

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

As income tax deadline rapidly approaches for those of us living in the US, the April newsletter seems to be a logical time to focus on SHOT finances. Our treasurer Richard Hirsh tells us that overall, SHOT is in good shape financially (with great thanks to him and to our finance committee). However, Richard also reminds us that SHOT must be careful, since our operations remain dependent on support from our Michigan consortium for *Technology and Culture* editing and on support from Iowa State University for our secretary's office. Moreover, we are undertaking exciting initiatives, particularly fiftieth-anniversary planning and the launch of our eTC website – but initiatives do cost money. Please check out this newsletter's presidential column where Rosalind Williams explains in more detail the financial trends in publishing that affect us and how our soon-to-appear eTC website will advance SHOT's goals. Keep watching our main SHOT website, and soon you'll be able to use the new eTC to get convenient access to certain *T&C* material and many special features.

eTC represents an important investment in SHOT's future that we believe will offer great value not only to our members but also to the wider community and bring those others into dialogue about the history of technology. Similarly, we hope that our anniversary meetings will be memorable opportunities for celebrating SHOT's past, highlighting our present-day strengths, and advancing creative discussion about our discipline's future. It will be a thrill for our 2007 meeting to return to Washington D.C., site of several landmark SHOT conferences. But D.C. is an expensive meeting site and we want to mark our anniversary properly, while still keeping our meeting affordable for everyone, especially graduate students and international scholars. SHOT officers have begun important strategic thinking about fundraising both for

the anniversary and for the longer term, particularly in regard to our Editorship Endowment Campaign. We'll be able to say much more about this in future newsletters.

The unfortunate truth is that the price of academic conferences, like almost everything else, keeps rising. Those of you who are members of the History of Science Society may have noticed Executive Director Jay Malone's column in its January newsletter where he noted that most HSS members don't realize how meeting costs add up, with the bill for coffee alone in Minneapolis this fall totaling almost \$6,000. One particular challenge facing most academic societies today, including SHOT, is the growing demand among presenters to use PowerPoint for delivering papers. For many reasons, it is not practical or desirable for SHOT to buy its own AV equipment, but renting just a single PowerPoint setup costs hundreds of dollars per day.

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SHOT Newsletter Editorial Policies, Advertising Rates, and Submission Deadlines

The SHOT *Newsletter* is published quarterly in April, July, October, and January and is sent to all individual members of the Society. Items for inclusion will be published **if received by the 1st of the previous month**. Please note that material for the newsletter may be submitted via electronic mail. Non-members and institutions may receive the *Newsletter* by separate subscription for \$15 per year. The *Newsletter* can also be read at the SHOT website.

Readers should verify closing dates and other information provided by institutions and sponsors; the editor and SHOT are not responsible for changes or typographical errors. Advertising for books, journals, and other matters related to the interests of the Society and its members is accepted if received by the 1st day of the previous month.

Advertising Rates: Full page (7-1/2" x 9-1/2"), \$200;
Half page (7-1/2"x5" or 3"x 9-1/2"), \$150;
Quarter page (3" x 5"), \$100

The SHOT logo was created by Brickworks of London

SHOT tries to balance the need to control meeting expenses against expanding AV requests, by working with presenters to meet their equipment needs at a reasonable cost. Cynthia Bennet does a superb job of monitoring meeting expenses, planning, and negotiating to find savings. Income from book exhibits, program ads, and event sponsorship add to the positive side of our ledger, but choosing to meet in popular cities at peak fall season presents a challenge.

Fortunately, while it's easy to spend (or lose) a great deal of money in Las Vegas, it's also possible to have inexpensive fun. Preparations for the October 2006 meeting are moving ahead, thanks to the hard work of local organizer Bill Leslie and his assistants, plus program chair Jennifer Light and her committee. As always, please check the SHOT website frequently between now and then for the latest updates and see our July newsletter for the program and registration material, plus information about tours, special events, and much more. Classic neon, classic cars, and classic presentations – anything can happen in Vegas!

Amy Sue Bix
Iowa State University



NEWS OF MEMBERS

The officers and membership of SHOT wish to express their sympathy to the family of James Tomayko, longtime member of SHOT, who died on January 9, 2006 after a long and disabling illness, according to his wife, Laura.

MEMORIAL**David Dibner, 1927–2005**

The history of technology lost a good friend and significant benefactor on 28 September 2005, when David Dibner succumbed to a sudden and unexpected heart attack. He was seventy-eight years old. An engineer and businessman, David headed the Dibner Fund and the Burndy Library since 1989 and supported the Dibner Institute from its creation at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1992 until his death. With his wife Frances, also a board member of the Dibner Fund, David promoted a wide range of philanthropic interests, nurtured his own fascination with the artifacts of modern technology, and added significantly to the rare books, manuscripts, incunabula, and objects collected in the Burndy Library, doubling the number of volumes in the collection since 1993.

In many of these activities, David stewarded the legacy of his father, Bern Dibner. Born in 1897 in what is now the Ukraine, Bern Dibner immigrated with his family to the United States, settled in New York City, and graduated from the Polytechnic Institute of New York in 1921 with a degree in electrical engineering. He founded the Burndy Engineering Company in 1924 to manufacture electrical connectors. The success of the company, based in large measure on Bern's twenty-four patents, allowed him to launch his philanthropic enterprise and indulge a life-long fascination with the history of science and technology. He founded the Dibner Fund in 1957 as a private family foundation to support the history of science and a wide range of other programs, ranging from preservation of the environment to humanitarian relief and the promotion of peace and tolerance. Bern Dibner took a sabbatical from his company to study Renaissance science in Zurich, published more than thirty books and articles in the history of science and technology, and acquired a personal library that grew in size to require its own building adjacent to the Burndy Corporation headquarters in Wilton, Connecticut, near which the History of Science Society held its annual meeting in both 1974 and 1983. In 1974, he contributed one-quarter of his book collection to the Smithsonian Institution to form the core of the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology, which is now part of the National Museum of American History's Behring Center. Before his death in 1988, Bern Dibner conceived an institute that might fulfill the vision of George Sarton for a Baconian program to support the study of the history of science.

David Dibner realized his father's vision. Following service in World War II, David studied engineering at Columbia University and continued postgraduate study at the London School of Economics. Later, he attended the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University. Joining the Burndy Corporation in 1952 as an engineer, David worked his way up through the organization to succeed his father as chairman of the board, also assuming the presidency of the Dibner Fund and Burndy Library in 1989. In these latter roles, he devoted himself to continuing his father's legacy and realizing his dream for an institute devoted to the history of science and technology.

The Dibner Fund called for a consortium of schools to be formed in the Boston-Cambridge area of Massachusetts, one among to serve as the home for the Burndy Library and a new institute for the promotion of the history of science and technology. In due course, MIT was chosen and plans were made to renovate a building overlooking the Charles River at 38 Memorial Drive. A state-of-the-art library was built on its ground floor to preserve and display the Burndy Collection, and rooms were fitted out on the second and third floors to provide offices and public spaces for staff and fellows of the newly created Dibner Institute. The library and institute opened in 1992, accepting the first of more than 340 fellows who would study there over the ensuing years.

David oversaw this activity with his accustomed graciousness and strength of purpose. He sought out and embraced good advice. He surrounded himself with competent people at the Dibner Fund, Dibner Institute, and Burndy Library. He remained ever mindful of his father's wishes, adapting them always to the evolving state of practice in the history of science and technology. He and Frances drove often from their Connecticut home to negotiate with

MIT, oversee the design and renovation of the building at 38 Memorial Drive, select the staff, and participate in the activities of the new institute and library. Most of the institute's fellows had more than one opportunity to be charmed by David's welcoming smile, generous persona, conscientious engagement in the activities of the institute and its fellows, and genuine delight in the advancement of the history of science and technology. Though he harbored his own tastes and preferences in the history of science and technology, he relished the great diversity of scholarship conducted by the fellows and supported by the library.

Like his father before him, David brought an engineer's eye and interest to the study of technology. He was a materialist, fascinated by the workings of machines and the minds of the men and women who invented and produced them. In his travels around the world and across the United States, he sought out, and often supported, museums that collected the rich heritage of modern engineering practice and scientific experiment. When Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) met in London in 1996 David sponsored a visit to the Kew Bridge Steam Museum, which he particularly admired because of its many working engines and the tutorials given by its knowledgeable staff. David literally marveled at the human genius embodied in these machines. He and Frances endowed the Frances and David Dibner Professorship of the History of Engineering and Manufacturing at MIT as a way of supporting the history of technology that fascinated them most. David Mindell currently holds this chair.

But David Dibner was far more than an antiquarian buff. He reveled in the range and diversity of scholarly genres, methodologies, and topics studied at the Dibner Institute and frequented the lectures, seminars, and conferences conducted there. He gave the institute's directors and staff free rein to seek out and support the best scholars from around the world. Always hopeful that the scholars attracted to the institute would avail themselves of the riches of the Burndy Library, he nevertheless refused to make that a condition for granting fellowships. Instead, he strove to expand and refine the library's collection so as to lure by its riches. Like his father before him and sons after him, he always believed that the Burndy Library was the core activity of the Dibner Fund's support of the history of science and technology.

David was also a friend and counselor to SHOT. More than once, officers and representatives of the society solicited David and the Dibner Fund for general institutional support and for special projects. In every case he listened carefully to the society's requests and generously proffered his advice and his resources, often both. Occasionally he declined to support the society's proposals, but he always had a good reason and explained why. SHOT's officers and representatives were never left empty-handed when they sought the help of the Dibner Fund.

When David learned in 2004 that MIT would not renew its affiliation agreement with the Dibner Institute and Burndy Library, he committed himself to finding new home for the Burndy Library and a new model for the Dibner Institute. Following a nationwide search and extensive deliberations, David was able to consummate an agreement with the Huntington Library in San Marino, California (site of SHOT's 1997 meeting) that will provide a permanent home for the collection and site for continuing activities in support of the history of science and technology. When I last spoke with David, shortly before his untimely death, he was happy, optimistic, enthusiastic, and busy with plans to oversee his father's legacy transferred to its new home in California. He knew that he had stewarded the Dibner Fund and its special relationship with the history of science and technology as his father would have wished. And he would be passing it on in good order to his sons. All of us involved in the history of technology have reason to be grateful for that superb stewardship, and ample reason as well to miss David's warm, supportive, and enthusiastic friendship.

David is survived by Frances, his wife of fifty-five years; by three sons and daughters-in-law, Brent and Relly (Wolfson) Dibner, Daniel and Victoria (Clark) Dibner, and Mark and Rachel (Zax) Dibner; and by eight grandchildren.

Alex Roland

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SHOT/AHA Booklets on the
History of Technology**

We are pleased to report that the SHOT/AHA booklets in the series *Historical Perspectives on Technology, Society, and Culture*, co-edited by Pamela O. Long and Robert C. Post are now available for purchase on Amazon, as well as through the American Historical Association. This makes the booklets more easily obtainable than they have been previously. The booklets have been put on sale by one of the editors while the AHA completes the design of its own new website. The AHA website will be ready in several months, at which time the booklets will be obtainable through that website. Usually the booklets can be easily located on Amazon by searching under the author's name, although sometimes searching under the exact title is more efficacious.

The booklets have proved highly useful to historians and teachers of various kinds and they are being assigned regularly in classrooms in various history courses.

The following booklets are available at the present time:

Francesca Bray, *Technology and Society in Ming China (1368-1644)*

Pamela O. Long, *Technology and Society in the Medieval Centuries: Byzantium, Islam, and the West, 500-1300*

Pamela O. Long, *Technology, Society, and Culture in Late Medieval and Renaissance Europe, 1300-1600*

Robert C. Post, *Technology, Transport, and Travel in American History*

Alex Roland, *The Military-Industrial Complex*

Rudi Volti, *Technology Transfer and East Asian Economic Transformation*

We are also pleased to announce as forthcoming in late Fall 2006, two new booklets:

Peter Mentzel, *Transportation Technology and Imperialism in the Ottoman Empire*

Howard P. Segal, *Technology and Utopia*

We are actively seeking new proposals especially in geographical areas not yet covered (India, Africa, Latin America, Japan, Indonesia, indigenous cultures of north and south America, for example). Please contact the editors and read the "Guidelines for Proposals" on the SHOT website. We will be happy to discuss any proposals.

Pamela O. Long
Robert C. Post
Co-editors of the series

**MIT Museum Announces New Life Sciences
and Technology Initiative**

In recognition of the extraordinary developments in life sciences and technology during the past half-century at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the MIT Museum is pleased to announce a new imitative embracing collections, research, exhibitions and public programs.

In the first instance, the MIT Museum is looking to support and coordinate applications to the National Science Foundation and/or the National Institutes of Health as well as find additional private funding. In partnership with MIT's Program in Science, Technology, and Society, the Museum invites qualified candidates with recent Ph.D. degrees interested in pursuing postdoctoral research to submit a brief statement of interest and curriculum vita.

Correspondence should be directed to LST Initiative, MIT Museum, Bldg N52, 265 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139 or c/o Dr. Deborah Douglas, ddouglas@mit.edu.

Exhibit

Julie Wosk, State University of New York, Maritime College, will be curating an exhibit titled Alluring Androids, Robot Women, and Electronic Eyes: Picturing Simulated Women From 18th Century Automaton to Today's Robots That Look Alive. It will be held from **June 17 to September 10, 2006** at the New York Hall of Science, a science museum in Queens, New York. The exhibit will feature images of simulated women in film, art, photography, animation, and digital art.

Website and Online Archive

The **University of Michigan-Dearborn's Science and Technology Studies Program**, in collaboration with The Henry Ford, is pleased to announce the launching of a new website and online archive, *The Automobile in American Life and Society*, at www.autolife.umd.umich.edu. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund, the site contains overview essays and case studies on the history of the automobile's relationship to labor, gender, race, design, and the environment, authored by Stephen Meyer, Margaret Walsh, Virginia Scharff, Thomas Sugrue, David Gartman, and Martin Melosi. Each essay is copiously illustrated with archival materials, most from the extensive collections of The Henry Ford, and supplemented with a variety of materials for teachers and students (annotated bibliography, definitions, reading comprehension and discussion questions, writing and research assignments). Also included are more than a dozen oral histories of major automobile designers taken during the 1980s by The Henry Ford, digitized and made available online for the first time.

Samuel Colt: Arms, Art, and Invention opens September 20 at Wadsworth Atheneum

Thanks to the generosity of longtime Hartford philanthropists Melinda and Paul Sullivan through the Melinda and Paul Sullivan Foundation for the Decorative Arts, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art's exhibition *Samuel Colt: Arms, Art, and Invention* is back on the Museum's 2006 exhibition schedule. Director Willard Holmes made the announcement three weeks after the Museum postponed the exhibition for lack of funding. The exhibition, which was to have opened May 5, will now open **Wednesday, September 20, 2006**.

Samuel Colt: Arms, Art, and Invention, and its accompanying book from Yale University Press, mark the first initiative to fully document the unique Colt firearms collections held by the Wadsworth Atheneum. Constituting what Director Willard Holmes has called "the American equivalent of the great arms and armor collections in Europe," the majority of these rare firearms-prototypes and examples of his manufactured revolvers, pistols, and rifles-were in Samuel Colt's armory office at his death in 1862. Others represent the models in production at his death and were acquired by his widow, Elizabeth Hart Jarvis Colt, in 1862-1863.

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Everyone Needs an Editor

Let freelance editing pro for univ. presses help you polish your project—dissertation/thesis, journal article, or book. Work by phone: 941-795-2779 or email: pollyk1@msn.com.

(Check out my website too at <http://mysite.verizon.net/res8gmrf/>).

We might even have fun!

PRIZES AND AWARDS

The **United States Postal Service** sponsors two annual prizes for scholarly works on the history of the American postal system. Given the enormous scope of its operations and its importance as a federal agency, the post office has played a major role in American business, politics, journalism, labor, popular culture, and social reform. Submissions dealing with these and other aspects of the postal system are welcome. Conference papers, theses, dissertations, or published works by students are eligible for a \$1,000 award; published works by faculty members, independent scholars, and public historians are eligible for a \$2,000 award. The deadline is **Dec. 1, 2006**. For further details, see the web site for the Rita Lloyd Moroney Awards, <http://www.usps.com/postalhistory/moroney.htm>.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

Society of Automotive Historians Student Paper Competition

In order to encourage research and writing efforts among university students in the area of automotive history, the Society in 2006 will confer its annual award for the best student paper in the auto history field. Persons submitting papers must be enrolled at educational institutions (upper-class undergraduate or graduate level) at the time of submission. This competition is international in scope, but papers must be in the English language. Papers already published or scheduled for publication will not be accepted. Manuscripts should not exceed 10,000 words, and should be double-spaced. An abstract is requested. Originality of ideas is important. Diagrams, graphs or photographs may be included. An original and four copies must be submitted. Possible subjects include but are not limited to historical aspects of automobile companies and their leaders, regulation of the auto industry, financial and economic aspects of the industry, the social effects of the automobile, highway development, environmental matters, and automotive marketing, design, engineering and safety.

Submissions will be judged using the criteria of research, organization, writing style and documentation. A cover letter should be included stating the student's address, school, program, advisor, and stage in studies. The student should indicate how the paper submitted will relate to his or her professional future. Submissions must be postmarked by **June 1, 2006**. All papers submitted will be acknowledged. The winning paper will be published in the Society's Automotive History Review. The winner will be notified in late August, 2006. The award will consist of a plaque and a cash prize of \$500. Submissions should be sent to: Sinclair Powell, Chair, Student Paper Award Committee, SAH 8 Ruthven Place, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2612 USA Phone: 734-769-1188; Fax: 734-769-2858

Food & Culture

Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association (MAPACA)

Annual Conference

October 27-29, 2006

Wyndham Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, MD

Myriad factors shape our relationship with food. What we choose to eat, when we eat it, with whom we eat it, and how we eat it, is influenced by technology, economics, politics, fashion, tradition, religion, and other aspects of culture. Scholars from all disciplines are invited to address the intersection of food and the human experience at the 2006 Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association's annual meeting. Topics might include (but are not limited to) the politics of food, culinary tourism, kitchen technology, gender and food preparation/consumption, food in literature, health and diet, commercial food processing/advertising, and restaurant culture. Panels (3-4 presenters), individual papers, roundtables, and alternative formats are encouraged. Contributions from those working in the field of material culture and the history of technology are especially welcome. For a complete listing of last year's panelists and the entire program, and for more information about the Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association, please visit <http://www.wcenter.ncc.edu/gazette/>.

To submit a paper/panel proposal: Send an abstract (150 words or less), a short CV or biography, and

your title/affiliation by Thursday, **June 15, 2006** via email (preferred) or hard copy to:

Monika Bolino, PhD
Brown Medical School
Office of Professional Development
97 Waterman Street, GA-2
Providence, RI 02912
Email: foodandculture@gmail.com

Panel/roundtable submissions: Panels (3-4 presenters) organized around a theme or roundtable discussions of a topic are welcome. Please include a short summary and title for the panel/roundtable.

Registration and Hotel Information: For more information about the conference, and for a list of other session categories, visit the "Conference" link at: www.wcenter.ncc.edu/gazette.

All sessions will be held at the Wyndham Baltimore Hotel, 101 West Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD [<http://baltimore.wyndham-hotels.com/>].

Winton M. Blount Symposium on Postal History

Nov. 3-4, 2006

National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C.

Sponsored by:

National Postal Museum, Smithsonian Institution
American Philatelic Research Library/American
Philatelic Society

The Winton M. Blount Symposium gathers together scholars, philatelists and the interested public for a conference at the National Postal Museum. The conference aims to integrate philately and the history of postal operations within the broader context of American history.

The conference will open Friday evening Nov. 3 with a reception and plenary panel discussion on the topic "What is postal history?" Invited speakers include Michael Laurence, editor, "Classics Chronicle"; Richard R. John, professor, University of Illinois at Chicago; John Willis, historian, Canadian Postal Museum; and Maynard H. Benjamin, president and CEO, Envelope Manufacturers Association.

Possible themes to address:

Challenges of communication on the frontier
Transportation and the mail
Rates, routes and regulation
Communication and the Information Age
The technology of moving the mail

Deadline for proposals: July 1, 2006

Both individual papers and panel proposals will be considered. Proposals should be no more than one page long and be accompanied by a one-page curriculum vitae.

Please email complete proposals to Allison Marsh at marsh@si.edu Notification of accepted papers will be issued in mid August. Conference papers will be posted on the National Postal Museum Web site and will be considered for possible publication.

Conference co-chairs are Cheryl R. Ganz, Allison Marsh and David L. Straight.

Contact: Allison Mars
Cheryl Ganz

"Entrepreneurial Communities"

Business History Conference Annual Meeting Cleveland, Ohio June 1-2, 2007

The 2007 annual meeting of the Business History Conference (BHC) will take place Friday and Saturday June 1-2 in Cleveland, Ohio, at the Weatherhead School of Management of Case Western Reserve University.

The theme for the conference is Entrepreneurial Communities, defined broadly in scope and scale. The entrepreneur is often thought of as a lone innovator, but how often does an entrepreneur really act alone? How and when does entrepreneurial activity rely on the input of other inventors, venture capitalists, lawyers, accountants, marketing specialists, government actors, laborers, and others? We are interested in papers that explore the roles of these actors and the broader social context in which entrepreneurial activity takes place. These include, but are not limited to, geographic (local, regional, national, or international), political, economic, social, and cultural (including the roles of race, class,

ethnicity, religion, and gender) aspects of entrepreneurial communities. We are interested in papers that consider how firms and other groups (within, between, or outside particular firms), and society as a whole have organized themselves to foster or inhibit entrepreneurial activity. Finally, in keeping with longstanding BHC policy, the committee will also entertain submissions not directly related to the conference theme.

Potential presenters may submit proposals either for individual papers or for entire panels. Individual paper proposals should include a one-page abstract and a one-page curriculum vitae (cv). The abstract should summarize the argument of the paper, the sources on which it is based, and its relationship to existing scholarship. Each panel proposal should include a cover letter stating the rationale for the session, a one-page abstract and author's cv for each proposed paper (up to three), and a list of preferred chairs and commentators with contact information.

Proposals also are invited for the **Herman E. Krooss Prize** for the best dissertation in business history. The Krooss Prize Committee welcomes submissions from recent Ph.D.s (2004-7) in history, economics, business administration, history of science and technology, law, and related fields. To participate in this competition, please indicate this in a cover letter, and include a one-page cv and one-page dissertation abstract. Semi-finalists will be asked to submit copies of their dissertation after initial review of proposals. Finalists will present summaries of their dissertations at the Cleveland meeting.

Doctoral candidates who would like to have their dissertations discussed can participate in special dissertations-in-progress sessions. Submit a cover letter to this effect, along with a one-page cv and one-page dissertation abstract, clearly indicating the submission is a dissertation abstract.

BHC also awards the **K. Austin Kerr Prize** for the best first paper by a Ph.D. candidate or recent Ph.D. (2004-7). If you wish to participate in this competition, please indicate this in your proposal. Proposals accepted for the Krooss Prize panel and the

dissertations-in-progress sessions are not eligible for the Kerr Prize.

The deadline for receipt of all proposals is **October 15, 2006**. Notification of acceptances will be sent by January 2007. Presenters will be expected to submit abstracts of their papers for posting on the BHC website. In addition, presenters are encouraged to post electronic versions of their papers prior to the meeting, and to submit their papers for inclusion in our on-line proceedings publication, *Business and Economic History On-Line*. The BHC also offers graduate students who are presenting papers grants to offset some of the costs of attending the conference.

Please send all proposals to Dr. Roger Horowitz, Secretary-Treasurer, Business History Conference, P. O. Box 3630, Wilmington, DE 19807, USA. Phone: 302-658-2400; fax: 302-655-3188; email: rh@udel.edu.

The Newcomen Dissertation Colloquium will be held in conjunction with the 2007 BHC annual meeting. This intensive workshop, sponsored by BHC through the generous support of the Newcomen Society of the United States, will take place at the conference venue Wednesday evening, May 30, and Thursday, May 31. Participants will work closely with a small, distinguished group of BHC-affiliated scholars, including at least two of its officers. The assembled scholars and students will review dissertation proposals, consider relevant literatures and research strategies, and discuss the business history profession. Limited to ten students, it is intended for doctoral candidates in the early stages of their dissertation projects. Those interested in participating should submit to Roger Horowitz, BHC Secretary-Treasurer (rh@udel.edu), a statement of interest, a preliminary or final dissertation prospectus, and a cv. Please make clear that you are interested in the Dissertation Colloquium. One recommendation from the dissertation supervisor (or prospective supervisor) should also be faxed (302 655-3188) or emailed to Roger Horowitz by **January 15, 2007**. The review committee will notify all applicants of its decisions by March 1st. A grant from the Newcomen Society of the United States will provide each participant with a \$300US honorarium.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A couple weeks ago I attended an MIT Faculty Meeting where one of the topics served up was the stew of scholarly publication issues all too familiar to scholars these days: copyright laws designed for entertainment rather than research, the inability of scholars to control the fate of their own written work, rising costs and declining number of institutional subscriptions to scholarly journals, and interference patterns set up by simultaneous on-line publication and print publications, to name just a few. In the course of her presentation, the head of MIT Libraries, Ann Wolpert, commented that the scholarly journals doing the best in this publishing environment were those who were complementing their peer-reviewed articles with features such as essays, reviews, commentaries, and news from the field. Such features, she said, had generally proved popular with specialists and non-specialists alike.

I resisted the impulse to stand up and shout to the assembled audience, "Yes! *Technology and Culture* figured this out five years ago." That is more or less when *T&C* editor in chief John Staudenmaier, managing editor Joe Schulz, and book review editor Bob Post started soliciting, editing, and publishing short pieces about cover illustrations, "Comments," essay reviews (of both books and museum exhibits), and the "Classics Revisited" series. This has been a quiet development, slow and steady. It has not reduced the number and quality of peer-reviewed articles in *T&C*. It has, by every indication (including my non-scientific survey of SHOT members), proved popular with readers. Even more important, this evolution gives *T&C* a good chance of riding the waves of change now roiling the seas of scholarly publication.

For several years now, beginning under the presidency of David Hounshell, the SHOT Executive Council has discussed various ways to give SHOT in general and *T&C* in particular an online presence. Part of the reason for these discussions is our longstanding desire to attract new members and to contribute to broader public discussions. Another reason is financial. Journals depending on print publication are often in for tough times as libraries continue to cut subscription lists. If they can attract a broader audience, then individual subscriptions can make up for some of the loss. (*T&C* is currently distributed in print to about 1700 individuals and roughly half that number of institutions.)

Even more notably, revenues from online access continue to grow. For *T&C* this has meant primarily revenues from Project Muse: we continue to be one of the "most-hit" journals in that list, and this continues to grow as a source of revenue for the Society. The data from this past year are startling, fortunately in a positive way: in 2005 *T&C* revenues from Project Muse went up 46.6% ! (Other revenue went up only 3.9%, for a total increase of 12.4%.)

Beginning in 2005, Executive Council members discussed the idea of developing a website that would feature *T&C*'s non-peer-reviewed material. (See an update on these conversations in my column in the July 2005 SHOT Newsletter.) It seemed a reasonable way to start without making enormous new investments, because this material is already of general as well as scholarly interest, and is already being solicited, edited, and published. Once established, Executive Council members have figured, the site could be used for other purposes that take more direct advantage of on-line capabilities, which would not appear in the print version of *T&C*: obvious examples are podcasting, visually-intensive exhibit reviews, and interviews with historians of technology, engineers, and others working in the field.

Beginning last fall, Joe Schulz has been working to develop such a SHOT site. It will be launched very soon, and it features a group of six essays each focusing on some aspect of the Hurricane Katrina disaster. This is a topic that will be of great interest to the general public as well as to current SHOT members. The site will take advantage of cyberspace by providing citations (for now) and (as soon as we resolve access issues) actual links to past *T&C* articles (through JSTOR or Project Muse) on related topics, as well as to other relevant publications. We are hoping that over time more and more readers will link to Project Muse, with the promise of increasing still further *T&C*'s hit rate and therefore revenues.

While getting the site up and running, we have also been working to raise funds for a more sustained development of eTC: this will be especially important as we head into our 50th anniversary activities. To this end we recently submitted an ambitious proposal to the National Science Foundation titled “Developing an Online Resource for the History of Technology,” requesting somewhat under \$300,000 over two and a half years. If funded by the NSF, we could do much more much faster with eTC than we could possibly support from SHOT funds alone. We should know by the end of April if this proposal will be funded in whole or in part. We are confident that sooner or later, from one foundation or another, we should be able to attract support for this project.

Stay tuned for an announcement of the launch of eTC, which will be posted soon on the SHOT organizational site. You will be delighted and impressed by eTC, and you should also be delighted and impressed that the *T&C* editorial team has had the foresight and creativity to keep SHOT ahead of the curve in scholarly publishing.

In its 2005 draft report, the American Council of Learned Societies’ Commission on Cyberinfrastructure for Humanities and Social Sciences asked, “The basic principles and the underlying needs are clear, but where will the leadership for this effort come from?” It responded to its own question: “The humanities and social science communities themselves have the primary responsibility to make the case for this effort, provide visible and sustained leadership, and offer examples for others to emulate.” SHOT is providing leadership and is on the verge of offering a fine example.

Rosalind Williams
MIT

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