S-30 – History of Tourism: What Can the History of Technology Contribute?

International Committee for the History of Technology

Organizers:
1) Stefan Poser, (Helmut-Schmidt-University, Hamburg, Germany), poser@hsu-hh.de
2) Per Lundin, (Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden), per.lundin@chalmers.se

Abstract:
During the second half of the 20th century, tourism became a typical leisure activity of members of consumer societies. Meanwhile tourism is one of the most important sectors of the economy and is of global occurrence. Indeed, cities are growing especially for tourism. For example, the Spanish Costa del Sol developed from an economically poor region of agriculture and fishing in the 1950s to a mega city of 150 km length today. The city’s environment and the city’s infrastructure is designed especially for tourism. What about the technical requirements and the environmental impacts of such developments? In which way were experiences of travelling shaped by technology and by the built environment?

Papers will deal with the technical and economic development of hotels and companies in hotel business as well as the development of cruising ships and their environmental impact. The infrastructure of tourist places and the development of transportation facilities will be discussed, too. This part of the session investigates the so to say ‘hardware’ of tourism. It will be followed by a second part which analyses the experiences of the tourists. Old and new technology as tourist attraction will be discussed as well as the experiences of touristic travelling and the role of technology.

Keywords: History of Technology – Tourism – Motoring – Consumer society – Leisure.

Participants:
- Laurent Bonnaud
- Per Lundin
- Thomas Kaiserfeld
- Stefan Poser
- Barbara Hahn
- Constantin Canavas