



Editorial

Welcome to the T2M Newsletter

Welcome to the first T2M newsletter aimed at members of the International Association for the History of Transport, Traffic and Mobility.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep members informed of developments involving the association, including upcoming conferences, and to create a forum for dialogue between members.

Please send news items or topics for discussion you would like to appear in the Newsletter to:

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David Harvey to Give the Keynote Address at the 2nd Annual T2M Conference in Dearborn

Geographer and social theorist David Harvey will deliver the keynote address on Thursday, November 4 to kick off the 2nd Annual T²M Conference at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Harvey, Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at the City University of New York Graduate Center, is the author of 10 books spanning the fields of urban planning, sociology, geography, history, anthropology, and political economy. Perhaps best known for his critical exploration of postmodernism in *The Condition of Postmodernity* (Blackwell, 1989),



Professor Harvey has recently authored two books: one a compilation of essays on Paris entitled *Paris, Capital of Modernity* (Routledge, 2003) and the other a discussion of contemporary global political economy entitled *The New Imperialism* (Oxford, 2003). The conference, organized by the recently created International Association for the History of Transport, Traffic and Mobility, aims at reviving the field of 'transport history' by looking into

promising adjacent areas of scholarship such as science and technology studies, social and cultural history, political economy, and geography. The conference runs from November 4-7, 2004.

Message from the Chair

Gijs Mom

If you receive this first T2M Newsletter you must belong to the *fine fleur* of transport and mobility historians, or you should, as we intend to distribute this also at conferences where we expect potential members to be present. To all of those who have forgotten and to all of those who weren't there, let me shortly recapitulate the bureaucratic path we took since our conference in November 2003 in Eindhoven.

On that memorable Saturday of November 8th, we nearly unanimously voted in favour of a MOTION stipulating the following: that we found an International T2M Association; that the Eindhoven Program Committee, expanded with some new members, would continue its existence as provisional Executive Committee (EC); that the European Center for Mobility Documentation (ECMD) should act as provisional secretariat; that the EC should prepare a regular members' meeting at our next conference in Dearborn; and that membership (including a special membership for PhD students) should include the *Journal of Transport History*, at least for the coming year.

This EC convened the next morning and decided to install a couple of commissions to execute decisions formulated in the motion. It also voted me as its chair, for which I am very grateful indeed. One of these commissions is now busy preparing concept statutes, another is working on a draft for a document regarding the relationship between T2M and its journal, and all EC members agreed to do their best to raise money locally for

several purposes, such as secretariat's costs, PhD travel funds, and a third annual issue of the journal. One small success we already booked: the ECMD managed to get funding for its secretarial costs for the current year from the Dutch Ministry of Traffic and Water Management and from the organisation of European automobile manufacturers ACEA in Brussels.

On May 12th, the EC will have its second meeting in Paris where all these issues will be discussed and where we will prepare the members' meeting in Dearborn. No doubt we will inform you in our next Newsletter planned to appear shortly before the Summer holidays. By that time we will open a listserve for discussion among our members on our statutes in order to be well-prepared for the Dearborn meeting.

Meanwhile, let us not forget that Bruce Pietrykowski and his Michigan team are busy preparing our second conference. Please see the Call for Papers in this Newsletter and please make sure that you submit your paper and session proposals in time. Session proposals are most welcome, especially in conjunction with colleagues from adjacent disciplines who are not yet a member.

Last month, I visited (with Editor Peter Lyth) Manchester University Press to hand over our membership list. In April you should receive your first free JTH issue. I hope we will reach a membership of 150 by the time the first keynote speaker in Dearborn arises to address the audience. Good luck, Bruce! The members of the provisional Executive Committee are: dr. Laurent

Bonnaud, Centre Roland Mousnier, Paris-Sorbonne; dr. Hans-Liudger Dienel, Centre for Technology and Society, Technical University Berlin, and chair, Transport History Group, German Business History Association; prof. dr. Colin Divall (National Railway Museum & University of York, UK); Paul van Heesvelde, Ministry of the Flemish Community, Brussels, Belgium; dr. Peter Lyth, Editor, *Journal of Transport History*; dr. Clay McShane, Northeastern University, Boston, USA; dr. Michèle Merger, CNRS Institut

d'histoire moderne et contemporaine, Paris and Chair, COST 340; dr.ing. Gijs Mom, Foundation for the History of Technology and chair, ECMD, Eindhoven University of Technology (chair of prov. Executive Committee); dr. Bruce Pietrykowski, Social Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn, USA; dr. Larry Shumsky, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, USA; dr. Margaret Walsh, School of American & Canadian Studies, Nottingham University; dr. Peter Staal, Director, ECMD, Eindhoven University of Technology (secretary).

First T²M Conference a success

Over one hundred people, from over twenty nations, attended the first International Conference on the History of Transport, Traffic, and Mobility (T2M) in Eindhoven, Holland, in early November 2003.

Attendees listened and contributed to a wide-ranging debate that underlined both the expanding nature of the field and the increasingly inter-related nature of its sub-components. The topics under discussion over the three days ranged from public policy, technology and business history, to questions of scale, tourism, advertising and gender. Peter Lyth, Editor of the *Journal of Transport History*, also delivered an important address in which he set out the future direction of the journal.

Perhaps the most significant moment came with the official launch of the International Association for the History of Transport, Traffic and Mobility (T2M) on Saturday 8 November. Over half the participants joined, providing a

core membership on which to build at subsequent meetings.



The social highpoint was the Saturday evening visit to, and subsequent meal, at the Van Abbe Museum (above picture). Recently re-opened in January 2003 after substantial renovation, delegates were greatly impressed by the collection, including an excellent selection of El Lissitzky's work. Some were also left slightly vertiginous by Abel Cahen's extraordinary "tower" section. All were taken by surprise, but thoroughly enjoyed, an after dinner demonstration of tango dancing by Gijs Mom, the Conference Chair.

News

Eindhoven Conference Survey Yields Clear Results

The survey held during our first conference in Eindhoven last November seems to be a nice policy-making tool for the Executive Committee and the Dearborn Program Committee, worthy of a second edition in Dearborn. Although the response rate was not overwhelming (forty-odd forms of a total of about 100 attendees), the opinion of the respondents was candid on most issues that were raised.

It was especially pleasing that that more than 70 % supported the original idea of a CD-ROM sent to all participants well before the conference. It was also made quite clear that a majority wished to receive the CD-ROM earlier than was the case last year. We'll do our utmost to accomplish that for the Dearborn conference. Another pleasing result is the overwhelming support of our original principle to emphasize discussion time rather than the reading of full-text papers.

Some attendees commented on the opportunity afforded to mix informally with colleagues, and indeed to meet new ones. They also thought the papers given were of a generally good standard. Other outspoken opinions concerned the acceptable amount of the conference fee and the wish to distinguish between professors and PhD students in this regard. Another interesting result is that the response was almost equally split between the wish to have more quality in the presentations and the wish to have as broad an overview of topics as possible. An overwhelming majority opted in favor of a combination of both as standard offer for each conference. Members who wish to consult the survey results in detail should surf to our website: www.t2m.org.

Lifts, Escalators and Moving Pavements in DC

Colleagues who happen to find themselves in Washington DC before 18 April might be interested to visit a temporary exhibition (it closes on 18.4.04) at the National Building Museum. The subject is a much-neglected one, the role played by lifts, escalators and moving pavements in transport. There is a review in the current issue of *Technology & Culture*, vol 45 (1), January 2004, pp. 154-8. If anyone does go, Colin Divall would be interested in a review for the *Journal of Transport History*. He is also interested in reviews of any other interesting and relevant exhibition relevant to the *Journal*.

German Rail Archive Available

Members may be interested to know that the Index of the Archiv für Eisenbahnwesen is available on the following website:

www.wirtschaft.UniKassel.de/Vahrenkamp/history_Mobility/history_Mobility.htm

According to Richard Vahrenkamp, of the University of Kassel, the Archiv für Eisenbahnwesen was the leading German language journal on railways from its appearance in 1878 to its demise in 1936. It had been edited by the Prussian Ministry of Public Works. The website is run by Professor Vahrenkamp, and covers the years 1878-1913. Anyone needing further details can contact vahrenkamp@wirtschaft.uni-kassel.de

Call for Papers

International Scientific Student Workshop Technology in the history of Civilisation - thinking into the future

Dzieroniów, 3 – 5, Poland September 2004

The workshop programme is addressed to students of both Polish and foreign universities. The aim of this international workshop is to create a platform for an exchange of ideas and experience, and the development of co-operation between young scientists and technologists who are interested in the history of technology and in the conservation of cultural heritage. The organizers would like to outline the need for the humanization of technical studies and the inclusion of technology in humanity studies, stressing its cultural role and the importance of the relationship between the environment, human beings and technology, as well as its effect on the shaping of our civilisation.

The idea is to include these subjects in obligatory education programmes, and in the fields of activity of student science associations or ones deriving of relevant interests:

- the history of science and technology, inventions and engineering..
- Conservation of technical heritage, and to include heritage in education, industrial tourism, planning and the creation of new programs for development
- Associations and other forms of student activities in the field of the history of technology and conservation of technical relics.

The International Scientific Student Workshop's aims are linked with the Owl Mountains Technology Festival FOMT, the Science Festival of the University of Technology, Wrocław, and the European Days of Heritage.

The official languages for correspondence are English and Polish. For the workshop, interpreters will be provided.

How to apply

Application: The deadline for lectures with a summary of approximately 15 lines (in Polish or English) is April 15th. The application form is available on our website: www.nadbor.pwr.wroc.pl

Papers: Deadline for lectures is May 30th (5-6 pages + illustrations). The papers qualified by the committee will be published for September 3rd. All materials should be sent to the secretary per mail or e-mail: nadbor@pwr.wroc.pl

Posters:
70 x 100 cm

Costs: Active participants 150 zł, Others 300 zł

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**Second International Conference on the History of
Transport, Traffic, and Mobility (T²M)**

Thursday November 4 - Sunday November 7 2004

**University of Michigan-Dearborn
Dearborn, Michigan USA**

The International Association for the History of Transport, Traffic, and Mobility, invites proposals for papers to be presented at the Second International Conference on the History of Transport, Traffic and Mobility (T²M), to be held on 4 –7 November 2004 at the campus of the University of Michigan-Dearborn, Michigan USA.

The conference aims to build upon the success of last year's inaugural meeting in bringing together the many scattered initiatives, research programmes, research institutions and individuals exploring the social, cultural, economic, technological and political history of mobility. The term mobility history invites investigation on the material and the symbolic circulation of people and goods in relation to various modes of transport. We especially encourage transnational and transmodal approaches. For a schedule of last year's program please visit: <http://www.t2m.org/>.

The theme of this year's conference will be "Mobility History and Policy" and conference participants are encouraged, though not required, to submit papers and organize panels around this theme. The intention is to revitalise the historical study of transport, traffic and mobility, partly by creating new opportunities for the exchange and development of ideas and concepts, both in person and through the usual scholarly media such as journals. We especially

invite young scholars and Ph.D. students to submit proposals. We also encourage paper and session proposals by colleagues from museums and archives.

The conference language (written and oral) is English. The deadline for abstracts and a short cv (both max. 1 page and composed in MS Word or pdf format only) is **April 15, 2004**. Send proposals to: submissions@t2m.org. Notification of acceptance will be sent by May 20, 2004. The full text of papers accepted must be submitted before **August 15, 2004** if they are to be included in the proceedings on the official conference CD-ROM (mailed to all participants prior to the conference).

September 1, 2004 is the deadline for payment of the conference fee of 75 dollars for Association Members and 100 dollars for non-members. After September 1 the registration fee is 110 dollars. In due course, an application form for the conference with information about the venue and hotels will be posted on the conference web site and sent to all colleagues who have expressed their intention of attending.

This year's conference will be hosted by the University of Michigan-Dearborn's Center for the Study of Automotive Heritage. The University is located very near the world-renowned Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. The City of Detroit boasts a wealth of transport and mobility-related treasures

including the famous Diego Rivera mural *Detroit Industry*. In addition, the Detroit Institute of Arts will be hosting the first major retrospective devoted to the photography of Charles Sheeler. Of special interest are Sheeler's photographs from the Ford Motor Company's River Rouge complex commissioned by Edsel Ford in 1927. In 1998 the Detroit area was designated an Automotive National Heritage Area, a cultural landscape administered by the National Park Service. This recognition has inspired a series of preservation and historic interpretation projects relating to transport and mobility. These and many other mobility-related spectacles abound in and around the Motor City!

For general information please contact the Programme Committee's chair: Bruce Pietrykowski at bpie@umich.edu

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About the T²M newsletter

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