



NEWSLETTER

OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY

No. 117, n.s., January/April 2008

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

Lots of very important messages in this newsletter – we've got a ton of things happening here in SHOT at the moment. First of all, if you haven't done so already, please check out the terrific website that our fabulous Lisbon organizers have already set up – you can get there from a direct link on the SHOT homepage. Please remember that the deadline for the call for paper proposals is March 14. Our conferences every fourth year outside the US are always wonderful, but this conference promises to be extra special as a continuation and extension of SHOT's fiftieth-anniversary celebration. As we've noted before, one quirk of this meeting is that our Lisbon hotels have set an extra-early cutoff date for registration at our special conference rate, April 30! So if you're even thinking about going to Lisbon, it may be wise to register for a hotel room sooner rather than later. The hotels are absolutely gorgeous, in an exciting area of the city – with a beautiful waterside walking path, dozens of sidewalk cafes and restaurants, and one of the best oceanariums I've ever seen, it will be hard to keep our minds focused on SHOT business. Please remind your friends, colleagues, and graduate students about the call-for-papers deadline, and please also remind our graduate students that we will have travel grants available (more info in the "awards" section of our website).

Speaking of reminders, it's time for the annual hint to submit applications for SHOT's multiple awards – our book prizes, article prizes, fellowships, and others. We are always eager to receive more submissions, so please help us out by calling these prizes to the attention of students and colleagues, as well as applying or nominating yourself where appropriate!

But now the most important thing of all. For those of

you who are no longer in a junior career position – for instance, if you now have tenure – if you're interested in giving back to the history of technology discipline, if you love SHOT and want to be directly involved in shaping our society's path into the next fifty years, this is a golden opportunity (given our current anniversary celebration, pun intended). Both Richard Hirsh and I extended our normal terms as treasurer and secretary (respectively) so that SHOT would not have to undergo the process of officer transition and physical SHOT-office relocation in the midst of organizing our big anniversary meetings. Now, however, it's time for some new energy and talent of the kind that so many in SHOT have to offer.

In short, SHOT is now opening searches for both a new secretary and a new treasurer, who would take office in January, 2009. We have descriptions of each position here in this newsletter; please look over them and

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Society for the History of Technology

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Officers

President: Steve Usselman
 Vice-President/President-Elect: Arne Kaijser
 Secretary: Amy Bix
 Treasurer: Richard Hirsh

For Change of Address, Membership Information, and Journal Delivery Queries

Please contact Carla Hubbard, Journals Division,
 Johns Hopkins University Press, 2715 N. Charles St.,
 Baltimore, MD 21218, USA
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 Email: cdh@mail.press.jhu.edu

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

consider submitting an application or recommending someone appropriate. Both the secretary and treasurer are key society officers essential to keeping SHOT running and fostering growth and new initiatives. Both positions have their responsibilities – an instant jump in your e-mail traffic, new file folders of records to keep, etc. Both positions also have very immediate rewards (beyond the steak and seafood served at the ACLS meetings that the secretary attends – I kid you not. Our gathering last fall in Salt Lake City featured a private performance by the U.S. Olympic aerial skiing and snowboarding team, plus the chance for complimentary massages and other spa treatments at a top resort. Every once in a while, even an academic can get a taste of the good life.) Seriously, for myself, I love knowing that the secretary's position does make a real difference, directing the processes that get money out to deserving graduate students, rewarding the best scholarship in our discipline, bringing off annual meetings that people are eager to attend. As either treasurer or secretary, you become part of a team; for both Richard and me, one of the most pleasurable parts of our offices has been the opportunity to share plans, work, and ideas with colleagues who really become trusted friends. SHOT has exciting plans for carrying through the spirit generated by our fiftieth anniversary celebration, and you can become an intimate – indeed, an essential part of that future. Richard and I are eager to work closely with our successors to make the transition as smooth as possible. Of course, the new secretary will have SHOT funding to hire a part-time assistant – Cynthia Bennet is a tough act to follow, but she too is looking forward to ensuring a good hand-off of the baton. So please look at our notices about the secretary and treasurer positions and think seriously about this opportunity as part of SHOT.

Amy Sue Bix
 Iowa State University

Please watch your email and the SHOT website this summer for information about voting in SHOT elections.

SHOT SEARCH FOR NEW SECRETARY AND NEW TREASURER

SHOT is now searching for candidates to fill the post of secretary and the post of treasurer, since terms for both Amy Bix and Richard Hirsh expire in December 2008. The new secretary will serve a term starting in January 2009, to December 2011 (with the option of extension). The new treasurer will serve a term starting in January 2009, to December 2010 (with the option of renewal).

Both posts involve serious responsibility but also offer an exciting chance to help shape the future of SHOT and contribute substantially to our discipline and the success of our annual meetings. SHOT offers some support for both posts (including paying for a part-time secretarial office manager).

For detailed descriptions of what both the secretary's and the treasurer's positions involve, please see the SHOT website.

Candidates for the secretary's position should submit a letter of interest (about 2 pages), along with names and contact information for three references) to Ed Russell, chair of the secretary's search committee by April 1, by email attachment to russell@virginia.edu. Candidates for the treasurer's position should submit a letter of interest (about 2 pages), along with names and contact information for three references) to Arne Kaijser, chair of the treasurer's search committee by April 15, by email attachment to: arnek@kth.se.

Upcoming meetings

***Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
October 15-19, 2009***

***Tacoma, Washington
September 29-October 4, 2010***

Lisbon, Portugal October 11-14, 2008

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE HAS
BEEN A SLIGHT CHANGE IN DATES
FOR THE LISBON CONFERENCE.**

**CHECK THE SHOT WEBSITE OVER
THE NEXT FEW MONTHS FOR THE
LATEST INFORMATION.**

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Jonathan Coopersmith will be a Fulbright scholar lecturing and conducting research at the Tokyo Institute of Technology in 2008-09.

Testing the Limits: Aviation Medicine and the Origins of Manned Space Flight (Texas A&M University Press, 2006), by Maura Phillips Mackowski, Ph.D. received an Honorable Mention for the American Astronautical Society's Eugene M. Emme Astronautical Literature Award. Emme was NASA's first historian. The book is part of the Centennial of Flight Series published by Texas A&M University Press.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**We Need You!**

Over the next two years, SHOT will undergo significant change in leadership. Our secretary and our treasurer, Amy Bix and Richard Hirsh, both reach the end of their terms at the close of this year. These two exemplary colleagues perform enormous service to SHOT. Finding capable replacements for them is my highest priority this year. Nothing is more vital to the continued vitality of our Society.

The task will not be easy. Search committees have already begun the hunt. They invite your assistance in identifying potential candidates. Even better, they invite your applications. You can find information about how to contact them elsewhere in this newsletter and on the SHOT website. While those committees have ultimate responsibility for recommending replacements for Amy and Richard, I am also available to discuss these posts. Feel free to contact me about them at steve.usselman@hts.gatech.edu

In addition to carrying out these searches, SHOT is gearing up to replace two cornerstones of our publishing operations. At the start of this year, Henry Lowood stepped down from his longtime post as SHOT's bibliographer in order to pursue other opportunities. We cannot thank Henry sufficiently for his extended service, which he offered entirely voluntarily. With assistance from SHOT's Editorial Committee, the Executive Council is conducting a thorough assessment of the bibliographic operations. Look for an announcement shortly regarding a search for a new bibliographer.

Later this year, I will constitute a fourth search committee as we embark on the hunt for a new editor-in-chief for *Technology and Culture*. John Staudenmaier, who has served so ably in that post, will step down at the end of 2010. To facilitate as smooth a change as possible, we want to bring his replacement on board by the end of 2009, so that John and his staff can show the new team the ropes during a transition year. Here, too, the Editorial Committee is lending a hand by conducting a comparative review of editorial

operations at several professional societies. Their report will help guide the search committee.

With so much change imminent, the Executive Council will devote one full day of its upcoming spring meeting to a "beacon workshop," during which it will assess current activities of the Society and consider possible changes in course over the next decade. We hope to capture the insights from veterans such as Amy, Richard, and John so that our Society may continue to benefit from their extraordinary contributions for years to come.

I cannot close this report without pausing to reflect upon the enormous contributions made by volunteers to carrying out SHOT's business. Take a look back over this message: four search committees, two reports from the Editorial Committee, a day-long special meeting of the council – all this just to provide for basic continuity in staffing our essential functions. Watching such voluntarism in action is a small wonder. Thanks to all of you who lend a hand for SHOT.

Steve Usselman
Georgia Tech

You can find the latest updates regarding SHOT's Lisbon 2008 annual meeting at the website:
<http://shotlisbon2008.com/>

The following ad from the University of Maryland was accidentally overlooked and should have appeared in the 2007 Annual Meeting program. The SHOT office regrets the error, and appreciates UMD's support and understanding.



UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND

Congratulations to SHOT on the 50th!

Department of History

The Department offers excellent M.A. and Ph.D. programs in the history of science, technology and environment, supported by unparalleled local and regional archives and affiliations.

Special fields include 19th- and 20th-Century Technology, Technology and Enterprise, Technology and Environment. Our faculty members in those special fields are Robert Friedel, Betsy Mendelsohn, David Sicilia, Thomas Zeller, and (at the Smith School of Business) David Kirsch.

For more information, see <http://www.history.umd.edu/Fields/Technology/index.html> or call 301-405-4265.

Programs in Science, Technology, and Society

The College Park Scholars STS Program offers high achieving incoming students the opportunity to explore STS in small classes of students with similar academic ambitions. The University STS Certificate Program allows students to learn broadly about interdisciplinary approaches to STS. In the Gemstone Program, a multidisciplinary four-year honors research program, undergraduate students of all majors explore the interdependence of science and technology with society.

The College Park Scholars and University Certificate programs welcome Renzo Baldasso, Mandy Izadi, J. Rosser Matthews, and William Shields, who recently joined our staff and faculty, and we recognize William Evans, Sabrina Liao, Betsy Mendelsohn, and Thomas Zeller, who continue with us. We honor the 150 students in our undergraduate College Park Scholars and University Certificate programs and the almost 600 students in the Gemstone Program.

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Research fellowships for US-based scholars at the Needham Research Institute, Cambridge, UK

The Needham Research Institute (NRI), home of the Science and Civilisation in China project, provides scholars with excellent facilities for research into the history of science, technology and medicine in East Asia.

Funds granted by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation make it possible for the NRI to offer a number of 13-week fellowships tenable at the Institute for US-based scholars and researchers working within the broad field of the history of science, technology and medicine in East Asia. These fellowships are tenable during the academic year which runs from October 2008 to June, 2009, and preference will normally be given to scholars who wish to visit the Institute during the Cambridge University terms which run from October through December 2008, January through March and April through June, 2009.

Applications must include CV and a description of the work that will be done during the period of the fellowship, together with two letters of recommendation from qualified persons. The project description should indicate why it would be particularly helpful for the researcher to be able to work at the NRI.

The deadline for receipt of applications for fellowships to be taken up during the academic year 2008/2009 is **Friday May 30, 2008**.

The remit of these fellowships is intended to be as wide as is necessary to maximize the contribution they can make to the development of what is a varied and lively field, however:

(1) Recipients should normally be engaged in research using primary materials in East Asian languages. This is not however intended to exclude candidates who are also using western-language materials to carry out research into contacts between China and other countries.

(2) Recipients must either hold academic posts in a US university, or be registered for a research degree in a US university.

The fellowships will meet the costs of economy air travel to the UK, together with a grant adequate to cover living costs in Cambridge for one semester, and some support for research expenses and travel in the UK. While these fellowships are primarily intended to fund one-semester visits, under exceptional circumstances they may be held for longer periods.

The fellowships will be awarded without distinction of gender, ethnic origin or other factors irrelevant to scholarly merit. Other things being equal, preference will be given to proposals from scholars at an earlier stage of their careers, but others should not feel precluded from making applications.

Please send applications and enquiries to:

The Institute Administrator
Needham Research Institute
8 Sylvester Road
Cambridge CB3 9AF
UK

Email: admin@nri.org.uk

Details of the NRI may be found at
<http://www.nri.org.uk>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEXTILE SOCIETY OF AMERICA PUBLICATIONS INITIATIVE, FUNDED BY THE COBY FOUNDATION

The Textile Society of America (TSA) is pleased to announce the receipt of a grant from The Coby Foundation, Ltd. to develop and undertake a survey of publication needs in the fields of textile studies. As an organization founded to provide an international forum for the exchange and dissemination of information about textiles worldwide from artistic, cultural, economic, historic, political, social and technical perspectives, TSA is well positioned to undertake this investigation.

The Coby Foundation, Ltd., the only foundation in the United States to focus solely on funding projects in textiles and needle arts, is interested in this timely initiative, prompted by two factors: 1) The recognition that textiles provide a valid and important subject of study and scholarly investigation; 2) the current prevalent attitudes of some publishers, reluctant to publish scholarly monographs, particularly those which require a large number of illustrations and color reproductions. The survey will be used to ascertain current needs with regard to the publication of scholarly monographs in a diverse range of textile fields.

The survey will be distributed online to the largest possible constituency of textile scholars, academics, creative practitioners and other specialists. To facilitate the compilation of a comprehensive mailing list, we welcome your assistance. Individuals associated with academic presses (or others) with an interest in learning from this survey, please contact us with recommendations for questions or topics.

For additional information about the Textile Society of America visit the TSA website at:

<http://www.textilesociety.org>

Contact: Janice Lessman-Moss, External Relations Director, TSA, jlessman@kent.edu
Desiree Koslin, Survey Director, TSA, desiree.koslin@verizon.net

DISCOVERY & INVENTION

Editor James Ciment, PhD, and publisher M.E. Sharpe are currently looking for scholars to write articles for "Discovery and Invention: A Historical Encyclopedia of Science, Technology, and Society". Topic areas range from agriculture to weaponry, from astronomy to medicine. Articles range in length from 1000 to 4000 words. Interested parties should go to our website: www.encyclopediawebsite.com, click on "Discovery and Invention", then "click on List of Articles". If you find an article or articles that you would like to contribute, send article name(s), along with a CV and brief writing sample, to discovery.assistant@encyclopediawebsite.com

CALL FOR PAPERS

American Association for the History of Medicine Cleveland, Ohio April 23-26, 2009

The American Association for the History of Medicine invites submissions in any area of medical history for its 82nd annual meeting, to be held in Cleveland, OH, April 23-26, 2009. The Association welcomes submissions on the history of health and healing; history of medical ideas, practices, and institutions; and histories of illness, disease, and public health. Submissions from all eras and regions of the world are welcome. Besides single-paper proposals, the Program Committee accepts abstracts for sessions and for luncheon workshops. Please alert the Program Committee Chair if you are planning a session proposal. Individual papers for these submissions will be judged on their own merits.

Presentations are limited to 20 minutes. Individuals wishing to present a paper must attend the meeting. All papers must represent original work not already published or in press. Because the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* is the official journal of the AAHM, the Association encourages speakers to make their manuscripts available for consideration by the *Bulletin*.

The AAHM uses an online abstract submissions system. We encourage all applicants to use this convenient software. The website is: <http://histmed.org>

If you are unable to submit proposals online, send eight copies of a one-page abstract (350 words maximum) to the Program Committee Chair, Howard Markel, M.D., Ph.D., University of Michigan, 100 Simpson Memorial Institute, 102 Observatory, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-0725 (tel.: 734-647-6914; e-mail: howard@umich.edu).

When proposing a historical argument, state the major claim, summarize the evidence supporting the claim, and state the major conclusion(s). When proposing a narrative, summarize the story, identify the major agents, and specify the conflict. Please provide the following information on the same sheet as the abstract: name, preferred mailing address, work

and home telephone numbers, e-mail address, present institutional affiliation, and academic degrees. Abstracts must be received by **September 15, 2008**. E-mail or faxed proposals cannot be accepted.

**International Network for
Engineering Studies Workshop
Global Perspectives on Engineering
Lisbon, Portugal
October 14-15, 2008**

The International Network for Engineering Studies is sponsoring a meeting in Lisbon on October 14-15, 2008. This meeting is being held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Society for the History of Technology, and will take place over 1-1/2 days following SHOT. The theme of this INES gathering is "Global Perspectives on Engineering," and we are accepting papers that relate directly to one of the four themes listed below. We welcome scholarly work from all different humanistic and social science disciplines, and interdisciplinary areas of study. We especially welcome diverse and transnational perspectives, as well as perspectives on engineering outside of the Western context.

For this workshop, all applications should conform to one of the four proposed themes (sessions) for this meeting:

- A) Education and Societal Change
- B) Engineering Identities
- C) Engineering and the Public Sphere
- D) Engineering and Global Development (or other theme)

The workshop will be organized around pre-circulated papers (a 6-page project description or "prospectus" of limited length), although those presenting at SHOT who would like to continue conversation about their paper as appropriate to one of the four themes will be given the option of submitting their SHOT paper. Work-in-progress and early presentation of new lines of research are actively encouraged. Each of the sessions during the meeting will be devoted to an open discussion of the papers related to one of the four themes.

The event is hosted by Maria Paula Diogo, Director of the Centre of History of Science and Technology at the New University of Lisbon. We expect this to be a small, intimate workshop (maximum of 24 papers, with a ceiling of 30 total participants). Interested applicants should submit a one-page abstract (maximum 450 words) to Atsushi Akera (akeraa@rpi.edu), along with contact information including title and affiliation. Please also indicate which session(s), A-D, your paper may be best suited for. Any questions (including the current status of session "D") may also be directed to Dr. Akera. Acceptance of papers will be announced on an ongoing basis (until sessions are full), with a deadline of **May 15, 2008** or until seats are filled.

Program Committee:

Maria Paula Diogo (New University of Lisbon)
Atsushi Akera (Rensselaer)
Park Doing (Cornell)
Gary Downey (Virginia Polytechnic)
Ann Johnson (University of South Carolina)
Ulrik Jorgensen (TU Denmark)

The International Network for Engineering Studies was created in 2004 by Gary Downey (Virginia Tech), Maria Paula Diogo (New University of Lisbon), and Chyuan-Yuan Wu (National Tsing Hua University) during the Paris meeting of the Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S). It is an interdisciplinary network created to advance research and teaching in historical, social, cultural, philosophical, rhetorical, and organizational studies of engineers and engineering; to help build and serve diverse communities of researchers and teachers interested in engineering studies, and to facilitate contributions from scholarly work in engineering studies to broader discussions and debates about engineering education, research, practice, and policy. The primary means of achieving these purposes shall be by meetings, conferences, and workshops in which lectures and technical papers are presented, by organizing online forums and developing online resources for research and teaching, and by editing a journal in engineering studies. The network currently has over 250 participants. A new INES website is under construction, and will be available at www.inesweb.org.

**2008 Film & History Conference:
"Film & Science"
Chicago, IL
October 30 to November 2, 2008**

AREA: Scientific Icons

Beginning with *The Story of Louis Pasteur* in the late 1930s, a small but steady stream of films -- documentaries, dramas, and occasional comedies-- have focused on the great scientists of the past. Newton, Darwin, and Einstein have all had their turns on screen, as have J. Robert Oppenheimer (*Day One, Fat Man and Little Boy*), and the award-winning *The Day After Trinity*), Dian Fossey (*Gorillas in the Mist*), James Watson and Francis Crick (*The Race for the Double Helix*), Marie and Pierre Curie (*Madame Curie*), and many others. These films have, for better or worse, a key role in shaping the public understanding of how science works.

This area welcomes all papers that deal with films and television programs depicting real scientists whose work was important enough or influential enough to give them iconic status at the time the film was made. The list of scientists in the preceding paragraph is meant to be suggestive, but by no means exhaustive. "Scientist" is meant, for the purposes of this area, to include medical researchers (as in *Dr. Ehrlich's Magic Bullet* or *And the Band Played On*) but to exclude engineers and inventors (as in *The Story of Alexander Graham Bell* and *Young Thomas Edison*).

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

Depictions of historic scientists in specific films or television programs

Depictions of a particular scientist in multiple films and/or television programs

Scientists, fictionalized (Edward Teller/Dr. Strangelove)

Historic scientists on the A&E network's Biography

Historic scientists in classroom films

Use of dramatic conventions in telling "real" stories about scientists

Documentaries about historic scientists

Patterns: Who gets films made about them? Who gets overlooked?

Please send your paper proposal (200-250 words) or panel proposal (3-4 presenters: include individual paper proposals and a brief statement of the unifying theme) to:

Dr. A. Bowdoin Van Riper
Social and International Studies Department
Southern Polytechnic State University
1100 South Marietta Parkway
Marietta, GA 30060

Email: bvanriper@bellsouth.net or

bvanripe@spsu.edu

SECOND ROUND DEADLINE: **May 1, 2008**

www.uwosh.edu/filmandhistory

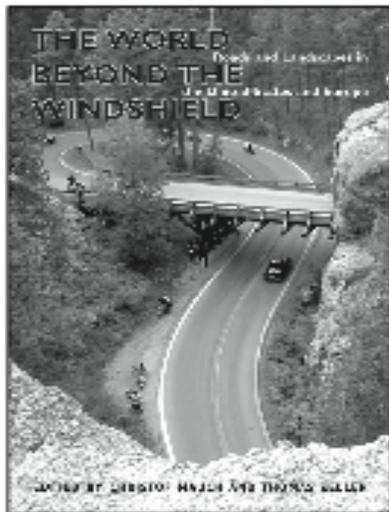
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The World beyond the Windshield

Roads and Landscapes in the United States and Europe

Edited by Christof Mauch and Thomas Zeller

The World beyond the Windshield tells the story of the transatlantic exchange of ideas about environment and technology and of the national and nationalistic appropriations of such landscaping. The authors analyze the Washington Beltway and the Blue Ridge Parkway, as well as iconic roads in Italy, Nazi Germany, East Germany, and Great Britain.

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312 pages, illus., hc \$49.95, pb \$22.95

Also of interest:

Inventing Pollution

Coal, Smoke, and Culture in Britain since 1800

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A History of the Kennedy Space Center

Kenneth Lipartito and Orville R. Butler



Just in time for NASA's 50th anniversary in 2008, this inspirational history of KSC from Mercury Redstone missiles to the International Space Station explores humankind's attempts to conquer the final frontier. This first comprehensive history of the Kennedy Space Center, NASA's famous launch facility located at Cape Canaveral, Florida, reveals the vital but largely unknown work that takes place before the rocket is launched.

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Please note...

Please check the SHOT Lisbon 2008 annual meeting website: <http://shotlisbon2008.com/> regularly over the summer for updates on the program, Lisbon special events, and the ongoing SHOT anniversary celebration. Our Lisbon organizers are planning some fabulous tours both in the city and beyond, featuring impressive history of technology and exciting sites. The Lisbon program will continue SHOT's fiftieth-anniversary celebration theme, "Looking Back / Looking Beyond."

Please watch the SHOT website this summer for our annual SHOT officer elections, with a handy link for online voting. As always, you can find not just SHOT society news, but also the latest calls for papers, grant information, job ads, prizes, and much more at SHOTnews at: <http://shotnews.net/>

Please also keep checking back to eTC, at: <http://etc.technologyandculture.net/> where some of our latest features include:

The Missing Link: Assessing the Reliability of Internet Citations in History Journals
By Edmund Russell and Jennifer Kane

Manon of Second Life: Teaching in the Virtual World
By Molly Berger

Caro versus Moses, Round Two: Robert Caro's The Power Broker
By Jon C. Teaford

Considering the Unthinkable: Chemical Weapons in Modern Warfare
By Dennis E. Showalter

Imitating Machines: Humanities Research for a Culture of Data
By Marcel O'Gorman

Apollo's Stepchildren: New Works on the American Lunar Program
By Matthew Hersch

In Memoriam: Silvio A. Bedini, 1917–2007
By Robert C. Post