Symposium on the History of Midwest Science and Technology

606 Ross Hall, History Department, Iowa State University

Saturday, March 30:

8:00 a.m.: welcome and opening announcements

History of Midwest technology:

8:10-8:50 a.m.: Jeff Schramm (Missouri University of Science and Technology): "Underneath the Prairie, The Mining Midwest"

8:50-9:30 a.m.: Emily Godbey (Iowa State University): “Butter Sculpture and Refrigeration: The Midwest Combination of Art and Science”

9:30-10:10 a.m.: David Seim (University of Wisconsin-Stout): "Early Critical Thought about Computers and Human Values: Is There a Midwestern Angle?"

10:10-10:25 a.m. – coffee break

History of Midwest science, technology, and environment:

10:25-11:05 a.m.: Michael Guenther (Grinnell College): “Visions of Regional Planning in the Heartland: The Mississippi Valley Committee and the Graphic Tools of New Deal Conservation”

11:05-11:45 a.m.: Jole Shackelford (University of Minnesota): “The Sanguine ELF: Assessing the Environmental Impact of a Midwestern Military Project”

11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. – lunch

History of Midwest science, technology, and agriculture:

1:15-1:55 p.m.: Kevin Walters (University of Wisconsin-Madison): “The Origins of Technology Transfer as Agricultural Transfer: Wisconsin Farmers and the History of Academic Patenting”


2:35-3:15 p.m.: Chris Deutsch (University of Missouri): “The Trouble with Muck: Cattle Feeding Experiments in the Shadow of St. Louis”

3:15 p.m.-3:30 p.m. - coffee break
History of Midwest senses, sound, and light:

3:30-4:10 p.m.: Linda Eikmeier Endersby, (University of Missouri):
“The Wizard and the Tigers: Thomas Edison and Electrical Engineering at the Univ. of Missouri”

4:10-4:50 p.m.: Kimberly K. Porter (University of North Dakota):
“The Science of Sound”

4:50-5:30 p.m.: Jason Weems (University of California -Riverside):
“The Sound of Dust that Stings Your Eyes: Technology, the Midwest, and the Senses in Pare Lorentz’s The Plow that Broke the Plains (1936)”

Sunday, March 31:

History of Midwest science and mathematics:

8:30-9:10 a.m.: Robin E. Rider, (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
“Emigré mathematicians and the University of Wisconsin-Madison”

9:10-9:50 a.m.: Judy Johns Schloegel (Independent scholar):
“Jacob Reighard and the Dept. of Animal Morphology at the Univ. of Michigan in the 1890s “

9:50-10:05 a.m. – coffee break

History of Midwest science, technology, politics, and economics:

10:05-10:45 a.m.: Nate Holdren (Drake University)
“Industrial Medicine as Regretful Science of Injustice in the Early Twentieth Century US”

10:45-11:25 a.m.: Jeff Manuel (Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville)
“A Technological Fix for Farmers’ Problems of Plenty: Ethanol as a Case Study in Midwestern Technology”

11:25 a.m.-12:05 p.m.: Amy Bix (Iowa State University):
“Fighting For A Prairie Particle Accelerator: Postwar Regional Physics Ambitions at the Midwestern Universities Research Association”