenyans regarded consumption as corrupt, the Tai Tai class considered it honourable. REGINA FINSTERHÖLZL (Berlin) focussed on advertising for consumer goods in West Africa, particularly in Ghana, from 1930 to 1960. From the 1930s onwards, advertisements created by West African Publicity, a subsidiary of the United Africa Company, increasingly showed Africans in an African environment. The advertisements promised a way of living or even an identity which could be gained by consuming the depicted product. The motto was: Buy the product (for example a bicycle), be like the pictured people, be modern. In some way and to some extent, advertisements thereby influenced the self-conception of the African elites and middle classes. In the 1950s, the advertising industry in Africa expanded and opened local branches in Africa. By doing this, this sector of industry offered new careers for Africans. SIMON HEAP (Woking) reinforced Finsterhölzl’s findings by showing how Star Beer was introduced in Nigeria from 1949 to 1969. The advertisements for this beer showed successful Nigerians – often people who had spent some time in Europe – and relaxed, sociable circumstances of drinking like restaurants and hotels. Star beer, therefore, became a symbol of a modern life-style, of the expectation of prosperity and of the emerging state Nigeria. Commenting on the panel, HANS PETER HAHN (Frankfurt) raised the question

whether consumption necessarily was a lifestyle or whether it could also be a way of tackling life with very limited means. Additionally, he emphasised that advertisements cannot prescribe meaning but are open to interpretation and even misunderstandings.

All talks dealt with the social and cultural dimension of African decolonisation and showed how strongly different (elite) groups defined themselves by life style. The members of these groups were unified by the desire of being 'modern'. 'Modernity' was defined by them via (European) clothes, certain drinks, means of transport (especially bicycles) or affiliation to a club or a certain school. Advertisements intensified these needs by presenting an image of a modern, comfortable and desirable life.

Please find the whole report on: H-Soz-u-Kult, 24.01.2011, <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=3504>

II. Conference Announcements

10 – 11 March 2011

Ideologie und Innovation. Die Technik und der nationalsozialistische Vierjahresplan

Ideology and innovation: Technology and the nationalsocialist Four Years Plan

Technikgeschichtliche Tagung des VDI 2011 mit Vergabe des Conrad-Matschoß-Preises 2011 des VDI für Technikgeschichte

Bochum, Germany

Please visit: [http://www.gtg.tu-](http://www.gtg.tu-berlin.de/mambo/mambots/editors/tinymce/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1003&Itemid=267)

[berlin.de/mambo/mambots/editors/tinymce/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1003&Itemid=267](http://www.gtg.tu-berlin.de/mambo/mambots/editors/tinymce/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1003&Itemid=267)

Please contact: helmut.maier@rub.de

25 – 28 May 2011

XXIIInd International Cycling History Conference (IHC)

Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers (CNAM), Paris, France

CFP – Deadline **1 February 2011**

The bicycle is an outstanding work of simplicity. This individual mode of transportation has the key aspects of being also friendly, economical, ecological, and in use through the whole society. Launched in the early 1860s, it quickly expands throughout the world. The bicycle gets villages closer to each other, suburbs closer to downtowns, cities closer to nature. It promotes the portable camera, leisure activities, sport and competition, and popular tourism.

Paris pays homage to the bicycle by hosting the XXIIInd International Cycling History Conference (IHC), from 25 to 28 May 2011 at the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers (CNAM). For this event, the Centre d'histoire des techniques et de l'environnement

(CDHTE) invites you to prepare a paper about cycle history. Various issues may be cover: technology, industry, social interactions and patterns, economic model, representations.

Communication projects should be sent before February 1st, 2011 to Samaher Wannous, s_wannous80@yahoo.com. They may be either in French or English language. They must include the name of the author, the title, and a 300 words summary. They will be reviewed and selected by the Scientific Board. The selected speakers will be informed around February 21st, 2011.

Please find more information on <http://download.inrets.fr/papon/AppelCommunication-ICHC-2011-Paris%5B4%5D.pdf>

Please contact Samaher Wannous, s_wannous80@yahoo.com.

21 – 24 June 2011

Renouveler le patrimoine de la chimie au XXI^e siècle .Échanges et débats sur la conservation, la présentation et l'utilisation des sources, des sites et des objets de la chimie. Colloque de la Commission internationale d'histoire de la chimie moderne (CHMC). Année internationale de la chimie 2011 sous l'égide de l'IUPAC et de l'UNESCO / **Renewing the Heritage of Chemistry in the 21st Century: Conversations on the Preservation, Presentation and Utilization of Sources, Sites and Artefacts**

A Symposium of the Commission on the History of Modern Chemistry (CHMC) in Conjunction with the IUPAC-UNESCO International Year of Chemistry, 2011

Paris

CFP – Deadline **4 February 2011**

We invite all those interested in the heritage of chemistry in the 20th and 21st centuries, to meet in Paris on 21-24 June 2011 for a symposium involving conversations between historians, chemists, archivists, museum curators, librarians, and industrial archaeologists. Our intention is to present not only the fruits of historical research based on the sources, sites and artefacts of chemistry but also the views of those concerned with the technical problems related to the preservation and presentation of these resources for both historians and the general public. To this end we invite proposals for papers pertaining to the wide range of topics outlined in this circular.

A century on from the award of the Nobel Prize for chemistry to Marie Curie, it is appropriate that the symposium should take place in Paris. The discussions we propose are also timely, since in our 21st century new scientific ideas and new technologies have changed not only the face of chemistry itself but also the nature of the sources for its future history. Along with the paper documents, oral histories, instruments, and other artefacts that have previously embodied the heritage of chemistry, we now need to include sources and artefacts of a quite different nature, including electronic documents, images, videos, databases, and software, as well as the hardware necessary for the exploitation of this enlarged range of resources. The preservation of key sites associated with the heritage of chemistry is another matter in

which historians, curators, and industrial archaeologists have a common interest. Such sites include academic and industrial research laboratories and centres of technological innovation which allow scholars to see original apparatus and equipment in their original settings, while informing the general public in ways that highlight key developments and avoid misconceptions. In view of the rapid development of current technologies and the many challenges they present, the organizers wish to engage specialists from as many national, professional, and institutional backgrounds as possible and to foster debate that will continue long after the symposium itself.

The CHMC is one of several commissions of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science Division of History of Science and Technology (IUHPS/DHST), which sponsors quadrennial international congresses.

Topics of the sessions:

General discussions of the issues, as well as appropriate case studies will be welcome.

The following are the three main areas we expect to consider:

a) The history of communication and documentation in chemistry. This may include studies of conferences and commissions (especially for the establishment of standards, nomenclature, etc.), correspondence, journals, patents, textbooks and general reference works, popularizations, etc.

b) Historians and their sources. What use can historians make, of both traditional documentary sources found in libraries and archives, and digital sources and databases? How can they use other sources, such as artefacts (including instruments, apparatus, and chemicals) and laboratory or industrial sites, to enhance understanding of the heritage of chemistry?

c) Institutions that secure and preserve the heritage of chemistry for historians and the general public. These institutions include archives, especially industrial archives, libraries, museums, and historical sites. Here especially we should welcome case studies that highlight the opportunities and challenges involved in collecting, preserving, and making accessible sources of all kinds.

Papers might deal with policies for the collection and management of books, official documents, personal papers, industrial records, etc.; others might address the various means of preserving and using documents, from photocopying through microforms to scanning, OCR, and other electronic technologies for converting older forms of storage (microfilm, etc.).

Papers are to be in English or French; each participant will be allowed 20 minutes to present the paper, followed by 10 minutes for discussion. Please send submissions by email as an attached Word document to: chmcproposal2011@gmail.com

For more information please visit the symposium website at www.chmc2011.fr.

For inquiries please contact: Jeffrey A. Johnson, President, CHMC; Villanova University, USA, Jeffrey.Johnson@villanova.edu.

23 – 24 June 2011

Rechts und links der Straße: Geschichte der Straßengewerbe

The Right and left Side of the Street: The History of the Sidewalk

Arbeitskreis Verkehrsgeschichte der Gesellschaft für Technikgeschichte

Industriemuseum Osnabrück, Germany

CFP – Deadline **15 March 2011**

Please visit [http://www.gtg.tu-](http://www.gtg.tu-berlin.de/mambo/mambots/editors/tinymce/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1001&Itemid=267)

[berlin.de/mambo/mambots/editors/tinymce/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1001&Itemid=267](http://www.gtg.tu-berlin.de/mambo/mambots/editors/tinymce/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1001&Itemid=267)

Please contact: Hans-Luidger Dienel, TU Berlin, dienel@ztg.tu-berlin.de and hans-ulrich.schiedt@viastoria.ch

18 – 20 July 2011

International Commission for the History of meteorology, Climatic Determinism: Then and Now, National Hellenic Research Foundation

Athens

CFP – Deadline **1 March 2011**

Climatic determinism has a very long and checkered history. It has provided an enduring framework for thinking about the relationship between the human and natural environments by making the climate a demiurge of social universe. In doing so, climatic determinists have put forward a particular species of political ethics whose self-serving claims about the environmental distribution of virtue, value and privilege have long been subject of debate and criticism. Most problematically, the idea of climate as a key force in social development has naturalized existing forms of cultural domination, political hierarchy, economic dependency and racial inequity. While most of such thinking has been discredited, in recent years, the omnipresence of anthropogenic climate change has caused a resurgence of similar ideas, causing scholars and commentators to ask if these represent a revival of climatic determinism and, if so, with what consequences?

This question is especially relevant in today's policy domain, in which we see climate change as the most prominent environmental issue and one of the key forces in shaping of international politics, global economy and social theory. In this context, we have all become gradually aware that climatic trends, past and present, have a lot to do with the history of energy, political power, and technological innovation as much as they relate to distribution of goods and services and the legality of resource use and exploitation of fossil fuels. Furthermore, as scholars in geography and science studies argue, the nature and location of climate change are continually being negotiated, interpreted and produced through practices

and knowledges, none of which can be said to dominate others, none of which can be called a master discourse.

And yet, paradoxically, much of environmental thinking, planning and doing these days is framed within a deterministic and reductionistic master discourse as a response to the unitary agency of climate change. In such a discourse, climate is seen as an external force that impacts the economy, affects countries, harms national security, hurts the world's poor, and potentially leads to global conflict. The UNDP Human Development Report, for example, calls for a 'fight against climate change,' while BBC and the Met Office say that 'tackling climate change will be one of the most important things this generation does.' In some instances, visual imagery designed to alert policy and popular audiences to climatic change, including the 'Burning Embers' image and the 'Tipping Points' lean towards an environmental deterministic interpretation of the climate change impacts. This framing of climate change rhetoric presents climate as more than just a trend of environmental change. Instead, it constructs it as an independent, self-contained and self-perpetuating mechanism with power to shape everyday life and structure the way we think about our common future(s).

Do such views constitute a revival of climatic determinism? How does the role of climate in today's world compare to its earlier roles in geography, earth sciences and political theory? How can historians and social scientists contribute to the scientific and political discussion of climate crisis?

Our 2-day meeting in Athens encourages historians, philosophers, sociologists, geographers, literary historians, and cultural theorists to reflect and debate about reductionist readings, deterministic explanations and the putative obviousness of the climate crisis in both the academic and the public spheres.

Abstracts will be reviewed by the Committee consisting of Georgina Endfield (Nottingham), James R. Fleming (Colby), George Vlahakis (Athens) and Vladimir Jankovic (Manchester).
Submission deadline: 1 March 2011.

Please send 200 word abstracts and a brief CV to:

Vladimir Jankovic, Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine, University of Manchester, vladimir.jankovic@manchester.ac.uk

September 2011 (date will be fixed later)

Revue d'histoire du 19e siècle / Le quotidien des techniques. Pratiques sociales et désordres techniques au XIXe siècle /Daily Life Technology in the 19th Century. Daily life technology - social practices and technical disorder in the 19th Century

Paris

CFP – Deadline **28 February 2011**

Departing from whiggish grand narratives of innovation, the special issue of the *Revue d'histoire du XIXe siècle* will analyze the social uses and processes of co-construction of technology and society. Although historical literature has mostly produced views on the rise of new technologies, recent studies have offered new perspectives on the social uses of things and the role of technology in the everyday fashioning of social order. Inspired by the sociology of science, the SCOT programme (Social Construction of Technology), based on the study of individual items, greatly contributed to this new point of view, discussing how technologies were socially defined and constructed. This constructivist turn, which took place in the 1980s, strongly influenced French pragmatic sociology, with greater attention on actors and their agencies. In this context, technology became a new and richer instrument to understand the social and political order. New research in social science, questioning technological practices, has flourished (Gilbert Simondon, Bruno Latour...). However, it paradoxically remains underrepresented in 19th century studies, technology being appended to economic and industrial history.

Yet, the nineteenth century underwent a fast-growing spread of technological equipment, as well as faith in technology and its liberal endowment, which thus became characteristic to advanced capital societies. In addition, 19th century everyday life was dramatically changed by technological items.

Internalist studies of structures and “technological systems” (Bertrand Gilles) have become one way to analyze technology experienced in everyday life, through the analysis of social actors, representations, practices and negotiations. Social studies used new methodologies, such as direct or participant observation, frame and interaction analysis, or had recourse to family or life histories. Historians developed new thinking on tools and methodology implied by technological study: it supposed the taking into consideration of common people’s creativity and the ongoing tricks they employed to make their way into the crowd of goods (Michel de Certeau). In this perspective, technological items and their systems dynamically acquired identities through their uses and forms. Contrasting with the dominant perspective of possession, dominant in material culture studies until recently, consumption studies have recently analyzed the successive mutations of artefacts, from their trade to their social uses, and, extending 18th century studies on uses of technology, have underlined their marketing, retailing and publicity. In terms of space, devices circulated between the public and domestic spheres, with that of labour. It also circulated at local or international scale, in rural areas, colonial or extra-European regions.

The special issue aims at presenting new ways of writing the history of technology, between technological theories and social practices. Methodological shifts and original documentation – private and trade archives – or new approaches to classic sources for historians of technology – adverts, textbooks or patents.

Three main areas, as well as cross-sections, will be privileged:

Social practices and technologies at work

Diversions, bypassing, odd jobs and other social practices that shaped the daily uses of technologies in workshops, factories, canteens will be analyzed.

- Invisible or discreet innovations (adaptations of machines to singular uses, diversions of normalized procedures...)
- Technologies of order and disorder in workshops (clockworks, bells, fences and others tools for the control of behaviours)
- Noises and smells of technology; hygienic artefacts
- Gender and generation differentiation in the tools and machines' uses
- Medical technics
- Gestures of work
- Work on the side, resistances, recoveries...

Practices of artefacts in the domestic sphere

Questions about technologies in the domestic sphere can also help to think about daily life social practices:

- Home artefacts (sewing machines, washing machines, amateurs' machines...)
- Building apparatus (hygienic equipments, heating systems, lightings, safety devices...)
- Body and medical equipments, clothing (corsets, opera hats...)
- echnological and scientific toys
- Attempts for reforming daily life, in particular in utopian experiences (phalansteries, familistères...)

Techniques and narratives

Following Stephen Bann or Jonathan Crary, papers will analyze the numerous cross-sections between the arts, shows, narratives and technology.

- Copy, reproduction... (tour à portraits, photography, oleography, Collas' system of reduction, photosculpture, casts...)
- Machinery of art (pantographs, cameras, photographic devices...)
- Narrative machines (stereoscopes, magic lanterns, cinematographs...)
- Writing and printing (writing, filing, counting, copying, duplicating...)
- Amateurs' artefacts (pyrography, cameras...)
- Communication apparatuses (the telegraph, the telephone...)
- Sound and music tools (phonographs, pianola...)

Please sent contributions to Manuel Charpy: manuel.charpy@wanadoo.fr

François Jarrige: fjarrige1@gmail.com

13 – 17 September 2011

Atlanta Conference on Science and Innovation Policy: Building Capacity for Scientific Innovation and Outcomes

Atlanta

CFP – Deadline **1 March 2011**

The Atlanta Conference on Science and Innovation Policy 2011 welcomes proposals for papers, posters, sessions, and short courses. The Conference theme for this year is “Building Capacity for Scientific Innovation and Outcomes.” Submissions on any topic in science and innovation policy are welcome. Dates: 15-17 September 2011, with pre-conference events on 13-14 September. Place: Georgia Tech’s Global Learning Center, Atlanta, Georgia. See the web site for full details and the link for submissions:

Please visit: www.atlantaconference.org

Please contact: atlc@pubpolicy.gatech.edu

21 – 23 September 2011

Computer Simulations and the Changing Face of Scientific Experimentation. SimTech Workshop

Stuttgart, Germany

CFP – Deadline **1 March 2011**

Computer simulations are increasingly entering realms that have formerly been reserved for experimentation. In this workshop we want to address questions like: How are simulations related to experiments? When can simulations replace experiments? When are experiments still needed? How can simulations and experiments interact? What are successful research patterns for “computer experiments”? How did these issues change historically throughout the 50+ years in which simulation has been practiced?

The workshop intends philosophical and historical discussion about the relation between computer simulations and experimentation. We invite authors addressing one of the following topics to submit contributions:

The conference will be accepting electronic submissions appropriately prepared for blind review on or before March 1st, 2010. Additional details will be posted to the conference website at <http://websrv.simtech.uni-stuttgart.de/>.

Conference Organiser:

Eckhart Arnold, Philosophy, University of Stuttgart

Juan Duran, Philosophy, University of Stuttgart

Klaus Hentschel, History of Science & Technology, University of Stuttgart

Please visit: <http://websrv.simtech.uni-stuttgart.de/>

23 – 25 September 2011

Research technologies – Forschungstechnologien. Annual meeting of the Deutschen Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Medizin, Naturwissenschaft und Technik e.V.

Stuttgart, Germany

CFP – Deadline **31 March 2011**

Please find more information on the homepage of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Medizin, Naturwissenschaft und Technik, soon:

http://www.dggmnt.de/cms/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=117&Itemid=218

Please contact Sabine Schleiermacher, Forschungsschwerpunkt Zeitgeschichte, Institut für Geschichte der Medizin, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin,

sabine.schleiermacher@charite.de and Klaus Hentschel, History of Science, Stuttgart University, ihisegnt@po.hi.uni-stuttgart.de

29 – 30 September 2011

**Von der Konflikt- zur Verflechtungsgeschichte? Wirtschaft und Umwelt seit 1945
Economy and Environment since 1945. – Was the history of conflicts substituted by a history of connections?**

Workshop at the Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung Potsdam e.V., Potsdam

CFP – Deadline **15 March 2011**

Please contact Ralf Ahrens and Melanie Arndt, Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung Potsdam, ahrens@zzf-pdm.de, amdt@zzf-pdm.de

6 – 9 October 2011

Transport and Mobility on Display. 9th International Conference of the International Association for the History of Transport Traffic and Mobility (T2M)

Deutsches Technikmuseum, Technische Universität Berlin

CFP – **Deadline 30 April 2011**

The International Association for the History of Transport, Traffic and Mobility (T2M) heartily invites proposals for papers and sessions to be presented at its 9th International Conference to be held at the Deutsches Technikmuseum Berlin (German Technology Museum), Berlin/Germany, October 6th to 9th, 2011.

Venue: Deutsches Technikmuseum in Downtown Berlin

The Deutsches Technikmuseum (German Technology Museum), founded in 1982, stands in a long tradition of scientific and technical collections. Before 1982, one of its forerunners was the Museum for Transport and Technology. Some forerunners had their home in Berlin for more than 120 years. Some of these collections have been taken over by the Deutsches Technikmuseum, others have been destroyed during the Second World War. Close to

Potsdamer Platz, the museum occupies a historical industrial site dating back to 1874: the site of the former goods yard of Anhalter Güterbahnhof. The large museum park – containing two windmills, a water mill, a smithy and a brewery – is also an oasis of green. The museum presents a broad spectrum of old and new technology and demonstrates the various historical connections to culture and everyday life. The museum also has a well-stocked library on the history of technology as well as historical archives. The contemporary architecture of the new extension for the aviation and maritime collections fits perfectly into these surroundings to form a fascinating ensemble. The “raisin bomber” suspended from the façade makes the extension a prominent urban landmark. While the railways, maritime and air departments have a permanent exhibition, the road transport departments are still waiting for a permanent exhibition. The collection of urban transport is currently open to the public only on special occasions. The future exhibition will draw attention to the basic elements of everyday life, which are all too often ignored. Before the conference, the museum will open a special exhibition on automobility.

As the largest German city, Berlin is not only one of the most vibrant European capitals, but served as the testing ground for many new types of vehicles and was also an important production location for such companies as Daimler-Motorenwerke in Marienfelde, Orenstein & Koppel and the Deutsche Waggon-Union. In the 1920s, Berlin counted as the “fastest city in the world”. Since German reunification in 1990, Berlin again has become the clear political center of Germany, a growing magnet for science, culture and youth from all over the world. The second hosting institution, the Technische Universität Berlin (TUB, Berlin Institute of Technology), is the largest technological university in Germany. It has the highest figure of foreign students of all German universities. TUB offers strong (international) programs in transport studies, metropolitan studies, history of technology, sociology of technology and human technologies. The Center for Technology and Society, founded in 1995, is a leading research institute for studying the relations of technical, cultural and societal developments. The local organising committee of the conference stems from both the Deutsches Technikmuseum and the Technische Universität Berlin (Berlin Institute of Technology) and integrates expertise from the university and museum.

Theme

The Conference Theme is “Transport and Mobility on Display”. We invite papers and sessions, which discuss the history and future of transport museums, exhibitions and collections and transport halls in larger technology museums and the relation of academic mobility history and transport museums. By this, T2M seeks to establish a closer collaboration between academic scholars, curators and exhibition makers in the field of transport, traffic and mobility.

The call is not limited to the history and future of transport museums and exhibitions but intends to explore different exhibitions of mobility: for instance advertising, car design, transport fairs, mobility “Lunapark” as motor show or car race. In a broader perspective, all transport infrastructures, e.g. railway stations, motorways, bridges or traffic signs, are “Transport and mobility on display”, offering mobility and landscape experiences. Their

sensible appearance shape the image of transport, and have an impact on transport policy and use. In addition to visual aesthetic appearance, smell, noise and other senses are important for the impact of transport on display. Thus, the call seeks for an innovative analysis of the social, economic, political and psychological impact of the manifestation and appearance of transport and mobility. It takes on questions, T2M already has discussed at the 5th annual conference in Helmond on “Transport Heritage and Design”.

Transport museums belong to the best visited museums in the world. In technology museums, departments for transport and traffic often are the most attractive halls. Counting visitor figures, transport museums and halls can easily claim to represent a tremendous success story. On the other hand, transport museums have been criticised for presenting an often uncritical and techno-enthusiastic image of mobility, limiting its scope to the aesthetic and technological sensations of transport vehicles while undervaluing the history of traffic and mobility, of transport infrastructures, as rails, roads and rivers, and of environmental and of societal effects of transport, as societal exclusion and inclusion by accessibility. Many transport museums are notoriously under-budgeted, often have not enough or no curatorial staff and often nearly no research infrastructures. Many transport museums are operated by volunteers, often elder male engineers.

By analysing transport and mobility on display, the conference shall contribute to a material cultural history of transport and mobility and shall envision new concepts and forms of transport and mobility exhibitions. Transport history has turned to cultural history later than the history of technology. Only in the last two decades, we experience something like a boom in cultural histories of transport and a slight shift in transport history focus towards the passengers, their experiences and adventures.

Museology has claimed that the educational function of museums has somewhat decreased during the last decades in favour of more emphasis on experience, leisure and thrill. Theme parks have become competitors and models for new enter- and edutainment concepts. Interactive hands-on and children departments have become commonplace. In the world of transport exhibitions and museums, however, experience and thrill always have played a significant role even in unwritten didactical concepts. A look on the history and future of transport museums therefore can reshape our image of public use of history and heritage from educational to leisure institutions. Museum curators and academia researchers need more occasions to exchange knowledge and expertise. The conference will offer an excellent framework to bridge those two worlds.

In short: the conference shall bring together perspectives from different academic disciplines, the museum’s world, exhibitions and fairs to understand the impact of transport on display. It shall lead to a closer collaboration between museums, exhibitions and research institutions in the field of transport, traffic and mobility. Therefore, we especially encourage multi-perspective joint session proposals. It is a T2M tradition that paper and session proposals are not limited to the general topic. We ask for paper and session proposals for all themes in the field of transport, traffic and mobility can be proposed. By this, the annual conference

shall give, in a broad way, an up-to-date overview on the field of historical transport and mobility studies.

Papers

Participants are encouraged, though not required, to organize panels on these themes. A panel consists of a chair and normally up to three speakers; no commentator is required. We especially encourage transnational, comparative and multi-perspective approaches, and welcome proposals exploring theoretical or methodological issues as well as those of a more empirical nature. We especially invite recent entrants to the profession and doctoral students to submit proposals. Session proposals should also include a one-page overview of the session. Submitters will be notified by the Programme committee at May 20, 2011 on the success or status of their submission.

Poster Presentations

Submission of a fully completed poster form (1 page A4) is mandatory for all speakers, for T2M 2011 wants to invest more energy into communication. Posters of all oral presentations will be exhibited in the public area of the museum. This innovation will contribute to better promotion of the history of transport, traffic and mobility as a scientific discipline and as a public service. Posters will be judged. The best posters will receive a prize during the banquet. Poster forms will be made available later on the website of the conference.

Deadlines

Please send proposals to: submissions@t2m.org.

The deadline for sending in the abstracts and a short CV (max one page each; Word or Rich Text Format only) is April 30th 2011.

Since it may be a problem for many scholars to get funding for transport, accommodation and the Conference, the Programme committee therefore will send out acceptance letters for the selected papers before the end of May 2011, in order to facilitate acquisition for funding. The full paper of all accepted submissions and of the posters must be delivered on or before August 15, 2011. These papers will be available to all Conference participants before the conference. Individual presentations at the Conference are therefore to be limited to a fifteen-minute summary to allow for debate and discussion within the session. All participants are required to register. For details of T2M and of previous conferences, please visit: www.t2m.org. Further details of the Conference (including the poster form) will be posted on a website of the Programme Committee which is currently under construction and will go online shortly.

Travel Grants

Ph.D. students and scholars from so-called developing countries are encouraged to apply for travel grants at T2M. Please send in your application together with the proposal at: submissions@t2m.org. (Please download a travel grant form at: www.t2m.org)

20 – 23 October 2011

Final Frontiers: Exploring Oceans, Islands, and Coastal Environments

Document Actions

Rockland, Maine, USA

CFP – Deadline **31 March 2011**

Despite the enormous advances that have taken place in environmental history, the field still remain, to a great extent, stubbornly landlocked. The enduring notion of the eternal sea has exempted oceans from historical examination, assigning them to maritime history which has been concerned primarily with what takes place on, rather than in the sea itself. In a similar manner, the idea that the sea is a “placeless place” has put it off-limits to geographers. In the same way, lands most closely associated with water such as islands and coasts have remained unmarked, unexplored categories. Environments where earth and water meet and mix, notably wetlands, are only just beginning to be explored. “Always the edge of the sea remains an elusive and indefinable boundary,” wrote Rachel Carson. Regrettably, this remains the case today.

Because oceans are perceived as belonging to nature rather than to culture, they would seem to be in the domain of the sciences rather than the humanities. But this too must be questioned now that we are beginning to understand the ways in which oceans themselves are cultural constructs and how much they signify. The epistemological frontiers of environmental history are among the things we wish to explore in this interdisciplinary conference through both theoretical reflection and empirical study.

This conference will consider the ways in which the inclusion of oceans, coasts, and islands would alter the practices and paradigms of environmental history. It will bring together junior and senior scholars, including W. Jeffrey Bolster, Michael Pearson, Paul D’Arcy, Helen M. Rozwadowski, and Philip E. Steinberg, in an effort to chart the future of the field. In an attempt to close what constitutes a “blue hole” in environmental history, we invite papers from junior scholars of all world regions. Contributions from the sciences and social sciences are welcome as long as they are concerned with change over time in the interaction of humans and the natural world.

This event will consist of a series of workshops designed to lead to a set of essays that may be collected in a book exploring the possibilities and consequences of bringing oceans, islands, and coasts into focus. Proposals for papers should indicate how their content might contribute to such a rethinking of the field in one of the six areas indicated below. They should deal with the time period between 1700 to the present, but can focus on any world region. The papers will be precirculated so as to ensure maximum discussion and collaboration.

Workshop topics will include:

Beyond the Atlantic World: Perspectives from Other Oceans

Reimagining Oceans: Marine Arts and Literatures

Historicizing Seas and Marine Life

Oceanic Epistemologies: Science and Local Knowledges

Waterlands: Islands, Coasts, and Estuaries

Finding a Place for Oceans: Geographies of Seas, Shores, and Islands

“Final Frontiers: Exploring Oceans, Islands, and Coastal Environments” is supported by the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society in Munich, Germany, and will be held at the Island Institute in Rockland, Maine, USA on 20-23 October 2011. Applications (in English) should include a 400 word abstract and a short curriculum vitae. They should be submitted to John Gillis and/or Franziska Torma by 31 March 2011. Travel expenses and accommodation will be covered by the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society. All applicants must indicate how their submission contributes to one or more of the conference’s six major themes and to the general repositioning of oceans, coasts, and islands in environmental history.

Conveners of the conference:

John R. Gillis, Professor History Emeritus, Rutgers University, email: gottgillis@cs.com

Franziska Torma, Rachel Carson Center, email: franziska.torma@carsoncenter.lmu.de

The Rachel Carson Center is a joint initiative of LMU Munich and the Deutsches Museum supported by the German Ministry for Education and Research.

3 – 6 November 2011

Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, SHOT

Cleveland

CFP – Deadline **31 March 2011**

The call for papers for the SHOT Meeting 2011 is out; please visit the SHOT website for more information: http://www.historyoftechnology.org/annual_meeting.html

10 – 12 November 2011

„Deutschland AG“? Unternehmen, Verbände und Politik in der Bundesrepublik

„Germany Incorporated“. Companies, Organizations and Policy in the German Federal Republic.

Potsdam, Germany

CFP – Deadline **30 March 2011**

Please contact: Ralf Ahrens Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung Potsdam, ahrens@zzf-pdm.de

17 – 20 January 2012

Urban Networks Panels, Social Science History Association. 36th annual meeting of the Social Science History Association
Boston

CFP – Deadline **15 February 2011**

We invite you to take part in the Urban Network panels of the 36th annual meeting of the Social Science History Association, 17-20 November 2011, in Boston. For more information on the meeting as well as the call for proposals, please refer to the SSHA website: www.ssha.org.

The thematic topic of the 2011 annual meeting is “Generation to Generation”—a theme that works very well with the research interests of many of the scholars involved in the Urban Network. However, do note that all paper and panel submissions will be considered.

While we welcome panels and papers on any topic of interest to scholars of cities, we are particularly interested in papers and panels on the following themes, drawn from member suggestions:

- The “Culture of Poverty”
- Migration and Immigration
- Urban Development
- Neoliberalism and Urban Community
- Expertise and Disaster
- Mortgage Institutions, Neighborhoods, and Foreclosure
- Planning and Participation
- Urban Institutional Transformation
- Infrastructure and Cities
- The Ancient City
- Shrinking/Aging Cities
- Urban Organizations and Social Movements
- Urban Governance

The SSHA requests that submissions be made by means of its web conference management system. The direct link for submissions is: <http://conference.ssha.org/>.

Please contact: Michael McQuarrie: mmcquarrie@ucdavis.edu

Carl Zimring: czimring@roosevelt.edu

Megan Stubbendeck: mrs8v@virginia.edu

III. Summer Schools

20 – 25 June 2011

Water–Culture–Politics: Perspectives in Environmental History. Second ESEH Summer School

Venice, Italy

CFP – Deadline **20 February 2011**

The European Society for Environmental History will hold its second summer school for doctoral students from 20–25 June 2011, this time in Italy at the Centro Tedesco di Studi Veneziani (Palazzo Barbarigo della Terrazza) in Venice.

The topic of this summer school will be:

1. Water–Culture–Politics
2. Perspectives in Environmental History

Up to 18 doctoral students from within Europe will be invited to discuss their work in environmental history and related disciplines with specialists and peers. The summer school will offer lectures by distinguished scholars as well as excursions and guided tours around Venice.

Any doctoral student who is affiliated with a university in Europe and whose work touches on the general topic of the summer school (“Water–Culture–Politics: Perspectives in Environmental History”) is invited to apply, regardless of the time period or geographical location of their research. Issues that can be discussed at the summer school may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Sinking cities
- Water degradation and pollution
- Water conservation
- The politics of water-engineering and water-management
- Environmentalism in water history
- Cultural aspects of waterways and lakes in Europe

Application:

Applicants are asked to submit a proposal for a paper to be discussed at the summer school (400–500 words) by 20 February 2011 along with a short CV and the names of two references via e-mail (only!) to CarsonCenter@lmu.de (subject line: ESEH summer school 2011). Preference will be given to doctoral students who have completed most of their archival research and have started to write.

Participation:

Successful applicants will need to submit their paper (5,000–7,000 words including footnotes) by 27 May 2011. At the summer school, the group will discuss each paper and

each student will present formal comments on the paper of a fellow participant. The Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society will organize the event and cover travel costs (within Europe) and hotel accommodation in Venice.

Please send specific inquiries to Christof Mauch, mauch@lmu.de.

IV. Recently Published Books

Hans-Liudger Dienel/Hans-Ulrich Schiedt (eds.): Die moderne Straße. Planung, Bau und Verkehr vom 18. bis zum 20. Jahrhundert. Campus, Frankfurt/New York 2010.

The book is dedicated to the history of trunk roads. Main emphasis is on the construction process, the use and the development of regions due to the new roads and new connections.

V. Join ICOHTEC

An ICOHTEC membership makes you a member of the scholarly network of the UNESCO-based International Committee for the History of Technology, ICOHTEC.

The membership includes:

- Reduced fees for ICOHTEC's conferences
- ICOHTEC's reviewed journal ICON (published annually, ca. 200 pages)
- ICOHTEC's electronic Newsletter (published monthly – available via mailing list and on the homepage)

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Dr. Patrice Bret, IRSEM, Case 46, 1 place Joffre, F-75700 Paris SP 07, France or to
Professor Timo Myllyntaus, University of Turku, Finnish History, School of History,
FI-20014 Turku, Finland

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