

ICOHTEC

NEWSLETTER

www.icohtec.org

N° 111, July 2014



Newsletter of the International Committee for the History of Technology ICOHTEC

Editor: Stefan Poser, Helmut-Schmidt-University Hamburg, Modern Social, Economic and Technological History, Holstenhofweg 85, D-22043 Hamburg, Germany, poser@hsu-hh.de

Editorial

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Our president, Timo Myllyntaus, welcomes you on the 41st Symposium of ICOHTEC, hosted by the University of Brasov.

The Newsletter gives good news concerning modernity of ICOHTEC: thanks to Yoel Bergman, Lars Bluma and Slawomir Lotysz ICOHTEC made PayPal available to pay our fees. Please find a link on our homepage <http://www.icohtec.org/about-icohtec-join-us.html>

Instead of an annual bibliography, the Newsletter will give a bibliography of books of ICOHTEC members of two years (2013 – 2015) in July 2015. Due to our symposium, the next issue of the Newsletter will be published end of August.

It will be a pleasure to meet many of you in Brasov!

Best wishes

Stefan Poser

Contents

I. ICOHTEC	p. 2
II. Reports	p. 3
III. Conference Announcements	p. 3
IV. Awards	p. 9
V. Miscellaneous	p. 9
VI. Recently Published Books	p. 10
VII. Join ICOHTEC	p. 10

I. ICOHTEC

Greetings from the President

Our next symposium in Brasov will be opened within a month, and many of us are focused on the preparation for travel and participation. On behalf of ICOHTEC I wish to thank the Local Organising Committee for providing us an opportunity to visit their famous and fascinating city, which is full of history while it lives a hectic modernization period.

By the extended deadline, the Programme Committee received more than 210 paper and poster proposals. By a tentative estimate, the programme of the Brasov symposium will include nearly 160 papers and about ten posters, which would be roughly 10 per cent less than listed for the Barcelona symposium (185). Considering the present economic situation in many countries, this is a reasonably good achievement. The scientific programme will be versatile, while presenters include both our old and new colleagues. The supply of social events will be abundant as usually in ICOHTEC symposia.

The symposium will take place in Aula, the main Library of the University of Transilvania in Brasov (UTBv), located in the old city centre. This modern spacious building symbolizes the high respect that the Romanians give to public libraries. Unfortunately, the university's collections of foreign literature are still limited although during the past twenty years the library has thrived to expand the number of foreign volumes. Participants of the ICOHTEC symposium are welcome to support the stock of books in Aula by bringing with them one or two outstanding books in the history of technology and donating them to the host institution. These new or old books may be authored by the participant her/himself or by colleagues or compatriots. Of course, books in English or Latin languages are preferred but publications in other languages are welcome as well. Your book donations would certainly assist students of the UTBv (est. in 1948) learn more on the history of technology. During the past few years, the university has grown rapidly and now it has sixteen faculties, 25,000 students and 800 teachers. The acquisition of publications have not followed the soaring growth rate of the academic community.

In the past, Brasov has been known by several names, such as Corona, Brassó and Kronstadt and possesses a rich history. Consequently, it is also a touristic gem of Transilvania and entire Romania. Brasov provides the broadest selection of sightseeing venues in the country: museums, castles, monasteries, churches and peculiar sights. Its old city contains many architectural layers and the variety of construction styles is unique even in the European scale. For example, the old city wall with some bastions and towers has been partly remained and restored. Behind the greatest landmark of the city, Black Church, there is one of the Brasov's peculiarities, *Strada Sforii* or rope street. Having the breadth of only one metre it is the narrowest street in Eastern Europe. You can find out the secret of this street passing it during quiet moments of the day. I am sure that you will also discover many other exciting places in Brasov.

I look forward to meeting you all in the 41th ICOHTEC Symposium.

Timo Myllyntaus

II. Reports

The following abstract of a report on new developments in labour history might be interesting, because the author observed a transformation which is similar to developments in the field of history of technology.

Heaps of work. The ways of labour history

Kim Christian Priemel, Institut für Geschichtswissenschaften, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin,
priemelk@geschichte.hu-berlin.de

One of the success stories of twentieth century historiography, Labour History has reputedly been on a downward trajectory for the past 25 years, mirroring the oft-commented demise of organised labour in 'old' industrial societies such as the UK and Germany. However, despite a great number of academic obituaries, labour history as a field of research is actually thriving. Various recent theoretical approaches and conceptual 'turns' have reinvigorated historians' interest in work and working people. This has led to a much more diverse field which stretches from local shop-floor studies to issues of transnational labour policies and from the de/construction of 'working-class culture' to the rise and fall of social engineering. Established themes of labour history are frequently covered in studies which do not sport the discipline's label and whose authors would not brand themselves labour historians. While the plurality of approaches and subjects greatly enhances labour history's intellectual appeal and reintegrates the field into larger historiographical debates, the discipline is losing both material and institutional coherence. As a result, traditional, yet essential research on trade union organisation, biographies, etc. is now marginalized.

Please find the whole report in: H-Soz-u-Kult, 23.01.2014, <http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/forum/2014-01-001>.

III. Conference Announcements

4 – 5 July 2014

Cultural Analytics, Information Aesthetics, and Distant Readings

Lüneburg, Stadtarchiv Lüneburg

Please visit <http://www.leuphana.de/zentren/mecs/veranstaltungen/cultural-analytics.html>

Please contact Isabell Schrickel, Lüneburg University, mecs@leuphana.de

21 – 23 August 2014

Comparative Business History. Contrasting Regions, Sectors, and Centuries

18th Annual Congress of the European Business History Association 2014,

Utrecht, The Netherlands

Congress Website: <http://www.ebha-2014.eu/>

12 – 14 September 2014

Jahrestagung der DGMNT/ Annual Meeting of the German Society for the History of Medicine, Science and Technology, DGMNT

München

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

10 – 11 October 2014

Gender in der Medizin-, Wissenschafts- und Technikgeschichte / Gender in the History of Medicine, Science and Technology. Workshop-Reihe Junge Perspektiven der DGMNT (Deutsche Gesellschaft für die Geschichte der Medizin, Naturwissenschaft und Technik e.V.),

Please visit <http://www.dggmnt.de/>

Please contact Prof. Dr. Heike Weber, Wuppertal University, hweber@uni-wuppertal.de.

26 – 28 October 2014

ARTEFACTS XIX “Environing Exhibits: Science, Technology, and Museums in the Anthropocene”

Deutsches Museum, Munich

CFP – Deadline **4 July 2014**

ARTEFACTS is an international network of academic and museum-based scholars interested in promoting the use of objects in studies of the history of science and technology. The network was established in 1996 and since then has held annual conferences and published several books examining the various ways that this can be accomplished.

The next conference will be held at the Deutsches Museum in Munich, Germany, **26–28 October 2014**. The conference is co-sponsored by the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, a joint center of the Deutsches Museum and Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich.

In 2000, the fifth ARTEFACTS conference discussed the topic of “Artefacts and the Environment.” In the very same year the atmospheric chemist and Nobel Laureate Paul Crutzen jointly with the ecologist Eugene F. Stoermer proposed the new geological epoch of the Anthropocene that is shaped by the deep impact of humankind on the environment at a planetary scale.

Since that, with climate change and global warming gaining ever more momentum, the concept of the Anthropocene has found ever more followers not only in the natural sciences but also in the cultural sciences and the humanities. The idea of the Anthropocene has developed into a vibrant field of studies which examine the inextricable interrelations between nature and culture, environment and society. This year’s Artefacts conference will embark on this inspiring agenda. It aims to discuss the material culture-dimensions of the Anthropocene.

Topics could cover questions such as:

- Technologies and techno-scientific knowledge are both driving forces of the environmental problems that we are faced with in the Anthropocene and an indispensable source of finding solutions to overcome these problems. How do we cope with this dual character of technology/science in museum exhibitions and what sorts of artefacts are suitable to reflect this duality?
- How have certain features of material objects, especially instruments that may have been designed for some other purpose, led us to a better understanding of environmental change?
- How have certain artefacts become symbols of the human impact on the environment ("natural" phenomena like the ozone hole and the "calving" of glaciers, or "artificial" devices like plastic waste and CO₂-emissions)?
- Museums of science and technology have acquired an impressive record of displaying environmentally related issues such as climate change, changing energy regimes or nuclear disasters. Likewise, museums of natural history have held exhibits on changes in the biosphere, loss of biodiversity or ecological change. Is the Anthropocene asking for a merger of these two discrete types of museums or/and for a reinterpretation of the science and technology museum in the 21st century?
- Internet, television, smart phone – our present media-speeded-up world is filled with fast communication media. Museums, collections, and exhibitions are the opposite: slow media that allow for long-term thinking and balanced reflection. How can we benefit from the slowness of museums in the Anthropocene as an era of speed and acceleration?
- Workshop session on how these various topics can be effectively treated-through objects-in museum exhibits. Note this would be an opportunity for participants who don't have enough material to develop a formal presentation, but who have good ideas, to express themselves. It might also be a forum for non-historians (geologists, biologist, architects, civil engineers) to describe problems and/or solutions that might be worth describing in exhibits.

ARTEFACTS conferences are friendly and informal meetings with the character of workshops. There is plenty of time for open discussion and networking. Each contributor is allocated a 20 minutes slot for her or his talk plus ample of time for questions and discussion. Please send you proposal for sessions or individual papers (500–700 words) along with a brief CV to Helmuth Trischler (h.trischler@deutsches-museum.de) no later than Friday, **4 July 2014**. Please remember that the focus of presentations should be on artefacts.

Prof. Dr. Helmuth Trischler, Head of Research, Deutsches Museum, Director, Rachel Carson Center, h.trischler@deutsches-museum.de

29 – 31 May 2015

Third AAWH Congress: Migration in Global History: Peoples, Plants, Plagues, and Ports. Conference of the Asian Association of World Historians

Singapore, Nanyang Technological University

CFP – Deadline **1 October 2014**

Understood in the broadest sense, “migration” brings into focus questions about the movement of peoples, businesses, capital, ideas, goods, diseases, technologies, diverse forms of knowledge, artistic styles, ecologies, as well as medical and scientific discoveries and practices across global borders. Ports such as Singapore’s facilitated these movements, which enmeshed the globe in profound change. The 2015 AAWH Congress considers these subjects in their global, world, transregional, interdisciplinary, comparative, international, and big historical contexts, and welcomes proposals related to the Congress theme.

While the Congress committee welcomes panels and papers that address Migration in Global History, it will also consider proposals related to other topics on the history of the Asia-Pacific from global and world perspectives, including (but not limited to) the interdisciplinary history of science, technology, medicine, business, and the environment. Proposals addressing the epistemology and methodology of teaching and writing global, world, transnational, and big history are also welcomed.

Panels should comprise three or four papers with a chair and commentator. Roundtables involving a chair and three to five participants are also welcomed. Alternative arrangements will be considered. All of these should be elaborated in the proposal, which should also include a 250-word rationale for the panel, an abstract of each paper not exceeding 500 words, and a 1-page CV of each presenter. Please include audiovisual requests, if you have any.

All proposals should be submitted to: 2015AAWH.Congress@ntu.edu.sg, with the subject line “2015 AAWH Congress Proposal.” If you wish to submit your proposal by postal service, it should be dispatched to:

2015 AAWH Congress Committee
History General Office
School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Nanyang Technological University
HSS-05-20/20A
14 Nanyang Drive
Singapore 637332
Republic of Singapore

The deadline for submissions is 1 October 2014. Decisions on participation will be made known in November 2014 and further instructions on registration will be given thereafter.

If you have questions about the program or anything else related to conference logistics, please contact the 2015 AAWH Congress Committee at 2015AAWH.Congress@ntu.edu.sg.

The Congress will be held at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. For information on how to get to the university campus, visit www.ntu.edu.sg/AboutNTU/visitingntu/Pages/location.aspx. More information will be provided when registration begins in 2014.

Please contact the organizers by 2015AAWH.Congress@ntu.edu.sg

24 – 27 June 2015

Inequalities: Winners and Losers in Business. Joint Meeting of the Business History Conference and the European Business History Association, BHC and EBHA 2015

Miami, Florida

CFP – Deadline **15 October 2014**

What does business have to do with inequality? Contemporary answers have ranged from "everything" to "nothing." The call for proposals for the 2015 joint meeting of the Business History Conference (BHC) and European Business History Association (EBHA) challenges business historians of all stripes to historicize the economic, political, cultural and social processes by which inequality has taken hold, ebbing and flowing over time. Business is central to those processes. The very word "inequality" suggests injustice and unfairness, subjugation and lack of opportunity. But in fact, there are many different inequalities, and their historical significance depends upon how societies have regarded and valued difference. Men and women of various racial and ethnic populations, the rich and poor, dominant and subordinate, leaders and laggards, have been praised and derided, advantaged and disadvantaged in various ways by different societies in different time periods. By inviting a broad historical exploration of the many inequalities that affected and have been affected by business, both positively and negatively, the conference hopes to illuminate more clearly the complexities involved in distinguishing winners from losers. In keeping with longstanding BHC and EBHA policy the Program Committee will give equal consideration to submissions not directly related to the conference theme.

This will be the fourth joint meeting of the Business History Conference and the European Business History Association. The Program Committee includes **Lucy Newton** (chair), University of Reading; **Mary Yeager** (BHC president), University of California Los Angeles; **Raymond Stokes** (EBHA President), University of Glasgow; **Juliette Levy**, University of California, Riverside; **Stephen Mihm**, University of Georgia; **Ben Wubs**, Erasmus University, Rotterdam; and **Stephanie Decker**, Aston Business School.

The program committee will consider both individual papers and entire panels. Individual paper proposals should include a one-page (300-word) abstract and one-page curriculum vitae (CV). Panel proposals should include a cover letter stating the rationale for the panel and the name of its contact person; one-page (300-word) abstract and author's CV for each paper; and a list of preferred panel chairs and commentators with contact information. It also invites proposals for innovative sessions, such as roundtables. Proposals will be reviewed by all program committee members and evaluated for their quality and originality. Graduate students and recent Ph.D.s (within 3 years of receipt of

degree) whose papers are accepted for the meeting may apply for funds to partially defray their travel costs; information will be sent out once the program has been set. Everyone appearing on the program is required to register for the meeting.

The BHC awards the Herman E. Krooss Prize for the best dissertation in business history in English by a recent Ph.D. in history, economics, business administration, the history of science and technology, sociology, law, communications, and related fields. To be eligible, dissertations must be completed in the three calendar years immediately prior to the 2015 annual meeting, and may only be submitted once for the Krooss Prize. If you wish to apply for this prize, please send a letter to the Krooss Prize Committee expressing your interest along with a one-page CV and one-page (300-word) dissertation abstract. After the Krooss committee has reviewed the proposals, it will ask semi-finalists to submit copies of their dissertations. Finalists will present summaries of their dissertations at a plenary session of the 2015 BHC annual meeting in Columbus and will receive a partial subsidy of their travel costs to the meeting.

The K. Austin Kerr Prize is awarded for the best first paper delivered by a new scholar at the annual meeting of the BHC. A "new scholar" is defined as a doctoral candidate or a Ph.D. whose degree is less than three years old. If you wish to participate in this competition, please notify the BHC program committee in your proposal. Proposals accepted for the Krooss Prize are not eligible for the Kerr Prize.

Since 2009, the EBHA has held a prize competition for the best paper on European business history presented at its annual congress. That tradition will continue at the joint BHC/EBHA meeting in Miami in 2015. More information will be available on the conference and EBHA websites.

The deadline for receipt of all proposals is **15 October 2014**. Acceptance emails will be sent in January 2015. Presenters are expected to submit abstracts of their papers for posting on the BHC website. In addition, presenters are encouraged to post electronic versions of their papers prior to the meeting and to submit their papers for inclusion in the BHC's on-line proceedings, *Business and Economic History On-Line*.

Please send proposals for papers, panels, or the Krooss Prize to BHC@Hagley.org. If you do not have access to the Internet, you may send hard copies to Roger Horowitz, Secretary-Treasurer, Business History Conference, P.O. Box 3630, Wilmington, DE 19807, USA. Phone: (302)658-2400; fax: (302) 655-3188.

The BHC Doctoral Colloquium in Business History will be held in conjunction with the BHC annual meeting. This prestigious workshop, sponsored by BHC and funded by Cambridge University Press, will take place in Miami at the conference site Tuesday, June 23, and Wednesday, June 24. The colloquium is limited to ten students. Participants work intensively with a distinguished group of BHC-affiliated scholars that includes at least two BHC officers. The colloquium will discuss dissertation proposals, relevant literatures and research strategies, and employment opportunities in business history. This colloquium is intended for doctoral candidates in the early stages of their dissertation projects. If you are interested in being considered for this colloquium, please submit to Roger Horowitz by **1 December 2014** (at the email address listed above) a statement of interest, a

CV, a preliminary or final dissertation prospectus of 10-15 pages, and a letter of support from your dissertation supervisor (or prospective supervisor). All participants receive a stipend that will partially cover the costs of their attendance at the annual meeting. The colloquium committee will notify all applicants of its decisions by 23 January 2015.

Please visit <http://www.thebhc.org/annmeet/call2015.html>

IV. Awards

Conrad Matschoss Price of the Association of German Engineers/ Verein Deutscher Ingenieure, VDI

The VDI announces his Conrad Matschoss Price for books and films the history of technology.

Please visit <http://www.vdi.de/bildung/technikgeschichte/conrad-matschoss-preis/>

Please contact Lars Bluma, German Museum of Mining, lars.bluma@bergbaumuseum.de

V. Miscellaneous

After 24 years, the IEEE History Center has relocated from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA to the campus of Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey, USA, which will become the new strategic partner for IEEE in the history area.

The mission of the IEEE History Center is to preserve, research and promote the history of electrical, electronic and informational sciences and technologies. The Center maintains many resources for the historian of science or technology, for the educator, and for anyone interested in the development of electrical and computer sciences and engineering and their role in modern society. The Center is sponsored by IEEE, the world's largest professional association dedicated to advancing technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity.

Stevens Institute of Technology, The Innovation University®, is a premier, private research university situated in Hoboken, N.J. overlooking the Manhattan skyline. Founded in 1870, technological innovation has been the hallmark and legacy of Stevens' education and research programs for more than 140 years. Within Stevens, the IEEE History Center will be affiliated with the College of Arts and Letters (CAL), the academic unit dedicated to teaching and research at the intersection of science, technology, the humanities, and the arts. CAL maintains a strong focus on the history of science and technology and on science and technology studies.

The move will enable two organizations at the intersection of history and technoscience to take advantage of synergies and increases strategic opportunities.

See more at: <http://www.stevens.edu/news/content/ieee-history-center-moves->

Michael N. Geselowitz, Ph.D., Senior Director, IEEE History Center at Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, m.geselowitz@ieee.org

VI. Recently Published Books

Uhl, Karsten: Humane Rationalisierung? Die Raumordnung der Fabrik im fordistischen Jahrhundert. transcript, Bielefeld 2014.

Karsten Uhl's history of the factory in the twentieth century asks for a new interpretation of Taylorism and Fordism. Beginning in the 1920s, companies started to 'humanise' rationalisation: Workers were no longer regarded as mere objects of discipline but rather as individuals whose individuality was to be utilised. The companies' interest in preserving the human factor in the workplace led them to the assumption that it would be more rational to mobilize and motivate individual workers than control them by means of discipline and surveillance.

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)
- Electronic access to back issues of ICON (published since 1995)
- ICOHTEC's electronic Newsletter (published monthly – available via mailing list and on the homepage)

*Please share this subscription form with a colleague who is not a member
or ask your library to subscribe!*



*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.*

ICOHTEC Subscription Form

I wish to become a member of ICOHTEC and pay my annual subscription:

- *for an individual (30 € or 40 \$ or equivalent per year)*
- *for a student (30 € or 40 \$ or equivalent **for two years**)*
- *for a library (Europe: 36 € or 48 \$, overseas: 39 € or 52 \$ or equivalent per year)*
- *for an institution (75 € or 100 \$ or equivalent per year)*

for each year checked:

2012 2013 2014 2015
ICON 18 ICON 19 ICON 20 ICON 21

I submit the total amount: _____ €/\$

Your first name and surname: _____

Email: _____

Postal address: _____

City/State/postal code: _____

Country: _____

ICON issues for the years you have checked and paid for will be sent to your mailing address. In the event it changes, please send your new address to our treasurer Yoel Bergman, yoelb@protalix.com, with "ICOHTEC new address" as the "Subject"

Please, return this form
– and make an international money transfer to "ICOHTEC" at Commerzbank Bochum
(Husemannplatz 3-4, D-44787 Bochum, Germany) : IBAN DE44 4304 0036 0390 2590 00 ; BIC
COBADEFFXXX (members in Germany take Commerzbank Bochum BLZ 43040036, Nr.
390259000.