

**Monitoring the Environment:  
Scales, Methods, and Systems in Historical Perspective**

Hagley Museum and Library  
July 17 - 18, 2003

Sponsored by the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT)  
and the American Society for Environmental History (ASEH)

The notion of environmental sustainability suggests, among other things, that a society has the capacity to monitor that which it desires to sustain. But who decides what measures of environmental quality should be sustained and how they should be monitored? And who determines what standards should be maintained and which human actions and practices should be regulated to manage those standards?

After a society places closure on such questions and constructs a system of monitoring and regulation that is accepted as legitimate, the issues involved often come to be seen as purely technical. This conference will explore ways in which past decisions about monitoring the environment have unfolded, with an aim toward identifying themes and issues that historians and others might fruitfully explore.

**Thursday Evening, July 17**

**Facilitated Discussion and Reception (7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)**

The goal of this discussion is to place the topic of "Monitoring the Environment" in perspective by addressing questions such as: Do environmental historians and historians of technology approach topics such as this differently? How relevant (or marginal) is this topic to the interests of environmental historians and historians of technology in general? In what ways can a better understanding of past efforts to measure and monitor various aspects of the environment benefit policy makers and participants in current environmental decision-making processes?

**Friday Morning, July 18**

**Session 1: The Development of Measurement Technology (8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.)**

*The Ringelmann Story: How a Deficient Method of Measurement Became the State of the Art for Half a Century.* Frank Uekoetter (Universitaet Bielefeld)

*Characterizing and Controlling Industrial Dusts: A Case Study of Small Particle Measurement.* Richard S. Combes (Georgia Institute of Technology) and D. Alan Warrens (University of South Carolina)

*Learning to See the Invisible: Discovery and Measurement of Photochemical Smog.* Alex Farrell (University of California, Berkeley)

**Session 2: The Development of Standards (10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)**

*1 to 100: Creating an Air Quality Index in Pittsburgh*  
James Lewis Longhurst (Carnegie Mellon University)

*From Intrastate to Interstate Pollution Monitoring and Regulation.*  
Craig E. Colten (Louisiana State University)

*Leaving it to the Experts: Resisting Reductionism and the Environmental Crisis.*  
Michael Egan (Washington State University)

*Science on Trial: Introducing Environmental Data into Legal Decision-Making.*  
Betsy Mendelsohn (University of Virginia)

**Lunch (12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.)**

### **Friday Afternoon**

#### **Session 3: Systems for Monitoring and Managing (2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.)**

*Technically Chemical: The Land Survey as Organization and Instrument in Antebellum America.* Benjamin R. Cohen (Virginia Tech)

*Window from the Sky--The Impact of Satellite Monitoring on Conservation and Natural Resources.* Catherine A. Christen and Peter Leimgruber (Smithsonian National Zoological Park)

*Monitoring of the Urban Sea Area: The Use of Different Methods in Helsinki, Finland in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.* Simo Laakkonen & Sari Laurila (University of Helsinki)

*Monitoring More than Emissions: On-Board Diagnostics in Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century Automobiles.* Kevin Borg (James Madison University)

### **Registration and Information**

**Registration** To register, please complete the registration form on the following page.

**For more information** For more information, contact Hugh Gorman at 906.487.2116 (hsgorman@mtu.edu) or Erik Conway at 757.864-6525 (E.M.Conway@larc.nasa.gov).

**Directions to the Hagley Museum and Library** For directions to the Hagley Museum and Library please visit <http://www.hagley.lib.de.us/hours.html> Visitors to the Hagley often stay at the Best Western Brandywine Inn (800.537.7772), which is a 10-minute drive away.

### **Sponsors**

**Society for the History of Technology (SHOT)** An interdisciplinary organization, SHOT is concerned not only with the history of technological devices and processes, but also with the relations of technology to science, politics, social change, the arts and humanities, and economics. For more information, visit <http://shot.press.jhu.edu/>

**American Society for Environmental History (ASEH)** The American Society for Environmental History seeks understanding of the human experience of the environment from the perspectives of history, liberal arts, and sciences. The Society encourages cross-disciplinary dialogue on every aspect of the present and past relationship of humankind to the natural world. For more information, visit <http://www.aseh.net>

**The Hagley Museum and Library.** The Hagley Museum and Library is located in Wilmington, Delaware on the site of the first DuPont powder works. It is home to a research library known for collections that document the history of American business and technology and their impact on society. Visit <http://www.hagley.lib.de.us/>

## Registration

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Name:	_____
Affiliation:	_____
Address	_____
	_____
	_____
Email address	_____
Telephone	_____
Area of research or interest:	_____
	_____

Please  
check

<input type="checkbox"/>	I plan to attend the Thursday evening discussion/reception (\$15)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I plan to attend the Friday sessions (lunch provided) (\$20, \$15 students)	
TOTAL		

Please return this registration form by July 1, 2003 to:

Hugh Gorman  
Dept. of Social Sciences  
Michigan Technological University  
Houghton MI 49931

Please make your check out to SHOT.