

## The Science (and Art) of Travel Writing 1750-1850 (Wien, 14.-15.6.2002)

Eva Cescutti

Writing"

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CONFERENCE

The Science (and Art) of Travel Writing 1750-1850

14.-15. June 2002

Location: IFK Internationales Forschungszentrum Kulturwissenschaften

This conference will discuss scientific travel writing 1750-1850 as a "verschollene Wissenschaft" - a genre that no longer exists in the same form today but once had high claims to scientific status as a form of ethnographic observation. It will focus on the relationship between science and art in this genre, discussing both its historical significance and its relevance to cultural sciences today.

The scholarly context for this topic is a multi-disciplinary revival of interest in scientific travel writing. Historians, anthropologists, and literary scholars have turned to travel writing as a starting-point for the study of cultural contacts. Long neglected because it fell between disciplines, scientific travel writing has attracted fresh attention precisely for its mercurial synthesis of now-disparate approaches to culture.

CONCEPT: Harry Liebersohn (Univ. of Illinois at Urbana Champaign/History)

PARTICIPANTS: Vanessa Agnew (Univ. of Michigan/German Studies), Hans Erich Bödeker (Max-Planck-Institut für Geschichte, Göttingen), James A. Boon (Princeton Univ./Anthropology), Philippe Despoix (Univ. de Montréal/Études européennes), Thomas Fröschl (Univ. of Vienna/History), Christa Riedl-Dorn (Museum of Natural History, Vienna), Sigrid Wadauer (Historian, Vienna), Gotthart Wunberg (IFK)

Program:

(Program and abstracts available: <http://www.ifk.ac.at>)

Friday, June 14

Harry Liebersohn

Introduction

Philippe Despoix

Scientific, Literary and Political Discourses in the  
South-Seas Travel-Accounts (1765-1785)

Vanessa Agnew

The Earwitness in the Travelogue

Hans Erich Bödeker

Reiseinstruktionen und die Entstehung einer "Wissenschaft vom Menschen"  
im ausgehenden 18. Jahrhundert

Harry Liebersohn

The Travel Diary in the Network of Knowledge, 1750-1850

Saturday, June 15

Sigrid Wadauer

Craftwork: How hardship becomes adventure

James A. Boon

Intersensory Travel-writing as Scientific Dandyism: Select Episodes

Plenary Discussion

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Reference:

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