



ORAL-HISTORY INTERVIEWS IN EUROPE AND ASIA

In 1993 the Center received a major grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to allow several significant enhancements to a major project (the History of IEEE Technologies Project) that the Center had then just undertaken. (The principal objective of the project is to write, in three volumes, a comprehensive history of the development of electrical technology; see Newsletters 31 and 33.) One of the enhancements provided by the Mellon grant is the addition of more than a hundred oral-history interviews with leaders of electrotechnology outside the United States. As part of this effort, four staff members have conducted 37 interviews in Europe and Korea in recent months.

In Denmark Nebeker interviewed **Gunnar Pedersen**, long-time head of the Danish Post and Telegraph Administration. Pedersen talked about his father, P.O. Pedersen, who worked closely with Valdemar Poulsen on two outstanding achievements: the magnetophone, which was the first magnetic recording device, and the arc transmitter, the first practical continuous-wave radio transmitter. Gunnar Pedersen talked also about the development of radio and television broadcasting in Denmark—a development in which he played a major role. Nebeker interviewed both **Per Brüel** and **Viggo Kjaer**, the two founders of one of the leading instrument manufacturers in Europe (Brüel & Kjaer). He talked also with three former directors of the consumer electronics company Bang & Olufsen: **Jens Bang** (son of the founder Peter Bang), **Knud Holst**, and **Keld Harder**. Nebeker interviewed also **Jacob Jensen**, the famous industrial designer who for many years was the principal designer for Bang & Olufsen.

SWEDEN AND DENMARK

In a trip to Sweden and Denmark, Research Historian Frederik Nebeker conducted 12 interviews. In Sweden he talked with **Janis Bubenko** and **Lars Zetterberg**, both of the Royal Institute of Technology, with **Johan Schleimann-Jensen** of Jensen Elektronik, with **Torkel Wallmark** of the Chalmers Institute of Technology, and with **Bertil Thorén** formerly of ASEA. Thorén's long career at ASEA put him at the center of a number of pioneering projects in the development of high-voltage power transmission. In the city of Jönköping Erik Karlson (see illustration), founder of the Radio Museum, gave Nebeker a tour of that outstanding collection of radios, televisions, and phonographs (some 3000 in all, one third of them on display).

AUSTRIA AND ITALY

Research Historian David Morton spent approximately 10 days in Vienna and Milan. His Viennese interviews were concentrated in two areas, consumer safety testing and the Austrian electronics manufacturing facility of Philips Corporation. Interviewee **Norbert Adler**, who heads the main Austrian industry association for electrical appliances, discussed the formation of the consumer rights movement in Austria after World War II. A second interviewee, **Gottfried Biegelmeier**, is the director of a laboratory dedicated to destructive testing of domestic electrical equipment. This interview concluded with a fascinating tour of the laboratory and Dr. Biegelmeier's "torture devices."

Morton completed several interviews with current or former employees of Philips Electronics, which maintains a major manufacturing plant in the outskirts of Vienna. Interviews of **Erich Länger** and **Rudolf Drabek** focused on the development of audio and video recording devices.

The next stop was Milan, where IEEE members and Italian corporations generously arranged for interviews with a variety of leading figures in several fields. Morton met with **Virgilio Floriani**, retired founder of the transmission equipment maker Telettra. Morton also spoke with **Guido Vannuchi** of RAI (the Italian Broadcasting Company), **Paolo Gazzana-Priaroggia** of Pirelli Cable, Ottorino Beltrami of



Erik Karlson at his museum in Jönköping, Sweden.

CENTER FOR THE HISTORY OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

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Staff Notes

Brownlee Departs

The Center's Assistant to the Director, Nichole Brownlee, has transferred to a new position in the IEEE Technical Activities department. Nichole's hard work at the center for the past two years is greatly appreciated. We wish her well in her new position.

HOT Courses at Rutgers

Members of the Center's staff are teaching several courses in the history of technology (HOT) at Rut-

gers University in the 1996-1997 academic year.

David Morton's class, "Inventors and Invention", uses historical examples to teach students how to interpret contemporary technological change. Some of his students' research projects explore developments in electrical technology such as the computer input device known as the mouse, the television remote control, and thin video displays. He has intrigued his young audience with displays of artifacts such as the 8"

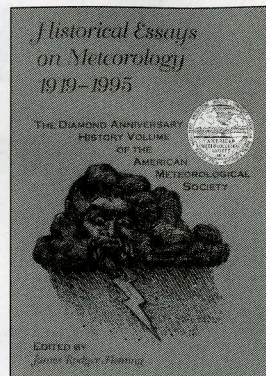
floppy disk, a common tool in personal and mini computing in the 1970s and early 80s, but one largely unfamiliar to the under-20 set. This fall, Janet Abbate is teaching a seminar on material culture in America and in the spring she will teach Rutgers' history of technology survey class.

The Center's goal for these classes is to heighten students' awareness of the nature of design and the engineering process, as well as introduce them to historically sound methods for understanding the life cycle of technologies.

Nebeker Publishes

At the invitation of the American Meteorological Society, Nebeker contributed a chapter to the AMS diamond anniversary volume. The book, edited by James Fleming

and entitled *Historical Essays in Meteorology 1919 - 1995*, has just been published by the American Meteorological Society. Nebeker's chapter, "A History of Calculating Aids in Meteorology", discusses the use by meteorologists of numerical tables, mechanical calculators, graphical techniques, punched-card machines, analog computers, and digital computers. Since the 17th century (when instruments were invented to measure temperature, atmospheric pressure, humidity, wind direction, and wind force) meteorology has been a quantitative science generating huge volumes of data. Operations such as conversion of units, corrections applied to observed readings, and reduction to standard conditions placed great calculational demands, as did the efforts of meteorologists



from the late 19th century onward to relate laws of physics to observed readings. Nebeker's chapter documents the proliferation in meteorology of calculating aids from the early 19th century to the mid 20th century (as calculation assumed a greater and greater role in forecasting and in theoretical meteorology) and the replacement of almost all other calculating aids by the electronic digital computer in the 1970s and 1980s.

Graduate Assistants

As the new school year begins, the History Center once again, through the IEEE's relationship with Rutgers University, is benefiting from the services of four talented research assistants from the university's graduate history program. In 1996-97, Jill Anderson will begin her third year here, and Veronica Wilson, who worked at the Center as a research assistant in 1994-95 and as a summer intern in 1995, will also return. The Fall semester will see two new faces in the Center's graduate student squad:

- **Stasia Ananson** received a B.A. in history from Rutgers College. She is currently planning her dissertation on conceptions of time and progress in seventeenth and eighteenth-century Europe.
- **Jill Anderson** received a B.A. in history from Carleton College and an M.A. in American history from Vanderbilt University. She recently began her dissertation on relationships between poetry, aesthetics, and masculinity in the early nineteenth century.
- **Rosanne Currarino** received a B.A. in history from Swarthmore College and an M.A. in public history from Northeastern University. She is writing her dissertation on the "Labor Question" and changing cultural meanings of work in turn-of-the-century America.
- **Veronica Wilson** received a B.A. in history and political science from Kansas State University and attended the 1989 United Nations Semester. She is beginning her dissertation on espionage during the early Cold War, with an emphasis on relationships between political subversion and gender.

Center Activities

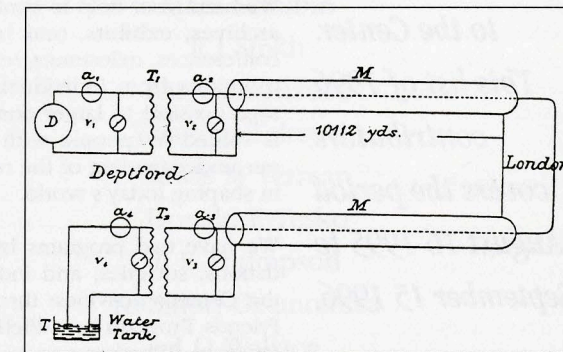
HONG WINS 1996 LIFE MEMBER PRIZE

Each year the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) presents an award for the best paper on the history of electrical technology published during the preceding year. The award is sponsored by the IEEE Life Member Committee and administered by the Center. At the recent SHOT meeting in London the award for 1996 was presented to Sungook Hong for his article "Forging Scientific Electrical Engineering: John Ambrose Fleming and the Ferranti Effect" published in *Isis: An International Review Devoted to the History of Science and Its Cultural Influences*, vol. 86 (1995), pp. 30-51.

In the article Hong examines a major shift in the theories, practices, and participants in late 19th-century British electrical engineering by focusing on the generation and resolution during the 1890s of a highly visible and disruptive controversy surrounding the 10,000-volt Deptford power station near London. Designed and built by the chief engineer Sebastian de Ferranti for the London Electric Supply Company in 1890, the Deptford station was unique in its huge size, high voltage, great transmission distances, and enormous cost. The station became the focal point for a public dispute when a mysterious fire damaged much of the power plant and a rumor circulated that a spontaneous increase in voltage in the main lines was accountable. John Ambrose Fleming, professor of electrical engineering at University College London, and James Swinburne, a practicing engineer, spearheaded the debate over this counterintuitive increase in voltage with distance from the power

source, later known as the Ferranti effect, and the practical means for eliminating it from the power system. Fleming's skillful adaptation of theoretical physics to such huge alternating-current systems and his use of data from controlled field experiments, which together provided a practical approach to the problems of the Deptford station, persuaded other engineers of the value of scientific theory in electrical engineering practice. By the end of the dispute Fleming had clarified the Ferranti effect and also created a new professional niche for scientist-engineers.

In Hong's view this controversy epitomized the period's contentious interactions between practicing engineers, with expertise from the workshop and actual systems, and university-based scientist-engineers, with expertise in mathematics and in theoretical and experimental physics. Each group saw itself as better able to solve the practical problems of electric-power engineering. Hong, who draws heavily on archival as well as published sources, weaves together details of the machinery, the electrical phenomena, and problems of measurement with consideration of the business and professional environment in which the Ferranti effect was identified and debated.



Fleming's controlled field experiment on the Ferranti Effect. From *Journal of the Institution of Electrical Engineers 1891, 20: 389*.

The newsletter reports on the activities of the Center and on new resources and projects in electrical history. It is published three times each year by the Center for the History of Electrical Engineering.

Mailing address:
Rutgers University
39 Union Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08903
Telephone: (908) 932-1066
Fax: (908) 932-1193
e-mail: history@ieee.org

http://www.ieee.org/history_center

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Frederik Nebeker, *Research Historian*
f.nebeker@ieee.org

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a.goldstein@ieee.org

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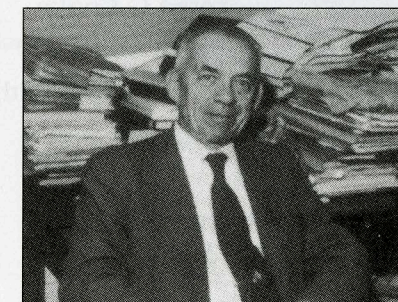
BELLASCHI COLLECTION

In May, the Center received a collection of more than 400 lantern slides and other types of images of electrical technologies. The objects represented in the collection include test equipment, transformers, power lines and towers, lightning & discharge equipment, insulators, switching equipment, capacitors, and vehicles. There are also assorted maps, and pictures of people.

The collection came from Peter L. Bellaschi, a recently deceased IEEE Fellow who was an internationally recognized expert in the field of lightning research. Dr. Bellaschi was born on February 13, 1903 in Piedmont, Italy. He came to the United States in 1913, and studied at MIT, earning his Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering in 1926, and his Master's in 1928. Employed by Westinghouse between 1928 and 1939, Bellaschi worked on high voltage engineering, lightning research, and transformer insulation design. Among his many accomplishments, Bellaschi has been credited with being the principle technical contributor to the team that developed the machinery to create the first man-made lightning stroke, at Westinghouse's Sharon, PA high-voltage laboratory in the mid-1930s. During the 1943-1947 period, he worked on the TIDD Project, which brought extra high volt-

ages (345 kV and 500 kV) to the United States. Working as a consultant to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) in the northwest United States, he played a major role in the development and design of the BPA 500 kV main grid and in advancing studies of 1200 kV. Bellaschi is the 1982 recipient of the IEEE's William M. Habirshaw award for outstanding contributions in the field of the transmission and distribution of electrical power, and the author or co-author of over 44 papers published in IEEE/AIEE journals.

The transfer of Bellaschi's materials to the History Center was arranged by Ralph Lee Bunnell.



Peter Bellaschi

Donors

Our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to the Center. This list of 1996 contributors covers the period August 16 1995 to September 15 1996.

The Center continues to work hard to preserve the history of electrical engineering and spread the word to electrical engineers, students, and the general public. Great progress was made this past year in achieving financial stability with the establishment of the Center's quasi-endowment (see Newsletter #41), but we still depend heavily on the IEEE General Fund, project grants, Rutgers, and contributions from companies, foundations, societies, and people like you. We need your help to continue our work developing archives, exhibits, oral histories, popular articles, conferences, milestones, teaching, and research. Contributions from individuals sends the clearest message possible to larger donors that the Center's work is valued by people with an interest in deepening our understanding of the role of electrical technology in shaping today's world.

We have two programs by which companies, foundations, societies, and individuals can help support the Center's activities: through an annual gift to the Friends Program or a lifetime gift to the Partnership Program. Whether you give to the Friends Program or the Partnership Program, your gift is tax-deductible and its use is overseen by the IEEE

Friends Committee, a group of distinguished electrical engineers appointed by the IEEE Foundation. Partnership donations not earmarked for a specific project are channeled to the quasi-endowment, as a means to provide continuing support to the Center. Partnership contributions may be fulfilled over several years. A list of the Center's partners can be found on the back cover of all issues of the History Center's newsletter and near the front of all of its books. All donations to either the Friends Program or the Partnership Program should be made payable to the "IEEE Foundation Friends Fund."

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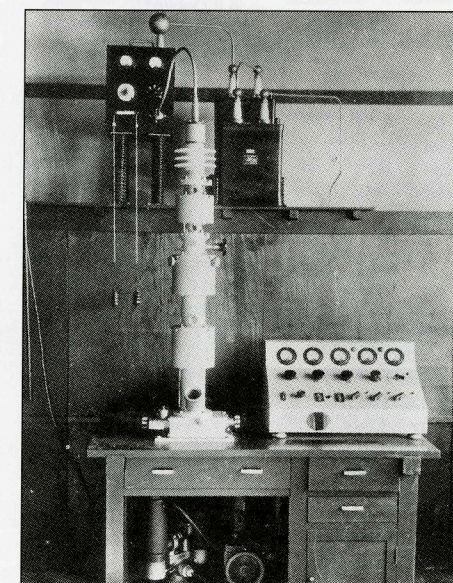
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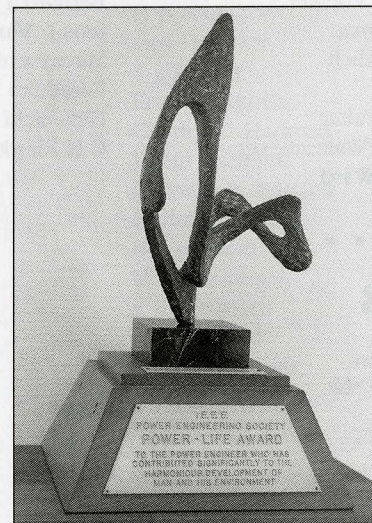
An early Japanese electron microscope, the JEOL DA-1, 1947.

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Other Contributors

S T Brewer
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 Alejandro Briano
 E Bridges
 N A Bries
 Charles D Briner
 J D Brobst
 Richard G. Broden
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 George Broomell
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 Masafumi Ide
 R K Idehara
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 Hiromasa Ikeda
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 Tadao Ikeda
 Takehiro Ikeuchi
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 Donald A Ingels
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 Alex C Kelly
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 Tee K Ket
 P M Ketchum
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 Tjong T Khian
 Wan-feng Kiang
 Dwight Kibler
 B Kidorf
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 Mark Kieler
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 Dieter Kirchner
 Xavier Kirchner
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 J H Kirkpatrick Jr
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 Yasuchika Kishimoto
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 Ikutaro Kojima
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 Jan K Kok
 P L Kolarik
 Erik L Kollberg
 David P Koller
 Harwood G Kolsky
 E R Kooi
 E M Kooker
 Michael W Koop
 Eugene H Kopp
 Clinton H Kopper
 J M Kopper
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 Kazunori Kotani
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 W H Kummer
 Michael E Kunsman
 Morihiko Kurata
 Kiyohiro Kurisu
 Sadao H Kuwamoto
 Linda S Kuzniar
 Ching P Kwong
 R L Kyhl
 John W La Londe

Other Contributors

Timo I Laakso
H A Lachoski
Wai S Lai
Yinchieh Lai
Eugene H Laird
Bruce M Laitinen
Vincent R Lalli
Michael R Lamartina
Jefferson P Lamb
R D Lambert Jr
George L Lang
P Lang
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Beril J Lapson
G J Largess
Charles L Larocca
Thomas W Larsen
Scott E Larson
A A Lassila
Michael J Lastella
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Kalevi Laukkanen
D R Lautzenheiser
Robert Lawrence
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G L Le Baron
James F Le Brun
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Curtis E Leach
Gregory S Leach
Jack Lebid
Irwin L Lebow
David J Leciston
Barry Lee
Choo Hie Lee
Gregory Lee
Jeewon Lee
Seong-hee Lee
Suk Won Lee
Wei Shun Lee
Knut R Leer
David M Legate
E E Lehtola
Will E Leland
D J Lemens
Cuauhtemoc Lemus
C C Lencioni Jr
Rodney M Lenz
Kenneth E Leonard
Louis G Leonard
Andre C H Leong
W Leonhard
Michael Leskela
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Winston D Lew
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Peter A Lewis
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Arno Linder
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Ming-Lee Ling
M F Lippincott
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Julian R Livingston
L H Lloyd
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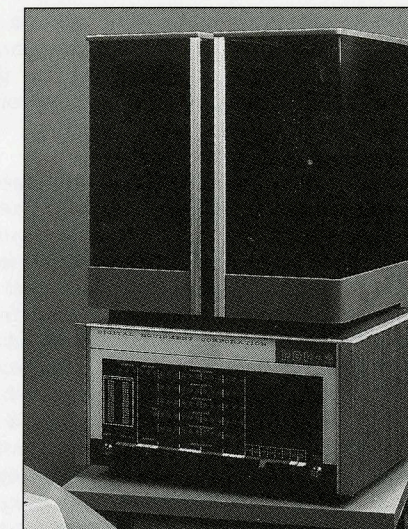
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Oquena
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H Raillard
Delvan A Ramey
Mohamad Ramlan
Isidro Ramos
R W Ramsey Jr
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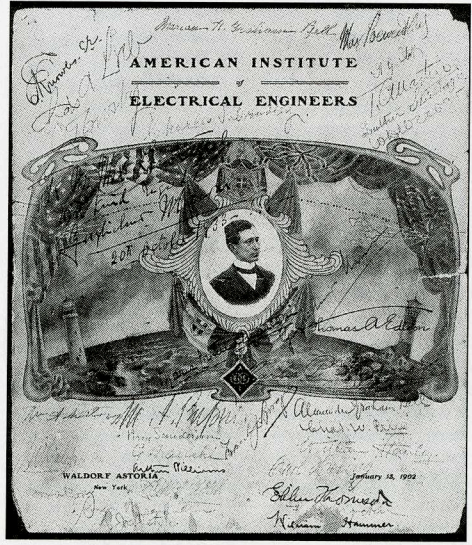
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D A Schneebeck
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A Soltesz
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Miguel A Seoane
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O Shapiro
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Teck-Seng Shuan
Skuli Sigurdsson
R Silberstein
Guillermo J Silva
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Peter G Simpkin
J R Singer
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Greg Skyles
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Masaki Takahashi
Shigeru Takahashi
Rodolfo M Soria
Juan C Soto Merino
Paolo Spagni
T G Spargo
Michael Spencer
Charles J Spiteri
J F Spivey
M Springel
G A Squires
Mark R Stacey
Forrest L Staffanson
John C Stamatiou
Alec G Stanculescu
Thomas O Stanfield
Lisa M Stanley
Paul C Stanton
A J Stanziano
Robert J Starr
Thomas L State
J E Steele
J H Steele
J E Steelman

Howard A Teitelbaum
A Teitler
B H Temple
Paolo Tenti
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P A V Thomas
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Aidan A Thompson
David H Thompson
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Tatsuo Togawa
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Santos B Torres
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David I Troxel
David E Truax
Anhi Truong
Henry J Trussell
E A Tschumper
A Tsoularis
Kiichiro Tsuji
Toshio Tsurushima
John A Tucker
W M Tucker
Howard L Turetzky
K J Tyssen
Giovann B Uasari
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Other Contributors

Theodore C Viars
 Frank S Vigilante
 Genee C Villere
 Robert S Vincent
 Robert M Volk
 Walter W Vollenweider
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 Takahiro Yamaguchi
 Takehiko Yamaguchi
 Lawrence M Yamashiro
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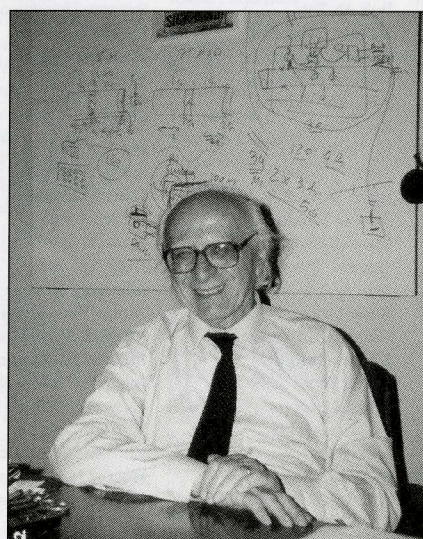
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ORAL-HISTORY INTERVIEWS IN EUROPE AND ASIA

continued from page 1



Luigi Dadda

Olivetti computer, and **Luigi Dadda**, a computer scientist at the Polytechnic of Milan.

FRANCE

Postdoctoral Fellow Janet Abbate interviewed engineers in France, where she found a diversity of experiences. **Ferdy Mayer** described his unique position as one of the few "research entrepreneurs" in France. He founded a company called LEAD that investigates problems at the intersec-

tion of solid state physics and electromagnetics; this research then becomes the basis for patents that LEAD licenses to companies in France, the United States, and elsewhere. Mayer spoke of the challenges of establishing a private-sector research base in France, where R&D tends to be concentrated in government-sponsored institutions and a few large companies; he contrasted this situation to the more receptive environment for entrepreneurship in America. At the other end of the spectrum, **Jacques Cladé** devoted his career to the French electrical utility, EDF, specializing in transmission line design and rising to become a high-level manager. Similarly, **Gérard Lehmann** worked for the giant electrical equipment firm Alcatel-Alsthom, where he helped develop high-voltage power equipment, uranium

enrichment facilities, and the TGV, the French high-speed train. Lehmann recalled how his interest in electrical engineering was sparked as a child when he built a crystal radio set to receive broadcasts from the Eiffel Tower.

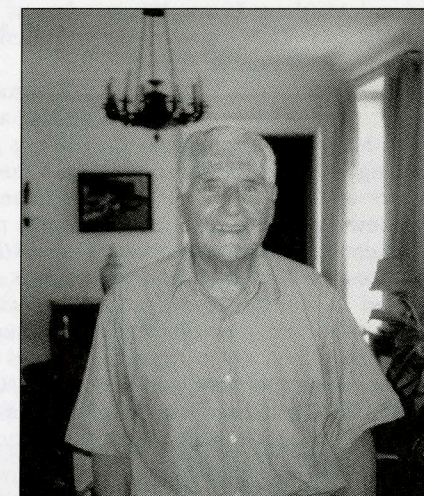
Two of the French engineers devoted much of their careers to power engineering. Professor **Michel Poloujadoff** represents the academic side, having taught and developed techniques for the mathematical analysis of linear induction motors and transformers. On the industrial side, **René Bidard** designed turbogenerators for the French electrical equipment company CEM. In recalling a lifetime of engineering, several interviewees described using their professional skills to serve the nation during the Nazi occupation; Bidard, for instance, worked on a top-secret project to develop gas propulsion turbines for the Navy. Most of the engineers maintained close contact with the work of their American colleagues through the IEEE and other channels, and technology was often transferred across the Atlantic; **Pierre Lapos-tolle**, for instance, developed theoretical and mathematical models for linear accelerators at CERN that he then brought to the United States as a consultant to Los Alamos. Most of those interviewed felt that France is committed to technological progress, and all of the engineers agreed that, for better or for worse, the French government is more closely involved in the education and practice of engineering than in the United States.

KOREA

At the end of August, Center Manager and Curator Andrew Goldstein spent ten days in Seoul, South Korea recording oral-history interviews with some of that country's most prominent figures in electrical technology. Through the assistance of professor Sougil Ann, a fellow of the IEEE and former Director and Secretary of Region 10, and Yung-Kwon Kim, the Chairman of the IEEE Korea Council, Goldstein conducted interviews with ten Korean electrical engineers. The interviewees were **Hong Eu** (Shinwoo Telecom), **Ki Sun Han** (Samsung), **In-Ku Kang** (LG Yonam College of Engineering), **Jin Ku Kang** (TriGem Microsystems), **Duck-Jin Kim** (Korea University), **Jae Kyoon Kim** (KAIST), **Yong Sun Kim** (LG Academy), **Hee Chong Lee** (LG), **Tae-Won Rhee** (Korea University), and **Jung Uck Seo** (Korea Mobil Telecom). These interviews, in addition to an interview Goldstein conducted last May with Ki-Dong Kang, who lives in California, represent a substantial wealth of information about a wide variety of topics connected with the growth of electrical technology in Korea.

Korea is well known as one of the four "Asian dragons"—the east Asian nations whose economies have shown stunning growth in recent years, particularly in

high-tech areas such as electronics. So dramatic has Korea's recent development been, however, that it is perhaps too easy to lose sight of the country's modest state of just two generations ago. Handicapped by decades of Japanese colonial rule and then devastated by the all-consuming conflict of the Korean war, Korea emerged into the mid-1950s as a poverty-stricken and highly dependent nation. Korea's transformation into a modern, self-sufficient country, a transformation that was intimately connected with the development of electrical technology there, was the inevitable subject of the Korean interviews.



René Bidard

Drawn predominantly from the first classes of students to graduate college following the Korean war, the interviewees represent the generation responsible for building a technological base for future growth. Prior colonial rule by the Japanese had left Korea with almost no indigenous industry or even the skill base for creating one. When they graduated in the mid- and late 1950s, there were few private sector jobs for electrical engineers. Many worked for government agencies such as the Ministry of Communication or the Korean Broadcasting System; or continued their studies, perhaps in America (as through a particularly successful cooperative program run with the University of Minnesota); or joined the military. At that point, the stories begin to diverge. Some continued on in education, bringing modern methods and equipment to a country with a traditional reverence for learning. Others took up the challenge of private enterprise, seeing Korean industry through the age when it either licensed or reverse-engineered other countries' technologies to the day when it would contribute its own leading-edge innovation. Taken together, they all tell a single story of rapid change. The interviews try to document critical episodes in this story, as well as find the basic patterns and lessons that can be drawn from it.

As with all other interviews conducted by the Center, these interviews will be transcribed, and the transcripts edited, abstracted, and indexed. The Mellon grant provides also for transcription and editing of oral-history interviews. The Center has begun making oral-history interviews available on Internet; of some 300 oral-history interviews, approximately 112 are already available on the Internet.

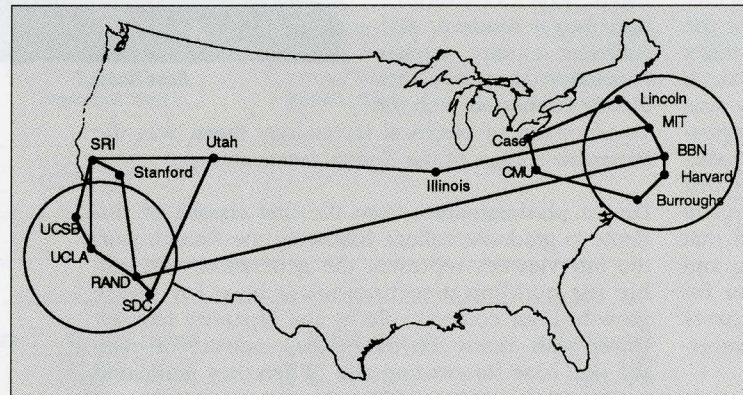
Bibliography

Hafner, Katie, and Matthew Lyon. *Where Wizards Stay Up Late: The Origins of the Internet*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996. 304 pp.

Katie Hafner and Matthew Lyon have written an entertaining and fact-filled account of the early years of the Internet. Relying largely on interviews with the participants as well as documents from the networking projects, the authors recount the history of the ARPANET and its transformation into the Internet. They describe the origins of the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA), the innovative Defense agency that built the ARPANET and was instrumen-

largely on the origins, rather than the subsequent development, of the Internet.

The authors are journalists rather than historians, and the style is journalistic. The narrative is peppered with anecdotes and colorful quotations that enliven the technical account and capture the feeling of being a direct participant in these events. The general reader will be able to follow the sometimes complex development of the ARPANET and Internet without being overwhelmed. The book's sparse documentation makes it less helpful to historians, however. Brief "Chapter Notes" at the end of the book give a general sense of where the authors



The ARPANET in 1971 (illustration courtesy of Janet Abbate)

tal in funding related computer science developments such as time sharing and graphics. They follow the planning and development of the ARPANET, focusing particularly on how the network's packet-switching computers, called IMPs, were developed by the consulting firm Bolt Baranek and Newman. (BBN sponsored the writing of the book.) The authors show a good grasp of the design issues involved in employing experimental techniques such as packet switching and remote network maintenance, and they manage to provide many technical details while also conveying the excitement of building a cutting-edge system. The book is often heroic in tone, celebrating the insights and hard work that resulted in the networking technologies we now take for granted.

Later sections of the book describe the emergence of email and related "social" uses of the network such as Adventure games. The development of internetworking techniques, including the TCP/IP protocols, and the growth of other networks such as the NSFNET, which eventually replaced the ARPANET, are also covered, though in less detail than the early history of the ARPANET. There is very little discussion of events since the mid-1980s, such as the commercialization of the Internet or the emergence of the World Wide Web. As the title indicates, the focus of the book is

got their information, but there are no footnotes to indicate the source of specific facts, interpretations, or quotations, and the authors sometimes fail to identify the speakers being quoted. As a historical source the book is more suggestive than authoritative. However, those wishing an introduction to the origins of the Internet and its technology will find this a highly readable volume.

Jäger, Kurt, ed. *Lexikon der Elektrotechniker*. Berlin: VDE Verlag, 1996. 478 pp.

This book consists of 653 biographical sketches, which range in length from half a column of text to four columns. All people who contributed to electrotechnology—whether they were engineers, scientists, inventors, or industrialists—were considered, though only those no longer living. The book is international in scope, with good coverage of the engineers and scientists of Europe and the United States. Each entry outlines the person's career, describes his or her most important contributions, and lists other sources of information. There are photographs of 185 of the subjects. Name and subject indexes enhance the usefulness of the book. This is the first fairly comprehensive biographical dictionary for the contributors to electrical technology. As encyclopedias and other readily available reference works

provide information about only a minority of the people included in this volume, it will be of great value to everyone interested in the history of electrical technology, electronics, and computing.

Millard, Andre, *America On Record: A History of Recorded Sound*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995. ix+413 pp.

Andre Millard, an associate professor at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, has recently published a richly detailed history of the phonograph. Millard, who is already well known for his works on Thomas Edison, has extended his study of Edison's "favorite invention" to encompass the shift from cylinders to disks, from 78-rpm records to LP's, and finally to the current proliferation of formats. He also devotes considerable attention to cinema sound technologies. Writing that "the development of recorded-sound technology was often the result of the diffusion of ideas and techniques between film makers and record companies", he sees movie studios as the hot house for many of the significant innovations in recorded sound technology.

Millard organizes his presentation around technical issues, dividing the history of recorded sound into three distinct phases: the acoustic era, the electrical era, and the digital era. Interspersed with his technical history, however, is a concise synthesis of the cultural history of sound recording, concentrating on the interaction between artists and consumers. Of particular interest to him are various African-American musical forms, including jazz and the blues. The rock'n'roll revolution, with its new use of the recording studio as a musical instrument, is an important subject of his later chapters.

Millard draws on a wide variety of sources for his analysis, including contemporary accounts, hobbyist literature, and scholarly works in business history and the history of technology. Much of his archival research appears to have been done at the Edison National Historic Site in West Orange, New Jersey.

Rhoads, B. Eric. *Blast from the Past: A Pictorial History of Radio's First 75 Years*. West Palm Beach, FL: Streamline Press, 1996. 463 pp.

This large-format book reproduces more than 900 black-and-white photographs that vividly recall the personalities and events of 75 years of radio broadcasting. (A large fraction of the photos come from the collection

NEW WEB SITE FOR HISTORY OF PHYSICS

A site featuring the history of physics and allied sciences is now available on the Internet's World Wide Web, mounted by the AIP Center for History of Physics. Use of the Web was originated by physicists but is spreading explosively among the general population. The most eager users are young people with an interest in technology and the future—exactly the sort of people who should be exposed to the real story of science as a human enterprise. The Web is an outstanding new way to advance public understanding of the physical sciences and their relationship to society, and the AIP Center has moved aggressively to take advantage of the opportunity.

The address (URL) is <http://www.aip.org/history/>

Users entering the site will find a number of options:

- Pages about the Center for History of Physics with information on the programs and services, for example grants-in-aid and advice on oral history interviewing.
- Information on the AIP's Niels Bohr Library, including general descriptions of the holdings, a sample of finding aids to archival materials and abstracts of oral history interviews in the Library's collections, and information on how to get access to the materials (in person or by mail or e-mail).
- An introduction to the Emilio Segrè Visual Archives, including a sample of photographs—some of them enlivened with quotes or vignettes—and forms that can be submitted to request copies of pictures.

- A variety of Web links to other sites useful to anyone interested in the history of physics and allied sciences such as astronomy, geophysics and optics. There are sites for societies, organizations, exhibits, institutional histories, and so forth.

- Pages for the Friends of the Center for History of Physics, including "plaques" honoring past donors, and information on programs such as the donation of bookplates to honor or memorialize colleagues.

- The AIP History of Physics Newsletter with information on current work, bibliography of books and articles, reports of new archival deposits in the field, photographs, etc.

- A featured Web exhibit: *Einstein: Image and Impact*, using photographs, quotes, and text to present highlights of Albert Einstein's life. By the end of the year this will be expanded to a major site including over 80 photographs and 70,000 words of text.

Besides expanding the Einstein exhibit, during the coming year Center staff will mount a number of additional finding aids to collections and hundreds of additional photographs from the Visual Archives. Under development is a major search engine to support on-line access to abstracts of all the Library's archival holdings (published in the 1994 Guide to the Archival Collections in the Niels Bohr Library, but including more recent accessions), the Library's catalog of books, and—not least—the entire International Catalog of Sources for History of Physics and Allied Sciences.

of the Broadcast Pioneers Library in Chicago.) The book is organized as nine chapters: one covering the period before 1920, each of the others covering one of the decades since then. Each chapter contains a narrative account of broadcasting in that period but consists mainly of photographs and captions. Emphasis is on the broadcast personalities, though many photos show the technologies involved. Following the main chapters are a bibliography, descriptions of the Radio Hall of Fame and the Broadcast Pioneers Library, and listings of museums, archives, clubs, and other organizations.

Rutland, David, *Behind the Front Panel: The Design and Development of 1920's Radios*. Philomath, OR: Wren Publishers, 1994. viii+158 pp.

True to its title, "Behind the Front Panel: The Design and Development of 1920's Radios" by David Rutland takes the reader inside the workings of early radios, and

into an area that is often unreached in writing on the history of radio. This is a book clearly aimed at those with an innate curiosity about the nuts and bolts of radio technology. Concentrating directly on technological milestones, the book rarely shifts its focus outside the radio chassis.

Rutland concentrates on several representative designs to illustrate the most significant radio developments. Discussed here are classic models such as the RCA Radiola III, Grebe MU-1, King 80, Atwater Kent 20, along with many others. He proceeds logically from chapter to chapter, taking on, in turn, all the fundamentals: detectors-crystal and tube; RF amplifiers-regenerative circuits, neutrodyne, and multi-stage TRF's; reflex circuits; screen grid tubes; the super-heterodyne; and the introduction of AC. In one particularly interesting section, Rutland explores the mechanical and electronic requirements for single-knob control, an important development for bringing radio home to the general public.

The book's discussion, while unflinchingly technical, assumes little prior knowledge of radio circuitry. It can serve, then, as a handy introduction to landmark technologies that the less-technically oriented historian frequently encounters in the literature on radio history. Rutland introduces the reader to now-unfamiliar components such as the variometer and the variocoupler, as well as dated circuits such as the technidyne, and "lossers"—imaginative circuits that worked around the critical neutrodyne patent. The explanations are supplemented by plentiful circuit schematics that are stripped down to highlight only the most salient features and an illuminating series of photographs. The photos, avoiding the familiar shots of cabinet work and speaker grilles, truly illustrate the circuit component being discussed. Careful readers might notice an occasional proofreading error or two in the readable text, but these should not detract from the enjoyment of this informative book.

Authors Sought

James Brittain and Fredrik Nebeker are planning a book of contributed papers on engineering science and engineering practice in the early history of electronics. The idea is to consider the use by engineers of methods commonly associated with science—quantification, experimentation, theorizing—and the relationship between these methods and practical engineering in the pre-transistor era of electronics. This is the intersection of two extremely important, yet neglected topics: electronics in the tube era and the science-practice relationship. The objective is to illuminate the half century of the electronics industry before the solid-state era began, and to seek to understand, in one important area of work, how modern engineering derives its great effectiveness from the interplay between a mental world of theories and calculations and a physical world of devices. The editors invite proposals for papers to be included in

this book; proposals may be sent to the Center.

New Oral Histories on Web Site

On October 1 the Center added 25 new oral history transcripts to its web site, bringing the total to 112. Along with the transcripts, abstracts for the interviews and tables of contents are also available on-line.

Seventeen of the interviews were part of a 1994 project jointly conducted by the IEEE History Center and the History Committee of the IEE Japan (see newsletter #35). William Aspray recorded conversations in English with distinguished Japanese electrical engineers and managers. The other eight interviews are from the Center's general collection, and include figures such as Nick Holonyak and Harold Beverage.

The preparation of these oral histories for the Web was made possible by a grant from the IEEE Foundation. Before the end of the year, at least

seven additional transcripts will be made available through Foundation support. The URL for the Center's web page is http://www.ieee.org/history_center.

Computing History Conference Rescheduled

The Center's conference on the history of computing, originally scheduled for June 1996, will be held on 13, 14, and 15 June 1997 (Friday through Sunday). The site will be the beautiful campus of William & Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia. More than a dozen distinguished historians of computing have agreed to give invited talks, which will collectively provide an overview of the development of computing and of the methodology of computer history. Many attendees will have the opportunity to give short talks on their own research. More information and a registration form will be contained in the next newsletter.

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Center for the History of Electrical Engineering
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
445 Hoes Lane, P.O. Box 1331
Piscataway, NJ 08855-1331

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