

# Envirotech Newsletter

Volume 2 Issue 1

March 2002

## Notes from the HSS Earth and Environment Forum

Erik Conway

The History of Science Society's E&EF interest group meeting was held 10 November 2001 and began at 1200 in the Tower Court "B" room at the Adams Mark Hotel, Denver, with 19 people attending. The first order of business was the election of a president and secretary for the meeting. Stéphane Castonguay was elected president and Michael Osborne was elected secretary.

Stéphane opened the meeting with the news that the History of Science Society's executive committee had formally recognized the Forum. He also reminded everyone that the Forum had sponsored a session at this year's meeting. Finally, Stéphane noted that the Forum had been the subject of an article in the EnviroTech Newsletter.

The leadership of the Forum consists of a steering committee composed of six people. Currently, they are Karin Matchett, Sarah Jansen, Philip Pauly, Michael Osborne, Stéphane Castonguay, and

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## Brazil Expedition

Paul Josephson

In December 2002, I visited the Tocantins and Sao Francisco River basins in Brazil. The trip was in connection with a research project comparing the development of Amazonia and Siberia. I'm focusing on the role of large scale technologies in the extractive, hydropower and irrigation industries. My host during the site visits was Professor Adrian Batista Dias, a SHOT International Scholar, of the Fundacao Joaquim Nabuco in Recife. I visited the 4,100 MW Tucurui hydropower station in the middle of the rain forest. From the site a huge dam and station with 12 massive turbogenerators plus a town of 60,000 persons, it was hard to believe I was in the rainforest. The

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Adrian Batista Dias (left) and Paul Josephson visit the Tucurui Hydropower Station in Brazil. Photo courtesy Paul Josephson.

## Earth and Environment Forum

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Erik Conway. We also have a Secretary/Treasurer, a position currently held by Stéphane. The steering committee is designed to rotate, with members serving three year terms. At last year's meeting, we decided to begin the rotation by having two of the current members serve only one year, and two more serve only two years, before being replaced. This year, Stéphane proposed, and we accepted, that the rotation begin *this* year, since the Forum did not officially exist until May 2001. Hence at HSS's 2002 meeting, two members of the steering committee will step down and a new election will be held. (Erik Conway mounted a brief insurrection in hope of resigning and being replaced by Ed Russell, but was suppressed).

Stéphane proposed that the Forum create a newsletter, a website, and a workshop on teaching history of the environmental sciences. There was considerable discussion over what form a newsletter should take, with everyone at the meeting preferring electronic distribution but with some question over whether it should be web-based (like the EnviroTech Newsletter) or email-based. We ultimately agreed that it be a web-based newsletter, and Stéphane burdened himself with the duties of Editor. We members are to provide most of the content. Finally, Ed Russell advocated linking the website to the Forest History Society's vastish web-based bibliography, to which we agreed. We did not have much discussion on the teaching workshop idea, however, so the steering committee will need to address this next year.

Michael Osborne proposed placing a notice in other societies' newsletters, specifically the American Society for Environmental History, as a means of advertising the Forum. We had also discussed placing such notices last year, but due to an oversight, no one was actually tasked with the onerous duty. Slightly greater diligence this year led to Karin Matchett volunteering to write a blurb for the ASEH newsletter. We again failed to assign anyone to write a blurb for the HSS newsletter or for the SHOT newsletter, however.

As the meeting was coming to an end, several miscellaneous activities took place. Ed Russell recruited book reviewers for *Environmental History*, Helen Rozwadowski gave a brief spiel about the MAURY series of workshops in history of oceanography, and Phil Pauly advertised Rutgers' new program in history of technology and the environment. Finally, we agreed to hold next year's meeting after a breakfast or luncheon, to permit some socializing.

## Plan Ahead for SHOT 2002!

Jim Williams

Envirotech will hold its fall meeting with the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) in Toronto, October 17-20. SHOT's annual meeting is being hosted by the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology at the University of Toronto. The main conference hotel will be the Delta Chelsea, Canada's largest hotel, located at 33 Gerrard Street West, between Yonge Street (pronounced Young) and Bay Street, a short walk to some of the town's best theatres, attractions, shopping and dining.

Take a virtual tour: <http://www.deltachelsea.com>. The hotel will hold all but a handful of sessions, and all breakfasts and SIGs, as well as the book display and hospitality suites. The hotel is about a mile from the University of Toronto campus, where the SHOT local arrangements committee is planning evening activities.

## Earth and Environment Forum Newsletter

By Stéphane Castonguay

The Earth and Environment Forum is creating a web-based newsletter in which to publicize and update information on its activities. Among the items included in the newsletter will be a membership directory, conference announcements, and links to other websites (history societies, research resources, academic programs).

We also hope to include items relevant to other activities of the Forum (syllabi, bibliographies, archives, etc.). For the time being, we will focus on the directory of interested members. Please send me the following information if you wish to have your name appear on the website:

- 1) name
- 2) institution (if any) and address
- 3) email
- 4) research interests

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## New Newsletter

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5) current research project

6) relevant publications (keep within five)

We invite you to provide us with any other information or relevant links.

We plan to have the newsletter ready by the end of the spring. After that, information on the webpage will be updated weekly.

## Notes from the Co-chair. . . .

Sara Pritchard

The decentralized, quasi-steering committee of Envirotech thought that members might be interested in short pieces on specific themes, geographic specialties, and/or time periods within the broader topic of historical studies of nature and technology. Possible topics might include agriculture, colonialism, Russia, or the twentieth century. We even hoped, perhaps optimistically, that members might volunteer to write something. Let us know what you think of this idea (helpful? vaguely interesting if someone else does it? a waste of time?) or if you're interested in writing a piece.

H-Environment is pleased to announce that its web page has been undergoing a major renovation. Check out the updated, expanded, and generally improved web page at:

<http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/~environ/>

## News from the Membership

Erik Conway

**Nina Lerman** reports that she has achieved tenure at Whitman College and been promoted to Associate Professor.

**Joy Parr** notes that her article on the St. Lawrence Seaway and a drowned Iroquois village has appeared: "Toward a more sensuous history of twentieth century Canada: the timely, the tacit and the material body", *Canadian Historical Review*, December 2001.

**Paul Sutter** writes that his book, *Driven Wild: How the Fight Against Automobiles Launched the Modern Wilderness Movement* (University of Washington Press, 2002) has just been published.

**Stéphane Castonguay** writes: in January 2001 I started a teaching position in environmental history at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières. I was also elected a member of the Centre interuniversitaire d'études québécoises, where I will be working on a historical atlas of the environment.

<http://www.cieq.ulaval.ca/sites/LGH/Realisations/Publications/Atlas.html>

# American Society for Environmental History

## Frontiers in Environmental History: Mainstreaming the “Marginal”

Annual Meeting Announcement and Call for Papers

Providence, RI, March 26-30 2003

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 1, 2002.

The program committee for the American Society for Environmental History Annual Meetings to be held in Providence, RI, in March 2003, invites proposals for panels, papers, and posters. Proposals may address any area or field of environmental history. However, in keeping with the theme of the conference, the program committee specifically solicits submissions that call attention to previously underrepresented world areas and intellectual approaches. Panels on the environmental history of Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Eastern Europe are particularly encouraged. Of equal interest are subjects that examine urban and industrial environments and those on the interface between environmental history and disciplines such as geography, anthropology, ecology and economics. By exploring the margins and encouraging interdisciplinary conversations, we seek to expand the frontiers of the field, and in the process, gain new insights on its traditional core.

The program committee strongly encourages proposals for complete panels with four individual papers and a chair. In order to maximize the number of papers and create more opportunity for creative exchanges with members of the audience, the program committee prefers not to include a commentator in each session. If you feel that a discussant is essential for your panel, please include in your application an explanation of why a commentator is intrinsically necessary for its coherence. Please note also that although the committee prefers full panels, individual paper proposals are welcome. The committee seeks proposals from scholars across a broad range of disciplines. Panels that are interdisciplinary or which bring together papers on common themes from across different world areas are particularly encouraged, as are those involving scholars from traditionally underrepresented regions.

To apply, please download the form from the ASEH Webpage (<http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/~environ/>) and send SIX copies, along with six copies of the required attachments to:

Ravi Rajan  
ASEH Program Committee Chair  
Department of Environmental Studies  
University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064, USA.

Please feel free to contact any member of the program committee should you have any questions:

Colin Duncan, McGill University ([cduncan@leacock.ian.mcgill.ca](mailto:cduncan@leacock.ian.mcgill.ca))  
Nancy Jacobs, Brown University ([Nancy\\_Jacobs@Brown.edu](mailto:Nancy_Jacobs@Brown.edu))  
Byron Pearson, West Texas A&M University ([bpearson@mail.wtamu.edu](mailto:bpearson@mail.wtamu.edu))  
Stephanie Pincetl, University of Southern California ([pincetl@rcf.usc.edu](mailto:pincetl@rcf.usc.edu))  
Ravi Rajan, University of California, Santa Cruz ([srrajan@cats.ucsc.edu](mailto:srrajan@cats.ucsc.edu))  
Sylvia Washington, Northwestern University ([s-washington4@northwestern.edu](mailto:s-washington4@northwestern.edu))

Mission statement: The American Society for Environmental History seeks historical understanding of the human experience with the environment. Drawing upon perspectives ranging from the liberal arts to the social and natural sciences, the Society encourages cross-disciplinary dialogue on every aspect of the present and past relationship of humankind to the natural environment.

# Technology and the Environment at ICOHTEC

Jim Williams

The 29th Symposium of the International Committee for the History of Technology (ICOHTEC), scheduled for 24-29 June, 2002, in Granada, Spain, is shaping up to be an excellent meeting. The theme of technology and the environment will be well represented in an extended session organized by Jim Williams, which presently includes the following contributions:

## Group A – Changing Ecologies

Jörgen Lennqvist, Sweden, "Changing Wetlands: The case of Hjälmaren and Kvismaren area in central Sweden 1850 – 2000"

Zdenek Lipský, The Czech Republic, "Technological changes and landscape changes during centuries: examples from the Czech cultural landscape"

Lajos Rácz, Hungary, "Environmental Crises in Hungary During the Modern Epoch"

Clapperton Chakanetsa Mavhunga, Zimbabwe, "Firearms Proliferation in a Transfrontier Wildlife Area: Some Thoughts on the Technology Versus Environment Problematic in the Gonarezhou National Park, South-eastern Zimbabwe, 1900-1993"

## Group B – Processes of Social Change

Dolores Greenberg, U.S.A., "Global Environmental Resistance and Modernization Models"

Vera V. Kagantchouk, Russia, "Eco-Management and Audit Systems in the Context of Global Environmental Policy"

Vitaly Gorokhov, Russia, "Technology and the Environment in Russia"

Damian Finbar White, U.K., "Ecological Technologies, Industrial Ecologies, Alternative Modernities"

## Group C – Technology/Nature Ensembles

Ben Bradley, Canada, "'Through Your Picture Window': Transportation Technologies and the Mediation of British Columbia's Human and Natural Landscapes, 1912-1970"

Earth Duarte-Trattner, U.S.A., "Domestication, Disease, and Colonization: Biotechnology as a Technology of Control"

Thomas Heyd, Germany, "Nature Restoration: Going Beyond Technology"

James Williams, "Hydroelectric Mountain: Energy, Recreation, Managed Timber and Watersheds in California's Sierra Nevada"

## Group D – Dealing with Despoilation

Anna-Katharina Woebse, Germany, "'Calls for Drastic Action' - Technology, Environmentalists and Early Oil-pollution"

Norman Fuchsloch, Germany, "From London to Los Angeles [air pollution]"

Anthony Stranges, U.S.A., "Air Pollution"

Erik M. Conway, U.S.A., "On the (Re)construction of Stratospheric Science: The SST meets the Ozone Layer"

Michael Toyka-Seid, Germany, "The Fight against 'acoustic pollution' - noise as an environmental problem in 19th and 20th Century Germany"

Shardul Agrawala & Kenneth Broad, U.S.A., "Seasonal Forecast Applications for Environmental Management: A Technology Transfer Perspective"

Visit the ICOHTEC web site

<http://www.icohtec.org>

for more information, including accommodation and registration reservation forms. If you can't make Granada, plan ahead for 2003, which will be in Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia. The exact date is not yet determined, but it will probably be in July or August.

**Environment, Culture and Community**  
**2-5 July 2002**  
**The University of Queensland**

***How do we deal with the environmental challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?***

Exploring the role of social and cultural processes in relation to environmental awareness is critical to the development of ecologically-situated relationships among people and between people and the earth.

This conference will bring together those whose scholarly and artistic work addresses ways in which people create, challenge and sustain relationships with the natural environment.

We invite presentations on a wide range of topics, approached from a diversity of cultural perspectives, from across the humanities and related areas. We hope the suggested topics will encourage a mingling of disciplines and practices and we welcome suggestions of further topics.

***Suggested topics:***

*making contact with our environment:* how we speak, write, make art and music about our relationships with the non-human world, past and present

*valuing our environment:* issues of ethics, laws, economies, science, "deep" ecological and spiritual values; animals and the environment; environmental education; historical perspectives on culture and ecology

*shaping our environment:* technologies; designing, building, farming, gardening; art practice in the environment

*saving our environment:* social and cultural aspects of environmental activism

*inhabiting our environment:* concepts of time and space in relation to the environment; identity, community and ecology; lifestyle; tourism and the environment.

Please register your presentation or your interest in attending by 1 March 2002

***For further information, please contact:***

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The University of Queensland  
Queensland 4072

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Email: r.blair@mailbox.uq.edu.au

**<http://emsah.uq.edu.au/conferences/ecc/>**

*Supported by the Faculty of Arts, The University of Queensland.*



## Envirotech listserv instructions. . .

Sara Pritchard

Thanks to Erika Monahan, doctoral candidate in History at Stanford University, for serving as Envirotech's listserv coordinator

### To SUBSCRIBE:

Send a message from your preferred email account to [majordomo@lists.stanford.edu](mailto:majordomo@lists.stanford.edu) with 'subscribe envirotech' (without quotation marks) in the first line of your message.

### To UNSUBSCRIBE:

Either 1) send a message from the email account from which you originally subscribed to [majordomo@lists.stanford.edu](mailto:majordomo@lists.stanford.edu) with 'unsubscribe envirotech' in the first line of your message or 2) if you no longer have access to that account, send a message to [majordomo](mailto:majordomo@lists.stanford.edu) with 'unsubscribe envirotech [yourname@server.edu](mailto:yourname@server.edu)' (example: [janedoe@bebopuniversity.edu](mailto:janedoe@bebopuniversity.edu)). Note: for option #2, your name and server name must exactly match your original subscription.

### To POST a message:

Send your message to [envirotech@lists.stanford.edu](mailto:envirotech@lists.stanford.edu). Please use the subject line to identify the topic of your message. Please be sure and use a format that is accessible to most computers. If you have lengthy reports, highly formatted files, or other data-heavy messages, we suggest that you send a shorter message pointing interested individuals to an appropriate website.

A small caveat: The Envirotech listserv is more low tech than we would like. It doesn't have as many features as many listservs do (or rather, our listserv owners haven't had time to figure out these features!). Thanks for your patience in dealing with the listserv's quirks and limitations.

A gentle reminder: As you change email accounts (or change primary email accounts), please unsubscribe and resubscribe as necessary. Also, if you do not have email access for extended periods of time, please unsubscribe and resubscribe so that the list owner does not get "inbox full" messages. Thanks again for your patience and cooperation!

## Rainforest Continued

(Continued from page 1)

irrigation systems in the Sao Francisco basin reminded me of the American southwest, for here was agribusiness in arid climate.

For me the most fascinating, and troubling, aspect of resource development strategies in Brazil is the extent to which the periphery suffers at the expense of the center. That is, bureaucrats, scientists, and officials in Brazilia, Rio de Janeiro, and Sao Paula make plans that serve aluminum, electrical energy, and agribusiness interests. Goods and services find their way to the urban centers on the Atlantic Coast. Indigenous people, endangered ecosystems such as the rain forest, and flora and fauna pay the costs. In all of these ways, Amazonian development resembles Siberian: benefits to the center and costs to humans and environment in the interior.

## Notable New Books

Matt Gandy, *Concrete and Clay: Reworking Nature in New York City* (MIT Press, 2002).

Steven A. Moore, *Technology and Place: Sustainable Architecture and the Blueprint Farm* (University of Texas Press, 2002).

Paul Sutter, *Driven Wild: How the Fight Against Automobiles Launched the Modern Wilderness Movement* (University of Washington Press, 2002).

## SHOT 2002 CALL FOR PAPERS

The Society for the History of Technology will hold its next annual meeting in Toronto, CANADA, October 17-20, 2002. The program committee invites proposals for individual papers and sessions on topics related to all aspects of the history of technology. Proposals that deal with regional or national comparative aspects of the history of technology and the cultural dimensions in technology transfers are encouraged.

Proposals for individual papers must include:

- 1) a one page abstract, and
- 2) a one-page curriculum vitae, including current postal and e mail addresses.

Proposals for complete sessions must include:

- 1) a description of the session's theme;
- 2) a list of the presenters' names and paper titles;
- 3) a one page abstract and one page c.v. for each of the presenters;
- 4) a one page c.v. for the commentator, chairperson, and session organizer, if she or he is not participating in the session.

The session description should clarify how individual papers contribute to the session's overall theme.

Applicants may chose either one of these submission methods:

1. Send a paper copy of the complete proposal bearing a postmark or equivalent indication of submission date by **Friday March 22, 2002** to: Karin Zachmann, SHOT Program Chair; TU Darmstadt, Institut fuer Geschichte, Schloss, D-64283 Darmstadt.

2. By the same date, send one single email message to [shot2002@ifs.tu-darmstadt.de](mailto:shot2002@ifs.tu-darmstadt.de), with electronic copies of all elements of the complete proposal as attachments, formatted in Microsoft Word (any version of Word up to MS Word 2000 is fine, but the proposal must be a \*.doc file). Whether submitting an individual paper or a complete panel, the program committee will prefer to receive separate attachments for each item (vitae, paper, and so on).

The choice of submission methods will not affect the program committee's selection process in any way. Once the program is fixed, the committee hopes to have made arrangements to make the accepted abstracts available on the SHOT homepage.

## About this newsletter. . .

This newsletter is put together by Erik Conway, primarily for electronic distribution in Adobe Acrobat format. If you'd like to receive it printed on bleached dead plant fibers or know someone who would, please contact the editor:

Erik: [Olorin@att.net](mailto:Olorin@att.net)