

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,

Our President James Williams welcomes you to the 38th ICOHTEC Conference in Glasgow; in his address he gives an overview of ICOHTEC's scholarly and social activities in 2011. In order to prepare our conference the Newsletter publishes a report on the history of technology in Scotland. Thanks to Gordon Masterton and Ray Stokes it introduces in two different approaches to our field.

If you dislike summer times you might enjoy deeply reading the conference report on the exploration of arctic regions during the Cold War period.

It will be a pleasure to meet you in Glasgow!

Best wishes

Yours Stefan

Contents

I. ICOHTEC – Welcome to our 38 th Meeting in Glasgow	p. 2
II. History of Technology in Scotland: Two perspectives	p. 3
III. Conference Reports	p. 10
IV. Conference Announcements	p. 14
V. Join ICOHTEC	p. 20

I. ICOHTEC – Welcome to our 38th Meeting in Glasgow

Dear ICOHTEC Members,

I am looking forward to meeting you in Glasgow for our 38th symposium, “Consumer Choice and Technology.” Our program committee chaired by Lars Bluma has assembled a fine collection of papers examining the interaction of technology and consumer behavior over time and looking at factors steering consumption and how consumers by their choices have influenced in technological development. Ray Stokes of the University of Glasgow and his local organizing committee have pulled together a lovely program with many tours and activities. I think we will all be in for a treat.

This year, in addition to presenting our ICOHTEC Prize for Young Scholars for the best original book-length work in the history of technology in 2009 or 2010, we are presenting for the first time our Maurice Dumas Prize for the best article on the history of technology published in a journal or edited volume in 2009 or 2010. These prizes are supported by the Juanelo Turriano Foundation and the Technical University of Belfort-Montbéliard (UTBM), for which we are extremely grateful. I encourage you to attend the Young Scholar book prize sessions following lunch on Friday.

Other highlights of the meeting include our annual Kranzberg Lecture, featuring our past-secretary general and president Hans-Joachim Braun who will speak about “Creativity: Technology and the Arts.” Our opening reception follows the Kranzberg Lecture, and on Wednesday evening the Lord Provost of the City of Glasgow welcomes us with a reception at Glasgow City Council Chambers. Our annual Jazz Evening follows the General Assembly meeting on Thursday night at Qudos in the Queen Margaret Union on the University of Glasgow campus. Finally, I hope you’ll join us for our symposium reception on campus followed by our gala dinner at the Hilton Grosvenor Hotel on Saturday evening.

Members should know that the ICOHTEC Executive Committee meets in the Lilybank House on Tuesday afternoon, and our General Assembly – which a urge all members attend – will be on Friday afternoon from 1600-1800.

These activities plus the many excursions planned by the hard-working local organizing committee are sure to make ICOHTEC’s 38th Symposium a memorable one.

See you soon,

James Williams
President

II. History of Technology in Scotland: Two perspectives

It is a tradition in connection with annual meetings of ICOHTEC for someone to provide a general overview of history of technology the country or city within which the conference takes place. For this year's meeting in Glasgow, we are providing not one, but two overviews, one from the practitioner/professional community, one from the scholarly community. Both of them are personal and individual observations. While there are clear differences between them, it is also clear that there are commonalities, not least in the call for more to be done to preserve and analyse, but also to celebrate Scotland's technological heritage.

1. Industrial Archaeology in Scotland - An Engineer's Perspective

[Disclaimer: The views expressed here are mine alone and in no way reflect the views of my employer, or of organisations with which I have an association.]

Stormy Waters – Past and Present

In December 1661, two ships had a fateful encounter in the Yarmouth roads. One of them was his majesty's frigate "*Eagle*". The other was the Scottish barque, "*Elizabeth*", skippered by John Wemyss of Burntisland. The master of the frigate requested that the *Elizabeth* receive some hogsheads for transport to Scotland. Wemyss refused, saying that he knew from what he'd heard in London, that this particular cargo had been directed by his majesty to be entrusted only to his majesty's ships, and not to any merchant ships. But the frigate's company pressed aboard 85 hogsheads of cargo, despite Wemyss's protestations.

The *Elizabeth* never reached Scotland. A storm blew up, and she began taking on water. Wemyss hailed another ship bound for Newcastle, entreating assistance if the leaks worsened; but the storm increased, and the two ships separated in the night. The crew of the *Elizabeth* continued to pump water for two days, but the leaks got worse and the crew finally took to the boats, still some 18 miles from land, off the coast of Northumberland, near Alnwick.

Although the men reached shore safely, The *Elizabeth*, with her unusual pressed cargo, was lost.

A parliamentary commission was appointed to try Wemyss, but he was exonerated through the evidence of his crew (especially his master mate, John Masterton, and a passenger John Boswell), that the cargo was pressed on him with threat of violence. The commission concluded that the ship had sunk "by the violence and furiousnes of the waves in so great a storme" and not through neglect or fault of the skipper. Indeed, they opined that the fatal leak

might have been stopped if the “place had not been so shut up with thes eightie fyve hogisheids”¹.

The tragedy of the *Elizabeth* was not one of lives lost, but of what was in the 85 hogsheads. For these contained archives and registers of Scotland that had been seized by Cromwell from Stirling Castle in 1651 and sent to London. Charles II had approved their return to Edinburgh.

Today in Scotland, we could be facing a similar tragedy if we do not address the urgent need for specialist archiving of the records most relevant to the industrial archaeologist – those held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments for Scotland (RCAHMS). Despite its title, RCAHMS collects, records and interprets information on the entire architectural, industrial, archaeological and maritime heritage of Scotland. It now holds over 15 million drawings, photographs, negatives and manuscripts relating to Scotland’s archaeology, buildings and maritime heritage.

It has been adding to these records for more than a hundred years, and its archive offers a unique insight into the special nature of Scotland's Places, and is an invaluable source for researchers, practitioners, educators and exhibitors interested in the built environment. But it has outgrown its current storage facilities, putting the collection at risk. The case for a new archive store was put together by RCAHMS and in 2004, a funding commitment of £12 million for phase one of a new archive storage building was announced by Scottish Ministers². Phase one was for the provision of suitable archive storage facilities for the archive, with subsequent phases to address opening the archive to greater public access.³

However, the change of government in 2007 also triggered a reassessment of affordability criteria, and the project was cancelled. But the need has not changed. Indeed the collection continues to grow, as it should as a live and vibrant record, and the storage crisis, one might reasonably conclude, becomes steadily more acute. It is a huge disappointment that Scotland’s unique and superb collection of its achievements as a civilisation faces such an uncertain future. The likelihood of a short-term solution has of course been made even more remote by the need for public spending cuts following the global financial crisis, something that could not, in fairness, have been foreseen. But a solution must be found. Records and archives policies need the commitment and confidence of long-term business continuity plans, if we are to have any credibility as custodians of the present for the benefit of future generations. By that yardstick, archival needs should not be subject to shorter-term fluctuations and swings in fortunes of investments or revenues. They need long term planning, and they need long-term commitment, which should include some protection from the vagaries of political change. There is no reason why cross-party commitment should not

¹ K.M. Brown et al (eds.): *The Records of the Parliaments of Scotland to 1707*. St Andrews 2007-2011, A1661/1/51. Date accessed: 2 July 2011.

² Scots Heritage archives to get new £12m home. *The Scotsman*, 28 October 2004.

³ *Building Our Legacy_Statement on Scotland's Architecture Policy 2007*. The Scottish Government. February 2007.

be possible for such a valuable, and genuinely a-political, part of our collective infrastructure of good governance.

The stormy waters of political change have proved just as hazardous to the preservation of Scotland's archives as the North Sea storms in the days after the master of the *Eagle* forced the leak-prone *Elizabeth* to take 85 hogsheads of Scotland's registers.

The loss of the *Elizabeth* might be put down to a combination of fate and the turbulence of major political upheaval and conflicts in the mid 17th Century. The current threat to Scotland's most important archives and records of its achievements as a civilisation is not the result of war, conflict, regicides or restorations, but without a serious commitment to a solution, the consequences could be just as material and just as serious.

Museums and Records

On a more positive note, Scotland has been well served by the new Riverside Museum in Glasgow as a wonderful development from the Transport Museum. As with all innovative buildings, its architecture by Zaha Hadid has generated extreme opinions. It cost £74m, well underway before the onset of the financial crisis, and we are fortunate that it was completed. It is a superb building housing a superb collection, and as an interested amateur enthusiast I am genuinely grateful for it. As a society, Scotland does seem to recognise the value of museums, even museums of industry, and we house them in iconic, and expensive, outer shells, that add to the delight of the visitor experience. I have no objection to that, so long as we also place, as a society, similar values on the less glamorous, but no less critical, assembly and cataloguing of the records that provide the raw material for education and outreach.

A museum that simply stores and displays and does not encourage interpretation, research and re-evaluation is a building that merely records "the imaginative death of our country"⁴. We also need museums to be inspirational and uplifting places where children of all ages can receive quality information that helps form their life values and attitudes to learning in a compelling and lasting way. The Riverside Museum should become one of the best-attended museums in the UK, but the dissemination of knowledge to the public still requires research and the retention of the source materials of records and archives.

RCAHMS recognises this and now allocates a substantial portion of its activities to Education and Outreach. The records collected of Scotland's achievement as a civilisation are used in publications, exhibitions, educational support materials and community projects. The output is aimed to enhance the public understanding of Scotland's Places, thus creating value to both residents and visitors.

⁴ Robert Hewison: *The Heritage Industry: Britain in a Climate of Decline*. Methuen, London 1987.

Effective Learning from the Past

The potential conflict or tension between the study of the past and the relevance to the present is something I've been consciously trying to reconcile in a number of initiatives over the years I've been a practising engineer and interested in learning lessons from the past. And of course, good engineering MUST look to the past if only to avoid repeating the same mistakes. "Progress, far from consisting in change, depends on retentiveness...Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."⁵

In 2005, I gave my address as incoming President of the Institution of Civil Engineers - the 141st President (and the 24th Scot!). I made a plea for experienced engineers to be better at mentoring and passing on their knowledge to the next generation, and led from the front by appointing seven "President's Apprentices" to work with me throughout the year⁶. These young graduates valued the experience and I'm pleased to say that, six years on, the President's Apprentice scheme is still in place. The next generation is learning from the previous one.

The study of industrial archaeology is the equivalent of a President's Apprenticeship, but with the apprentices having to find a way of learning from "Presidents" (taken as representative of the body of engineering knowledge) who are dead. The mentoring and the coaching is still available, but it comes from long-silent voices that have nevertheless left behind the physical legacy and written record, with its associated lessons and learning opportunities. What industrial archaeology can do is to give our young engineers and designers the tools to allow these lessons to be revealed. It's not an arid or arcane pursuit by any means. It's an essential means of passing on the means to remember the past, so that we do NOT simply repeat it.

In my current enthusiasm, the presidency of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders, I want to put this into practice once more. The financial crisis undermined Scotland's reputation in prudent financial management, but Scotland can still celebrate a unique contribution to the world in its undoubted reputation as a source of outstanding engineers. Watt, Telford, Rennie, Arrol, Rankine, Watson-Watt, Bell, Fairbairn, etc etc. I would like to give these great engineers, and more recently practising engineers who have made great achievements, more visibility as role models and mentors through the vehicle of the "Scottish Engineering Hall of Fame". A selection panel with representation from the principal engineering institutions and the Royal Academy of Engineering and Royal Society of Edinburgh, has now met to begin the process of selecting the first inductees for announcement at the James Watt Dinner on 30th September 2011. It will be an occasion to celebrate engineers and engineering of all disciplines. The criteria for induction are centred on the value of the individual's contribution to the quality of life with an explanation of how

⁵ George Santayana: *The Life of Reason*, Vol. I. Constable, s. i. 1905.

⁶ Promoting Value-Securing the Future. Presidential Address, Gordon Masterton. *Proc Inst Civ Eng. Civil Engineering*. Feb. 2006, pp. 55-63.

that manifests itself today⁷. The hope is that one or more of the major museums of science and technology will also embrace the idea, and that physical space might be found that will transform the virtual Hall of Fame into a real one.

I am in no doubt that it is absolutely essential that practising engineers learn lessons from our predecessors more effectively and more clearly than we can at the moment. This is not just for the satisfaction of pursuing an intellectually demanding and interesting course of study, but for the very real, and practical, benefit of building a future informed by a better understanding of the past, with its successes and failures. Indeed, the study of failures can be the most enlightening pursuit of all. Do we in the engineering professions recognise the value? Partly. Some good work has been done by a comparatively small group of enthusiasts, but much more could be done.

In a paper to the Institutions of Civil and Structural Engineers⁸, I advocated that the study of failures should be fully embedded in courses on structural analysis and design so that the purpose and the value of the study of statics and dynamics can be brought to life in a hard-hitting way. Learning how to analyse structures is not just a numbers game, it is about ensuring that no-one gets killed by a collapsing building. Some courses do this very well. Too many are still following the textbook approach of abstract problem solving that can be relatively easily replicated in examinations.

This too, might be regarded as a manifestation of industrial archaeology, perhaps in conjunction with forensic engineering.

So I encourage those who are wholly engaged in the study of industrial archaeology to think of new ways to engage with practising engineers, especially young engineers, to pass on the techniques and approaches that will assist those engineers to learn from the past and be better engineers as a result.

This would be a great service indeed to the engineering profession.

Dr Gordon Masterton, OBE, FEng, FRSE
Vice President, Jacobs Engineering
President, Institution of Engineers & Shipbuilders in Scotland
Past President, Institution of Civil Engineers

⁷ Gordon Masterton: Thomas Teflord – His Knowledge Legacy. Industrial Patrimony, 18th TICCIH Conference 2007.

⁸ Gordon Masterton: Safety First as Second Nature: a question of priorities. ICE/IstructE Prestige Lecture. 12 July 2007.

2. History of technology in Scotland: A view from (and of) the boundaries of scholarship

Let me start with a declaration of interest relating to the standpoint from I am writing this: from the outside, and indeed in more ways than one. First of all, although I have lived and worked in Scotland since the mid-1990s, I was born and raised in the United States and spent many years in Germany before that. Secondly, although my recent scholarship is beginning to touch on Scotland, the bulk of my research and writing has been about other countries. Finally, although I was trained in history of science and technology in graduate school and believe some of my best research outputs lie firmly in the field of history technology, my primary focus is on business, industrial, and economic history, not least since I hold the Chair in Business History at the University of Glasgow.

What follows is therefore very much a view from the edges of a discipline. But that is something which might be appropriate to a field which is in many ways on the fringes of scholarship in other areas.

I start with a paradox. Stated somewhat polemically, there is a long and distinguished history of technology in Scotland, evidenced not least through the ideas and artefacts that emerged from this small country from at least the 18th century which have in many ways helped transform the world. But, in stark contrast, there is far less historiography directed specifically at the technology in Scotland, and to date no single synthetic study of the history of technology in this country.

The apparent scholarly deficit is mirrored by, or perhaps indeed is a function of, organisational reality. There is no overarching professional society which champions the interests of historians of technology generally, although specific subfields do have interest-group organisations, some of which are highly active. But there is no equivalent of the Society for the History of Technology in the United States, for instance, or the German Society for the History of Technology, and this is true not only for Scotland, but also for the UK as a whole. Similarly, although there are of course a range of scholars who are employed in universities and other organisations whose primary focus is research and teaching in history of technology, it is remarkable that there is no established university Chair in history of technology in Scotland (or again in the UK).

What accounts for this apparent discrepancy between Scotland's lived history of technology and the dearth of organised reflection upon it?

One of the key reasons is undoubtedly the fact that considerations relating to Scotland's technological legacy pervade a number of other fields which are more mainstream in the country's cultural and intellectual life. Industrial archaeology, which Gordon Masterton considers in his contribution, has a long and distinguished tradition in Scotland, as do business history, economic history, maritime history, and social history. In every one of these

areas, the artefacts and practices developed by Scottish inventors and industrialists often figure prominently in the narrative and analysis.

Similarly, there are a range of special-interest organisations which promote study and reflection on aspects of the history of Scottish technology, including a dense network of amateur societies devoted to local and industrial heritage. Archival material relating to Scotland's technological legacy is also carefully collected and preserved, in part through the efforts of the Business Archives Council of Scotland and the Ballast Trust, to the best of my knowledge one of the few private organisations in the world with a large presence in the processing of technical documents on behalf of public and other archives. In addition, museums, including the National Museum of Scotland, the Riverside Museum, and a number of others, preserve, analyse, and celebrate Scotland's artefactual and technological legacy.

There is, in other words, a lot more going on than the lack of explicit organisational focus on synthetic scholarship might seem to indicate.

At the same time, there would seem to be some real reasons why more dedicated attention to the history of technology in Scotland might be in order. For one thing, fostering innovation is increasingly seen as essential to economic growth, and Scotland provides an enormous number of case studies for exploring issues relating to this. The development of obstetric ultrasound in the West of Scotland, for instance, is fascinating not just for the machines that came out of it which affected so many lives, but also because it represented a functioning and highly instructive regional system of innovation, involving a range of industries in electronics, shipbuilding, and engineering; university scientists and doctors; and the state in the form of the National Health Service.

On a slightly different, but just as important, note, the history of Scottish technology and engineering would seem particularly relevant today given the UK and Scottish governments' reemphasis on "rebalancing" the economy, recognising that, in particular in the wake of the banking crisis of 2008 (which itself had an important and highly embarrassing Scottish dimension), Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom need to reengage more heavily in manufacturing.

It is of course possible to do these and other things without firm institutional anchoring or explicit scholarly focus, but an organisational focal point combined with a purpose-built research programme or programmes would help harness and channel the rich work being done by scholars and other professionals towards placing Scotland's technological development and legacy at the centre of the historical and policy agenda.

Ray Stokes
Professor of Business History
Director, Centre for Business History in Scotland
University of Glasgow

III. Conference Reports

Exploring Ice and Snow in the Cold War

Conference of the Deutsches Museum and the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society (RCC), Munich, in January 2011

Felix Mauch, Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Felix.Mauch@carsoncenter.lmu.de

The inherent nature of ice and snow allows historians to view them as multifaceted objects in which environmental and socio-cultural aspects are intertwined with one another. This is especially true of the Cold War era, during which a boom in scientific research on ice and snow took place. Between the end of the Second World War and the collapse of the bipolar world in the 1990s, formerly stable perceptions of the cold, ice, and snow changed. Landscapes like Siberia, Alaska, or the Polar Regions transformed into extensive laboratories for the Arctic sciences. Thus, the goal of the conference, initiated by the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society and the Deutsches Museum, was to explore the history of ice, snow, and the Cold War from a number of different cultural and political perspectives and to discuss relevant conceptual approaches. The multidimensionality of the conference's topics was reflected in the disciplinary and national diversity of its participants and the new methodological and theoretical concepts presented in the course of the event.

After the directors of the Rachel Carson Center (RCC), HELMUTH TRISCHLER and CHRISTOF MAUCH welcomed the participants, the conference's conveners, JULIA HERZBERG (RCC/Munich), CHRISTIAN KEHRT (Hamburg) and FRANZISKA TORMA (RCC/Munich), opened the conference with introductory remarks on the analysis of the Cold War from the perspective of environmental history. The conveners therefore understood the word "exploring" to be not just a descriptive, but also a methodological metaphor reflecting the possibility of learning from different approaches and meanings of ice and snow, and of conceptualizing and embracing this new field of research.

The keynote speaker, SVERKER SÖRLIN (Stockholm) presented early findings of his ongoing study entitled "Cryohistory in the Making." As a turning point in the history of the cryosphere - the part of the Earth's surface covered in ice - he identified the Arctic Sea Ice Minimum in 2007. Sörlin called for a *longue durée* examination of the event in order to more accurately evaluate discontinuities and changes in the perception of the cryosphere. Due to the power of these open debates on the perception of the environment, the history of glaciology and climate change should, in the future, also be told as a story of scientific politics and popular culture.

In the first presentation from the panel "Environmental Knowledge," ROGER D. LAUNIUS (Washington) explored the history of the conquest of Antarctic and extraterrestrial spaces in the 1950s and 1960s. Launius interpreted these spaces to be part of a nascent colonialism of unknown territories that had developed in the shadow of the emerging dualistic world system.

In terms of methodology, Launius suggested a “middle interpretation” in which geopolitics and science act as the two intertwined driving forces in the colonization of Antarctica and outer space. In his talk, RON DOEL (Tallahassee) addressed the construction mechanisms of mental interpretation structures of nature and the environment. Doel suggested that, in the Cold War era, national security interests were the dominant motives driving the human relationship to the environment. Still today, he argued, our contemporary values and perceptions of nature are influenced by these past decisions. The following presentation was given by PEDER ROBERTS (Strasbourg), who used the sub-arctic island of Bouvetøya as an example to discuss scientific collaboration between Norway and South Africa in the early phase of the Cold War, separate from the hegemony of the superpowers. Also, the limits of attempts to completely control the environment through science and technology became visible as a planned measuring station could not be built because of the extreme environmental conditions. Roberts’s presentation was followed by a screening of a film produced by SOPHIE ELIXHAUSER (Aberdeen/Augsburg) together with director ANNI SEITZ. This film about family structures in Greenland concluded the first day of the conference. Based on verbal and non-verbal communication patterns, the producers demonstrated the tension between traditional ideas and the modern ways of life of the younger generations, and proved the high value of personal autonomy in Greenlandic communication structures.

The next part of the conference was opened by MATTHIAS HEYMANN (Aarhus), who analyzed scientific and military activities as part of Danish and US initiatives on Greenland. On an official level, Denmark had sovereignty over Greenland, but on a practical level, the scientific exploration of the island was dictated by the United States. In reflecting upon his research, Heymann noted that he saw a gap to be filled in Greenland Cold War history research, which until now has largely failed to consider the political implications of scientific practices. INGO HEIDBRINK’S (RCC/Norfolk) presentation tied into Heymann’s discussion. Using the example of Project Iceworm, a US plan to build a nuclear missile launching site under Greenland’s ice caps, he not only identified the expectations and strategies used in polar research, but also visualized the effects of these military activities on the local Inuit population, from a local-historical perspective. Both presentations emphasized that obtaining natural resources was not the primary goal of all efforts in Greenland, but rather the conquest of Arctic space itself. Here, trust in scientific knowledge and technology in conquering extreme environments was almost limitless. Contact with the indigenous population or the use of their knowledge was not of interest.

The next panel concentrated on concrete places of knowledge production. DANIA ACHERMANN (Oberpfaffenhofen) placed the Swiss Federal Institute of Snow and Avalanche Research in Davos at the center of her presentation. Achermann interpreted the exploration of ice and snow as part of a Swiss mental, national defense policy that took the form of a patriotic duty. In the next presentation, SEBASTIAN GREVSMÜHL (Paris) described Antarctica has both a real and an imagined laboratory that housed diverse underlying ideas of environmental control. He pointed out that the mental construction of the polar region in

the twentieth century was closely related to other exceptional environments, such as outer space or deep waters.

In order to create a comprehensive picture of the production of (environmental) knowledge during the Cold War, the following presentations concentrated on the Soviet Arctic sciences. The analysis of continuities and breaks within the Stalinist Soviet Union's exploration of the Arctic allowed JOHN MCCANNON (Saskatoon) to explore contemporary environmental patterns of interpretation. The continual policy of the state to ignore ecological problems can be traced back to the strictly military use of the Arctic environment in the early phase of the Cold War. Potential knowledge concerning the fragility of nature was blocked. Nevertheless, towards the end of Stalin's reign, the pure military interests of the political regime were faced with a new generation of scientists who propagated a less utilitarian agenda and increasingly prescribed to fundamental research traditions. PEY-YI CHU (Princeton) dedicated her presentation to one of these fields of basic research: Soviet permafrost science. Although Soviet scientists were aware that permafrost also existed in other parts of the world, they interpreted its significant presence in the USSR as evidence proving the uniqueness of its environment. The settlement of permafrost regions was seen as a triumph of socialist modernity over nature. Only starting in the 1970s were these territorial expansion plans complemented by discourses on the need for the protection of these areas.

CORNELIA LÜDECKE'S (RCC / Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research SCAR) and CHRISTIAN KEHRT'S (Hamburg) reflections on traditions in German Arctic research complimented one another. Both identified the Second World War as a defining turning point in German Arctic research. The war facilitated a shift from military interests to basic research on snow and ice. Thematically, initial postwar expeditions such as EGIG I (Expédition Glaciologique Internationale au Groenland) in 1959 focused on surveys and movement patterns of the Arctic ice caps. Thereby leaning on Alfred Wegener's 1930-31 expedition as a model, German polar exploration re-entered the international scientific community. However, a non-military German research agenda, according to the speakers, does not so much speak for a *Sonderweg* of the German polar sciences in the Cold War, but instead reflects the geopolitical and diplomatic position of the Federal Republic of Germany in the postwar era. German Arctic exploration took place specifically in the "Western" alliance constellation. Missions like EGIG 1 were not only executed in the context of Western European cooperation, but also with the infrastructural and financial support of the United States. As a consequence, German polar research must be understood in the context of the Cold War interests. Afterwards, ANNE M. JENSEN and GLENN W. SHEEHAN (Barrow) explored the history of military research conducted by the United States Naval Arctic Research Laboratory (NARL) in Alaska. The speakers' main focal point was the appropriation of knowledge from the indigenous Iñupiat by foreign researchers. NARL scientists strategically used the Iñupiat experience with ice and its properties as well as local flora and fauna in order to generate an understanding of the environmental conditions in Alaska. In the end, the Iñupiat themselves became research subjects. In ethnographical examinations, scientists attempted to transfer the genetic ability of the Iñupiat to adapt Euroamericans to the extreme cold. Despite the neocolonial behavior of the researchers,

interviews conducted in Alaska indicate that a large part of the indigenous population reported a positive experience concerning their relationship with the scientists.

In the last conference panel, concrete historical actors and their environments shifted to the center of attention. PASCAL SCHILLINGS (Cologne) described Reinhold Messner's 1989 Antarctica expedition as an "applied technology of the self (Foucault)." In his journey, Messner was accompanied by enormous public interest that he used as a platform from which to call for environmental protection in Antarctica. This scenario led Schillings to use the media as producers and mediators of a societal narrative of nature and wilderness in the final phase of the Cold War. This story once again showed how public opinion acted as an essential factor in the relationship between humans and nature. JAMES R. FLEMING (Waterville) presented his biographical study on Harry Wexler, whom he described as an "entrepreneur" in the conceptualization of atmospheric research. As such, Wexler neglected financial and political considerations and dedicated himself completely to a reflective science. According to Fleming's talk, Wexler was not a mere "cold warrior," but positioned himself as an actor at the interface of politics, research, and the media. Therefore, Wexler could be considered the prototype of a public scientist. In her paper, FRANZISKA TORMA (RCC / Munich) linked an analysis of the documentary film "Voyage to the End of the World" (1976) by Yves-Jacques Cousteau to mentality and environmental historical questions. Torma argued that in contrast to geopolitical claims of power, the film stages the fragile nature of the environment. Torma's concentration on iconographic narrative strategies made it possible to understand the film as a rejection of any direct colonial or strategic claims. However, ideas of the "eternal ice" as a human-less space were connected to subtler forms of European interpretational sovereignty.

In the conference's final commentary, PAUL JOSEPHSON (Waterville) summarized the basic discussion points addressed in the course of the conference. The relationship between the state and science as well as the specific role of the military as an influencing factor of applied research could be identified as a general motif in the environmental history of the Cold War. The dominance of the geophysical sciences was identified as being a part of these developments. Its research findings, which were applicable to useful military research on fields such as nuclear power, was seen by most states as the most worthy of sponsorship. Biological and ecological research, on the other hand, played a subordinate role in science during the Cold War. Metaphors about the conquest and control of icy environments established themselves as central vocabulary in the language of science that facilitated the utilization of environments and local populations under the dogma of progress. Furthermore, the power of language became obvious in the numerous identified narratives in which nature had been conceptualized as different or even hostile towards humans, and its conquest was regarded as a heroic achievement of progress. Overall, the Cold War must be seen as a fundamental catalyst for research on ice, the cold, and extreme environmental conditions. The "International Geophysical Year" (1957-1958), the participants agreed, represented a meaningful caesura in the genesis of the Arctic sciences.

All participants agreed on the fact that further research and modified research questions are indispensable. Aside from internal research aspects such as the exploration of gender aspects or perceptions of nature in science, the participants identified questions concerning environmental knowledge and its production outside of the scientific community as pertinent to this endeavor. Next to an explicit examination of indigenous populations, the role of the public is also important in this respect. The meaning of rising environmental movements and their actors is also just beginning. Were there any naturalists like John Muir, Henry David Thoreau, or Rachel Carson in snow and ice environments?

Overall, the conference offered an overview of the basic tendencies and overarching development in this new research field. By focusing on ice and snow, the conference was able to connect the history of the Cold War to environmental historical issues. The plethora of approaches used in the conference indicated that a history of ice and snow in the Cold War has numerous connections to scientific, political, environmental, and cultural history that can be put to good use in further research approaches. In the future, the Cold War could perhaps be interpreted in a new way, if science concentrates more on the matter from which its name was derived: the cold.

Organiser:

Deutsches Museum, Munich; Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society (RCC), Munich; Julia Herzberg / Franziska Torma RCC Munich; Christian Kehrt, Helmut Schmidt University Hamburg / RCC Munich; Cornelia Lüdecke, RCC Munich / Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research

The report was published in H-Soz-u-Kult, <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=3710>

IV. Conference Announcements

9 – 11 September 2011

Kultur und Technik des Weinbaus. Jahrestagung der Georg-Agricola-Gesellschaft, GAG / **Culture and Technology of Making Vine.** Annual meeting of the Georg-Agricola-Society, GAG

TU Bergakademie Freiberg

Please find the program on the society's homepage <http://www.georg-agricola-gesellschaft.de/> soon.

Please contact Norman Pohl, Institut für Wissenschafts- und Technikgeschichte, TU Freiberg, Norman.Pohl@iwtg.tu-freiberg.de

23 – 25 September 2011

Research Technologies – Forschungstechnologien. 94. Jahrestagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Medizin, Naturwissenschaft und Technik, DGGMNT / 94th Annual Conference of the German Society for the History of Medicine, Science and Technology
Stuttgart, Germany

Please find the program on <http://www.dggmnt.de>

Please contact Beate Ceranski, Stuttgart University, Beate.Ceranski@po.hi.uni-stuttgart.de

9 – 11 February 2012

Control's Other Side. 4th Interdisciplinary Annual Seminar of the Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology

Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology Bielefeld University, Germany
CFP – Deadline **31 October 2011**

We encounter forms of control in all realms of social life: internalized moral attitudes on the individual level; national or pre-national rules of law; governmental and non-governmental regulatory agencies attempting to contain potentially harmful developments. An observation of the process of how control is set up and maintained allows us to get a better understanding of the institutionalisation of social order. At the same time, the analysis of control may help to learn something about the socio-cultural justifications, which enable such an order. Important changes in the mechanisms of control in modernity can be traced back to these discursive developments.

Despite general compliance with controlling structures, there appears to be a frame of action for 'critical reflection' towards the established institutions of control. Control can never be seized as a totality and no attempt at control is without contradictions and ambivalences. Even if dominant claims over control are not entirely balanced by resistance, oppositional and everyday practices disturb the sequences of control regimes by deliberately or unintentionally introducing functional mistakes, inconsequentiality, open or concealed critique. An analysis of control therefore forces us to study its limits: Where are measures of control thought to be unsuccessful? Where do attempts to obtain control fail because no internalisation of norms or legitimization of existing norms has taken place? How are new forms of control possible despite the danger that they themselves will be doubted or rejected? Where does the seemingly constant need for control come from? Which conflicts and tensions constitute different forms of relationships between controlling structures and the objects of the control? And finally: Where and how is control modified by its resisting powers?

We invite researchers (PhD level or advanced) to a productive exchange among the disciplines of history, sociology, economics, culture and literature studies as well as all others who can contribute to the topic. We welcome all contributions that deal with emergences,

changes, disputes, failures and consequences of control regimes, stemming, for example, from the following research fields:

We welcome all contributions that deal with emergencies, changes, disputes, failures and consequences of control regimes. Examples for possible research-fields are specified in the conference-description below. We explicitly welcome contributions that deal with other empirical areas or tackle the overall conference topic on a theoretical or conceptual level.

Key Note Speaker (opening lecture): Andreas Glaeser (University of Chicago)

The conference language is English. Abstracts should be not longer than 500 words.

Deadline: 31st of October 2011.

For more information please visit <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/termine/id=16843>
Please contact the organisers Olga Galanova and Anna Henkel, BGHS, Universität Bielefeld, by annualseminar@uni-bielefeld.de

26 – 28 April 2012

Gender, Bodies and Technology: (Dis)integrating frames

Roanoke, Virginia

CFP – Deadline 15 September 2011

We invite proposals from scholars in the humanities, social and natural sciences, visual and performing arts, engineering and technology for papers, panels, new media art and performance pieces that explore the intersections of gender, bodies and technology in contexts ranging from classrooms to workplaces to the internet. In keeping with the conference theme, we are asking contributors to include specific reference to the ways in which their own particular disciplinary frameworks shape their approach to their sites of research.

Confirmed keynote speakers include: Judith Halberstam, Professor of English, American Studies and Ethnicity, and Gender Studies, University of Southern California; Judy Wajcman, Head of Department of Sociology, London School of Economics & Political Science; Allucquère Rosanne (Sandy) Stone, Professor of New Media and Performance Studies at EGS, Professor of Digital Arts and New Media Production in the ACTLab at University of Texas at Austin.

Specific topics might include, but are not limited to:

- Gender and the technologies of the workplace, education, and public/private spaces
- Disability and technologies of intervention
- Feminist theorizing of intersections between technology and constructions of embodiment, identity, selves

- Performance, new media and other creative expressions: engaging/enacting/destabilizing conventions
- of embodiment and technology
- Gendered innovations in technology: gendered objects, design, pasts/futures
- Technological production and control of classed, racialized, aged and gendered bodies
- Personal narrative and oral history as sources of embodied theorizing
- New Media, digital representation and virtual gendered environments
- Medicalized bodies: reproduction, disease, bioethics, body constructions
- Performing/transgressing gender and sexuality
- Technologies of development and sustainability; eco-feminism
- Activism, participatory decision-making and issues of technological citizenship

As an assemblage of people and technologies we see the conference itself as enacting the conference theme. We welcome innovative uses of technology and creative session formats, including performance and interactive presentations, as well as traditional paper presentations. We are committed to the integration of scholarship from the Arts as well as more traditional forms of scholarship and we welcome early contact by email if space and/or technology requirements might present logistical challenges. Proposals will be reviewed and notification will be made by October 15, 2011. Final drafts of papers received before April 26, 2012 will be considered for possible publication. The Gender, Bodies & Technology website, online submission form, as well as the full program from the 2010 conference can be viewed at: <http://www.cpe.vt.edu/gbt/>

For more information or if you would like to join our growing listserv of scholars and artists working at this intersection, please contact: Sharon Elber GBT Coordinator, selber@vt.edu.

6 – 10 June 2012

Annual Meeting of the Vernacular Architecture Forum, VAF 2012

Madison, Wisconsin

CFP – Deadline **12 September 2011**

The Vernacular Architecture Forum invites paper proposals for its Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, 6-10 June 2012. Papers may address vernacular and everyday buildings, sites, or cultural landscapes worldwide. Submissions on all vernacular topics are welcome, but we encourage papers that explore topics related to the following conference themes: the relationship between rural landscapes and regional urban centers; placemaking as it pertains to the relationship between work and home; regional trends in modernism (particularly in the Upper Midwest); ethnicity and heritage preservation; and evolution of Midwestern rural buildings and landscapes. We particularly welcome papers that explore the relationship of environmental history and cultural landscapes around these themes. Papers should be twenty minutes in length, although proposals for complete

sessions, roundtable discussions, or other innovative means that facilitate scholarly discourse are also welcome.

Proposals must be one page, fewer than 400 words. Attach a one-page CV to your proposal submission. The deadline for proposals is 12 September 2011.

Electronic submissions of proposals and CVs in Word format are preferred. Please send email proposals to Andrew Dolkart at asd3@columbia.edu

Please check the VAF website:

<http://www.vafweb.org>

<http://www.vafweb.org/conferences/2012/cfp.html>

For general information about the Madison conference, please contact Anna Vemer Andrzejewski, Department of Art History & the Buildings-Landscapes Cultures Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison, avandrzejews@wisc.edu

13 – 15 September 2012

Hidden Stories. What do medical objects tell and how can we make them speak?

16th biannual conference of the European Association of Museums of the History of Medical Sciences

Berliner Medizinhistorisches Museum der Charité

CFP – Deadline **31 October 2011**

Medical history collections, depots, and museums deal with objects in many ways. These items are a mystery. They present strangely curved and shiny surfaces. They perform in all different shapes, materials and colours. And they are quiet. They usually don't talk. But, and this is our chance and challenge, ideas and concepts had been inscribed into their physical make. Medical theories and practices as intricately mixed epistemic processes had found their specific materialisations in the defined structures of such things. Over the times of their preservation they might have lost their primary functions, won secondary ones, but more crucial: They have gained meaning for which we can seek, if we decide to take these objects as serious sources for our work as historians of medicine, science, technology, culture, art, humanities etc.

What we have to do is asking for the "text" in the object, i.e. sometimes a real text in, with or around the thing (may this be only a code, a chiffre or a number), or a "subtext" somehow embedded in the shaped materials implicitly or connected with the object but detached from it and stored elsewhere, as in added files, fascicles or publications. With the clues and information we get from there we can move on to reconstruct the object's context. Only within this context, the object begins to speak. We can tell its story and biography.

The conference will focus on objects, asking always for the hidden "texts" and "subtexts" on two different paths—a more practical and a conceptual one:

1. Hidden stories. What do medical objects tell?

We ask for papers that really focus on one medical object from your collections, depots or show rooms. Please slip into the role of a Sherlock Holmes to solve the case of this very object, i.e. by observing and describing the thing accurately, looking for clues (“texts”) and additional information (“subtexts”) and presenting your spiral analysis and interpretation around the item, thus telling us the full object story. You may chose any medical object of your personal interest—an ancient mask, medieval blood letting device, a scientific kymograph or a modern gene sequencer—from any time, culture and geographical zone. The only aim we ask you to keep in mind is to show us how far you get with your object-centred research, how far you can draw your interpretation surely consulting secondary archival material and relevant literature. Please also reflect on the limits of this approach.

2. How can we make our objects speak?

Here we ask for papers that reflect on a more conceptual base on how we can deal with objects in three different arenas:

Research: Medical objects and collections form a unique source in performing research on various topics in the history of medicine and the sciences. What prerequisites and infrastructures do we need to study our objects effectively? What are innovative modes and approaches in a material culture of performing research on, with and around our objects? What forms of networking and funding do we need to support an object-centred research? What are adequate and new formats of publication for our object studies?

Teaching: Medical Objects and collections offer a unique chance for visual and haptic forms of teaching in many fields. Can you share your thoughts and experiences on this field with us? What are the features, values, and potentials of an object-based teaching? What are possible limits here (delicacy of objects, climate, access, etc.)? What formats of object-based teaching have been tried out (best practice) or ought to be developed further towards a better training in the medical (historical) fields? What links of object-based teaching to research and public outreach have been built up and tried out with what results?

Presenting: Medical Objects and collections form the core items for our exhibits. What do we want to achieve with our object presentations? What is the very nature, what are the features of exhibitions in our fields? Whom do we want to reach? What are good and innovative formats to make our objects speak and perform for a wider public in our showrooms? What connections with the arenas of research and teaching are possible and sensible? What is the status of an object-based thematic exhibition in our own eyes, in the minds of our external audiences, including the general public and the scientific community?

To fuel the discussion we follow the idea of pre-circulating extended abstracts plus a short presentation (10 mins!) of the core issues in the Berlin conference. The language will be English. We ask you to hand in an abstract (maximum 700 characters) on a topic relating to

one of the above-mentioned issues together with a title, your name, the name of your institution (if you are attached to any) and your contact data (preferably e-mail address) until 31 October 2011 to thomas.schnalke@charite.de. A programme committee will select from the abstracts to compose a hopefully inspiring programme. If your contribution was chosen, you will be asked to work out and hand in an extended abstract (2 to 5 pages) until 15 May 2012. All papers will be put together in one pdf-file and sent out to all participants in time before the conference starts in Berlin on 13 September 2011. We will ask the participants to have read the papers, so that a short presentation (10 mins!) will be enough to focus on the core arguments.

Please contact Thomas Schnalke, Berliner Medizinhistorisches Museum der Charité, thomas.schnalke@charite.de

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.

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