

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,

The Newsletter gives Yoel Bergmann's report of our Glasgow symposium 2011, published in *Technology and Culture*. And it gives information concerning our conferences in Barcelona 2012 and in Manchester 2013.

ICOHTEC received more than 250 proposals for our symposium in Barcelona; thus the Program Committee is working hard to evaluate all these proposals and to prepare the conference. Young researchers have the opportunity to apply for an ICOHTEC travel grant to visit the symposium; the deadline for application is **26 March 2012**.

Our 40th ICOHTEC symposium in Manchester (22–28 July 2013) will be a part of the 24th ICHSTM; that's the reason for our early deadline on **15 March 2012**. Thus there remain only two weeks to think about contributions. The Newsletter publishes three calls for papers for sessions of the Manchester conference. If you want to contribute to these sessions please contact the organizers. Please find detailed information and the online submission system for the Manchester symposium on our homepage
<http://www.icohtec.org/annual-meeting-2013.html>.

The International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science/ Division of the History of Science and Technology – our mother organisation – announces a prize for young scholars; the deadline is **31 August 2012**.

It will be a pleasure to meet you in Barcelona and Manchester!

Best wishes

Yours Stefan Poser

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I. ICOHTEC

I.1 Conference Report

Thirty-Eighth Symposium of the International Committee for the History of Technology

"Consumer Choice and Technology," Glasgow, UK, 2–7 August 2011

Yoel Bergman

ICOHTEC's thirty-eighth conference was hosted for the first time in Scotland, in the city of Glasgow, renowned for its universities, museums, and remarkable contributions to world technological heritage. Conference members met on the impressive premises of the University of Glasgow where the local organizing committee, chaired by Ray Stokes, worked diligently for the meeting's successful outcome.

In twenty-five panels, veterans and newcomers presented their papers, many based on specific historic-technological cases examined through a wide social context. Organized by individuals or the program committee, the panels were usually held in several sessions, each with three speakers and lasting ninety minutes. Participants explored "Consumer Choice and Technology" in various ways, including consumer-driven innovations, gender and consumption, marketing and culture of consumption, power and producer–consumer relationships, technology and the household, museum consumers, technology's past monuments, and consumption of information technologies, food, and health.

The theme also appeared in panels that over the years have become focal points for new and ongoing research, such as social history of military technology, playing with technology, fuel and energy, music and sound and the history of technology, civil engineering, climate control, engineering development, history and education, and technology education. The panel on a new British Science Museum exhibition of artifacts belonging to the eminent Scottish engineer James Watt fit well in the conference's venue. The exhibition is based on 6,500 items that have been preserved intact in Watt's workshop, closed since his death in 1819.

The conference was made possible with the kind support of the Lind Foundation, the Centre for Business History in Scotland at the University of Glasgow, the University of Strathclyde Glasgow and the University of the West of Scotland, the National Museums Scotland, the City of Glasgow, the Glasgow City Council, the Ballast Trust, the Foundation for the History of Technology, and ICOHTEC. During the conference ICOHTEC was cordially hosted in Glasgow's elegant city hall.

Hans-Joachim Braun (Germany), former ICOHTEC president and an enthusiast for the arts, gave the traditional Kranzberg Lecture. He examined the complex question of creativity as manifested in technology and arts, ending with the conclusion (and hope) that the riddle of creativity will not be solved by the many savants who treat the question.

As in previous conferences, members gathered for the general assembly. They were first briefed by president James Williams (United States) and secretary general Timo Myllyntaus (Finland). Journal editor Mark Clark (United States) described changes in *ICON*, the organization's annual publication. Past hard-copy volumes, holding invaluable papers by both members and nonmembers, are now planned to be made net-accessible in subscribed libraries. Wolfhard Weber (Germany), involved with many volumes, called for a step-by-step process to safeguard the intellectual rights of ICOHTEC. Upgrades to the website and new links in the social network were discussed by energetic webmaster Slawomir Lotysz (Poland). Treasurer Patrice Bret (France) described a new and easier membership payment process for students, due in part to an increasing number of student applications. Keeping members posted during the year on academic events, on new literature, and on ICOHTEC in general is the task of newsletter editor Stefan Poser (Germany). Prepared and sent monthly, his letters are being enjoyed lately by wider circles of readers, who find the data helpful in their academic pursuits. The assembly approved three new members for the executive committee: Maria Elvira Callapez (Portugal), Masaaki Okada (Japan), and Klaus Staubermann (United Kingdom). All are longtime contributors to the annual conferences.

Since 2008 ICOHTEC has awarded young scholars a yearly prize for the best recently published book, and two roundtable sessions were held with the winners of 2010 and 2011. Anne-Katrin Ebert (Germany) compared the use of the bicycle during the first decades of its existence in the Netherlands and Germany, demonstrating how the practice of cycling was embedded in discourses on themes such as the mind, the body, and machines; thermodynamics; and nationalism. The second winner, Christopher Neumaier (Germany), studied the patterns in sales of diesel cars as compared to conventional cars in West Germany and the United States from the 1950s to the first years of the twenty-first century, explaining the differences through a comprehensive investigation of the factors that influenced consumer choices in both countries. Prizes were donated by the Fundación Juanelo Turriano (Spain). The prize committee, headed by vice president Dick van Lente (Netherlands), with members proficient in several languages, continues to encourage book submissions to promote studies by young scholars.

All of the panels are described in the conference program; each merits a detailed review that cannot be made in this report. Nevertheless, a brief exposition of representative papers and panels can provide an overall impression of the scope of issues.

The program committee organized the panel on success and failure of consumer-driven innovations. In the first session Richard Vahrenkamp (Germany) argued through specific cases in the United States and Europe until the 1950s that the retail food sector was the driving force for product development, mass production, and distribution. Advait Deshpande (United Kingdom), on the other hand, provided an example from modern telecommunications in the United Kingdom where the power of end users to dictate their needs became more complicated with increasing fragmentation, denationalization, and competition. Anne Sudrow (Germany) observed that the interwar shoe industry in Britain and Germany disliked the changing preferences of consumers, since it was a threat to routine operations in manufacturing. This was resolved gradually by the conceptual turn of producers and the advent of market research.

Stefan Poser organized the panel on playing with technology, which was dedicated to toys and their impact on consuming in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, leisure sports and the consumer society in the twentieth century, and technology-based play in the field of work. In the first session Joseph Wachelder (Netherlands) analyzed how the role of toys changed from being adults' tools to children's playthings in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Rachel Maines (United States) reviewed miniatures of technological artifacts and their shift from serious applications to play. Poser investigated why mass-produced technical toys became the reason for a long-lasting discourse among German educators in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In a later session, James Williams examined the democratization of sailing and its consequences: due to the "plastics age" of sailing boats, prices declined after the 1950s and the number of leisure purpose boats increased dramatically.

Barton (Bart) Hacker organized the panel on the social history of military technology. (Despite a continuing quest for peace, the number of papers on this topic seems to be ever on the rise.) Brenda Buchanan (United Kingdom) exposed the consumer side of black powder, which is usually thought of as an explosive or gunpowder. Some sources point to its use in the past as a medication to be swallowed or applied on the skin. The successful Russian electronics-industry venture into the local consumer market in the last decade, following a slump after the disintegration of the USSR, was reviewed by Vasily Borisov (Russia). Adjusting tactics, technology, and production to changing military needs was examined by, among others, Jesse Heitz (United Kingdom): transition of wooden ships to iron vessels in the United Kingdom; Lori Henning (United States): U.S. and British cavalry reactions to the airplane; and Jeffrey Larrabee (United States): post-World War I demobilization in aviation. Petter Wulff (Sweden) explored the rejection of Alfred Nobel's dynamite by the Swedish military establishment for many years. David Zimmerman (Canada) followed the transcripts of the Royal Commission on Awards to understand why Winston

Churchill was singled out as a major driving force for the tank, a World War I invention. This was a consequence of Churchill's careful campaign to restore his political reputation, tarnished by the Dardanelles campaign. The biography of prominent University of Chicago professor and social activist Sophonisba Breckinridge is a continuing interest for Margaret Vining (United States). During the military-industrial mobilization of World War I, the influential Breckinridge advanced her main interests: scientific management, working conditions, and women's equality. These had a long postwar impact.

Hans-Joachim Braun, organizer of music and sound and the history of technology, reviewed this interdisciplinary field and its future in the first session. The subject explores the cultural contributions and the technological evolutions that create and preserve sounds, such as the telegraph, iPod, recording studios, and musical instruments. Serge Benoit (France) described how the Society for the Encouragement of National Industry, created as far back as 1801, encouraged France's renowned production of musical instruments during the nineteenth century. Roman Artemenko's (Russia) paper concerned sound-recording collections in Russia from 1900 to 2000. Artemenko (at the last minute unable to attend the conference) describes the importance of sound-recording archives in understanding past musical, literary, and theatrical feats, ethnographic researches, and politics. He gives examples of available and valued recordings; for example, from an ethnographic research trip by Russian anthropologists to New Guinea (1879–80), and of great writers and poets such as Leo Tolstoy, Boris Pasternak, and Vladimir Mayakovsky.

In the first session about power and producer–consumer relationships, organized by the program committee, Francesco Gerali (Italy) examined the introduction of lighting oil from crude petroleum in the first half of the nineteenth century. Large consumer demand for lighting oil fostered the development of the oil industry; by the time electric lighting replaced oil lamps, the oil industry was already involved in other markets. Ray Stokes (United Kingdom) and Ralf Banken (Germany) conducted a comprehensive analysis of the technical and economic logic for the construction and expansion of cross-country industrial gases distribution networks in the Ruhr district during 1938–80 (as oxygen and hydrogen networks, delivered to different plants). Duygu Ulaş Aysal (Turkey) reviewed consumer and state relations before and after the official electrification of Istanbul in 1914. Before electrification individuals were permitted to produce and use electricity for special purposes, such as in hospitals and mines. Afterward, when power was supplied to all Istanbul, the state was very much involved in setting the requirements for safety and consumers' rights.

Trips to museums helped to familiarize conference attendees with local heritage. Participants visited museums for mining, gas, flight, Scottish industrial life, and steam railways. A tour to a local whiskey distillery was offered. Social events were the place to meet acquaintances and new participants and to reinforce the hedonist side, as at the jazz night held at the Kudos Bar near campus. Four members of the eight-piece homegrown band are shown in figure 5: James Williams (piano), Hans-Joachim Braun (trumpet), Susan Schmidt Horning (vocals), and Chris Whitehouse (drums). Tony Stranges played the vibraphone and John Stranges the guitar, Deirdre Naumann and Jeremy Kinney shared the bass, and Vasily Borisov joined part of the time as a guest singer.

The next ICOHTEC symposium will be in Barcelona in the summer of 2012. In the summer of 2013, ICOHTEC will participate in the Twenty fourth International Congress of History of Science, Technology and Medicine, in Manchester, UK. The due date for initial abstract submissions for the Barcelona symposium is 31 January 2012. The due date for the ICOHTEC symposium with the ICHSTM in Manchester is 15 March 2012.

Dr. Yoel Bergman is a research associate at the Cohn Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Ideas, Tel Aviv University. He works as a senior engineer in Protalix, a biopharmaceutical company focused on recombinant therapeutic proteins. He would like to thank James Williams, Stefan Poser, Slawomir Lotysz, and the symposium organizers for their assistance in writing this report.

The report was published in the journal *Technology and Culture*, Volume 53, Number 1, January 2012, pp. 177-184, and on the journal's open access pages eTC:

http://www.techculture.org/2012_jan/etc_bergman.html

http://www.techculture.org/2012_jan/etc_bergman_2.html

There are published **some nice photos** of the conference and of the city of Glasgow, too. On the website are links to other articles of the new issue of *Technology and Culture*.

I.2 Barcelona Symposium – ICOHTEC Travel Grants

Guidelines

The ICOHTEC Board will make available a limited number of grants for graduates, post-graduates and young researchers who are giving papers or present posters at the 2012 ICOHTEC Symposium **Technology, the Arts and Industrial Culture** in Catalonia, Spain 10-14 July 2012. Special preference will be given to students and young researchers from developing countries as well as Eastern and Central European countries in transition who are not able to receive sufficient financial support from their home countries or sponsors in other countries.

These travel grants are **not** intended to provide the full costs associated with attending the symposium; they are meant as an encouragement, not a full subsidy.

Eligibility: ICOHTEC Travel Grants will be awarded to students or young researchers, travel costs and accommodation costs of whom have not been covered by some sponsors.

The **Travel Grant of 350 euro** is to be used to cover bus/train/flight tickets, lodging and/or registration fee. Reimbursement will be made after presenting paper or poster and proving the student's or young researcher status by an appropriate document (Student's ID or supervisor's/professor's letter).

Application forms should be sent to the President as email attachments or by ordinary mail. Applications for support must include personal contact information, an estimate on travel, registration and accommodation costs, title of the paper/poster to be presented and a short CV. An application form may be downloaded from the ICOHTEC web site at <http://www.icohtec.org/resources-prizes.html>.

Deadline: Applications with appendices should be submitted by **26 March, 2012**. Submissions via email are requested and preferred.

James Williams
President
101 Lake Winnemissett Drive
Deland FL 32724 USA
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I.3 ICOHTEC Symposium, Manchester, U.K., 22–28 July 2013

Call for Papers for Sessions

In conjunction of the 24th International Congress of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine in Manchester

Barton Hacker, Tiina Männistö-Funk and Timo Myllyntaus will organise sessions on the social history of military technology, on bicycle history and on the history of the sauna in Manchester. Please find their call for papers:

Session on Bicycle History

Invitation to contribute a session of the theme ***Knowing Users: Social Demands in Shaping Technology and Designing Products*** at the 40th Symposium of the International Committee for the History of Technology, ICOHTEC (Manchester, UK, 22–28 July 2013). Organised by Timo Myllyntaus and Tiina Männistö-Funk.

The Invisible Bicycle: New Insights into Bicycle History

For more than two decades now, bicycle history has been an active field inside the history of technology, containing a diversity of studies from detailed accounts on technological development to social histories of cycling and theoretical approaches on bicycle use and innovation. Recently, bicycle is also attracting increased attention as a sustainable means of transport, the historiography of which is of interest in current debates on mobility.

Despite of the ongoing interest and the multitude on historical insights, bicycle history calls for further research, especially as the bicycle has at some point in time been an integral part of everyday life and mobility in probably all corners of the world. Many aspects of bicycle use and technology remain invisible or show only fleeting presence in the bicycle historiography. Partially this is due to locations that appear peripheral, such as developing countries and rural areas. But even the Western, urban cycling asks for more scrutiny, especially during the decades of bicycle's most intensive use as a means of transport, from the early 20th century

till the 1960s. Similarly interesting are the dynamics of the decline and a new increase in cycling in the second half of the 20th century.

How can we study the history of everyday practices in bicycle use and non-use? Is the decline of cycling in industrial societies a universal phenomenon? How do the transnational timelines of bicycle history look like? How have technological features and design influenced on the image and popularity of cycling? Are there “national styles” in the design and technical characteristics of bicycles? To this session we invite papers on all aspects of bicycle history, but especially on those so far understudied. We encourage questioning typical timelines of bicycle history and presenting of alternative histories and controversial case studies.

Please, contact Timo Myllyntaus (timmyl@utu.fi) or Tiina Männistö-Funk (tiiman@utu.fi) and submit an abstract (200 – 400 words) of your paper and a one-page CV by **Friday 9 March 2012**.

Further information at: <http://www.icohtec.org/annual-meeting-cfp-2013.html>

Session on the History of Sauna

You are welcome to contribute a session on the theme *Knowing Users: Social Demands in Shaping Technology and Designing Products* at the 40th Symposium of the International Committee for the History of Technology, ICOHTEC (Manchester, 2013). Organiser: Timo Myllyntaus.

Everlasting Bath: Transnational History of Sauna Culture

In hectic modern world, we tend to believe that our way of life is modern and our customs dates from fairly recent times. It is supposed that nearly everything has changed since the Middle Ages, and technological development is regarded to reshuffle our living style completely and force to reject practically all traces to the antiquity. Technology is often considered a mighty enemy of traditions. Nevertheless, there is at least one outstanding exception to this pattern.

While native Americans bathed sweat lodges several millennia ago, steamy bathhouses were at the same time common in entire Europe as well. Still a thousand years ago steam baths were quite common all around the northern hemisphere. Only in the Middle Ages, authorities banned public bathhouses in Central Europe in order to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Nevertheless, steamy bathhouses stayed in tact only in sparsely populated eastern peripheries of Europe – from Turkey and Bulgaria to Estonia, Russia and Finland. As the result, this ancient bathing tradition has remained more common in cold and forested Finland than in any other country, and there are almost as many saunas (>2 mill.) as cars: one sauna per two inhabitants. Actually the Finnish sauna has become the common concept for steamy bathhouses although there are considerable cultural and national variations in building constructions and heating technology.

During the past four millennia, building materials, construction techniques and styles of housing have changed several times. These changes have not led to exclude steamy baths from the everyday life of peripheral countries. In contrast, technology has been used to modify physical features of these bath institutions to the current construction conventions and social demands. During millennia and centuries, saunas have changed but they have not vanished. Basic elements of saunas have remained and the pleasure of bathing has been preserved.

Sauna is the case in point how an ancient cultural habit can be persistent in a changing world and technology has been used to preserve a prehistoric custom with constant innovation and modification.

This session will examine and discuss the persistence of sauna culture and the malleability of technology in adapting steam baths to the changing world. Can we find technological determinism or technological momentum in the history of sauna? If there is a path dependence in this case study, is it technological or cultural? The session aims to analyse transnationally the persistence of sauna in a number of countries and if possible in several civilizations. Therefore studies on extinct steam bath cultures are particularly welcome.

Please, contact Timo Myllyntaus (timmyl@utu.fi) and submit a 200 – 400-word abstract of your paper proposal and a one-page CV by **Friday 9 March 2012**.

Further information at: <http://www.icohtec.org/annual-meeting-cfp-2013.html>

Eighth Symposium on the Social History of Military Technology

Proposals are sought for papers to be presented in the Eighth Symposium on the Social History of Military Technology, scheduled for Manchester, England, 22–28 July 2013, as part of the program for the annual meeting of the International Congress of the History of Technology (ICOHTEC), which is meeting jointly with the International Congress of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine.

The general theme selected for the 2013 ICHSTM meeting is: *Knowledge at Work*. For more information about the 2013 ICHSTM conference as a whole, see

<http://www.ichstm2013.com>.

The history of military technology usually centers on weaponry, warships, fortifications, or other physical manifestations of warfare, emphasizing how they were made or how they worked. Historians have also tended to assume a strictly utilitarian and rational basis for military technological invention and innovation. However necessary they may be, such approaches largely ignore some very important questions. What are the contexts of social values, attitudes, and interests, non-military as well as military, that shape and support (or oppose) these technologies? What are the consequences of gender, race, class, and other aspects of the social order for the nature and use of military technology? Or, more generally: How do social and cultural environments within the military itself or in the larger society affect

military technological change? And the indispensable corollary: How does changing military technology affect other aspects of society and culture? In brief, this symposium will address military technology as both agent and object of social change, taking a very broad view that encompasses not only the production, distribution, use, and replacement of weapons and weapon systems, but also communications, logistic, medical, and other technologies of military relevance as well as sciences of military interest.

We seek papers about: (1) representations of weapons as well as weapons themselves, about ideas as well as hardware, about organization as well as materiel; (2) ways in which social class, race, gender, culture, economics, or other extra-military factors have influenced and been influenced by the invention, R&D, diffusion, or use of weapons or other military technologies; (3) the roles that military technologies play in shaping and reshaping the relationships of soldiers to other soldiers; soldiers to military, political, and social institutions; and military institutions to other social institutions, most notably political and economic; and/or (4) historiographical or museological topics that discuss how military technology has been analyzed, interpreted, and understood in other fields, other cultures, and other times. Pre-modern and non-Western topics are particularly welcome.

Your proposal should include four elements:

(1) A short descriptive title.

(2) An abstract of no more than 400 words.

As mentioned above, the general conference theme is: *Knowledge at Work*. The conference CFPs suggests numerous subthemes. If you can do so without unduly distorting your topic, you should make an effort to show how your paper relates to the conference theme or subthemes. THIS IS NOT REQUIRED, but it will be helpful in presenting the proposal for our symposium to the program committee.

(3) A 1-page CV or résumé with your educational and professional employment histories, plus a list of significant publications and/or presentations. You may include other relevant information in the CV, as long as you do not exceed the 1-page limit.

(4) Current contact information for you (including email address).

DO NOT SEND YOUR PROPOSAL TO ICOHTEC or ICHSTM. It should be sent to the symposium organizer, Bart Hacker, who will assemble and submit the complete symposium. Proposals must reach the symposium organizer, Bart Hacker, hackerb@si.edu, no later than **10 March 2012**. Please note that this deadline is far earlier than the normal ICOHTEC deadline because of ICHSTM requirements.

II. International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science/ Division of the History of Science and Technology (IUHPS/DHST)

2013 DHST Prize for Young Scholars

Scheme

The International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science, Division of History of Science and Technology (IUHPS/DHST) invites submissions for the third DHST Prize for Young Scholars, to be presented in 2013. Initiated at the 22nd International Congress of History of Science in 2005 held in Beijing, the DHST Prize is awarded by the IUHPS/DHST every four years to up to five young historians of science and technology for outstanding doctoral dissertations, completed within last four years.

The 2013 DHST Prize will not specify distinct categories, but the entries must be on the history of science or technology in any part of the world. The Award Committee will endeavor to maintain the broadest coverage of subjects, areas and chronology.

Each Prize consists of a certificate, assistance with travel and accommodation expenditures to the IUHPS/DHST Congress in Manchester in July 2013 and a waiver of registration fee.

Award Committee

The Committee comprises the DHST President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary General, and distinguished specialists in specific fields.

Competition Calendar

Submission deadline: 31 August 2012

Qualification examination and preliminary selection: September 2012

Award Committee online meeting: October-November 2012

Approval by DHST Council: December 2012

Award Ceremony: July 2013.

Conditions

Eligibility: Applicants must have a doctoral degree in the history of science, or technology awarded no earlier than July 2008.

Language: Any dissertation in a language other than English must be accompanied by a detailed summary in English of no more than 20 pages.

Application procedure: Along with an electronic version (preferably MS Word) of original dissertations (and English summaries for non-English language papers), applications must be made in a special form. Please find this form and further details on <http://www.ichstm2013.com/>

The application has to be received at the Award Committee Office no later than 31 August 2012:

DHST-YSP Office:
youngscholars@ihns.ac.cn
Institute for History of Natural Science

Chinese Academy of Sciences
55 Zhong Guan Cun East Road
Beijing 100190, CHINA

The Awarded Persons and their Books

The first YSP (July 2005, Beijing)

Western civilization

Winner

Jimena Canales: "Sensational Differences: Individuality in Observation, Experimentation and Representation (France 1853-1895).

Honorable Mention:

Maria Rentetzi: "Gender, Politics and Radioactivity Research in Vienna, 1910-1938".

Karin Nickelsen: "Botanical Illustrations of 18th- Century Production, Content, Function".

Islamic civilization

Winner

François Charette: "Mathematical Instrumentation in 14th-Century Egypt and Syria: The Illustrated Treatise of Najm al-Din al-Misri".

Honorable Mention

Marwa Elshakry: "Darwin's Legacy in the Arab East: Science, Religion and Politics, 1870-1914".

Mahmoud Masri: "Manuscript on Masalih Al Abdan wa El Enfus li Ebi Zeyid Al-Balakhi: editing and study".

East Asian civilization

Winner

Kenji Ito: "Making sense of Ryoshiron (Quantum Theory): The Introduction of Quantum Mechanics into Japan, 1920-1940".

Honorable Mention

Zhang Li: "The Institutionalization of Polymer Science in China, 1949-1965".

South Asian civilization and Ancient civilizations

No award given.

The Second YSP (July, 2009, Budapest)

Western civilization

Winner

Paul Erickson: "The Politics of Game Theory: Mathematics and Cold War Culture"

Honorable Mention

Daniela Bleichmar: "Visual culture in eighteenth-century natural history: Botanical illustrations and expeditions in the Spanish Atlantic"

Sadiah Qureshi: Livings Curiosities: Human Ethnological Exhibitions in London, 1900-1855"

Islamic civilization

Winner

José Bellver: "On Jābir b. Afah's Criticisms of Ptolemy's *Almagest*"

Honorable Mention

Josep Casulleras: "The Treatise on the Projection of Rays by Ibn Mu'adh al-Jayyani (d. 1093)"

Nahyan A.G. Fancy: "Pulmonary Transit and Bodily Resurrection: The Iteration of Medicine, Philosophy and Religion in the Works of Ibn al-Nafis (d.1288)

East Asian civilization

Winner

Hou Gang: "The *Yishu* and Its Connection with the Mathematics in the Northern and Southern Song Dynasties"

Honorable Mention

Carla Suzan Nappi: "The Monkey of the Inkpot: Natural History and its Transformations in Early Modern China"

South Asian civilization and Ancient civilizations

No award given.

III. Congress Announcements

22 March 2012

Wahrnehmung, Kommunikation und Bewältigung industrieller Katastrophen vom 18. bis zum 21. Jahrhundert / To Percept, to Communicate, and to Cope with Industrial Disasters, 18th – 21st Centuries

Bergbau – Chemieindustrie – Kernenergie / Mining, Chemical Industry and Nuclear Technology

Universität Konstanz

The conference will focus on the perception and communication as well as on the physical effects and coping strategies of industrial disasters. Different sectors and groups of agents will be considered: With mining, chemical industry and nuclear technology, key industries of different eras will be examined. These are or were in each case responsible for social prosperity and technological innovations, but also have destructive potential.

Please find the program on

[http://www.exc16.de/cms/54.html?&cHash=71ba2cc0d7a0d21142b7c197210ee1bf&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=137&tx_ttnews\[day\]=22&tx_ttnews\[month\]=03&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=1431&tx_ttnews\[year\]=2012](http://www.exc16.de/cms/54.html?&cHash=71ba2cc0d7a0d21142b7c197210ee1bf&tx_ttnews[backPid]=137&tx_ttnews[day]=22&tx_ttnews[month]=03&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=1431&tx_ttnews[year]=2012)

28 – 31 March 2012

From the Local to the Global. Ethics, Environmentalism and Environmental History in an Independent World. 2012 ASEH Conference of the American Society for Environmental History

Madison/Wisconsin

Please find the program on <http://www.asehmadison2012.com/>

29 – 31 March 2012

**Weltenschöpfer und Welterklärer. Experten in der technischen Moderne /
Creators and interpreters of the world. Experts in the technical modern period**

Dresden Technical University, Germany

The program will be published soon.

Please contact Rut-Maria Gollan: Rut.Maria.Gollan@tu-dresden.de, Uwe Fraunholz Uwe.Fraunholz@tu-dresden.de, Katharina Neumeister Katharina.Neumeister@tu-dresden.de.

19 – 20 April 2012

II Spanish Environmental History Workshop

Granada, Spain

We would like to draw your attention to the forthcoming workshop entitled “II Spanish Environmental History Workshop”, organised by the Fundación Euroárabe de Altos Estudios and University of Granada.

The workshop will take place on 19th to 20th April in Granada (Spain), at the Fundación Euroárabe de Altos Estudios (calle San Jerónimo 17, Granada, Spain). The programme will consist of one methodological workshop (Thursday 19), a discussion about current research groups (Thursday 19), and 8 papers (Friday 20) covering the following topics:

- Authoritarian regimes and environment
- Colonial history
- Agricultural history and technology in South Europe and Latin America
- Indigenous people and environmental perceptions
- Social metabolism

Geneviève Massard-Guilbaud will be the keynote speaker on Thursday.

The discussion about the Spanish Network of Environmental History will be held on Friday.

The programme of the workshop can be downloaded from:

<http://ruedha.hypotheses.org/125>

Please visit: <http://ruedha.hypotheses.org>

19 – 21 April 2012

Envisioning Limits, Outer Space and the End of Utopia, International Conference
Berlin

If space exploration is understood as not just one of the twentieth century's most prestigious feats of engineering, but also a central theme in period visions of the future and utopias, then how might we understand the transition from the 1960s to the 1970s, with its emphasis on reduced possibilities and limitations to progress? The conference aims to shift the focus away from explanations of transition framed within the Cold War context and provide more nuanced narratives: from the familiar struggle between two superpowers, namely the USA and the former USSR, to distinctly West-European perspectives, and from political to socio-cultural dimensions of the Space Age. How were limits created, maintained and challenged? In what sense was outer space invoked to transform cultural boundaries? And how were these conveyed to different audiences? The conference will look at utopia not as a socio-cultural objective but rather as a process. Through defining limitless opportunities afforded by outer space, advocates of space exploration not only opened up new possibilities for accelerating or even surpassing human development, but also delineated the historicity and limitations of the imagination.

Conference speakers include Debora Battaglia (Mount Holyoke College), Martin Collins (National Air and Space Museum), David A. Kirby (University of Manchester), John Krige (Georgia Institute of Technology), Roger D. Launius (National Air and Space Museum), Agnes Meyer-Brandis (Universität der Künste Berlin) and Helmuth Trischler (Deutsches Museum).

Please contact the conveners Alexander C.T. Geppert, William R. Macauley and Daniel Brandau at astrofuturismus@fu-berlin.de.

Please find the program on: http://www.geschkult.fu-berlin.de/e/astrofuturismus/veranstaltungen/C_Envisioning/

3 – 4 October 2012

5th Tensions of Europe Conference (In Conjunction with SHOT Annual Meeting 2012)

Copenhagen

CFP – Deadline **15 June 2012**

With the closing of the ESF *Inventing Europe* research programme in Sofia (Bulgaria) in June 2010, the future of the *Tensions of Europe* network appeared on the agenda. During meetings in Sofia as well as in Wassenaar (The Netherlands) in May 2011, we confirmed our commitment to build a new *Tensions of Europe* programme, and discussed various potential future initiatives.

We will continue our discussion during the 5th *Tensions of Europe* conference on October 3-4, 2012 in Copenhagen (Denmark), which will take place prior to the Annual Meeting of

SHOT (4-7 October). In plenary meetings and parallel sessions we will discuss a number of selected proposals for future initiatives.

You are invited to propose a *Tensions of Europe* future initiative. Such an initiative could range from the organization of an international workshop, summer school, research project, or publication to a website project or the exploration of a new research program. The proposed initiative should:

- stimulate the development of new (international) research collaborations
- include participants from various countries, and
- take its inspiration from the *Tensions of Europe* agenda. Hence, the initiative should encourage studying European history, not only through the lens of technology but also from a transnational perspective.

A proposal (max. 2 A4) should outline the main idea and planned activities, and discuss why it fits in and would profit from the *Tensions of Europe* network. Please, also include names of prospective participants, a planning, and an overview of funding options.

The **deadline** for submitting proposals is Friday **June 15, 2012**. Please email your proposal and brief CV to toe@tue.nl. In the first two weeks of July, the Management Committee will inform you about the status of your proposal. In case of questions concerning the content of your proposal, don't hesitate to contact Johan Schot (J.W.Schot@tue.nl). For all other questions, please contact Livia Smits.

In March 2012 you will receive the preliminary conference program and information about the registration procedure.

Please visit: <http://www.tensionsofeurope.eu/www/en/network/future-of-toe>

Please contact: Johan Schot J.W.Schot@tue.nl

4 – 7 October 2012

Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology SHOT 2012

Copenhagen, Denmark

CFP – Deadline **31 March 2012**

The Society for the History of Technology will hold its annual meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark from 4-7 October at the Copenhagen Business School. The Program Committee invites paper and panel proposals on any topic in the history of technology, broadly defined. The Committee welcomes proposals for individual papers or sessions, as well as works-in-progress from researchers at all levels (including graduate students, chaired professors, and independent scholars). It welcomes proposals from those new to SHOT, regardless of discipline. Multinational, international, and cross-institutional sessions are particularly encouraged. We especially encourage proposals from non-Western and Eastern-European scholars. Since this is a non-North American meeting, the Program Committee will permit scholars who presented at the 2011 Cleveland meeting to give papers in Copenhagen. It is

SHOT's policy to relax its rule about not presenting papers at two consecutive meetings in order to attract as many people as possible to meetings outside of North America.

For the 2012 meeting the Program Committee continues to welcome unconventional sessions; that is, session formats that diverge in useful ways from the typical three/four papers with comment. These might include round-table sessions, workshop-style sessions with papers that are pre-circulated electronically, or "author meets critics" sessions. We also welcome poster proposals for presentation in poster sessions.

THE DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS IS 31 MARCH 2012.

DETAILED SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE BY 13 FEBRUARY 2012.

SHOT 2012 SPECIAL THEMES

While paper and session proposals on all topics are welcome, the Program Committee is especially interested in proposals that engage the following themes:

I. *Technology, sustainability, and environment.* SHOT has a long history of analyzing how technologies have interfered with or shaped nature and our social or cultural environments. The search for sustainable technology solutions has recently become a main preoccupation of engineers, designers and tinkerers all over the world and is high on the political agenda too. Possible themes to address are:

- Questions of scale: onsite, small- and community-scale technology as challenges for large-scale and centralized models of technology design, both in rural and new urban environments
- Smart design: ecodesign and sustainable industrial or product design as evidence of smart solutions for an accountable handling of technology
- Natural infrastructures: infrastructures as "natural" environments and nature (air, water, soil) as co-producers of large-scale infrastructures
- More with less: new technologies and the search for efficiency in energy consumption or technologies of power saving in housing, transport, and communication

II. *Technology, East-West relations, and the Cold War.* During the Cold War, Europe was one of the central laboratories for experimentation with ideological and political regimes, which deeply affected traditional paths of knowledge and technology transfer in Europe. While the history of the Cold War has mainly been told as a history of discontinuity and fragmentation, we would especially welcome papers and sections dealing with examples of successful co-operation or "hidden continuities" in inter-European technology transfer during the 20th century. General areas to be explored are:

- Changing times: continuities and discontinuities in the transfers of knowledge and technology between Eastern and Western Europe and the rest of the world from the mid-19th century to the present

- Negotiating identities: spaces and places of co-operation or confrontation before, during, and after the Cold War
- Blurred boundaries: spill-over effects and holes in the Iron Curtain
- Trading zone: Europe as symbolic battlefield and diplomatic playground for world hegemony
- Chilling effects: Technologies at war & wartime technology
- Secret stories: technologies of intelligence and espionage and their staging in popular media (comics, films, magazines, television & radio)
- Competing Modernities: the uses of technology in a variety of economic development and modernization schemes

Evaluation Criteria

The Program Committee's highest priority in evaluating paper and panel proposals is scholarly excellence.

General ground rules

SHOT rules exclude multiple submissions (i.e., submitting more than one individual paper proposal, or proposing both an individual paper and a paper as part of a session). However, scholars may both propose a paper and serve as a commentator or session chair.

Proposals for individual papers must include

1. a one-page abstract (maximum 600 words)
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 that explains how individual papers contribute to an overall theme (300 words max)
2. the names and paper titles of the presenters
3. for each presenter, a one-page summary (maximum 600 words) of the paper's topic, argument(s), and evidence used
4. for the commentator, chair, and each presenter: one-page c.v., with postal and e-mail addresses

** Please note that in general we discourage panels with more than three papers.*

***Please indicate if a proposal is sponsored by one of SHOT's special interest groups.*

Please visit http://www.historyoftechnology.org/annual_meeting.html

Please contact: SHOT Secretary Bernie Carlson, shotsecy@virginia.edu

7 – 9 October 2012

ARTEFACTS 2012

National Museum of Scotland

CFP – Deadline **30 April 2012**

ARTEFACTS is an international network of academic and museum-based scholars of science, technology and medicine interested in promoting the use of objects in research. The network was established in 1996 and since then has held annual conferences examining the role of artefacts in the making of science and technology and related areas. The next conference will be held in Edinburgh, Scotland, 7-9 October 2012. This conference aims to discuss the entanglement of national styles and identity and scientific, technical and medical artefacts in a global context. Topics could cover questions such as

- Between inventors and the nation: who makes and owns artefacts?
- Do artefacts embody national styles or distinct communities of practice?
- Do artefacts reflect particular national attitudes on the relationship between science and technology?
- Do artefacts act as signifiers of nationhood and how are they enlisted in the construction of nationalist agendas?
- National, international or local: how do museums aim at audiences through artefacts stories?

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. If you want to present a paper please contact Klaus Staubermann at k.staubermann@nms.ac.uk not later than 30 April 2012.

Please remember that the focus of presentations should be on artefacts. The conference will be held at the award-winning refurbished National Museum of Scotland. For information about travel, accommodation and holidays in Scotland visit www.visitscotland.com

Please contact Klaus Staubermann at k.staubermann@nms.ac.uk

12 – 14 October 2012

3. Kongress Kulturwissenschaftliche Technikforschung / 3rd Congress of Cultural Studies on Technology

Institut für Populäre Kulturen der Universität Zürich

CFP – Deadline **29 February 2012**

The aim of the congress is to analyse influences of technology on everyday life in an interdisciplinary perspective. Presentations are welcome in English, French and German.

Please contact the organizer by technik-kultur@ipk.uzh.ch

IV. New Exhibitions

The Fundación Juanelo Turriano has designed and produced several exhibitions, whose main theme has been the history of engineering in Spain, from Roman times to our own age. Some of them, as well as others, can be seen in the Museo Virtual, a page recently opened by CEDEX. The model collection is specially recommended.

Here is the link: <http://www.museovirtual.cedex.es/exposiciones-cedex.html>

Bernardo Revuelta Pol
Director Gerente
FUNDACIÓN JUANELO TURRIANO
fundacion@juaneloturriano.com

V. Recently Published Books

Heywood, Anthony: Engineer of Revolutionary Russia. Iurii V. Lomonosov (1867 – 1952) and the Railways. = Science, Technology, and Culture, 1700 – 1945. Ashgate, Farnham, Burlington 2011.

The biography of the important Russian engineer Iurii V. Lomonosov reflects his contribution to engineering and his role in shaping the Russian Railways as well as his scientific and political activities.

Pinch, Trevor; Bijsterveld, Karin (eds.): The Oxford Handbook of Sound Studies. Oxford University Press, New York 2012.

Publishing a handbook means that a field is well established or that it is on the way to become a well established field. This is the case of historical sound studies which originated about 20 years ago. Their aim is to analyse the significance of technology-based sound in its material and cultural forms. The authors consider sounds and music as experienced in such diverse settings as shop floors, laboratories, clinics, design studios, homes, and clubs, across an impressively broad range of historical periods and national and cultural contexts. Sounds and music, the contributors argue, are embedded in the fabric of everyday life, art, commerce, science, and politics in ways which impact our perception of the world. Sound studies had been a field of ICOHTEC since 1996; thus many ICOHTEC members and participants of ICOHTEC symposia as Karin Bijsterveld, Hans-Joachim Braun, Andreas Fickers, Rayvon Fouché, Mark Katz, and Trevor Pinch are among the authors of this book, which opens fruitful new perspectives.

Vahrenkamp, Richard: The Logistic Revolution. The Rise of Logistics in the Mass Consumption Society. Eul Verlag, Köln 2012.

The author will discuss the political and economic factors which have led to the rise of logistics in Europe in the context of the mass consumption society. He analyses a period from the 1920th until the 21st centuries.

Please find the table of content on www.vahrenkamp.org/Log_Rev_Content.pdf

VI. 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)
- ICOHTEC's electronic Newsletter (published monthly – available via mailing list and on the homepage)

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