Multimedia Library Collection: Exploring Environmental History (podcasts)

"*Silent Spring* at 50"

Oosthoek, Jan. "Podcast 44: Silent Spring at 50. A comparison perspective." *Exploring Environmental History* podcast, 21 December 2011. MP3, 25.20. http://www.eh-resources.org/podcast/podcast2011.html .

Fifty years after its publication, a comparative analysis of the reception of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* in the United States and in the UK emerges in this conversation between Mark Wilson and the podcast's host, Jan Oosthoek. The book's success in the United States is assessed by means of comparison with precursors such as *The History of the Standard Oil Company* by Ida Tarbell (1857–1944), which appeared in 1904, as well as contemporaneous publications, including *Our Synthetic Environment* by Lewis Herber (the pseudonym of Murray Bookchin), which appeared in the same year as *Silent Spring*. The conversation also broadens out into other issues that either helped shape the reception of *Silent Spring* or competed with it for attention, including the testing of nuclear weapons, agriculture and the organic food movement in the UK, and the use of DDT as a measure to tackle malaria.

(17.4 MB)

Music Credits: "Where You Are Now" by Zapac, "2012Piano" by snowflake.

Exploring Environmental History podcasts are periodic programmes featuring interviews with people working in the field, reports on conferences and discussions about the use and methods of environmental history. They are posted on the *Environmental History Resources* website, which is maintained by Jan Oosthoek.

(cc) BY-SA

Further readings:

- Lytle, Mark Hamilton . *The Gentle Subversive: Rachel Carson,* Silent Spring *and the Rise of the Environmental Movement.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.
- Sheail, John. *Pesticides and Nature Conservation: The British Experience 1950–1957.* Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1985.
- Sideris, Lisa H., and Kathleen Dean Moore, eds. *Rachel Carson: Legacy and Challenge.* SUNY series in Environmental Philosophy and Ethics. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2008.
- Walker, Martin J. "The Unquiet Voice of Silent Spring: The Legacy of Rachel Carson." *The Ecologist* 29 (1999): 322–25. View article

Related links:

- Exploring Environmental History at Environmental History Resources
  http://www.eh-resources.org/podcast/podcast.html

Websites linked in this text:

- http://www.eh-resources.org/podcast/podcast2011.html
- http://ccmixter.org/files/Zapac/30640
- http://ccmixter.org/files/snowflake/7555
- http://www.eh-resources.org/