

The Second Maury Workshop on the History of Oceanography

Gary E. Weir, Ph.D.
Head, Contemporary History Branch
U.S. Naval Historical Center
Washington D.C. 20374
phone: (202) 433-9767 fax: (202) 433-3593 email: weir.gary@nhc.navy.mil

David Van Keuren, Ph.D.
Historian
Naval Research Laboratory
Washington D.C. 20379
phone: (202) 767-4263 fax (202) 404 8681 email: dvk@ccs.nrl.navy.mil

Award # N0001499WR30111
http://www.onr.navy.mil/sci_tech/ocean/onrpgahj.htm

LONG-TERM GOALS

Our long term goal was to sustain the dialogue and scholarly work currently underway across the country on the history of the ocean sciences in the United States and the role of ONR in that process. This is an effort, not merely to establish certain facts and preserve sources and artifacts, but rather to explore the dynamics of oceanography's development into a recognized multi-disciplinary science involving personalities and institutions over the years since World War One

OBJECTIVES

We intended to create an initiative that would encourage open discussion on the history of the ocean sciences with an eye toward promoting frequent debate and regular publication on the subject. In addition, we wished to create a forum for those already involved in this field and a vehicle appealing enough both to encourage publication by established professionals and to attract new graduate students.

APPROACH

We employed a workshop format and invited, with the occasional rare exception, only seasoned professionals to achieve a critical mass of talent and expertise in a free and open environment for discussion and reflection. Papers prepared for the workshop were distributed beforehand, read, and introduced by their authors at the workshop. The bulk of the time at Maury 2 was spent in discussion and analysis of the contributions made.

WORK COMPLETED

The workshop exceeded our expectations for on-site productive discussion and insight. Participants went away with ideas for research projects and a comprehensive perspective on the major issues

Report Documentation Page

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

1. REPORT DATE SEP 2000		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVERED 00-00-2000 to 00-00-2000	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE The Second Maury Workshop on the History of Oceanography				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Head, Contemporary History Branch,,U.S. Naval Historical Center,Washington,DC,20374				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			

currently under examination by their colleagues. Almost every professional currently working in this field was in the room at Maury 2.

We made audio and video recordings of the proceedings for use in training and education as well as to properly archive the experience as the second of its kind, building on the foundation laid by Maury 1.

We collected copies of all papers presented at the workshop and entered into discussions regarding possible publication of the results.

RESULTS

The Maury Workshops have energized the field of ocean science history. The number of professional historians in the field has increased along with a promising influx of graduate students working on both naval and civilian aspects of oceanographic development.

We published a very significant array of articles. The full list appears in the bibliography below. One of the PIs [Weir] had a book accepted for publication by Texas A&M University Press entitled, An Ocean in Common: American Naval Officers, Scientists, and the Ocean Environment, 1919-1961 which benefitted directly from the workshops.

IMPACT/APPLICATION

The history of oceanography field is growing swiftly. We have more historical professionals involved as a result of Maury 1 and 2 and the literature is also growing. With the acceptance of graduate projects for theses and dissertations, the field has received an unprecedented level of recognition. With these attainments comes a deeper understanding of the Navy's critical role both via ONR and other naval agencies in the genesis and growth of oceanography as a field of scientific endeavor.

TRANSITIONS

The productive gathering of interested scholars at the Maury Workshop has identified many interesting and critical areas of research and analysis. The foundations laid by Maury 2 have contributed to at least five other projects in this field, influencing not only subject, but methodology and the scope of sources and collections used.

RELATED PROJECTS

1 - ONR's Oceanography: The Making of a Science seminar series and its oral history component with which many of the Maury participants became involved as oral history interviewers.

2 – Gary Weir's history of SOSUS/IUSS currently underway with ONR support and the blessing of N09BH and N874.

3 - David Van Keuren's ONR supported oral history project with the Russian Oceanographic community.

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Weir, Gary E. 2001. An Ocean in Common: American Naval Officers, Scientists, and the Ocean Environment. College Station: Texas A&M University Press. (Forthcoming in the Spring of 2001)

Articles:

Allard, Dean C. 2000. Spencer Baird and Support for American Marine Science, 1871-1887, Earth Sciences History, forthcoming.

Day, Deborah. 2000. Bergen west: Or how four Scandinavian geophysicists found a home in the new world. Historisch-Meereskundliches Jahrbuch 6: 69-82.

Lajus, Julia A. 2000. Zwischen wissenschaft und fischerei: Meeresforschung im Russischen norden am ende des 19. Und im ersten viertel des 20. Jahrhunderts. Verhandlungen zur geschichte und theorie der biologie, Band 5: Berichte zur geschichte der hydro- und meeresbiologie, 61-73.

Neushul, Peter and Zuoyue Wang. 2000. Between the Devil and the Deep Sea: C.K. Tseng, Mariculture, and the Politics of Science in China. Isis 91, no. 1: 59-88.

Oreskes, Naomi. 2000. Laissez-tomber: Military patronage and women's work in the mid 20th century oceanography. Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences 30, part 2: 373-392.

Oreskes, Naomi and Ronald Rainger. 2000. Science and security before the atomic bomb: the loyalty case of Harald U. Sverdrup. Studies in the History and Philosophy of Modern Physics 31, no. 3, 309-369.

Rainger, Ronald. 2000. Science at the crossroads: The Navy, Bikini Atoll, and American oceanography in the 1940's. Historical Studies in the Physical and Biological Sciences 30, no. 2, 349-371.

Rainger, Ronald, 2000. Patronage and Science: Roger Revelle, the Navy, and Oceanography at the Scripps Institution,

Rozwadowski, Helen M. 2000. Marine science in the age of internationalism. Historisch-Meereskundliches Jahrbuch 6:83-105.

van Keuren, David K. 2000. Building a new Foundation for the Ocean Sciences: The National Science Foundation and Oceanography, 1951-1965. Earth Sciences History, forthcoming.

Wang, Zuoyue. 1997. Responding to 'Silent Spring': scientists, popular science, communication and environmental policy in the Kennedy years. Science Communication 19: 141-163.

Weir, Gary E. 2000. Fashioning a Professional Dialogue in Oceanography: The U.S. Navy and the Ocean Science Community, 1924-1960 Earth Sciences History, forthcoming.

Weir, Gary E. 2000. Fashioning Naval Oceanography: Columbus O'Donnell Iselin and American Preparation for War, 1940-1941. Currently under peer review at Isis for the History of Science Society.