

New Developments for ASEH's Journal

ASEH and the Forest History Society Seek Editor for *Environmental History*

ASEH and the Forest History Society are seeking a new editor for the journal, *Environmental History*. The current editor, Adam Rome, will be stepping down at the end of 2005, and his successor will be expected to begin taking on editorial responsibilities as editor-elect on January 1, 2005. As editor-elect, he or she will be responsible for evaluating new manuscript submissions, recruiting authors, and representing the journal at conferences. The editor-elect will assume the rest of the editor's responsibilities on October 1, 2005, and become editor with the January 2006 issue. Duties will include all activities associated with the editorial content of the journal – soliciting and commissioning articles as appropriate, screening submissions, and determining the contents of each issue. The editor will work with the production staff, book review editor, and graphics editor in the production process and the editorial board on policy matters.

Candidates should have a wide knowledge of and interest in the areas the journal covers and experience with academic editing. A successful applicant will need to demonstrate that he or she has the time and the institutional support to assume major responsibilities on January 1, 2005. For more information contact Head of the Search Committee, Jeffrey Stine, National Museum of American History, 206-633-3920; e-mail <stine@nmah.si.edu>.

Applications will be accepted by *February 20, 2004*, by e-mail to: <stine@nmah.si.edu> and <stevensa@duke.edu>. Five hardcopies of the application plus supporting materials should be sent to the Editor Search Committee, Forest History Society, 701 Vickers Ave., Durham, NC 27701.

Selected candidates will be interviewed just prior to the ASEH annual meeting in Victoria, British Columbia, which starts on March 31, 2004.

Environmental History Now Available Online

The journal *Environmental History* now is available online! We have joined the History Cooperative, a joint venture of the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the University of Illinois Press, and the National Academy Press. For the next year, online access to issues of *EH* will

be free. Then access will be limited to individual subscribers and people affiliated with subscribing institutions. The 2003 issues now are available. The web address to see the online issues:

<<http://www.historycoop.org/ehindex.html>>

In addition to *Environmental History*, the History Cooperative includes the *American Historical Review*, the *Journal of American History*, the *Western Historical Quarterly*, the *William and Mary Quarterly*, the *History Teacher*, the *Law and History Review*, *Commonplace*, the *History of Education Quarterly*, the *Journal of World History*, *Labour/Le Travail*, and *Labour History*. The site also has a powerful search engine that covers all the History Cooperative journals.

Environmental History To Be Honored at Victoria Conference

ASEH's next annual meeting, held in Victoria, British Columbia from March 31 - April 4, 2003, will include a reception honoring the journal, *Environmental History*, and its editor, Adam Rome. The National Council on Public History's journal, *The Public Historian*, will also be honored at the reception. *The Public Historian's* winter issue (2004) will be devoted to environmental history and the intersections with public history. Details will be provided in the conference program, to be mailed in early 2004, and on ASEH's

website at
 <www.aseh.net>.

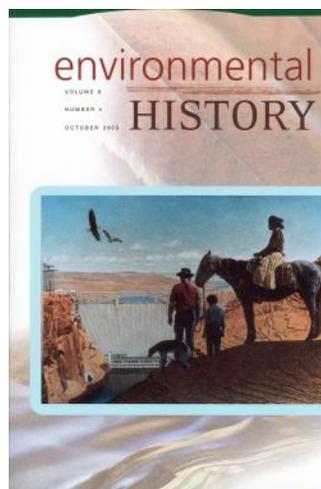
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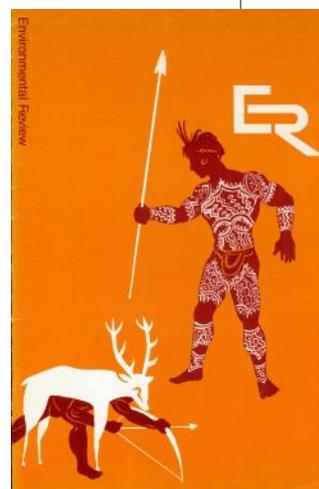
Correspondence and manuscripts should be addressed to:
 Dr. John Opie, College Hall
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From the Archives



Current Issue (October 2003)



First Issue (1976)

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Department of Geography, University of Alabama	
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Department of American History, University of Hawaii at Manoa	
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Project Environment, Federal Power Commission	
Department of History, University of Pennsylvania	
Department of Religion, University of Dayton, Ohio	
Energy Action Office, Clear Center, Pittsburgh	
Department of Philosophy, University of Washington, DC	

From the President's Desk

After the last presidential election (for the White House, that is) I cancelled my cable TV subscription. Teaching, research and service, I found, did not leave much time over for *ER* or even C-SPAN. Previous attempts at using popular culture to ingratiate myself to my students – the last two of which were references to *South Park* and *Ren and Stimpy* – all ended in abject failure. A former news junkie, I started relying on NPR and on U.S. newspapers on-line for information. Later, after I concluded that the above sources were less analysis than entertainment, particularly after September 2001, I switched to reading *The Guardian* and other exotic Internet sites like Common Dreams.

In short order *Guardian* columnist George Monbiot became one of my favorite features of that paper. A number of his essays stand out because they resurrect the arguments of the now shadowed Club of Rome Report, which neoconservatives like Julian Simon and the late Herman Kahn claimed were little more than hysterical eyewash.

One recent column, "Bottom of the Barrel: The World Is Running out of Oil – So why do Politicians Refuse to Talk About It?" (Dec. 3, 2003) argues that we are now in petroleum end-game but that we refuse to talk about it. "This is a civilization in denial." New discoveries touted as "huge" finds, such as those on the Alaskan shelf and in the North Sea, turn out to have the capacity to supply the world's current consumption of oil for two weeks or five and a quarter days, respectively.

Although the U.S. Department of Energy officially projects that production will peak in 2037, other geoscientists place the date much closer to the present. One thing is clear: as the limits of exploitable

deposits are reached, the price of oil will rise. Ensuing trade-offs will be devastating. Even the conversion of crops into fuel means that the arable land used for fuel will not be used to grow food, whose price will also skyrocket because so much of our food is also grown or processed using oil.

Given the dangers of nuclear energy, the pollution of coal, the costs of converting our fuel infrastructure to natural gas, and the low or absent net energy savings in producing hydrogen fuel cells, Monbiot asserts that "the only rational response to both the impending end of the oil age and the menace of global warming is to redesign our cities, our farming, and our lives." Instead, we are luxuriating in our SUVs and rushing to capture the oil reserves of the Middle East and Central Asia to secure the short term. If anyone is in doubt about the resolution of the current administration to pursue these short-term goals and to eradicate over thirty years of environmental legislation, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.'s "Crimes Against Nature" in the December 11, 2003 issue of *Rolling Stone Magazine* contains a shocking bill of particulars.

On the other side of the globe, other petroleum-based civilizations also grasp at extreme solutions. Two billion-dollar offshore oil platforms are being built in the treacherous northeastern waters off the Russian island of Sakhalin, in the middle of an earthquake zone. Environmental historians remember that, in the late 1940s, just on the other side of the island, attempts to build a railroad tunnel across the Tatar Strait to the Siberian mainland collapsed as tunnelers bored into an underground lake, drowning hundreds. (*Russian Environmental Digest*, 24-20 November 2003, vol. 5, no. 48).

In the center of Eurasia, the world is witness to another environmental end-game. Responding to the cessation of all water flow into the Aral Sea from Uzbekistan's Amu-Daria river, Kazakhstan has now determined that the water from its own Syr-Daria river is being wasted in the southern, Uzbek "dead zone" of the former sea and has constructed an impoundment dam at Aral's northern end. This will create a mini-lake, but will hardly restore the once abundant fishing economy. Transformed by petroleum-based, irrigated cotton and rice agriculture, Central Asia is now an environmental disaster area on a regional scale, restive under the shadow of likely bloody water wars in the near future.

The United States and its former antagonists are united on one big issue: none of them can imagine a future apart from the oil-based economy. Powerful expression of this is that both Bush and Putin have combined to bury the Kyoto Agreement.

It sometimes seems as though George Monbiot's lament – "Given a choice between a new set of matching tableware and the survival of humanity, I suspect that most people would choose the tableware" – is true. But as historians we also know that alternative discourses – under the right contingencies – can help to create productive change. I am making my graduate students in Global Environmental History read Vaclav Smil's *Energy in World History* (Boulder: Westview, 1994) – although it is now \$39.95 in paperback – so that they can be exposed to the long view, now almost absent from national discourse. It's a tiny playing field, but it's still a playing field.

The Victoria conference offers an opportunity to continue this discussion in the sessions. I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting and fundraiser in Victoria. Have a great holiday season!

Douglas Weiner, ASEH President

Correction

In the column "From the President's Desk," fall issue (2003), the last paragraph should read, "Moravian czardas and polkas."

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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 environment. ASEH maintains a website at <www.aseh.net>. Contact <oosthoek@onetel.com> to discuss including material on the web page.

Items for the next newsletter should be sent by *April 16, 2004* to: Lisa Mighetto, Editor, 119 Pine St., Suite 301, Seattle, WA 98101. E-mail to <mighetto@hrassoc.com>.

Other correspondence should be directed to: American Society for Environmental History, 701 Vickers Ave., Durham, NC 27701-3147.
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If you are interested in serving on a committee, contact Lisa Mighetto at <mighetto@hrassoc.com>.

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ASEH welcomes the following new members.

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Ben Bradley	Duncan A. Harkin	Mark Neuzil	Jennifer Turner
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Rita Merete Buttenschon	Melinda K. Herrold	Kerry Oman	Petra J. E. M. van Dam
Kirsten Valentine Cadieux	Mark Hersey	Joy Parr	Emily Wakild
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Joe Conley	Sarah J. Jaquette	Mahesh Rangarajan	Jason E. Williams
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Keri Cronin	Melinda Marie Jette	Michael Rawson	Robert M. Wilson
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Victoria Conference Update

ASEH Conference Highlights

Victoria, British Columbia

Fairmont Empress Hotel, March 31 - April 4, 2004

In addition to sessions and workshops (which will run Thursday through Sunday), the conference will feature the following events.

Wednesday, March 31

Opening Reception (Before Plenary Session), 6:00 p.m.

This reception will honor the journals, *Environmental History* and *The Public Historian*. Meet editors Adam Rome and Ann Marie Plane.

Plenary Session, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

The conference will open with a plenary session discussing the intersections between public and environmental history.

Moderator:

Martin Melosi, University of Houston

Participants:

Rebecca Conard, Middle Tennessee State

Susan Flader, University of Missouri, Columbia

Dwight Pitcaithley, Chief Historian, National Park Service

Martin Reuss, Senior Historian, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Philip Scarpino, Indiana University/Purdue University, Indianapolis

Marsha Weisiger, New Mexico State University

Thursday, April 1

ASEH Luncheon Banquet, 12:15-1:15 p.m.

Speaker: Dr. Frank Calder, a Nisga'a Chief elected to the British Columbia legislature in 1949. Dr. Calder was at the center of a landmark Supreme Court decision recognizing aboriginal title.

The awards for best dissertation and best articles will be presented.

Reception, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Royal British Columbia Museum

Friday, April 2

Afternoon Field Trips

- Field Trip 1: Wilderness and the Garden. Join paleobotanist Dr. Richard Hebda on a visit to Tod Inlet, popular with hikers and kayakers, and the world famous tourist attraction, Butchart Gardens, which will be celebrating its 100th anniversary.
- Field Trip 2: Maritime History. Visit one of the oldest naval harbours in western North America. A naval history tour will visit

Parks Canada's site Fort Rodd Hill and Esquimalt Naval Museum, and the historic Dockyards.

- Field Trip 3: Canadian Forests. Join ethnobotanist Dr. Nancy Turner on a forest-related tour, which will include examples of First Nations fire-managed Garry Oak and camas ecosystem. The timing of the conference is excellent for viewing local wildflowers.
- Field Trip 4: The Uplands: Designing with Nature. Award winning urban geographer Larry McCann will lead a tour of the last neighbourhood designed by John Olmsted.
- Field Trip 5: A walking tour of Victoria's Inner Harbour. Join RBCM archaeologist Grant Keddie on a leisurely walking tour that explores the First Nations use of the harbour, the original Hudson's Bay Company headquarters, the impact of the 1858 gold rush, and the harbour's development, finishing at an excellent brew pub.
- Field Trip 6: Take a bus along the scenic Malahat Drive, overlooking Victoria, and visit Duncan in the Cowichan Valley, home of the First Nations run Quw'utsun' Cultural and Conference Centre and the BC Forest Discovery Centre.
- Field Trip 7: Skylarks and Shorebirds. Skylarks, very rare in North America, can be found in the fields near the Victoria airport. This trip will also visit Island View Beach.

Dinner Banquet, 7:00-10:00 p.m.

The awards for best book, distinguished scholar, and distinguished service will be presented. Speaker from The History Channel.

Saturday, April 3

Business Meeting, 5:30-6:00 p.m.

Open to all members.

Fundraiser at Swans Pub, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 4

Environmental History and the Media: A Workshop
Sunday morning.

For more information on the conference, including a list of sessions and workshops, see ASEH's website at <www.aseh.net>, which is frequently updated with program information.

Conference programs will be mailed to members in January 2004.



Announcements

ASEH Executive Committee Welcomes New Member

Linda Lear resigned from the Executive Committee this fall. Members remain very grateful for her service – and we wish her the best. In accordance with the bylaws, the Executive Committee elected Dolores Greenberg, Hunter College, City University of New York, to serve for the remainder of Linda Lear's term.

TeacherServe Update

The latest essay on *TeacherServe* from the National Humanities Center – "Paleoindians and the Great Pleistocene Die-Off," by Shepard Krech III, Dept. of Anthropology, Brown University, may be viewed at:

<<http://www.nhc.rtp.nc.us/tserve/nattrans/ntecoindian/essays/pleistocene.htm>>

The essay is part of the webguide "Nature Transformed: The Environment in American History," which provides essays by scholars to provide updated content, discussion guidance, and teaching resources for high school teachers.

TeacherServe is a service of the National Humanities Center, the nation's only nonprofit center for advanced studies in the humanities. Its education programs provide seminars and web materials for teachers and college instructors.

Marianne D. Wason
Editor, *TeacherServe*
Asst. Dir. of Education Programs
National Humanities Center
Research Triangle Park, NC
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H-Net Network on the History of Water

Sponsored by H-Net, Humanities & Social Sciences On-line
About H-Water

H-Water is a network to provide discussion of any and all water history issues, their relationship to current issues, and to disseminate/share information, including new books and sources.

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Example: sub H-Water Leslie Jones, Pacific State U

Follow the instructions you receive by return mail. If you have questions or experience difficulties in attempting to subscribe, please send a message to:

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H-Net is an international network of scholars in the humanities and social sciences that creates and coordinates electronic networks, using a variety of media, and with a common objective of advancing humanities and social science teaching and research. H-Net was created to provide a positive, supportive, equalitarian environment for the friendly exchange of ideas and scholarly resources, and is hosted by Michigan State University. For more information about H-Net, write to <H-Net@H-net.msu.edu>, or point your web browser to:

<<http://www.h-net.org>>

Visiting Scholars Program

The Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center at the University of Oklahoma seeks applicants for its Visiting Scholars Program. The purpose of this program is to assist researchers by providing financial awards for on-campus work in the Center's archives. Awards are normally from \$500 to \$1000 to defray the cost of travel and lodging.

The Center's holdings include the papers of 55 former members of Congress, but topics cover more than just the history of that legislative body. Included in the Center's collections is information on government agriculture programs, flood control activities, water and soil conservation projects, federal-Native American relations, drought relief, and rural development and electrification. The states best represented are Oklahoma and other western states, such as California, during the twentieth century. One collection covers Kansas during the nineteenth century. The Center's collections are described on the World Wide Web at:

<<http://www.ou.edu/special/albertctr/archives/>>

and in the publication titled *A Guide to the Carl Albert Center Congressional Archives* (Norman, Okla.: The Carl Albert Center, 1995) by Judy Day, et al., available at many U. S. academic libraries. Additional information can be obtained from the Center.

The Visiting Scholars Program is open to any applicant. Emphasis is given to those doing postdoctoral research in history, political science, and other fields. Graduate students involved in research for publication, thesis, or dissertation are encouraged to apply. Interested undergraduates and lay researchers are also invited to apply. The Center evaluates each research proposal based upon its merits, and funding for a variety of topics is expected.

No standardized form is needed for application. Instead, a series of documents should be sent to the Center, including: (1) a description of the research proposal in fewer than 1000 words; (2) a personal vita; (3) an explanation of how the Center's resources will assist the researcher; (4) a budget proposal; and (5) a letter of reference from an established scholar in the discipline attesting to the significance of the research. *Applications are accepted at any time.*

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To obtain more information, please contact Archivist, Carl Albert Center, 630 Parrington Oval, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019. Telephone: (405) 325-5401. FAX: (405) 325-6419. E-mail: <kosmerick@ou.edu>.

Latin American Environmental History

In July 2003, the first Symposium of Latin American Environmental History took place in Santiago, Chile. Participants from ten nations presented some forty papers on seven panels spread over four days. Paper topics, a majority of which spanned the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, covered mining, forestry, and agriculture in Latin America in addition to urban environments, Latin American discourses on nature, and current theoretical and methodological debates in Latin American environmental history. Mexican political theorist Enrique Leff and Manuel González de Molina, an environmental historian at the University of Pablo Olavide in Sevilla, Spain, opened the symposium with two thought-provoking talks, "Towards an Environmental History of Latin America," and "History and Sustainability: Agrarian History as Applied Knowledge," respectively. A concluding roundtable session focused on proposals for advancing the field of Latin American environmental history. Specific proposals included creating a web page and an electronic journal; developing a doctorate in Latin American environmental history; and writing a Spanish-language environmental history textbook.

Overall, the conference was noteworthy for the high quality of the papers, well attended panel sessions, a rare balance of established and emerging scholars, and nearly flawless organization. The organizing committee of Mauricio Folchi, Fernando Ramírez, and Reinaldo Funes, along with an outstanding Chilean support team, are to be congratulated for their hard work and thoughtfulness.

A follow-up symposium, "Toward an Environmental History of Latin America and the Caribbean," will take place in Havana, Cuba on October 25-27, 2004. For more information, please contact Reinaldo Funes, <gponjuan@infomed.sld.cu> or John Soluri, <jsoluri@andrew.cmu.edu>

Member News

- Sara Pritchard has joined the faculty in the Department of History and Philosophy at Montana State University in Bozeman.
- Adam Rome's book, *The Bulldozer in the Countryside: Suburban Sprawl and the Rise of American Environmentalism*, won the Lewis Mumford Prize for the best book in American planning history. The Mumford prize is awarded biannually by the Society for American City and Regional Planning History.
- Edmund Russell received the Edelstein Prize from the Society for the History of Technology for *War and Nature: Fighting Humans and Insects with Chemicals from World War I to Silent Spring* (Cambridge University Press, 2001). The prize is for an outstanding book on the history of technology published in the previous three years. Russell is an associate professor of Technology, Culture, and Communication and History at the University of Virginia.
- Joseph E. Taylor III has joined the faculty at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, where he is an associate professor and Canada Research Chair in History and Geography.



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