

2023

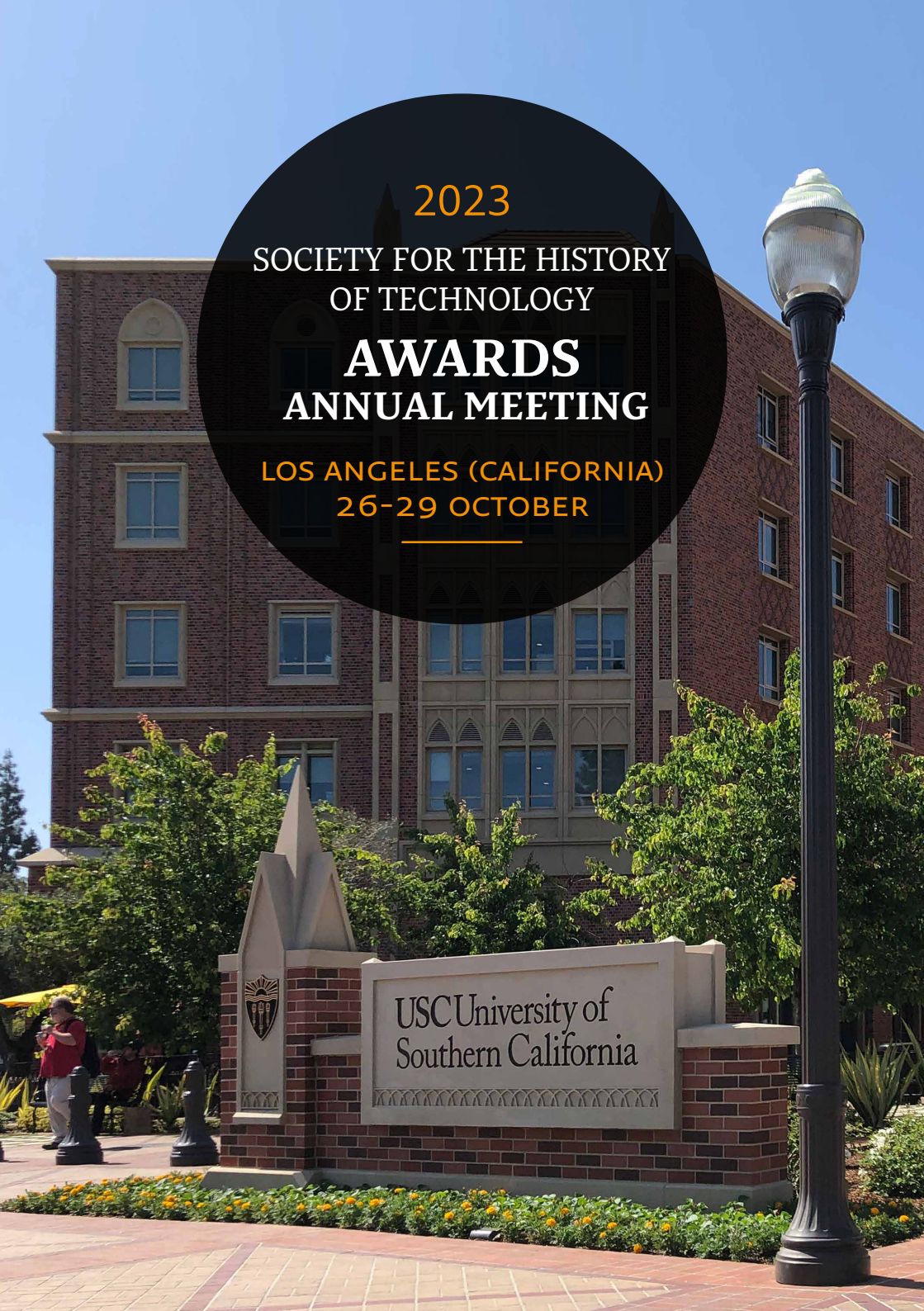
SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY
OF TECHNOLOGY

**AWARDS
ANNUAL MEETING**

LOS ANGELES (CALIFORNIA)
26-29 OCTOBER



USC University of
Southern California



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SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY

President	Gabrielle Hecht
Vice President	Deborah Douglas
Secretary	Jan Korsten
Treasurer	Amy Bix
Editor-in-Chief	Ruth Oldenziel

The Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) was formed in 1958 to encourage the study of the development of technology and its relations with society and culture. As an interdisciplinary organization, SHOT is dedicated not only to the history of technological devices and processes, but also to the relationships of technology with politics, economics, labor, social change, business, the environment, public policy, science, and the arts and humanities.

In addition to professional historians and museum curators, SHOT members include practicing scientists and engineers, anthropologists, librarians, political scientists, and economists. SHOT meets annually and also jointly sponsors smaller conferences focused on more specialized topics of common interest with other scholarly societies and organizations.

Technology and Culture, a quarterly journal, is published by the Johns Hopkins University Press for the Society for the History of Technology. In addition, SHOT publishes e-newsletter, and, with Johns Hopkins University Press the book series, *Historical Perspectives on Technology, Society, and Culture*. For further information about the Society visit our website: <http://www.historyoftechnology.org>.

SHOT 2023 AWARD AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEES

Leonardo da Vinci Medal

Arwen Mohun, Chair
David C. Brock
Priscilla Chua
Alex Sayf Cummings
Laura Ettinger
Christopher Jones
Henry Lowwood
Alexander Magoun
Mary X. Mitchell
Teasel Muir-Harmony
Corinna Schlombs
Jeff Schramm
Sean Seyer

AHA Fellowship in the History of Space Technology

Representatives from the AHA, HSS,
and SHOT comprise the review committee.
Teasel Muir-Harmony represents SHOT
in the AHA-HSS-SHOT committee.

Sidney M. Edelstein Prize

David C. Brock, Chair
Maria-Paula Diogo
Roger Launius

Kranzberg Dissertation Fellowship

Mary X. Mitchell, Chair
Peter S. Collopy
Laura Ann Twagira

Sally Hacker Prize

Alex Cummings, Chair
Meredith Broussard
Thomas S. Mullaney

Brooke Hindle Postdoctoral Fellowship

Corinna Schlombs, Chair
Mats Fridlund
Shane Hamilton

Abbott Payson Usher Prize

Christopher Jones, Chair
Lino Camprubi
Whitney Laemmler

**Samuel Eleazar and
Rose Tartakow Levinson Prize**

Jeff Schramm, Chair
Xiachang Li
Kathy Steen

**Dibner Award for Excellence
in Museum Exhibits**

Douglas Lantry, Chair
Priscilla Chua
Helmuth Trischler

Joan Cahalin Robinson Prize (2022)

David Munns, Chair
Angelina Callahan
Sean Seyer
Alicia Maggard
Tasha Rijke-Epstein
Daniel Williford

Martha Trescott Prize

Laura Ettinger, Chair
Julie Cohn
Nina Lerman

Joan Cahalin Robinson Prize (2023)

David Munns, Chair
Amy Bix
Jip van Besouw
Susan Schmidt Horning
Pete Soppelsa
Marco Storni
Daniel Williford
Aro Velmet

Race and Histories of Technologies Prize

Gabrielle Hecht, Chair
Charnell Chasten Long
Jason Ludwig
L. Ruth Rand
Tiago Saraiva
Sonja D. Schmid

Bernard S. Finn IEEE History Prize

Alexander Magoun, Chair
Sadegh Fogani
Timothy H. Stoneman

2023 SHOT AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Leonardo da Vinci Medal

The highest recognition from the Society for the History of Technology is the Leonardo da Vinci Medal, presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the history of technology, through research, teaching, publication, and other activities.

Recipient of SHOT's 2023 Da Vinci Medal:

Alex Roland, *Professor Emeritus of History, Duke University*

Dr. Alex Roland is awarded the 2023 Leonardo da Vinci Medal for his scholarly contributions to the history of technology, his service to SHOT, his dedication and influence as an educator, and his role as public-facing expert on military and aerospace history.

Roland's historical questions initially grew out of his experiences as a military officer during the Vietnam era. After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy, Roland served in the U.S. Marine Corps, part of the time as an aide to a front-line surgeon in Vietnam. He received an MA from the University of Hawaii in 1970, after which he enrolled in the doctoral program at Duke University. After several years as a staff member in the NASA History Office, Roland joined the History Department faculty at Duke University. He has also held appointments at both the U.S. Army War College and the U.S. Naval Academy.

Beginning with the publication of *Underwater Warfare in the Age of Sail* (1978) Roland's many books and articles have demonstrated his wide-ranging interest. His corpus of work covers centuries, continents, oceans, and even the reaches of outer space in pursuit of understanding the interrelationship between technology and society. His scholarly books include *Model Research: The National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, 1915- 1958* (1985), *Strategic Computing: DARPA and the Quest for Machine Intelligence, 1983- 1993* (2002, with Phillip Shiman). His most recent publication, *Delta of Power: The Military Industrial Complex* (2021) has been described by Prize winning historian Walter A. McDougall as a "synthetic masterpiece" written by a "brilliant historian."

Alex Roland has contributed intellectually and organizationally to SHOT through many decades. Following a term on the Executive Council, Alex served for four years as SHOT Secretary before becoming president in 1995. His presidency was a time of great activity, including a change in the editorship of T&C and notable accomplishments in the realm of fundraising, including the inauguration of several SHOT prizes and awards.

Roland's presidential address in London, "What Hath Kranzberg Wrought? Or, Does the History of Technology Matter?" left us with the suggestion that "We must step back from our own shared understanding that technology matters and produce scholarship to convince the

unbelievers that technology matters.” Alex Roland has practiced what he preached in that address. For many years Roland was a frequent presence on “The PBS News Hour,” and he continues to publish opinion pieces in such newspapers as the Orlando Sentinel, the Pittsburgh Press-Gazette, and the Wall Street Journal and to speak about history to a wide range of audiences.

In addition to his scholarly writing, Roland has also published several books intended for general readers and university students. As their titles often make clear, these books use the same analytic framework as his scholarly writing: *Men in Arms: A History of Warfare and Interrelationships with Western Society* (1991; with Richard Preston and Sydney Wise); *The Way of the Ship: America’s Maritime History Reenvisioned* (2007; with W. Jeffrey Bolster and Alexander Keyssar) and *War and Technology: A Very Short Introduction* (2016).

Amidst all this other activity, Roland has also dedicated himself to maintaining the highest standards of teaching at Duke but also UNC-Chapel Hill, all around the Research Triangle area – and, it sometimes seems, across all the branches of military service, from the Air War College to the Naval Academy. Former students report that he has patiently mentored both undergraduate and graduate students with rigorous, serious engagement with their work and their goals. It is a mark of his intellectual generosity that his former students have gone on to distinguished careers not only in military history, but also as far ranging as women and gender studies and agricultural history.

For these reasons we believe that Alex Roland – fifty years after his first engagement with SHOT – is a worthy candidate for the society’s highest honor.

Kranzberg Dissertation Fellowship

This award is in memory of the co-founder of the Society, and honors Melvin Kranzberg’s many contributions to developing the history of technology as a field of scholarly endeavor and SHOT as a professional organization. The \$4000 award is given to a doctoral student engaged in the preparation of a dissertation on the history of technology, broadly defined and may be used in any way chosen by the winner to advance the research and writing of that dissertation.

Recipient of the 2023 Kranzberg Dissertation Fellowship:

Felipe Trujillo, *Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile Santiago, Chile*

For: “(Green) Revolution among Engineers. Epistemic Communities and Hydric Expertise in Cold War Chile.”

The committee is delighted to award the 2023 Melvin Kranzberg Dissertation Fellowship to Felipe Trujillo. Trujillo is a doctoral student in the Instituto de Historia at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

Trujillo's research explores how engineers in Cold War Chile creatively redirected international funding for hydrology and agriculture toward local and national priorities. This impressive dissertation project traces the transnational personal and professional trajectories of more than fifty Chilean engineers during the 1960s and 1970s. Approaching the "Green Revolution" from Chilean standpoints, Trujillo sheds light on the ways in which local experts and communities influenced international technical development. Priorities for water projects, he suggests, were less imposed from above than shaped at the grass roots by engineers who leveraged international study and collaboration to develop a distinctly Chilean set of knowledges, practices, projects, and priorities. Trujillo's research contributes to growing efforts to recenter transnational historiographies of technology and technical development by grounding them in the Global South.

Trujillo will use the Kranzberg Fellowship funding to conduct archival research at the University of California, Davis, an institution at which numerous Chilean engineers pursued educational opportunities and developed enduring collaborations.

Brooke Hindle Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Brooke Hindle Postdoctoral Fellowship in the History of Technology honors the contribution of Brooke Hindle to the work of the Society for the History of Technology. The Fellowship, made possible thanks to the great generosity of his family, is for \$10,000 and may be used for any purpose connected with research or writing in the history of technology for a period of not less than four months during the year following the award.

Recipient of the 2023 Brooke Hindle Postdoctoral Fellowship:

Fabian Prieto-Ñañez, *Virginia Tech*

For "Pirates of the Caribbean Skies: Technology and Entrepreneurship in the Rise of Satellite Dishes in the Caribbean."

SHOT is delighted to offer the 2023 Brooke Hindle Post-doctoral Fellowship to Fabian Mauricio Prieto-Ñañez for the project, "Pirates of the Caribbean Skies: Technology and Entrepreneurship in the Rise of Satellite Dishes in the Caribbean." This research analyzes the history of commercial satellite television in the Americas from the 1970s to the 1990s. Prieto-Ñañez explores the challenges faced by technical entrepreneurs in Central American and Caribbean countries who localized satellite television devices and altered regional media distribution. Prieto-Ñañez contrasts United States commercial satellite design to the way Caribbean entrepreneurs and enthusiasts created new services, involving a complex story of hacking and tinkering techniques, encryption methods, and market dynamics.

Prieto-Ñañez is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Science, Technology, and Society at Virginia Tech. Prieto-Nanez will be using this fellowship support for dissertation revision, expanding research with further archival work and preparing a manuscript for publication as a full monograph in the history of technology. SHOT appreciates this work as a fascinating intersection of the history of technology, infrastructure, business and entrepreneurship. This project emphasizes the significance of studying technologies outside of conventional innovation hubs. It also advances studies of the history of technology within diverse contexts of the Americas, widening an important conversation about the history of technologies, media, geography, and mobility.

AHA Fellowship in the History of Space Technology

The Fellowships in Aerospace History are offered annually by the National Aeronautics Space Administration (NASA) to support significant scholarly research projects in aerospace history. These fellowships grant the opportunity to engage in significant and sustained advanced research in all aspects of the history of aerospace from the earliest human interest in flight to the present, including cultural and intellectual history, economic history, history of law and public policy, and the history of science, engineering, and management. NASA provides funds to the American Historical Association and to the History of Science Society to allow both associations to award fellowships.

Recipient of the 2023-24 AHA Fellowship in the History of Space Technology:

Haris Durrani, Princeton University

For: “A Satellite for All: Law, Technology, and Empire in the Global Cold War, 1959–68.”

Sidney M. Edelstein Prize

Established in 1968 through the generosity of the late Dr. Sidney Edelstein, a noted expert on the history of dyes, founder of a successful specialty chemical manufacturing firm, and 1988 recipient of SHOT’s Leonardo da Vinci Award, the Edelstein Prize is awarded by SHOT to the author of an outstanding scholarly book in the history of technology published during any of the three years preceding the award. The prize, donated by Ruth Edelstein Barish and her family in memory of Sidney Edelstein and his commitment to excellence in scholarship in the history of technology, consists of \$3500 and a plaque.

Recipient of the 2023 Sidney M. Edelstein Prize:

Stephan F. Miescher, University of California, Santa Barbara

For: *A Dam for Africa: Akosombo Stories from Ghana* (Indiana University Press, 2022).

Stephan Miescher's *A Dam for Africa* is a wonderfully rich, broadly diverse, and deeply-researched study centered on the Akosombo Dam across the Volta River in Ghana. Miescher's extensive archival and oral history research spans continents, and reveals the many different and often surprising ways that this large-scale hydroelectric dam project was connected with local, regional, and transnational politics and political economy. The Akosombo Dam came into existence through these connections: anti-colonial Pan-Africanism, Ghanaian national politics, British postcolonial policy, the structures of the international aluminum industry, modernist architecture and regional planning, modernization theory, the nonalignment movement, US and Soviet Cold War policy, and more. Importantly, Miescher's oral history work with displaced Ghanaians, plant workers, foreign managers, local government administrators, and others delicately reveals the equivocal experience of the Akosombo Dam for everyone involved. Miescher's Akosombo stories are complex stories of overlapping and diverging interests, of harms and benefits, of materials and people. Further, Miescher's expansive methodology encompasses participating in a documentary film, Ghana's *Electric Dreams*, that accompanies *A Dam for Africa* and is freely available online.

Sally Hacker Prize

The Sally Hacker Prize was established in 1999 to honor exceptional scholarship that reaches beyond the academy toward a broad audience. Any book published in the three years preceding the year of the award is eligible. The prize consists of an award of \$2,000.

Recipient of the 2023 Sally Hacker Prize:

Alexander Monea, *George Mason University*

For: *The Digital Closet: How the Internet Became Straight* (MIT Press, 2023).

The Sally Hacker Prize Committee proudly recognizes *The Digital Closet* as work of exceptional scholarship that will resonate with the public at large as strongly it does within the academy. Monea's groundbreaking work is fearless and counterintuitive, addressing urgent contemporary issues surrounding digital identity, privacy, and surveillance. Through a meticulous excavation of the hidden heteronormative biases entrenched within our online world—from algorithms and content moderation to keyword tagging—Monea conveys in propulsive and crisp prose how the internet has been systematically straightened, sidelining and silencing LGBTQIA+ voices in the process. His discovery of unexpected alliances within anti-porn movements and the consequent censorship of essential non-pornographic material not only challenges our assumptions but demands a wholesale reevaluation of the very infrastructure of our digital

lives. *The Digital Closet* urges us to grapple with the challenges of digital personhood and self-discovery, and question the very spacetime of the internet we navigate on a daily basis.

Abbott Payson Usher Prize

The Abbott Payson Usher Prize was established in 1961 to honor the scholarly contributions of the late Dr. Usher and to encourage the publication of original research of the highest standard. It is awarded annually to the author of the best scholarly work published during the preceding three years under the auspices of the Society for the History of Technology. The prize consists of a check and a certificate.

Recipient of the 2023 Abbott Payson Usher Prize:

Leor Halevi, *Vanderbilt University*

For: “What Hath Allah Wrought? The Global Invention of Prescriptive Machines for the Islamic Consumer, 1975–2010”. *Technology & Culture*, vol. 62 no. 3, 2021, p.741-779.

The Usher Prize committee is pleased to announce Leor Halevi as the winner of the 2023 Abbott Payson Usher Prize for his article “What Hath Allah Wrought? The Global Invention of Prescriptive Machines for the Islamic Consumer, 1975–2010.”

Halevi’s extensively researched and well written article invites readers to explore the relationships between religion and technology. It has often been assumed that the two are antagonistic, particularly in conservative religious cultures. By revisiting a traditional source of evidence for historians (patent databases) with a new set of questions, Halevi demonstrates a flurry of inventive activity targeting Muslim consumers since the last quarter of the twentieth century. These religious technologies, such as watches that announced prayer times and calculated the direction to Mecca or devices to block cellular phones during times of worship, sought to tap technological advances to enhance religiosity. Yet they did so in ways that were prescriptive, tending to discipline consumers into strict versions of Islamic practice. These machines offered some “affordances” to consumers, but more “constraints” that encouraged orthopraxy rather than flexibility (p. 744).

The committee lauds Halevi for the breadth and comparative nature of his research. His article is global in scope, tracking inventors in places including the Middle East, America, Switzerland, China, and Japan. And while it is focused on Islamic inventions, he offers compelling contrasts to other major world religions including Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, and Hinduism. The resulting article, with its helpful appendix on utilizing newly digitized patent databases, offers a wide-ranging and imaginative look at the interconnections between religion and technology.

Samuel Eleazar and Rose Tartakow Levinson Prize

The Samuel Eleazar and Rose Tartakow Levinson Prize is awarded each year for a single-authored, unpublished essay in the history of technology that explicitly examines, in some detail, a technology or technological device or process within the framework of social or intellectual history. It is intended for younger scholars and new entrants into the profession. The award consists of a check and a certificate.

Recipient of the 2023 Samuel Eleazar and Rose Tartakow Levinson Prize:

Tom Kelsey, *University of Oxford*

For: “Fighting the Supersonic Deception: the critics of Concorde in post-war Britain.”

The Anglo-French Concorde supersonic passenger airliner was a masterpiece of engineering, but a commercial failure. In the UK it was criticized from the beginning by individuals both within and outside of the British government. This clear and compelling account of the resistance to the Concorde project argues that resistance was more than simply neo-liberal officials worried about cost, elite politicians pining for a mythical past, and environmentalists concerned about sonic booms. “What the critics of Concorde shared was not environmentalism or a hostility to modernity, but a wariness about state power.” Taking a political economic approach and making explicit comparisons to the failed US supersonic transport program and the nuclear breeder reactor, this excellent work demonstrates that it was British technonationalism that kept the program alive and supported until the true costs were widely known. “...it was national delusion whose pretence could not be broken.”

Eugene S. Ferguson Prize

The Eugene S. Ferguson Prize is awarded biennially by SHOT for an outstanding and original reference work that will support future scholarship in the history of technology. The Ferguson Prize recognizes work that is in the tradition of scholarly excellence established by Eugene S. Ferguson (1916–2004), SHOT’s pioneering bibliographer, a founding member of the Society (President, 1977–1978; da Vinci Medalist, 1977), museum curator and exhibit catalog author, editor, annotator, university professor, and scholar of the history of engineering and technology. The prize consists of a plaque and a cash award.

The Prize Committee decided not to award the 2023 Ferguson Prize.

Joan Cahalin Robinson Prize (2022)

Established in 1980 by Dr. Eric Robinson in memory of his wife, the prize is awarded annually for the best-delivered paper by an individual who is making his or her first appearance at the Society's annual meeting. Candidates for the award are judged not only on the quality of the historical research and scholarship of their paper, but also on the effectiveness of the oral presentation. The Robinson Prize consists of a check and a certificate.

Recipient of the 2022 Joan Cahalin Robinson Prize:

Salwa Hoque, *New York University*

For: "Digital Databases: Colonial Legacies Reinscribed in Technologies."

Honorable Mention Joan Cahalin Robinson Prize 2022

Brian Fairley, *New York University*

For: "The Birth of Multichannel Sound from the Spirit of Race Science."

Bernard S. Finn IEEE History Prize

The Bernard S. Finn IEEE History Prize is supported by the IEEE Life Members' Fund and administered by the Society for the History of Technology. The prize is awarded annually to the best paper in the history of electrotechnology—power, electronics, telecommunications, and computer science – published during the preceding year. The prize consists of \$500 and a certificate.

Recipient of the 2023 Bernard S. Finn IEEE History Prize:

Edmund Russell, *Carnegie Mellon University*

"Capitalism Matters: How Financial and Technological Innovations Shaped U.S. Telegraphs, 1845-60." *Technology and Culture*, vol. 63, no. 1, 2022, p. 31-60.

Edmund Russell's article represents a significant and mature work of scholarship written with exemplary clarity. His research into the early financing of telegraph networks leads him to argue that historians of technology should make capitalism, particularly its financial aspects, a major theme in writing on innovation. Russell not only introduces and unpacks a new element in user studies – the role of investors in telegraphy, but his dialectical concepts of "capital mining" and "capital foraging" are helpful tools for any scholar following the money in the course of historical change.

As a case study, the article corrects the historiography and adds greatly to our understanding of American telegraphy. It explains how the United States, despite – not because of – its immense geography, combined with its mode of private capitalist practices, “created the largest telegraph system in the world.” Russell discusses the systemic, geographic, and infrastructural exceptionalisms involved by integrating telegraphy’s technological growth with the equally exceptional American financial system in the co-construction of a “telegraphic model of finance capitalism.” He details how the networks in the formative period were “just right” in size to require capital investment, yet be affordable to investors beyond the major city banks. These merchants from the small towns that extended the telegraph’s networks did not seek profit from their stocks but instead hoped to “increase profit for their own business.” A learned and provocative call to arms based on multi-archival research, Russell indeed demonstrates that, in the history of technology, “Capitalism Matters.”

Dibner Award for Excellence in Museum Exhibits

The Dibner Award for Excellence in Museum Exhibits was established in 1985, through the generosity of Bern Dibner, to recognize excellence in museums and museum exhibits that interpret the history of technology, industry, and engineering to the general public. The award consists of a plaque and up to \$1,000 to cover expenses for a member of the design team to accept the award at the SHOT awards banquet.

Information regarding the 2023 Dibner Award for Excellence in Museum Exhibits was not available at time of press.

Martha Trescott Prize

The Martha Trescott Prize will be given annually for the best published essay in one of two areas. In even-numbered years, the prize will be awarded to an outstanding published historical essay in the area of women in technology. In odd-numbered years, the prize will be awarded to an outstanding published essay in the area of social responsibility of engineers in history. Martha Trescott was one of the pioneering spirits behind Women in Technological History (WITH). She wished to honor Frances McConnell Moore, Carroll Pursell, and Edwin T. Layton, Jr., with this prize. The award consists of a \$500 check and a certificate.

Recipient of the 2023 Martha Trescott Prize:

Owain Lawson, *University of Toronto*

For “A National Vocation: Engineering Nature and State in Lebanon’s Merchant Republic.”

Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, vol. 40, no. 1, May 2021, p. 71–87.

The 2023 Martha Trescott Prize awards an outstanding published historical essay in the area of social responsibility of engineers in history. This year, the committee considered a large field of excellent essays, each of which shows how the history of engineering, as Trescott had hoped, is intertwined with the history of societal betterment. The articles focused on – and were written by scholars from – the United States and various places around the world. The authors included historians of technology, as well as scholars of literature, public health history, and architectural history. Out of this marvelous and wide-ranging field, the committee is pleased to award this year’s prize to Owain Lawson for his article, “A National Vocation: Engineering Nature and State in Lebanon’s Merchant Republic.”

“A National Vocation” highlights big state-sponsored engineering projects, offering a case study of a post-colonial government in a new independent state, Lebanon, in the twentieth century. Lawson examines tensions between elite actors, who hoped to see state engineering projects directly benefit the burgeoning trade economy, from which they benefited, and engineers, who envisioned state-sponsored infrastructure development that could support broader and more equitably distributed economic goals. Lawson illustrates the pathways – economic, academic, and experiential – that separated the elite from the bureaucratic engineers. At stake was the country’s emergence from French colonial rule and its redefinition as a modern, independent state. Lawson argues that the emerging engineering bureaucrats established a role for state-led development that could benefit both the (mostly urban) elites and the impoverished rural regions of the country. Lawson challenges James Scott’s widely regarded conception of the role of modern states in rationalizing landscapes by illustrating that bureaucrats with technical expertise in this specific modernizing state – Lebanon – executed a different vision of what central authority could do.

Based on his extensive research, Lawson makes a sophisticated argument, critiquing not only Scott’s interpretation but also previous views of Lebanese development, and in the process, he helps political historians understand how engineers affected politics. He uses his knowledge of many different aspects of history, including environmental, education, and gender history, to tell a nuanced, well-supported, and significant story.

Lawson’s article is a perfect match for this prize focused on the social responsibility of engineers in history. Left out of formal decisions, the engineering bureaucrats in post-colonial Lebanon tried to create change in the only ways available to them, advocating for their values and working “to engineer a larger, more inclusive, and more deeply penetrating central state.” (Lawson p. 77) Importantly, Lawson tells a story of a part of the world that is often left out of histories of technology. Yet the questions he asks and answers have application to other nations: how does the training of engineers affect their worldview? Who is promoting dams, and who isn’t, and for whose benefit? What are the consequences of a laissez-faire approach to

development? What are the alternatives to that approach? Lawson's article prompts us to consider the ways that engineers have thought about land, poverty, and access to resources – that is, to think deeply about engineers' obligation to the societies in which they live and work, the focus of the Martha Trescott Prize.

Honorable mention, Martha Trescott Prize 2023

John Dean Davis, *The Ohio State University*

For: "Hope, Anger, and Engineering in a Reconstruction Landscape." *Buildings & Landscapes*, vol. 29, no. 2, Fall 2022, p. 51-73.

Race and Histories of Technologies Prize

The prize is part of a collective commitment for addressing systemic and epistemic racism at SHOT and in the global intellectual field it represents. The prize is intended for junior scholars and new entrants to the profession worldwide. The prize will be awarded for a single-authored, unpublished essay in any language that is of a length suitable for publication in Technology and Culture.

Recipient of the 2023 Race and Histories of Technologies Prize:

Kelcey Gibbons, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

For: "Making Technology Black: James C. W. Pennington, Martin R. Delany, and the Nineteenth Century Effort to Imagine a Black Future by Reframing the Past."

In "Making Technology Black: James C. W. Pennington, Martin R. Delany, and the Nineteenth Century Effort to Imagine a Black Future by Reframing the Past," author Kelcey Gibbons offers an original reappraisal of the Black radical tradition by foregrounding the role played by technology in the thought of two African American historians. She argues that these two intellectuals were part of a 19th century futurist project to imagine Black freedom in technological (as well as other) terms. They were among the first to link the history of enslaved African Americans with that of humans who built the earliest complex civilizations. As Gibbons pithily puts it, Pennington and Delany argued that "to be Black is to be technological – it is to have changed over time." The paper thus challenges the association of technological knowledge with European whiteness found not just in the dominant historical record, but also in historiography. By finding history of technology in underappreciated sources, this paper reassesses the role of technology in Black history, and of African Americans in technological thought.



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In 2024 we will meet in Viña del Mar (Chile),
9-14 July 2024.