

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,

In order to make ICOHTEC more democratic for its members, elections will be held on-line for the first time, rather than at the General Assembly meeting. Thus, in this Newsletter, our president James Williams introduces our on-line election process and provides statements by candidates who have been nominated for the Executive Committee. Also Slawomir Lotysz, our webmaster, contributes a short article explaining a new membership benefit: the past volumes of ICON are now available on our homepage in a newly created member's area. Slawomir introduces this service.

In the next issue of the Newsletter, I want to give the bibliography of books published by ICOHTEC members during 2011-2012. Please submit the bibliographical information and a short summary (3-5 lines) of your new books by **15 June 2012**.

Best wishes

Yours Stefan Poser

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I. ICOHTEC

I.1 Executive Committee Election to be Held On-line

ICOHTEC's Executive Committee is comprised of 21 persons: 5 officers (president, vice president, secretary general, treasurer and journal editor, who are elected every four years), the immediate past president and the immediate past secretary general, and 12 other members, 3 of whom are elected each year to a four-year term by ICOHTEC's.

The EC cooperates in the preparation of and oversees the operation of ICOHTEC's activities and budgets. Its decisions are ratified by the General Assembly. Essentially, the EC is the think-tank of ICOHTEC and a 'reserve of organizing power'. Members should know the people who are active in the history of technology in the country and/or region in which they reside and promote ICOHTEC activities and membership among them. Members are called upon for ideas for symposia, funding and other organizational activities. Members are asked to bring young talented people to our symposia and to service on our committees and to propose and organize sessions for our symposia. They must chair or, at least, serve on one committee during their term of office and make a concerted effort to attend the EC meetings.

This year's EC election will be held using SurveyMonkey, an on-line survey system. Members will be able to cast their votes during the week of 17-23 June. There are five candidates nominated to fill the three seats open this year. Members will receive voting instructions by email on June 18.

Candidates Statements

Outi Ampuja, Finland

Outi Ampuja, Finland (Ph.D.) works as a researcher at Aalto University, School of Engineering, Department of Engineering, Design and Production, History of Industrialization, Finland. Her fields of expertise and interests are history of noise pollution problems, silence, soundscape studies, history of technology and environmental history. She has published

books and several articles on the subjects. In 2008 she received an environmental award for the work she has done to preserve silence in Finland. She is a popular lecturer in her country, and is often interviewed on Finnish media on the subjects.

She is a regular participant in ICOHTEC symposia and lends her musical talents to the annual jazz night. She believes she can bring new openings and ideas for symposia and sessions, and bring young talented people to our symposia.

Selected publications:

Melun sieto kaupunkielämän välttämättömyytenä. Melu ympäristöongelmana ja sen synnyttämien reaktioiden kulttuurinen käsittely Helsingissä [Environmental Noise as a Necessity of Urban Life. Noise pollution as an environmental problem and its cultural perceptions in the city of Helsinki]. *Bibliotheca Historica* 110. Helsinki, Finland: SKS, 2007.

'Miten melusta tuli ongelma? Meluongelman politisoituminen Helsingissä 1960- ja 1970-luvuilla' [How noise pollution become an environmental problem?], *Ennen ja nyt* 1 (2009). *Historian tietosanomat, verkkolehti*.

'Towards an Artificial Soundscape? Modern Soundscape under Human Design,' *ICON Journal of the International Committee for the History of Technology*, 11 (2005): 79-94.

Roman Artemenko, Russia

Born in Moscow, March 14 (same day with A.Einstein, Q.Jones, M.Caine and B.Crystal), 1976, I have been an active explorer of technology from my first days of life. At age five, I became an absolute sound recording enthusiast – thanks goes to an old record player, the international policy of the Soviet "Melodya" label, Polish jazz and Japanese easy listening music. At age ten, I joined local aviamodeling club and learn some practical aspects of design and technology for planes, vehicles, ships and radioelectronics, as well as historical aspects of these technologies (the master of club Boris Chalov was an amazing person: WWII veteran who always dreamed of being a pilot but was forced to serve in the artillery; he served in army 4 years but loved to make models of civilian technology; spent forty years in industry, always an enthusiast of technology).

I joined Moscow aviation institute (Technological University) in 1993, where, alongside pure technical disciplines I was presented course in the humanities – philosophy, sociology and history of technology (presented by professor Oxana Simonenko) . Since 1999, I have been a classically trained radioelectronic engineer – theme of my diploma was 'Design and technology of making Hi-Fi power amplifier'. I joined the Institute for History of Science and Technology of the Russian Academy of Sciences with desire to write an encyclopaedia on the history of sound recording. For the same aim, I joined Moscow's State Polytechnic

Museum as curator of sound recording devices collection. My strong will to collect as much evidence and material for this project as possible, as well as to establish good communication with the enthusiastic colleagues, lead me to join ICOHTEC.

I have been an active member of ICOHTEC since 2001 and have given papers and participated in symposia in Mexico, St. Petersburg-Moscow, Bochum, Copenhagen, Victoria, Budapest and Tampere. For last three years, in cooperation with colleagues, I have prepared sessions for our symposia:

- 1) ICOHTEC 2010 (Tampere): 'Just what is it that makes today's home so different, so appealing? From WC to PC – technologies of everyday life and its social, cultural and political dimensions (1870-2000)' (with Timo Myllyntaus);
- 2) ICOHTEC 2011 (Glasgow): 'History of Technology Education' (with Mark Clark);
- 3) ICOHTEC 2012 (Barcelona): 'Art, Science & Technology for public understanding and media representation of technology in XIX-XXI centuries' (with Mark Clark).

My current position as secretary for the department of technology in the Institute for History of Science and Technology has already permitted me to promote ICOHTEC and its symposia. Hope that further integration and cooperation will serve to establish a good platform for new research and sharing of ideas and perspectives for our ICOHTEC.

Jeffrey Larrabee, USA

I presented my first paper at ICOHTEC during the Budapest meeting in 1996 while a graduate student at Case Western Reserve University. I have been thoroughly sold on the mission and purpose of ICOHTEC ever since. My lasting first impression was one of collegiality, lively discourse, and a genuine sense of serving a larger purpose. Attending subsequent ICOHTEC meetings has only reinforced this impression, and persuaded me to accept nomination to the Executive Committee.

My history experience is largely that of a public historian, having been a curator and project officer at the Henry Ford Museum and, since 2003, a military historian, public affairs officer, and strategic planner. I currently serve as Army National Guard Historian and Acting Deputy Chief of Historical Services at the National Guard Bureau. My day to day duties have focused on outreach to other government agencies, the several states and territories, and non-profit organizations, and on using organizational history to support policy development and executive decision-making. My most significant contribution has been to teach state historians how to collaborate with other organizations to further their history missions.

I feel I can contribute best to ICOHTEC by helping to develop a long-term outreach plan. I would identify logical outreach opportunities with other UNESCO sponsored or affiliated

organizations that further ICOHTEC's aims, and help strategize how the annual meeting and ICOHTEC-sponsored working groups could support an ICOHTEC publication program designed for more targeted international outreach. I see the mission of a Cold War ICOHTEC adapted to a globalized world – wider understanding of issues relating to the cultural history of technology are critical, and cultural bridge-building is as important today as it ever was, if not more.

I thank you for the opportunity to contribute more to further the aims of ICOHTEC.

Antoni Roca-Rosell, Spain

Antoni Roca-Rosell, Spain (born in Barcelona, 1951) currently lectures at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya – Barcelona Tech (UPC). He gained his degree in Physics from the University of Barcelona in 1975 and obtained his PhD from the Autonomous University of Madrid in 1990. In 1996, he co-founded the Centre for History of Technology of the UPC, which publishes the international journal *Quaderns d'Història de l'Enginyeria* since 1996. In 1991, he was one of the founders of the Catalan Society for the History of Science and Technology (SCHCT), being its president from 1993 to 2009. In 2008, he was elected member of the Scientific Council of the European Society for the History of Science (ESHS). In 2010, he was the general coordinator of the 4th International Conference of the ESHS, which took place in Barcelona. In 2010 he was elected corresponding member of the International Academy of History of Science. His field of research is the history of science and technology in Catalonia and Spain, including the history of engineering and technical education between the XVIII and XX centuries. One of his subjects is the transition from practical to scientific engineering. The background of his research is the comparative perspective and the analysis of the processes of diffusion and appropriation of scientific ideas and technical knowledge to better understand the social impact of science and technology in local and national contexts. He has published approximately 200 papers and 15 books.

Given my experience in the Spanish community of history of science and technology, I will contribute to strengthen ICOHTEC in Spain.

Petter Wulff, Sweden

I have a background as a civil engineer and have worked for 40 years in a defence research agency, mostly with what you might call systems analysis. Unsurprisingly my primary field of interest in History of Technology is with military technology. I am a PhD student of History of Technology at the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm.

My wife is from Honduras in Central America. She has widened my horizons, linguistically and otherwise. She accompanied me to the ICOHTEC conferences at Leicester,

Copenhagen, Tampere and Glasgow (as did our youngest, teen-age daughter, to three of them).

What could I bring to ICOHTEC? Hopefully I could add a perspective somewhere in the EC discussions. What might it be? Maybe a co-production perspective here, or a small country perspective there.

Selected publications:

'The Impact of a High-Tech Spy.' *Intelligence and National Security*, forthcoming, 2012.

'Self-defence on Foreign Ground: Sweden as a Bombing Nation,' *ICON*, 14 (2008): 151-168.

'Chemical Weapons – A Nebulous Matter' in MacLeod, Roy, ed., *Science, Society and Statecraft: Chemical and Biological Weapons, 1900-2006*, Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, 2007.

I.2 Welcome to Members Area!

Dear Icohtecians,

I would like to introduce to you the newest feature on our website www.icohtec.org, the Members Area. What's in there? First of all, there is complete set of back issues of *ICON*, our journal, appearing annually since 1993. This might be of particular interest to new members, but also to those, who have gaps in their collection of *ICON*'s. The latest digitized issue is number 14. Just recently number 15 has been distributed among members, so now you will have them all!

The new members will most likely enjoy another glimpse into the past. That is a booklet issued for 40th anniversary of the Committee in 2008. This is a set of short essays discussing the early days of ICOHTEC. Although modest, these essays tell the stories of ICOHTEC's four founding fathers and illuminate the importance of ICOHTEC in the history of technology community.

Finally, there is a zipped package containing our logotype in various graphic formats. You may use these files in your presentations, posters, etc.

Very shortly after receiving this Newsletter, we will send you your personalized login credentials. The login and password will be automatically generated from the list of paying

members, so if you forgot to pay your annual subscription, please contact our treasurer without delay!

Best regards,

Slawomir Lotysz, Webmaster

II. Reports of Conferences and Book Presentations

II.1 Report of a Book Presentation: *La Educacion Tecnica in Mexico desde la independencia, 1810 – 2010* (Technological Education in Mexico since the Independence, 1810 – 2010), Mexico City, April 2012

Francesco Gerali, Post Doctoral Scholar, National Autonomous University of Mexico

On April 26, 2012, the work *La Educacion Tecnica in Mexico desde la independencia, 1810 – 2010* (Technological Education in Mexico since the Independence, 1810 – 2010) was presented in the main auditorium of the National Library of Science and Technology “Victor Bravo Ahuja” at the Instituto Politecnico Nacional, IPN (National Polytechnic Institute), Mexico City. The almost two-hour presentation was attended by at least 130 persons.

This editorial project is part of the Reading Promotion National Program sponsored by the Ministry of Public Education. The objective of this project was the production of a comprehensive contribution on the development of technical education in Mexico during the 200 years since Mexico’s declaration of independence from Spain. These two centuries have seen several internal political struggles, invasions of armies from Europe and the U.S., several years of revolution, and attempts at economic growth that often remained only half-done because of unrealistic nationalistic policies that could not effectively build an efficient production system.

The project was supported by the secretariat of research and post graduate studies of IPN and coordinated by Eng. Jesus Avila Galinzoga and professors Max Calvillo Velasco¹, Tomas Rivas Gomez, Isabel Castillo Tenorio, Andres Ortiz Morales and Lourdes Rocio Ramirez Palacios². Ten young scholars received grant support for collaboration from the Program for Researchers Training.

The welcome lecture was given by Eng. Guillermo Ramirez Contla, director of the libraries service of IPN and Eng. Ernesto Mercado Escutia, secretary of the educational service of

¹ Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, UNAM.

² All working at the Universidad Autónoma de México, UAM

IPN. Calviglio Velasco, the moderator, after a concise introduction of the project's achievements, opened the book presentation giving the floor to Rivas Gomez, main contributor for the first volume. Gomez analyzed the mutation of the teaching of arts and crafts into technical education along the first seventy years of the XIX century, a period in which Mexico lived under colonialist, republican, imperial and, again, republican governments. He showed how, despite the hectic political panorama and because it was considered essential to develop the potential of the country, national education projects continued to be promoted without interruption.

Catillo Tenorio continued the presentation talking about the specialization of professional techniques in education and the creation of schools to prepare technicians and workers for agriculture and manufacture between 1870 and 1909. Most part of this talk was referring to the dictatorship of Porfirio Diaz (1884 - 1911), a period during which a new impulse was given to women in education programs.

Ortiz Morales introduced the second volume, reporting on the teaching of technology during the years of revolution, and he stressed the difficulty of satisfying the growing demand for popular education.

Morales showed how the growth of nationalist spirit in the country, following revolutionary riots, had lead to the institutionalization of technical education at the national level, first with educational reforms of 1930 - 32, then with the founding of the Instituto Politecnico Nacional in 1936. The IPN was conceived to be the point of reference for research, teaching and development of educational programs on technology.

Palacio Ramirez closed the debate on the second volume with few comments on IPN, and then opened the presentation of the third volume. She argued that in Mexico between 1940 and 2000 a system of higher technological education developed. The consolidation of the IPN was followed by the building of numerous polytechnic institutes in different regions of the country, from which arose a remarkable variety of teaching models. Professionalism was embodied in the capillary distribution across the Mexican territory of technical schools and in the institutionalization of technical education already in the programs of secondary schools.

Max Calvillo concluded the presentation by expressing some general remarks on the reasons for the lack of competitiveness of Mexican technology despite the large investments. He touched several issues, such as the long and pernicious political instability in Mexico – perhaps the main condition at the base of the low economic level of Mexico, a country not able to create new work for just-educated new technicians. The question time was a particularly active, with the presenters responding to questions on the role of the school system run by the clergy, an incentive process of the technical education and the creation of higher education institutions such as the national college of agriculture and the modernization of the old mining School of Mexico City, in which were educated generations of mining engineers.

The presentation was clear and the discussion time well organized. The exhaustive description of the contents of the work has faithfully followed the order of the index of chapters. The authors offered a panoramic view of the historic path of technical education in Mexico. Yet, one question remained for me: why was there no discussion of the contribution of technology transfer from outside Mexico in the development of Mexican technological awareness? Only a brief reference to trips abroad made by some emissaries of the Mexican government to observe and report on methods and techniques in agriculture and industry was proposed by Catillo Tenorio, but the role of foreign know-how in the rise of the first Mexican industrial settlements in the XIX century was untouched. Also not discussed was the exchange of mining resources for industrial technology in the second half of XX century, an prime example of which are the results studies done by the Committee on Science and Technology of U.S. House of Representatives in the late 1970s, in which was discussed possible sharing of hard and sophisticated technology with Mexico in exchange for more oil.

Bibliographic Information

Max Calvillo Velasco, Tomas Rivas Gomez, Isabel Castillo Tenorio, Andres Ortiz Morales, Lourdes Rocio Ramirez Palacios: La Educacion Tecnica in Mexico desde la independencia, 1810 – 2010. 3 vol., (illustrations in b/w; 26 cm, pp.1130), Mexico City, Instituto Politecnico Nacional 2011.

Vol. 1: De la enseñanza de artes y oficios a la educación técnica, 1810 – 1909

Vol. 2: De la educación técnica popular a la diversificación e integración al sistema productivo, 1910 – 1970

Vol. 3: Conformación y desarrollo del Sistema. Nacional de Educación Tecnológica, 1971 – 2010

II.2 The Rhine Economy on a New Basis

The Switch from Coal to Oil and the Implications for the Transnational Rhine Region, 1945-1973. Conference of the Transnational Rhine Network, Bochum, in December 2011

Dirk M. Koppenol, Erasmus University Rotterdam, koppenol@eshcc.eur.nl

The changing basis of the Rhine economy from coal to oil was the subject of the Third Rhine meeting, which was preceded by two earlier conferences: the kick-off meeting in Rotterdam in 2009 and the conference on the coal-based economy in Frankfurt in 2010. This third conference was held at the Institute for Social Movements-Ruhr University in Bochum, with special thanks to the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, LMU Munich.

The Third Rhine meeting was full of lively and fruitful discussions about the Transnational Rhine Region, which is defined here as the region between Rotterdam and Basel, including the lower, middle and upper Rhine. Questions concerning the character of this economic region were elucidated and elaborations were given about the changes in this economic region. The central focus of this conference was the transition from coal to oil during the 1950s and 1960s. The aim of the conference was to explore the rise of an oil-based economy and its consequences for the transnational economic region from Rotterdam to Basel from the 1950s up to the 1970s. Five themes had been selected to explore the transition: oil on a new basis; chemical and industrial clusters; European integration and the Rhine economy; transport and logistics; and the Rhine as an environmental system. Scholars were invited to present their papers on these themes, which were discussed during the different sessions.

The Rhine conference was opened by Dieter Ziegler, who gave an historic introduction on the position of Bochum within the Transnational Rhine Region economy. The keynote speaker, RAY STOKES (Glasgow) gave an introduction into the increasing importance of oil in the Rhine-Ruhr economy. Until 1945, there were no oil refineries in the Ruhr area, with the exception of the coal based oil refineries. The increasing importance of oil can be explained, among others by the role of the West German government, the rules of the Allied occupation and the role of Rotterdam. Furthermore, Stokes outlined three specific themes that needed more research: networks, such as pipelines and electricity; business relationships, such as production systems; and environmental issues, such as the influence of oil spills. Especially, the relation between business history and environmental history should be given more attention, since both subjects differ in time and space.

The theme of the first session was 'oil: a new basis for the Rhine economy'. The main focus of MARTEN BOON's (Rotterdam) paper, presented by Joep Schenk (Rotterdam), was the importance of the hinterland in Germany for the development of the Rotterdam oil port (1945-1975). According to Boon, the dominant view that the oil port of Rotterdam grew due to the drive to become less dependent on Germany and the 'oil-effect' is only a part of the story. At least as important was the port-hinterland relation. As a result of the improvement of the relation between the Ruhr-area and Rotterdam the oil port of Rotterdam grew explosively. BEN WUBS (Rotterdam) focused on the recovery and expansion of one of the most important foreign oil companies in West-Germany, Royal Dutch Shell, from 1945 until 1970. His main question was how this company could grow so fast in West Germany during the 1950s and 1960s. Wubs concluded that Royal Dutch Shell had, first of all, locational advantages, since market imperfections could only be solved by transactions inside multinationals. Secondly, Shell had ownership advantages, for example the access to superior technology. However, path dependence was also of great importance to Shell, because only the big foreign oil companies, which had dominated the market before the Second World War, were able to provide the necessary capital and technology to make a

transformation possible. Discussant, Alfred Reckendrees (Copenhagen) advised to use production data to strengthen the conclusions of both papers.

Consecutively, HEIN KLEMMANN (Rotterdam) presented a second key note speech focusing on the question whether the Ruhr-Rhine area is a core-region, and how and when it developed. Showing that the current historical research is nationally biased, he urged for research on transnational organizations, companies and contacts, and cross-border statistical analysis. Two important theories on this matter were presented: Micheal Porter's theory of clusters and Paul Krugman's theory of economic core-regions. Porter's interpretation that clusters are measurable, links his theory to Krugman's, who argues that 'increasing returns to scale', keep core-regions intact. Agreeing with the discussants, Klemann argued that whether there are more core-regions/clusters in the Ruhr-Rhine, should be an open question.

The second session was on 'chemistry and industrial clusters.' CHRISTIAN KLEINSCHMIDT (Marburg) showed ideas for a new project on the Europeanization and industrialization of the West German chemical industry after 1945. In a case study he showed that three major German chemical companies, BASF, Bayer and Degussa, chose Antwerp for the establishment of a subsidiary, because of, among other reasons, locational advantages. Antwerp offered plots that could be bought, in contrast to Rotterdam. However, further research will be needed to strengthen this assumption. Whereas Kleinschmidt focused on the establishment of companies in ports, RALF BANKEN (Frankfurt am Main) explored the pipelines (1938-1975) that connected the ports with the German hinterland. In a case study of the oxygen network in the Ruhr-area he showed the importance of further research into the pipelines that currently connect Rotterdam with the Ruhr-area. The discussant, Ernst Homburg (Maastricht) stressed the importance of researches as discussed above. For that reason, he encouraged Kleinschmidt to do more comparative case studies as well as comparative port studies.

Transport and Logistics' was the theme of the third session. INGO HEIDBRINK (Norfolk) described the development of tankers on the Rhine and other inland waterways (1950-ca. 1980). Between 1945 and the 1970s the importance of tankers grew enormously. The main reasons were that there was no competition, new technologies were implemented and there was an increasing demand for crude oil. However, in the 1970s competitive pipelines, the oil crisis and the increasing safety and environmental standards, caused a crisis in the tanker branch. Currently, tankers fill up a segment between the road and pipelines and are transporting chemicals rather than oil. For the latter reason, the tanker is a traditional low-technology and low budget sector no more. MARTIJN VAN HORST's (Delft) paper on coordination in hinterland transport chains was the only paper that concerned the current and future situation of the Ruhr-Rhine area. He stressed that for competitive reasons and reasons of sustainability, coordination between different chains is of essential importance. For that reason, he described twelve problems and four arrangements that, currently, take

place to face those problems, thereby indicating how coordination could be improved. The discussant, Richard Coopey (London) stressed the importance of the integration of comparative history in the paper of Van Horst. As an example, he mentioned the port competition between Bristol and Liverpool.

The fourth session was on 'European integration'. In her paper KLARA PAARDENKOOPEL (Rotterdam) elucidated the European cooperation in rail freight transport (1835-2008). After elaborating on different attempts to standardize the rail before and after the Second World War, she concluded that the conflictive relations between France and Germany had a great deal of influence on the failure of cooperation. HISASHI WATANABE (Kyoto) focused on another aspect of the European integration: the 'Euregions'. These regions were formed by the European Union in order to improve the effectiveness of regional investments. However, he concludes that it will remain uncertain whether the Euregions really can create a single economic area. Finally, CHRISTOPHER KOBRAK (Paris) discussed the question if there was a finance network in the Rhine-Ruhr region (1950-1980). Since, the topic needs more investigation, only some suggestions could be put forward. First, the degree and type of cross-border dependencies are highly influenced by politics. Secondly, much of the research on globalization focuses on a macroeconomics, but it is, especially, in the microeconomic level where the Rhine region has its greatest financial impact. Discussant Joost Jonker (Utrecht) said that he was surprised by the wide variety of papers on the subject. Moreover, he urged that the region should be the start and not the end of the analysis.

The Rhine as an environmental system' was the subject of the final session. CHRISTOPH BERNHARDT (Erkner) explored the environmental problems and perceptions of the Upper Rhine (1945-1975). The speaker argued that different turning points can be distinguished: the emergence of awareness in the 1930s, the institutionalization of environmental awareness in the 1950s, and the restoration of the landscape in the 1970s. Based on a case study of the construction of Le Grand Canal d'Alsace along the Rhine, he demonstrated that environmental awareness arose in the 1930s. However, it would take twenty years before environmental bargaining began about reducing the intervention in the river. Finally, the restoration of flood planes and other natural river characteristics took place in the 1970s. Whereas Bernhardt focused on the landscape of the Rhine, CORNELIS DISCO (Twente) investigated the changing quality of the water of the Rhine. Disco pointed out that national initiatives were the basis of international actions, and not the other way around. For example, in 1964 the German water law forced BASF to clean their river disposal and not the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR). Moreover, the speaker stresses that also the private sector suffered from the pollution of the Rhine, and for that reason he assumed that BASF even cooperated in the creation of the German water law. For that reason, he concluded that the cleaning up of the Rhine was an international, national, but also a matter of the private sector. The discussant, Uwe Lübken (Munich) summed up the main arguments of both speakers, and concluded that localism was the most important incentive for the environmental changes.

At the end of the conference HEIN KLEMMANN (Rotterdam) urged the conference to do more statistical analysis in the future, in order to increase the cohesion of the research project. Furthermore, he invited the participants for the fourth Transnational Rhine Conference which will take place in November 2012 in Rotterdam to discuss the Core Rhine Region in a Global Context.

It can be concluded that the nature of the Transnational Rhine Region is diverse, as signs of its existence can be traced back to the oil and chemical sector, transport and logistics as well as environmental legislation. What is more, the different perspectives of the scholars gave new insights. However, still the challenge ahead, remains to define the true extent of this region over time as Hein Klemann pointed out in his synthesis at the end of the conference. For that reason, the Third Rhine Conference was a good incentive for all scholars to continue their research on the existence and extent of the Transnational Rhine Region.

Please find the whole report in: H-Soz-u-Kult, 16.03.2012, <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/tagungsberichte/id=4151>

III. Conference Announcements

21 – 25 August 2012

Antique Wireless Association, Annual Convention: Collins Radio and the Centennial of the Titanic/Marconi Radio
Rochester, New York

The Antique Wireless Association is the primary historical association dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of the technologies used for communication and entertainment; including electrical science, telegraph and wired communication, wireless, radio, television, and cellular technologies. Celebrating our 60th year in 2012, AWA is the oldest and largest U.S. organization of its kind with an international membership of approximately two thousand collectors, academics and historians of all ages and from all walks of life.

The collections of the AWA's Antique Wireless Museum, located near Rochester, New York, represent the past 150 years of scientific and technological development including over 25,000 artifacts, and more than 150,000 vacuum tubes. The museum library contains some 200,000 books, catalogues, magazines, rare documents, slides and photographs, and is the depository for the 100-year historical archive of the Radio Club of America. We receive about 500 visitors and more than 100 research requests annually. Currently, our three-building campus is being expanded to include a world-class museum, library and media center, and a restoration center and exhibit-construction facility.

The AWA Annual World Convention offers four-and-a-half days of total immersion in telegraph, wireless and radio lore. Among its many features are presentations and seminars, competitive contest displays featuring radio equipment and history, a book fair, and a round-the-clock flea market.

The AWA publishes *The AWA Journal*, a quarterly magazine-format bulletin that is a venue for member-authored feature articles and columns. A sister publication, *The AWA Review*, contains longer, more scholarly, member articles. This peer-reviewed publication is issued annually in conjunction with the Convention. AWA also offers a free online quarterly *AWA Gateway* which is intended to help and encourage newcomers to electronics history especially radio. The Gateway offers articles on collecting and restoration at a very basic level.

Membership in the AWA is open to all interested persons. Annual dues: \$25.00 per year U.S., \$30.00 elsewhere. Visit www.antiquewireless.org for more information about AWA including a membership application, or to join immediately via PayPal. The dedicated website <http://awamuseum.org/> includes information about the Convention.

11 September 2012

Geschichte der elektrischen Beleuchtung / History of Electric Lightening

VDE Ausschuss Geschichte der Elektrotechnik, Berlin

Please contact Frank Dittmann, Deutsches Museum München, f.dittmann@deutsches-museum.de, and Günther Luxbacher, Berlin Technical University, guenther.luxbacher@tu-berlin.de

7 October 2012

SIGCIS Workshop 2012, Information Identities: Historical Perspectives on Technology and Social Change

Copenhagen, Denmark

CFP – Deadline **15 June 2012**

The Society for the History of Technology's Special Interest Group for Computers, Information and Society (SIGCIS – <http://www.sigcis.org>) welcomes submissions for a one-day scholarly workshop to be held on Sunday, October 7, 2012 in Copenhagen, Denmark. As in previous years, SIGCIS's annual workshop will be held at the end of the SHOT annual meeting on the day that SHOT has reserved for SIG events. For more information on the main SHOT program, see http://www.historyoftechnology.org/annual_meeting.html. For the latest updates and the full Call for Papers for SIGCIS, see <http://www.sigcis.org/workshop12>.

SIGCIS invites proposals that examine the relationships between computer and information technologies and changes to individual and/or group identities, such as those shared by a nation, company personnel, or members of a virtual community. Such papers might consider:

- Specific “information identities”—a term that we invite scholars to interpret broadly and creatively—that have been articulated in the recent or distant past
- Relationships between information technologies and political change
- The rhetoric and discourses of globalization that have been linked to information and computer technologies
- National identity and its relation to information technology
- National and transnational strategies for joining or creating an “information society,” a “network society,” an “information economy,” or related concepts
- Transnational and international organizations, such as IFIP, UNESCO, the European Union, or standard-setting committees.
- Ways in which particular information technologies acquired new meanings and fulfilled new roles through interaction with local practices and identities
- The emergence of new kinds of community and identity around information technologies.

SIGCIS encourages submissions along these and similar lines of inquiry, but it also maintains a proud tradition of welcoming all types of contributions related to the history of computing and information, whether or not there is an explicit connection with the annual theme. Our membership is international and interdisciplinary, and our members examine the history of information technologies and their place within society.

Proposals for entire sessions and individual presenters are both welcome. We hope to run special sessions featuring dissertations in progress and other works in progress. The workshop is a great opportunity to get helpful feedback on your projects in a relaxed and supportive environment. All proposals will be subject to a peer review process based on abstracts.

Deadline for submissions: 15 June 2012

All submissions should be made online via the SIGCIS website, <http://www.sigcis.org/workshop12>. Limited travel assistance for graduate students and other scholars without institutional support is available. Questions about the 2012 SIGCIS workshop should be addressed to Andrew Russell (College of Arts & Letters, Stevens Institute of Technology), who is serving as chair of the workshop program committee. Email arussell@stevens.edu.

Please contact: Andrew Russell, College of Arts & Letters, Stevens Institute of Technology, arussell@stevens.edu

Please visit: <http://www.sigcis.org/workshop12>

8 – 9 March 2013

In Search of Better Lives: The Circulation of Ideas for Social Improvement in the 19th and 20th Century

German Historical Institute, Washington DC

CFP – Deadline **31 August 2012**

Ideas for social improvement are not confined by national boundaries. Innovations in industry, medicine, hygiene, technology, etc. have addressed social problems caused by events as diverse as industrialisation, the two World Wars, and the economic crises of the 1970s. Many of these problems had an international character and were experienced in different countries around the world.

Instead of trying to solve these issues only within their own national borders, reformers, social policy makers and other people involved have often looked abroad, forming “transnational advocacy networks” (Keck and Sikkink 1998). There they found attempts at ameliorating the problems they perceived at home – and sometimes even solutions. There are several pioneer studies that have investigated these exchange processes and the adaptation of social ideas mainly/for example in Europe and the US (e.g. Kloppenborg 1986, Rodgers 1998). In this vein, the workshop aims at embedding national agendas for social improvement within the transnational exchange processes that shaped them. The areas in question were as varied as social work, health care and social policy, city planning and social housing. In observing and imitating social innovations across continents, the actors involved often formed international networks of experts or intellectuals that operated at a more global level. However, as countries sometimes differed decisively both culturally and politically, the implementation was not always achieved swiftly and easily. Reformers often met resistance to the new ideas within their home countries, and consequently were forced to alter their projects or give them up altogether.

The conference tries to address the following questions: How were social reforms transferred across borders and who were the actors involved? Why were some reform models successfully exported while others failed to work in a different environment? How did the actors manage to incorporate the new ideas into their own cultural context? Did they face resistance and if so by whom? How did cross-national networking enable and facilitate the implementation of new ideas?

Paper proposals are welcome from both young and established scholars. We invite abstracts from humanities and the social sciences and especially welcome papers in global history and regional studies as well as interdisciplinary approaches. Proposals should include an abstract of the paper (approx. 600 words) and a curriculum vitae in English. The proposals should be submitted via e-mail (preferably in pdf format) by 31 August 2012, to the

organizers: cmay@gwdg.de and lubinski@ghi-dc.org. Decisions will be announced by 31 October 2012. The organizers will pay the cheapest possible airfare and local costs for all participants.

Bibliography

-Keck, Margaret E. / Sikkink, Kathryn (1998): *Activists beyond borders. Advocacy Networks in International Politics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

-Kloppenber, James (1986): *Uncertain Victory. Social Democracy and Progressivism in European and American Thought, 1870-1920*. Oxford University Press.

-Rodgers, Daniel T. (1998): *Atlantic Crossings. Social Politics in a Progressive Age*. Cambridge: Belknap Press.

Please contact: Christina Lubinski, lubinski@ghi-dc.org, Christina May, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, cmay@gwdg.de.

4 – 6 April 2013

The 59th Annual Society for French Historical Studies Conference

Kendall Square, Cambridge MA,

CFP – Deadline **1 September 2012**

The 59th Annual Society for French Historical Studies conference will be held at the Cambridge Marriott Hotel in Kendall Square, Cambridge MA, from Thursday, April 4, through Saturday, April 6, 2013. It will be hosted jointly by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University. Jeff Ravel (MIT) and Mary Lewis (Harvard) are the co-organizers.

The theme for this conference will be “Nature and Technology in French History.” Plenary sessions will include a presentation by Robert Darnton, the Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and University Librarian at Harvard University, on digital technologies and the practice of history; a session on the digital humanities from the perspective of both researchers and granting agencies; and a roundtable on trends in the environmental and technological history of France and its colonies featuring Michael Bess, Caroline Ford, and Jean-François Mouhot. There will be a Friday night reception at the Harvard Museum of Natural History and a Saturday evening banquet in the new wing of MIT’s Media Lab Building, from which we will enjoy a spectacular view of the Charles River and the Boston skyline.

The conference theme, “Nature and Technology in French History,” shall be understood broadly. The Program Committee also welcomes papers and proposals on all subjects in the history of France, its colonies, and other Francophone countries, from the middle ages to the contemporary period. We encourage individuals to organize complete panels composed of three papers, a chair and a commentator—including panels that cut across traditional

periodizations. Roundtables and other formats will also be considered. In conjunction with the SFHS Technology Committee, we also welcome proposals for sessions to be webcast, on topics of broad interest.

Proposals should include the following items, integrated into one file (preferably a PDF): an abstract (no more than 1 page) for each paper; a CV (no more than 1 page) for each presenter, including contact information; and the proposed chair's and commentator's names, affiliations, and email addresses. Please submit complete proposals to sfhs2013@fas.harvard.edu. Please do not send proposals for papers that have already been presented or are scheduled for presentation elsewhere, or that have already been published. Please be very specific regarding your audio-visual needs at the time of submission. The financial well-being of SFHS depends on membership dues. All conference participants must be members in good standing of SFHS at the time of the conference. If you are not already a member, please join now by logging on to the Duke University Press site. There are reduced membership fees for students.

All sessions will be held at the Cambridge Marriott Hotel, Harvard, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The hotel is located adjacent to the MIT campus in Kendall Square, a rapidly developing area of East Cambridge that is home to many high-tech companies and interesting restaurants and businesses. Harvard Square in Cambridge, and the Waterfront, Back Bay, and the Fenway in Boston, are all easily accessible via public transportation. The special hotel rate will be \$169.00 per night.

The proposal deadline is September 1, 2012.

Please visit: <http://sfhs2013.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do>

IV. Fellowships

Karen Johnson Freeze Fellowship Fund – 2012 Call for Applications

Deadline for application **31 July 2012**

The Karen Johnson Freeze Fellowship Fund invites young and early career scholars in the field of history of technology in Central, Southeastern, and Eastern Europe to apply for funding. The fund is an initiative of the **Foundation for the History of Technology (SHT)** and the **Society for the History of Technology (SHOT)**.

The Karen Johnson Freeze Fellowship Fund seeks to encourage scientific research and facilitate active participation of early career scholars in Central, Southeastern, and Eastern Europe, in particular in Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech

Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, the Ukraine, and Turkey.

The fund was established in memory of Karen Johnson Freeze, who broadened the perspective of the history of technology through the inclusion of Eastern, Central, and South Eastern Europe. She was responsible for the early contacts with young scholars in the region and pointed out existing preconceptions and biases, while bridging the scholarly divisions created as a result of Cold War politics. Through her efforts, the history of technology has begun to develop as a field in Central and Eastern Europe. Within Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), she served as a very active chair of the International Outreach Committee.

Who Should Apply?

The Karen Johnson Freeze Fellowship Fund supports early career scholars preferably working in Central, Southeastern, and Eastern Europe in their pursuit of either pre- or postdoctoral research in the field of history of technology. The award may be used for travel and/or small stipends to provide a basic income for a few months. Through the fund, early career scholars will be allowed to attend international conferences or visit distant archives.

How to Apply?

Send an application to the Foundation for the History of Technology. In your application you should include:

1. a research statement about your ongoing or future research (2-3 pages)
2. a description of how you plan to use the Karen Johnson Freeze Fellowship within the context of your work (1 page)
3. your curriculum vitae
4. a reference letter of someone knowledgeable about your work

Please, send your application by regular mail or e-mail to:

Foundation for the History of Technology

Dr. Jan Korsten, Business Director, C/o Eindhoven University of Technology

IPO-Building 2.31, P.O. Box 513, 5600 MB Eindhoven, The Netherlands

J.W.A.Korsten@tue.nl

Application Deadline

Two fellowships will be awarded annually. The next application deadline is **July 31, 2012**. The 2012 fellows will be announced during the Tensions of Europe / SHOT meeting in Copenhagen, October 3-7, 2012.

Selection Committee

Fellows are selected by a committee consisting of Prof. Dr. Luda Klusakova (Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic), Prof. Dr. Ruth Oldenziel (Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands), Dr. Dobrinka Parusheva (University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria) and Prof. Dr. Steve Usselman (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA).

What are the conditions?

A Karen Johnson Freeze Fellow will be granted an award of a maximum of €2,000.--. The expenses will be paid directly to the fellow after submission of a statement of expenses and the original receipts. In emergency cases, an advance payment may be available. Expenses are refunded in accordance with the regulations of the Foundation for the History of Technology.

Fellows are required to publish a report/article in the Tensions of Europe Newsletter and the SHOT Newsletter. Additionally, the Fellows will be offered the opportunity to publish their report in the Tensions of Europe Working Paper series.

Further information

For more information, please, contact Dr. Jan Korsten, Business Director of the Foundation for the History of Technology, [J.W.A. Korsten@tue.nl](mailto:J.W.A.Korsten@tue.nl).

V. Summer Schools

30 July – 2 August 2012

Science History as Intercultural Learning

Prof. Dr. Fuat Sezgin Research Foundation for the History of Sciences in Islam, Istanbul,
Deadline for application **29 June 2012**

International Summer School at the Prof. Dr. Fuat Sezgin Research Foundation for the History of Sciences in Islam in cooperation with the University of Bremen

The history of sciences constitutes itself as continuity in the dimensions of time and space. This can be analogized by a chain, the links of which are affiliated while encompassing the world. This holds true specifically for the so-called Old World, where knowledge had been handed down often along trading routes (e.g. Incense Road) from the centers of old civilizations (Iraq, Egypt) to Greek and Asia Minor, before being translated systematically, then assimilated and further unfolded during the Abbasid Caliphate in the first half of the 9th Century BC. Baghdad, often closely connected with the House of Wisdom, became a scientific world center. Here, the “experimental spirit” (George Sarton) paved the way for the fundament of modern sciences. The process of development of sciences assumes a completely new character which can be considered the beginning of the period of creativity.

The mass-production of paper and the revolution of the book as the basis of the new knowledge carrier endowed a scientific exchange, in which Arabic was the widest spread common scientific language. Beginning from astronomy to zoology – sciences and its applications for the societies' prosperity flourished. From the 10th Century in early scholastic times in Europe to the Renaissance and beyond – the translation and inculturation of Arabic-Islamic Sciences paved the way for the development of modern sciences in Europe.

As a matter of course a variety of peoples, cultures, beliefs and world views were part of this long-lasting period, in which sciences blossomed force so impressively. Embedded in a culture of tolerance, the Islamic praising of knowledge was a pillar of the science's boost.

It was the 19th Century myth of the Renaissance which put forth an effort to disperse the contributions of Arabic-Islamic science out of the historic memory.

The 2008 founded Istanbul Museum for the History of Science and Technology in Islam, which is based on the long, continuous, intense and ongoing research of Prof. Fuat Sezgin and the Institute for the History of Arabic-Islamic science in Frankfurt Main, Germany, visualizes the development of Islamic sciences and its European inculturation. As the museum is equipped with numerous didactic applications, it is particularly suitable for the requirements of intercultural learning.

Format:

The program comprises of morning lectures, workshops and daily plenary sessions to draw together emerging themes. Excursions will take students to famous sites in Istanbul relevant to the themes of the Summer School (e.g. Sülemanyie Mosque, library etc). Participants will be expected to attend all the workshops, discussions and talks. The working languages are English and/or German (depending on the students' region of provenance).

ECTS-credits:

Upon the successful completion of the Summer School, BA students will be awarded 3 (writing 3 pages of a response, reflecting the summer school), MA students 6 (writing a critical essay of 8 – 10 pages) credits [ECTS] by the University of Bremen. The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System [ECTS] is a student-centered system based on the workload required to achieve the objectives of a program. ECTS aim is to facilitate the recognition of periods of study abroad and thus to facilitate student mobility.

Costs:

While participation in the program is free of charge, students are expected to cover their own travel and accommodation expenses, as well as possible costs for health insurance, visa etc.

Applications:

We cordially invite submissions from students with interest in science history, intercultural learning and cross-cultural dialogue. Applications should comprise:

- a letter of application, detailing your motivation for wishing to participate,
- a Curriculum Vitae, focusing on your academic background,
- a short description (half page) of your academic interest in “Science History as Intercultural Learning”,
- Contact details of one academic referee.

Applications (in PDF-format) must be submitted by 29 June 2012 to:

cdq@uni-bremen.de

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Prof. Dr. Fuat Sezgin Research Foundation for the History of Sciences in Islam.

The Lectures, workshops and discussions will concern:

Monday, Tuesday, July, the 30th and 31st

- Problems, theories and methods of science history
- The Istanbul Museum as a location for intercultural learning
- A visit to the Suleymanie complex
- Ethics and reason in Islam. Why Islamic sciences?
- The historical and cultural milieu in the context of the flourishing of Islamic Sciences (Dr. Detlev Quintern)

Wednesday, August the 1st

- Experiencing Islamic science - teaching in the form of workshops (Prof. Dr. Jan Hogendjik)

Thursday, August the 2nd

- Islamic water lifting devices (morning session)/ The medical sciences (afternoon) (Dr. Ingrid Hehmeyer)
- Concluding panel

Please contact: Detlev Quintern, Prof. Dr. Fuat Sezgin Research Foundation for the History of Science in Islam, cdq@uni-bremen.de

VI. Miscellaneous

Syracuse University Library Plastics Collection Expands Online Presence

The Syracuse University Library has launched a redesigned and expanded website devoted to its extensive Plastics Collection. The new site now offers approximately 3,000 objects with high quality photographs, information about plastic materials and processes, and twice the previous number of biographies and company histories. Of particular note, viewers can now submit additional information about objects, people, and companies through the site.

The Plastics Collection supports research in the study and understanding of plastics in modern society, including its role in chemistry, technology, industry, marketing, health, art, design, and other fields. According to Sean M. Quimby, Senior Director of Special Collections, “the website makes available to a wide public instantaneously a complete listing of all the library plastics resources.” Rich metadata allows for easy searching. High-quality, zoomable images permit even small details to be examined, while biographies and company histories provide context for the individual objects.

A team of library staff from the Special Collections Research Center and Library Information Technology worked collaboratively to develop the new website, which began as a joint project of the Syracuse University Library and the Plastics History & Artifacts Committee (PHAC) of the Plastics Pioneers Association. Continuing support has been provided by SU alumnus Harry Greenwald and the Greenwald-Haupt Charitable Foundation.

Prof. Jeffrey Meikle, Stiles Professor in American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin and author of the authoritative book *American Plastics*, says that “while it’s an entry point and guide to the collection, the new website is also a superb introduction to the history of plastics in general. Through the growing collection and the website, Syracuse has become the center of plastics history.”

The Library maintains an active acquisitions program for all areas of the Plastics Center collection. Donors can support the SU Plastics Collection by making a gift to the Collection Development Fund or helping sponsor the new “version 2” website. To learn more about how to make a gift of support or give an artifact, see plastics.syr.edu/give/. For more information about how to support the SU Plastics Collection, please contact Assistant Dean for Advancement Ron Thiele at rtthiele@syr.edu.

The Special Collections Research Center is a hub for primary source research located on the sixth floor of Syracuse University’s Bird Library. It is devoted to collecting and preserving rare research materials in all formats and to connecting students, faculty, outside scholars and the community to its collections. For more information, visit scrc.syr.edu. Inquiries about the Plastics Collection may be directed to the curator, Samuel Gruber, at 315-443-3971 or plastics@syr.edu.

VII. 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)
- Access to back issues of ICON in electronic form on ICOHTEC's web site
- ICOHTEC's electronic Newsletter (published monthly – available via mailing list and on the homepage)

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Please share this subscription form with a colleague who is not a member !



Membership in ICOHTEC includes subscription to the journal *ICON*, access to back issues of *ICON* in electronic form on ICOHTEC's web site, reduced registration at ICOHTEC's annual symposium and a monthly newsletter.

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