

Global Fisheries History Network



<http://www.fimus.dk/GFHN/gfhn.htm>

Newsletter

No. 2, September 2005

Editorial

As readers of the previous issue will know, the Global Fisheries History Network (GFHN) is still in its infancy. This is a delicate time, in which many things can go wrong – or right. The development of the network in the past few months, however, indicates that we are on the right track. We have seen a steady increase in the number of people sharing their research info in the directory. Many of you have kindly expressed your support for the initiative, and offered suggestions for improvements and further developments that we are trying to take onboard. This is all very positive, since it reflects a keen interest in our research field, and the need to continue the development of the network.

A `semi-official' *GFHN* Committee meeting was held in Amsterdam in the beginning of July to discuss your responses. Among the topics discussed were improvements to the network homepage and network promotion in general. Following the `rich' discussions in a suitably relaxed environment, more initiatives were put to sea. As a result, we are happy to inform you that beginning with the publication of this newsletter the network homepage will offer a number of new features. First and foremost, a `review' section has been added focusing on fisheries `classics' that underpin our respective national historiographical traditions. The main ambition of this feature is to create a basis for a quick orientation on pivotal works on the history of fisheries that may not be well known beyond our own scholarly traditions. Furthermore, a collection of relevant links has been added. And October will see the addition of a calendar giving updated information on conferences and similar events within our research field. We welcome any contributions to these initiatives.

We have more good news. In connection with the upcoming *Oceans Past* conference in Kolding –announced in the previous newsletter – the conference management has given the *GFHN* the chance to host a reception, allowing for a little social get together. We would therefore like to welcome all readers of the newsletter, present at Kolding to join us for drinks and informal talks.

In closing – and rephrasing the latest issue of the newsletter – we would encourage you all to contribute to and enjoy the network so that we may all learn from each other.

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Forthcoming conferences

We are happy to publicise details of any conferences, workshops and seminars that might be of interest to subscribers. Please pass on details to the editors.

- *2nd Mediterranean Maritime History Network (MMHN) Conference*
4-7 May 2006, Messina-Taormina (Italy)

The Mediterranean Maritime History Network has announced its second conference. Its focus is on Mediterranean maritime history since the thirteenth century CE and on the use of the sea as a resource, for transport, the projection of power, scientific purposes, leisure activities, and as an inspiration for culture and ideology. In addition to the academic sessions, the organizers intend to schedule visits to archaeological and other sites including; the Greek-Roman Theatre in Taormina; the medieval village of Castel Mola; the site of the ancient Greek town of Tindari, founded in 359 BCE; and the islands of Lipari.

For further information see:

<http://home.um.edu.mt/medinst/mmhn.html>

- *8TH Congress of the Spanish Economic History Association*
13-16 September 2005, Santiago de Compostela (Spain)

(Session B6: Institutions and Firms in the Fishing Industry (16th to 20th centuries))

Jesús Giráldez (University of Santiago de Compostela) and Ernesto López (University of the Basque Country) have organised a session on fisheries at the forthcoming 8th Congress of the Spanish Economic History Association. The goals of the session are twofold. On the one hand, it aims to identify and analyze the different social and economic institutions linked to the fishing industry. On the other, it aims to study the fishing firm, in particular changes in behaviour (including the use of technology, the use of scale economies, marketing, business organisation) in response to the challenges of exploiting a

changing resource. The session will consist of fourteen papers, which may be downloaded from: <http://www.usc.es/es/congresos/histec05/b6.jsp>.

- *9th Conference of the North Atlantic Fisheries History Association (NAFHA)*
5-8 December 2005, Aveiro/Ílhavo (Portugal)

NAFHA will hold its 9th conference in Portugal in December. The title is: *Behaviour in social dilemmas: toward sustainable Fishery Systems – an historical perspective*. The following preliminary program has been sent out:

5-6 December: Presentation of research programmes; Sessions on main conference themes (twenty participants with papers from Spain, France, Norway, Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Portugal)

7. December: Excursion and tour of fishing communities

8. December: Round table: Historical behaviour system and maritime heritage – (the museum's role in the Commission of the Oceans, with participants from NAFHA's Steering Committee and Portuguese authorities)

Conference organizers:

Inês Amorim, Faculty of Arts (University of Oporto – Portugal)

Álvaro Garrido, Faculty of Economy (University of Coimbra – Portugal)

E-mail: agarrido@fe.uc.pt

- *Oceans Past – Multidisciplinary perspectives on the History of marine Animal Populations*
24-27 October 2005, Kolding (Denmark)

A final conference program can be found at:

<http://www.hmapcoml.org/Default.asp?ID=249>

General news

- The German Maritime Museum in Bremerhaven is preparing a special-exhibition on the history of fish fingers, scheduled to open in the summer of 2006. The exhibition and a combined research project will focus, not only on fish fingers, but also on the wider scope of changes in the deep-sea fisheries and the fish-industry as well as marketing and consumer habits caused by the introduction of frozen fish products. The exhibition will be accompanied by an international conference. Further information and call for papers will follow in the next issue of the newsletter. In the meantime, contact organiser Ingo Heidbrink: heidbrink@dsm.de.
- The Greenpeace vessel M. V. Esperanza visited Halifax in Nova Scotia during July and August on her way to and from the Grand Bank and the Flemish Cap as part of the Greenpeace campaign against bottom trawling. For information, see: <http://www.greenpeace.ca/e/feature/esperanza/mission.php>
- An archaeological team crew led by Peter Pope of the Memorial University of Newfoundland has uncovered, in Clear's Cove, Newfoundland, the remains of what appears to be a cookroom, a basic component of early European fishing stations in North America. For information, see: <http://www.mun.ca/univrel/gazette/issues/vol38no1/newspage13.php>
- An awardwinning documentary film by Herbert Sauper entitled *Darwin's Nightmare* was released last fall and will presumably be available in DVD-format some time soon. Sauper examines the Nile perch fishery in Lake Victoria, Tanzania, in what one critic characterized as 'a *fascinating cautionary tale in the guise of a documentary showing how, in the age of globalisation, things can evolve in the worst possible of unforeseen ways. Witty, incisive, heart-breaking, angry, shocking, and very imaginative...*'. For more information, see: <http://www.coop99.at/darwins-nightmare/>

- In Denmark the planning of the Galathea 3 expedition, the biggest Danish sea expedition for more than fifty years, is well underway. It is being undertaken for both research and education/promotion purposes. From mid-August 2006 until mid-April 2007 the expedition will sail around the world with scientists conducting research along the way. Their findings will be communicated back to Denmark continuously, including to the education sector. The destinations include Greenland and the Faroe Islands, the Arabian Gulf, The Bay of Bengal, the Indonesian islands, the Solomon Islands, Antarctica, the west coast of South America and the Caribbean. For more information (presently only available in Danish) see: www.galathea3.dk
- A temporary exhibition at the Fisheries and Maritime Museum in Esbjerg (Denmark) currently focuses on the downfall of the Esbjerg fishery since 1970. The exhibition is a first tentative step towards revising the Museums permanent fisheries exhibition. Contact Curator Søren Byskov (sb@fimus.dk) for further details.

Publishing news

The editors would welcome any news on forthcoming books, journal articles, reports and other information that would be of interest to fisheries historians.

- The Maritime Museum of Ílhavo, Portugal, has recently published a book on the underwater *Ria de Aveiro A*; the temporary exhibition about the 15th century naval wreckage that was organized in the Maritime Museum of Ílhavo during Summer of 2004. Its focus is on the importance of the wreckage, which appeared by chance in 1992 by the shore of the Mira channel, in Ilhavo Council. Through this focus point the book 'Dives in History' and makes it clear, that the 'Atlantic world' could never extend and open itself without the Mediterranean heritage. These and other issues are mentioned in the present book. For further information contact Álvaro Garrido: agarrido@fe.uc.pt.
- FAO recently published an update on the much debated publication Discards in the World's Marine Fisheries. The publication provides an update of the quantity of

discards in the world's marine fisheries based on a fishery-by-fishery approach. The previous FAO estimate of global discards, based on data prior to 1994, is now considered outdated. The study re-estimates discards using information from a broad range of fisheries in all continents. Selected policy and technical issues are highlighted and suggestions made for future actions. A road map for achieving further precision in the global estimate is described and associated initiatives are outlined. The reference materials used in compiling the quantitative data form part of the discard database and are provided on the accompanying CD-ROM. The publication can be found in PDF-format at:
http://www.fao.org/fi/eims_search/advanced_s_result.asp.