

English Summary

Serge Noiret

Public History: a Ghost Discipline?

The essay aims to analyze how the past is appropriated in the European Public Sphere and which institutions, media and actors are involved in *Public History* practices. In contrast to the Anglo-Saxon world, a variety of *Public History* discourses and practices emerged in continental Europe where the English term was rarely translated or deployed: only very rarely are “applied historians” or *Public Historians* practicing the discipline in a self-conscious manner. In Europe, *Public History* is often linked to collective identities at different levels: from local memories to the construction of regional, national and pan-European “Heimats” and “realms of memory”. Thus, Europeans create multi-dimensional identities and traditions that are based upon *Public History* activities. This essay identifies the presence in the “polis”, of *Public History* and *Public Historians* “without the name”, using two case-studies, that of national history museums, and that of the emotional perception of the U.S. Civil War in Europe.

Key words: Public History; Digital Public History; National History Museums; History And Policy; Memory

Dan Henry Andersen

The Tordenskiold festival in Frederikshavn, Denmark, 1998-2010.

A naval hero in a society at war

The Tordenskiold festival (*Tordenskioldsdage*) in Frederikshavn, Denmark, started in 1998 and is presently the largest maritime historical festival in Northern Europe. The local social and economic background is discussed, especially relative economic deprivation due to closure and downsizing of heavy industries, but it is concluded that the festival began due to the special ambitions of a group of teachers at the Frederikshavn Production School, and that the festival derives its success from local interest and the generosity of the municipality. It is argued that

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maritime historical festivals and reenactment will inevitably contain anacronisms and mixing of historical epochs, but at the same time they are powerful tools for connecting to the past.

Key words: Frederikshavn; Denmark; Peter Wessel Tordenskiold; Maritime historical festival; Public History.

Thomas Cauvin

When Public History is at stake:

museum, historians and political reconciliation in the Republic of Ireland

This article explores the collaborations between historians and the National Museum in the Republic of Ireland. The author contends that the new collaborations between the museum and professional historians in the 1990s revealed wider reappraisal of the links between past and present. The collaboration resulted from the encounter between cultural and political demands – especially during the political context of reconciliation in Ireland and Northern Ireland – and historiographical redefinitions of the use of the past. Kevin Whelan's work with the museum demonstrated how certain historians met the cultural and political requirements. Nevertheless, the author argues that the absence of public/applied history training prevented to go fully beyond the academic frontiers. The 1998 exhibition remained all in all built on the collaboration between two distinct agents, academically trained historians and museum practitioners, and not an autonomous *Public History* project.

Key words: Ireland; Museum; Exhibition; Public History; Reconciliation; Memory

Hinke Piersma

Public Educators: Dutch Historians Influence Contemporary Politics

The accumulation of knowledge by government institutions has never been a judgment-free activity. Ever since its foundation in 1945, the Netherlands Institute for Study and Documentation of the Second World War (presently NIOD) has been trying to find a balance between scholarly pursuits and its social impact. In this article I explore three highly-debated cases, in which two NIOD directors were involved. These cases include: the fall of the Christian Democratic politician Willem Aantjes, the affair surrounding the Dutch war criminal Pieter Menten, and the dramatic events in Srebrenica and the question of Dutch responsibility. These topics are examples of situations in which scholarly research is intertwined with political debate. It raises the question of the role of historians when the past is publicly on trial. How is such a public role on the part historians affecting

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the profession in general, and, more specifically, is there a danger that historical research could become nothing other than politics by other means?

Key words: Second World War; Collaboration; Dutch politics; Historians as hangman; Public History; Education.

Delphine Lauwers

*The Western Front, a European Site of Memory:
Battlefield Tourism as a Vector of History*

This paper seeks to explore the practice of battlefield tourism in the *Ypres Salient* (Belgium) since 1918. Battlefield tourism is now considered as one of the major fields of *Public History*. We will thus examine this practice and how it has evolved in a country where *Public History* does not exist as a discipline. The actors of this tourism and the meanings associated to the memorial landscape of the Ypres Salient have changed over the decades. Besides a growing involvement of local authorities and professional historians in the process of commemoration of the Great War around Ypres, one can notice a growing political use of these commemorations. In the very peculiar context of Belgium, any national dimension of the memories of the conflict seems to be excluded, the accent being put on the regional and transnational levels of the experiences of the Great War.

Key words: Great War; Ypres Salient; Reconstruction; Conflicting memories; Battlefield tourism; Transnational history; Public History.

Jean-Pierre Morin

*Treating History and Policy: the role of Public History
in the development of policy for treaties in Canada*

Since the earliest period of contact between Aboriginal people and Europeans in North America, treaties and agreements have been concluded between them to formalise relations, establish commercial trade and expand settlement lands. For the past 300 years, Aboriginal people and the Canadian government have been struggling to understand each others perspectives and understandings of the meaning, rights and obligations stemming from these agreements.

As the Government of Canada works to develop policies to address the claims of Aboriginal people stemming from these treaties, there is a constant need to analyse and assess the countering interpretations of the treaties as well as the different policies and approaches implemented since the creation of Canada in 1867. The role that *Public History* plays not only helps to prepare the groundwork for these future policies, but also as a way to evaluate the efforts of the past, with the hope of avoiding past failures.

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Key words: Canada; Aboriginal people; Indian Treaties; Canadian Government Policies; Public History; Relations.

Gerben Zaagsma

*Public History beyond the state:
Presenting the Yiddish past in contemporary Europe*

This article analyses how Europe's 'Yiddish past' is presented, commemorated and engaged with in contemporary Europe from a *Public History* perspective. It investigates the ways in which Yiddish, its culture and its speakers, are inscribed in representations of Jewish history in museums, websites, and other settings. In doing so a distinction is made between Western Europe, where Yiddish-speaking immigrants and their culture formed but a part of local Jewish populations, and Central/Eastern Europe, where Jewish life was to a large extent Yiddish life. The article shows how a growing attention for migration in Western Europe, and the demand for Jewish heritage from abroad in Central and Eastern Europe, drive new and revised versions of Jewish, as well as national, historical narratives. It also contrasts such larger developments and contexts with local, 'bottom-up', activities. At the same it moves beyond national contexts and considers the role that European institutions play in preserving Yiddish heritage. The article argues that definitions of *Public History*, which predominantly focus on how professional historians take history to a broader non-academic public, are insufficient. The case of Yiddish in Europe also highlights the important role of the state in driving public history activities.

Key words: Jewish history; Yiddish; Europe; Public History; Representation; Museums.

Francesco Catastini

Festivals of history: an Italian way towards Public History?

This paper discusses the absence of public history-teaching programs in Italian universities, and focuses on the practice of history in Italian open public spaces. The emergence of history festivals is analyzed as a phenomenon that affects not only history, but also other disciplines, such as philosophy, literature and even mathematics, and as a way to promote forms of civil engagement through theater, drama, music and cinema. The paper suggests that the Italian way to *Public History* -the organization of history festivals- provides an occasion for professional historians to meet the public and to actively participate in civil society.

Key words: Public History; History Festival; Theater; Music; Movie; Engagement.

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Kiran Klaus Patel

Research in times of Wikileaks.

Reflections on Contemporary History in the Twenty-First Century

The article discusses the challenges contemporary history has to face due to the changing nature of its sources in the digital age. It argues that so far, historians have not done enough to prepare themselves for this new situation that will force the discipline to rethink established routines and standards. Moreover, it proposes concrete directions into which historiography should develop.

Key words: Contemporary History; Digitalization; Sources; Wikileaks; XXI Century; Historiography

AnnaRita Gori

Between national and local pride:

Florentine Workers at 1911 Roma Exhibition

In 1911, Italy celebrated the anniversary of its Unification. The governing class invited citizens to participate to a variety of events and exhibitions in all major cities of the Peninsula. This essay aims at showing the Florentine working class's point of view. In particular, it analyzes how workers have drawn up basic ideas for the the National Building's process, and how these concepts have been related to a strong sense of local identity. To attempt to achieve these goals, the article uses the reports of a group of Florentine workers and craftsmen sent – on behalf of the Municipality of Florence – to the Exhibitions held in Rome in 1911. These sources allow us to undermine different and original visions of the homeland concept of the nation and indicates how difficult was the process of creating a shared national identity.

Key words: Nation; Identity, Exhibitions; Working class; National Buildings Process; Florentine Workers.

Marie-Pierre Besnard

Notre-Dame de Saint-Lô in the English Channel:

a 3D solution after the destruction during WWII

The Church of Notre-Dame at Saint-Lo was bombed by the Allies in 1944. It was totally rebuilt after the war, but in the process it lost its original façade and towers. The church has become a symbol of the Second World War, and its true history has been replaced by a romantic myth. However, a virtual reconstruction of the church, available through an interactive terminal, offers to the general public the opportunity to experience simultaneous levels of space and time. Thus every

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visitor can discover the original historical and architectural details of the church in 3D, in real time, in interaction with a virtual model and also guided by a virtual human. The essay describes the evolution of the project that will be inaugurated in September 2011.

Key words: Historiography; 3D; Multimédia; Augmented reality; New museology; Digital Public History.

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