The Era of Experiments and the Age of Wonder: Scientific Expansion in the 17th -19th Centuries

A Symposium
In Honor of the Reopening of the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology and the Resident Scholar Program

March 4-5, 2010
Smithsonian Institution Libraries
Carmichael Auditorium, National Museum of American History
12th and Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20560

Thursday, March 4, 2010

9:00am    Registration

10:00am   Welcome remarks
Nancy E. Gwinn, Director, Smithsonian Institution Libraries
Brent Glass, Director, National Museum of American History

10:15am   The Role of Science at the Smithsonian
Carmichael Auditorium
Dr. Eva J. Pell, Undersecretary for Science, Smithsonian Institution

11:30am   Lunch (on your own)

12:30pm   The Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology

The Dibner Library and the Resident Scholar Program
 o Ronald S. Brashear, Arnold Thackray Director
   Othmer Library of Chemical History
   Chemical Heritage Foundation

 o Lilla Vekerdy, Head, Special Collections
   Smithsonian Institution Libraries

The Dibner Library as Scholarly Resource
 o Panel: Smithsonian Scholars
   Peggy Kidwell, Curator, Technology and Communications
   National Museum of American History
Steven C. Turner, Associate Curator, Medicine and Science
National Museum of American History

David H. DeVorkin, Senior Curator, History of Astronomy
National Air and Space Museum

- Panel: Dibner Library Resident Scholars
  Pamela Long, Independent Scholar
  Meghan Doherty, Ph.D. candidate, University of Wisconsin-Madison

3:30pm  **Break**

- Visit to the Dibner Library: *Special Rare Book Exhibition*
- See exhibition: *Picturing Words: The Power of Book Illustration*, SI Libraries Gallery

5:30pm  **17th Dibner Library Lecture**
*The Age of Wonder: How the Romantic Generation Discovered the Beauty and Terror of Science*
Richard Holmes, OBE, British biographer and writer, Professor of Biographical Studies, University of East Anglia

**Friday, March 5**

8:00am  **Registration**

9:00am  **The Era of Experiments**  Carmichael Auditorium

- *Learned Societies & the Birth of American Science*
  Marc Rothenberg, Historian, National Science Foundation

- *International Exchange & Scholarly Communication*
  Nancy E. Gwinn, Director, Smithsonian Institution Libraries

10:30am  **Break**

11am-12pm  **The Continuing Need for Historical Collections**
Conevery BoltonValencius, PhD Harvard 1998
George Perkins Marsh Prize 2003 for best book in environmental history
for her book, *Health of the Country, from American Society for Environmental History*