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## The Fresno Sanitary Landfill as A National Historic Landmark

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By Martin V. Melosi, University of Houston

On August 27, 2001, Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton announced the designation of the Fresno (California) Sanitary Landfill as a National Historic Landmark (NHL). Speaking for the National Parks Service (NPS), Fran Mainella added, "National Historic Landmarks guide us in comprehending important trends and patterns in American history. The Fresno Sanitary Landfill (FSL) possesses those exceptional qualities that help us as a Nation illuminate and understand trends in emerging and developing technology." No sooner had the press release been made public than Secretary Norton "temporarily rescinded" the NHL designation for the Fresno Sanitary Landfill on the very next day.

Somewhere between the NPS recommendation of landmark status and the Secretary's public announcement of the designation, the information that the site had been placed on Superfund's "National Priority List" in 1989 slipped through the cracks. The apparent oversight, however, did not escape the attention of environmentalist groups and other critics of President George W. Bush's environmental policy. On the morning and afternoon of August 28, a feeding frenzy was underway in the press. Quotes attributed to Carl Pope, executive director of the Sierra Club, were everywhere to be found: "Should the federal government be protecting a Fresno landfill while not protecting California's remaining wild forests, or its giant sequoia trees all the while trying to reopen the coastline to offshore oil drilling?" And, "This is what the Bush administration undoubtedly would like to do to the entire state of California. Trench it, compact it and shovel dirt over it."

If the FSL designation was not treated as political fodder, it was ridiculed in the media: "Other presidents have honored Pearl Harbor, Mount Vernon, Alcatraz and Martin Luther King's birthplace as national historic landmarks. Now, the Bush administration has added its own hallowed place: a garbage dump in Fresno." An otherwise sympathetic journalist at the *Los Angeles Times* noted, "Humorists of all stripes could not contain themselves, treating the notion that a dump might be historic as the funniest thing since poor Dan Quayle tried to spell 'potato.'"

As the historian who, along with a colleague in the NPS, proposed the landfill for historical landmark status, I came in for my share of publicity on those last days of August, 2001. All the major newspapers in the country and other media forums picked up the story, but the *Los Angeles Times* was particularly active in running stories positive and negative about the issue. A few days after the story broke, an editor for the *Times* asked me to write an op-ed piece to give my take on the controversy. Although the editor liked what I had written, she told me that they decided not to publish it

because of extensive coverage by their own writers. The following is the previously unpublished op-ed piece originally titled "Why Dump the Dump?"

It's unfortunate that Interior Secretary Gail Norton, stung by criticism from environmentalists, backed down on designating the Fresno Sanitary Landfill as a national historic landmark. Designating the landfill as a landmark was the right decision, despite its being a toxic Superfund site.

To many people, the naming of a landfill as an historical landmark seems ludicrous. How could this "dump" be compared to Mt. Vernon or any number of other venerable sites on the list of about 2,300 landmarks? To others, the designation offers an opportunity to pillory the Bush administration for increasingly unpopular and often wrongheaded environmental and energy policies.

What gets lost is why the nomination was made at all. I believed that it had merit when a colleague at the National Park Service and myself began to prepare the report on the landfill two or three years ago, and I still believe that. I realize that the Fresno landfill does not rank alongside the Lincoln Memorial or the Statue of Liberty as a national monument, but a landmark designation is clearly within the spirit of the National Historic Landmarks program despite its seemingly laughable qualities.

According to the program guidelines, these landmarks are places where significant historical events occurred, where prominent Americans worked or lived. These are "places that represent the ideas that shaped the nation and that provide important information about our past or that are outstanding examples of design or construction."

The Fresno landfill meets those criteria. In the 1930s, Jean Vincenz, Fresno's commissioner of public works, developed a "sanitary" landfill to replace less systematic and less palatable methods, such as dumping garbage on land and in water, feeding it to pigs or burning it. Trenches were dug, layers of waste and dirt were added, and the whole thing was compacted tightly.

With this method, Vincenz hoped to control rat infestations and to reduce smells coming from the fill. That the landfill was not lined, thus allowing possible leaching into the soil, and that it did not prohibit the production of methane gas, demonstrated the limits of our technology and our knowledge of the environmental risks at the time.

But Vincenz's sanitary landfill was a revelation that inspired the development of sanitary landfills throughout the country for more than 50 years. Sanitary landfilling became the single most important form of waste disposal in U.S. history.

Was it a failed technology as some have argued, and as its Superfund designation suggests? Possibly. But no technology of any kind has proved perfect, and the experience in Fresno tells us that technology alone is rarely the answer.

However, not to recognize Vincenz's achievement is to demean the seriousness of the challenges he confronted. Garbage and waste disposal is often the butt of jokes. I know that well as an

## From the President's Desk

### Internationalizing Environmental History

Summer 2002 finds ASEH poised to leap forward on the international front. Our journal *Environmental History* has published numerous articles with an international environmental focus. With the formation of the European Society for Environmental History (ESEH) and the journal *Environment and History* we have a rapidly growing trans-Atlantic scene and societies focusing on other regions of the world are on the drawing boards. Our membership continues to expand around the globe. Important books and articles continue to appear on global environmental history and on the environmental histories of many continents. An *Encyclopedia of World Environmental History* is in the works to be released in 2003.

Our 2003 ASEH conference, to be held at the Providence, R.I. Biltmore Hotel from March 26-30, will feature international sessions embraced by its theme: "Frontiers in Environmental History: Mainstreaming the Marginal." The deadline for submissions is September 1 (see details elsewhere in this issue). The committee especially encourages papers and sessions on the environmental history of Africa, Latin America, Asia, and Eastern Europe as well as underrepresented world areas and intellectual approaches.

#### American Society for Environmental History

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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 web site at <www2.h-net.msu.edu/~environ>. Contact <dwilliam@snu.edu> to discuss including material on the web page.

Items for the next newsletter should be sent by October 4, 2002 to: Lisa Mighetto, Editor, 119 Pine St., Suite 207, 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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On June 20 of this year, we lost a devoted member of ASEH, John D. Wirth (see obituary by Lise Sedrez) who exemplified recent efforts to internationalize our field. John was an energetic, caring, and dedicated member of our Society and a person who was at the forefront of our efforts to integrate and compare U.S. and international environmental issues. A Latin American historian at Stanford University, he devoted much of his later research to issues of transboundary pollution across the U.S., Mexican, and Canadian borders and to international environmental management.

To assist members of the profession from other countries in presenting papers at our annual meetings, and especially our 2003 meeting in Providence, we would like to dedicate a travel grant in John Wirth's honor. If you would like to contribute to the John D. Wirth Travel Grant, please fill out the form in this newsletter and mail it to our treasurer Mark Madison, National Conservation Training Center, Route 1, Box 166, Shepherdstown, WV 25443.

ASEH now has six named travel grants, a minority/non-white travel grant, and a travel endowment that will enable graduate students, low-income, and international scholars to attend and present papers at our annual meetings. We would like to encourage all of you to contribute to the John D. Wirth Travel Grant that will assist international scholars in presenting their research at our meetings and in advancing the frontiers of environmental history in the global arena.

Carolyn Merchant  
 ASEH President

## Call for Nominations

During the next few months, the ASEH Nominating Committee will be nominating candidates for ASEH Vice-President/President Elect (one candidate, uncontested); for members of the ASEH Executive Board (eight candidates for four positions); and for the next Nominating Committee (four candidates for two positions). The Committee invites and welcomes all suggestions from ASEH members regarding potential candidates and any other considerations regarding nominee choices. Please direct your comments to any (or all) of the members of the Nominating Committee: Kate Christen, Chair <chritwi@aol.com>; <christen@osia.si.edu>, Andrew Hurley <ahurley@umsl.edu>, Verena Winiwarter <verena.winiwarter@univie.ac.at>, and Paul Hirt <forrest@mail.wsu.edu>. We look forward to hearing about your thoughts on this important ASEH matter.

## 2002 ASEH Award Submissions

This year, ASEH's prize committees will evaluate submissions (published books and articles and completed dissertations) that appear between November 1, 2001 and October 31, 2002. Please send 3 copies of each submission by November 8, 2001 to Lisa Mighetto, HRA, 119 Pine Street, Suite 207, Seattle, WA 98101. If you have questions, please contact her at <mighetto@hrassoc.com>

acknowledged “garbage historian.” But solid waste and landfill are ultimately no laughing matter. Whether we like it or not, garbage is here to stay, and managing it is a major preoccupation of every city in the world.

The production of waste affects the quality of our environment, our health and well-being and the use of precious resources. Between 1970 and 1998, municipal solid waste in the U.S. almost doubled from 122 million tons per year to 220 million tons--or from 3.3 to 4.5 pounds per capita per day. And despite the fact the sanitary landfills have come under serious criticism in recent years, we still send from 55% to 69% of our waste to them annually.

Is the landfill a monument to failure? No more and no less, I suspect, than some other landmarks, such as cotton mills, mining towns or Japanese American internment camps. National historic landmarks are not meant to celebrate or promote the events and ideas they represent. They are to identify places and moments in time in which something important happened.

We may feel uncomfortable publicly acknowledging a sanitary landfill, but what we are really doing is acknowledging an achievement and an important public issue. Should we forget that the facility is a Superfund site? Of course not. That phase of the landfill's evolution serves to remind us of the important environmental questions that mundane experiences like waste disposal evoke.

Grappling with our waste problem is an ongoing struggle, indeed an historic struggle. People like Vincenz and places like the Fresno Sanitary Landfill tried to do something about that. Despite the

current brouhaha over the naming of the landfill as a national historic landmark – or maybe because of it – the site should be redesignated.

In the wake of September 11, the little controversy over the Fresno Sanitary Landfill was quickly obscured, if not forgotten. But in reality, the landfill was not formally removed from the landmark list and thus does not need to be redesignated. The process of removal is about as rigorous as designation itself. The Department of Interior ultimately may decide to leave the designation in limbo and avoid any additional negative press. Unfortunately, the issue of 'historical significance' underlying the controversy will not go away. Today the question is the historical importance of a landfill, tomorrow it may be something entirely different. Remembering the past is more than celebrating those things that are most comfortable to recall.

*Endnotes*

1. Paul Rogers, “Leaky Trash Site Chosen as National Treasure,” *San Jose Mercury News*, August 28, 2001, 1.
2. Associated Press, “Fresno Dump, a Superfund Toxic Waste Site, Gets Listing as a National Landmark,” *SF Gate News*, August 28, 2001, Internet, <www.sfgate.com>. See also Peter H. King, “Dump as Landmark Isn't a Waste,” *Los Angeles Times*, September 2, 2001, Internet <www.latimes.com>.
3. Rogers, “Leaky Trash Site Chosen as National Treasure.”
4. King, “Dump as Landmark Isn't a Waste.”

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## Call for Papers

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### The History of Water and Civilisation

#### IWHA Conference, Cairo, 11th - 14th December, 2003

The third conference of the International Water History Association will take place in Cairo, Egypt on the 11th-14th December 2003. The IWHA exists to promote the understanding of the history of water resources; to bring together those with an interest in water history from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds; and also to promote dialogue and mutual understanding between historians and those involved in the practice of water resource management. There will be three major themes at the conference:

- The Ideas of Water
- The History of Water, Science and Technology
- The History of Water: Law, Economics and Politics

These themes reflect IWHA involvement in the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme's major book series on Water and Civilisation. Papers presented at the conference, or an elaborated version of their contents, may be considered for inclusion in this book series at a later stage.

These themes are not exclusive. Papers on other areas of water history will be welcomed.

The conference will also host a special symposium entitled "The Management of Water Resources in the Nile Basin". Proposals are

also welcomed for papers related to this topic.

The second annual conference of the IWHA, held in Bergen in August 2001, attracted participants from over 70 countries. It is hoped to repeat the success of that conference in bringing participation from a wide range of disciplines and regions. The IWHA is currently seeking funding to enable financial support, which will be targeted towards participants who may have difficulties raising funding from their home institutions.

Abstracts, approximately 300-500 words in length, plus an accompanying CV, should be sent by the 15th November 2002 to:

Hesham Mohamed Kandil, Ph.D.  
 Director for Technology and Information  
 Minister's Office  
 Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation  
 Cornish El-Nil, Imbaba  
 6th floor  
 P.O Box 12666  
 Giza, Egypt  
 Tel : +20(2) 544 9420  
 Fax: +20(2) 544 9410  
 Email: kandil@mwri.gov.eg

This text is also available on the IWHA website:  
 <<http://www.iwaha.net/call-for-papers.htm> >  
 The IWHA Member Pages are located at :  
 <<http://www.iwaha.net/members> >

## Announcements

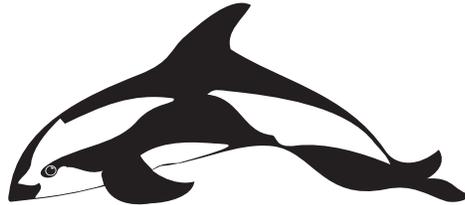
### Wildlife Management Institute Holds Conference

ASEH member John Reiger delivered the keynote address at the 67<sup>th</sup> North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Dallas on April 4, 2002. The theme of the conference was "Compassionate, Conservative Conservation Through the Lens of Theodore Roosevelt's Legacy," and the title of Reiger's speech was "Lessons From History: The Conservation Legacy of Theodore Roosevelt." In it he argued that for those at the conference, who work in the federal and state agencies responsible for managing the nation's "natural resources," including wildlife and habitat, TR's presidential policy can be used as a blueprint for restoring the balance between the aesthetic and utilitarian conservation of lands held in trust for all Americans *and* their descendents.

The North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference is sponsored and administered annually by the Wildlife Management Institute, an organization founded in 1911 by sportsmen-conservationists and originally called the American Game Protective and Propagation Association. The "North American" has long served in the words of the conference booklet "as the premiere annual forum for the continent's leading scientists, managers, educators and administrators to address prevailing issues, policies and practices of professional management of wildlife and other natural resources." Present were representatives of all the relevant federal agencies, as well as many from state agencies, and leaders of such organizations as The Wildlife Society, the National Wildlife Federation, the Izaak Walton League of America, The Wilderness Society, and the Boone and Crockett Club.

Those in the ASEH who have not attended one of these meetings might be surprised how much these men and women, who do the daily job of conservation, seek historical perspective in their work. Examples of the interesting papers delivered in Dallas are: (1) "Back to the Future: Restoring the Balance in Fish and Wildlife Management" (by the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), (2) "America's

Rangelands: Grounds for Common Grounds," and (3) "Passing the Torch of Wildlife and Fisheries Management: Comparing the Attitudes and Values of Younger and Older Conservation Professionals."



### Visiting Scholars Program, Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center, University of Oklahoma

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 52 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.

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](mailto:kosmerick@ou.edu)>

### Members News

Martin V. Melosi has won the Excellence in Research and Scholarship Award for full professors (2002) at the University of Houston, where he is Distinguished University Professor. The award is university-wide and is given annually to one person at each academic rank.

The Independent Publishers Association has awarded Char Miller the Biography Prize for 2002 for his book, *Gifford Pinchot and the Making of Modern Environmentalism* (Island Pres, 2002).



## In Memory

### John D. Wirth

John D. Wirth, Gildred Professor of History at Stanford University, passed away on June 20 in Toronto, Canada while delivering a lecture at the Friends of Fort York. He was 66. John was an energetic ASEH member, particularly interested in the expansion of environmental history beyond the borders of U.S. scholarship. He strongly encouraged the participation of international environmental historians in ASEH meetings. He was an eager supporter of interaction between ASEH and ESEH (the European Society for Environmental History) and he nurtured the formation of a Latin American Environmental History Association. He also served on the ASEH Development Committee.



John's love of the outdoors (he was a master fly fisherman) and commitment to the environment led him to embrace environmental history in the 1990s. His scholarship evolved from Brazilian studies, on which he published four widely recognized books, to North American history, and he became a distinguished scholar of transboundary environmental relationships among Mexico, Canada, and the United States. He was a contributing editor of *Environmental Management on North America's Borders* (with Richard Kiy, in 1998) and in 2000 he published *Smelter Smoke in*

*North America: The Politics of Transborder Pollution*, a story of regional environmental cooperation in the cleaning of two copper smelters, one on each side of the Rio Grande.

Wirth was also a consulting editor for the *Online Bibliography on Latin American Environmental History* <[www.stanford.edu/group/LAEH](http://www.stanford.edu/group/LAEH)> and on the editorial board of the *Encyclopedia of World Environmental History* (Routledge, 2003). His latest book, a history of the Pajarito Plateau in Northern New Mexico, with Linda Aldrich of White Rock, New Mexico, is entitled *Los Alamos, The Ranch School Years, 1917-1943* (forthcoming from the University of New Mexico Press).

John exercised his scholarship as he did everything else: with enthusiasm and public commitment. He had an obstinate conviction that it was possible – in fact necessary – to be a careful scholar, a committed activist, and a compassionate mentor. He believed strongly in the value of community service and voluntarism, and he founded the North American Community Service program, a trilateral service program for young adults from Canada, Mexico, and the United States working in environmental protection, community development, and historic preservation. He was a co-founder of the North American Institute, a trinational public affairs group headquartered in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and a member of the White House-appointed Joint Public Advisory Committee of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation of NAFTA. More information on his work may be found at [www.stanford.edu/~jdwirth](http://www.stanford.edu/~jdwirth)

Lise Sedrez

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Mail to: Mark Madison, ASEH Treasurer, National Conservation Training Center, Rte. 1, Box 166, Shepherdstown, WV, 25443

## ASEH Future Meetings

### 2003. Providence, RI. March 26-29, 2003.

Providence Biltmore Hotel, Kennedy Plaza, Providence, RI 02903. (800) 294-7709. Local Arrangements Chair, Nancy Jacobs, Department of History, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912. <Nancy\_Jacobs@brown.edu>. Program Committee Chair, Ravi Rajan, Department of Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA. 95064. (831) 459-5740. <srrijan@cats.ucsc.edu>

### 2004. Victoria, B.C., Canada. March 31-April 4, 2004.

Fairmont Empress and Victoria Conference Center. Joint Meeting with the National Council on Public History (NCPH). Local Arrangements Chair, Lorne Hammond, Curator of History, Royal British Columbia Museum, 675 Belleville Street, Victoria, BC V8W 9W2. (250) 387-2486. <lhammond@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca>

### 2005. Knoxville, TN.

Local Arrangements Chair, Kathleen A. Brosnan, Department of History, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-4065. (865) 974-5421. <kbrosnan@utk.edu>

If you would like to submit a proposal to host an ASEH meeting for 2006 or beyond, please contact ASEH Sites Committee Chair, Marty Reuss.

<Martin.A.Reuss@HQ02.USACE.ARMY.MIL>

If you would like to volunteer to serve on an ASEH local arrangements or program committee for 2004 or beyond, please contact ASEH Vice-President, Douglas Weiner, Department of History, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721. (520) 621-3736 or ASEH Secretary Lisa Mighetto, Historical Research Associates, Inc. 119 Pine St., Suite 207, Seattle, WA 98101. (206) 343-0226. <mighetto@hrassoc.com>

## Researching in the Galapagos Islands

By Melissa Wiedenfeld

My husband David serves as the Senior Ornithologist at the Charles Darwin Research Station in the Galapagos Islands, and I will be employed part-time by the Station to work on various projects. The opportunity to live in the Galapagos was too great to pass up, so here I am on Isla Santa Cruz looking out over the cactus forest at the Pacific Ocean. This volcanic archipelago has thirteen islands over 10 km<sup>2</sup> and many more smaller islands. They are about 1000 km west of Ecuador, nearly due south of New Orleans. Even though the islands straddle the equator, it can be cool at sea level, thanks to the influence of the cold Humboldt current.

The Spanish called the Galapagos "Islas Encatadas," because of the currents that made landing difficult and hence had some



special power. Not surprisingly, many of the animals in the Galapagos approach myth in early literature: giant tortoises, lizards, marine and land iguanas. The islands continue to enchant – the animals here, unused to predators, are easy to approach and photograph.

The Galapagos Islands are politically part of Ecuador, but other countries have used them over the centuries for fishing, whaling, and as a source of tortoise meat, but also for military purposes. In 1835 scientists on the H.M.S. Beagle cruised the archipelago for five weeks; naturalist Charles Darwin spent considerably less time on land, but it was his work on the islands that made them famous.

Although humans have been coming to the islands for centuries, they established no permanent settlement until the twentieth century. By the mid-twentieth century, there was discussion among politicians and conservationists about limiting human occupation of the Galapagos islands. At that time there were a few hundred people living on the islands. Yet by 2002, there were more than 20,000 inhabitants on five of the islands.

In the mid-twentieth century, the Galapagos National Park Service and the Charles Darwin Research Station were established to preserve and study the islands. The two organizations work closely on a variety of projects, including control of invasive introduced species such as rats, goats, and pigs, and preservation of endangered species such as the giant tortoises and the Baltra lizard.

The archipelago offers environmental historians many opportunities, and I encourage you to take advantage of this potential. Some work could be done from research libraries in the United States and Canada, but certainly one needs a feel for this very different landscape. Many questions come to mind immediately about the positive and negative effects of ecotourism; the effects of introduced species on the native plants and animals; the problem of the continually expanding human population on the Galapagos Islands; and the politics of conservation in Latin America. Feel free to e-mail me at <mwiedenfeld@fcdarwin.org.ec>.



American Society for Environmental History

Annual Meeting Announcement and Call for Papers

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

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 complete an application form  
(available on ASEH's website <<http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/~environ/conferences.html>>)  
and send six copies, along with 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.lan.mcgill.ca)  
Nancy Jacobs, Brown University (Nancy\_Jacobs@Brown.edu)  
Byron Pearson, West Texas A&M University (bpearson@mail.wtamu.edu)  
Stephanie Pincetl, University of Southern California (pincetl@rcf.usc.edu)  
Ravi Rajan, University of California, Santa Cruz (srrajan@cats.ucsc.edu)  
Sylvia Washington, Northwestern University (s-washington4@northwestern.edu)



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