NSF Grant to CBI!

CBI has won a three-year grant to research the history of the "Computer as a Scientific Instrument" from the Science and Technology Studies program of the National Science Foundation. CBI Director Bob Seidel, Associate Director Stephen Johnson, Archivist Bruce Bruemmer, and Radford University Associate Professor Joel Hagen, who will reside at CBI in 1997-98, will investigate the use of the computer as a scientific tool in high energy physics, systems ecology, and artificial intelligence. Bruce Bruemmer will survey American and foreign collections for historical resources.

The primary product of the grant will be a monograph describing the development of computing. Continued on page 4.

CBF Elects New Officers

In a mail ballot, the Directors of the Charles Babbage Foundation have elected James Cortada as Chairman, John Carlson as President, Margaret Loftus as Secretary, and Carolyn Parnell as Treasurer. Walter Bauer continues as Vice President.

James Cortada is well-known to historians of computing as the author of The Computer in the United States, Before the Computer: IBM, NCR, Burroughs, and Remington Rand and the Industry they Created 1865-1956, and bibliographic and archival guides to the history of computing. He acquired his B.A. in history from Randolph Macon College in 1969, and his Ph.D. in history from Florida State University in 1973. Jim is on the board of editors of The TQM Review, and Annals of the History of Computing. He has also written numerous books on management, quality, and strategic planning. At the IBM Consulting Group in Madison, Wisconsin, Cortada leads projects to develop comprehensive management systems and manage organizational change.

John Carlson comes to CBF after serving as director of finance, treasurer, vice president of finance, chief financial officer, senior vice president, and executive vice president, before becoming the Chief Executive Officer of Cray Research, Inc. He graduated from Saint Mary's College in Winona, Minnesota in 1960, and worked for Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co. Certified Public Accountants from 1964 to 1976 before joining CBI. Continued on page 3.

Governor OKs Archives

The Minnesota Library Access Facility, CBI's new home, view looking north across Washington Avenue. Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson released bonding for the building in February.

CBI's new home cleared its final hurdle when Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson approved bonding for the University of Minnesota Library Access Center on February 11. The $38.5 million facility will provide a climate-controlled archival facility and office space for CBI.

Approved in April 1996 by the Minnesota State Legislature, the new building was held up by Carlson's review of all state-funded capital projects. To strengthen the ties between the facility and other libraries around the state, and use digital technologies, the University pledged to renovate Walter Library (CBI's current home) into a multi-media facility soon after completion of the archives building. Ground breaking will begin in spring quarter "as soon as we can find the grass," according to Marvin Marshak, the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
Recent Publications


Austin, Roger, Computer Conferencing in History: Discussing the Past with the Technology of the Future, (London: Historical Association, 1995).


Mounier-Kuhn, P.-E., “Transferts de technologie et de savoir dans l’industrie,” Continued on page 3

Museum Updates

The Bakken Library and Museum of the History of Electricity and Life, located in Minneapolis recently announced that it will build a 10,000 square foot science education wing to enhance its educational programs. Funded through a $4.5 million gift by Earl Bakken, construction will begin by June 1997, with the grand opening scheduled for September 1998. The Medtronic Foundation will contribute $1 million for the wing’s classroom, laboratory, workshop, and associated spaces. CBI Director Bob Seidel serves on the Bakken Board of Directors.

Canada’s first computer museum opened in the summer of 1996 in Waterloo, Ontario. Open only during the summer months, the museum’s theme for 1997 will be minicomputing, followed by microcomputing in 1998 and calculators in 1999. For information, call Kevin Stumpf at 519-744-2900, or visit their website at www.sentex.net/~cmuseum.

The Computer Museum in Boston has opened a Computer History Center in Silicon Valley. Last September, the museum transferred half of its Boston collection to the Ames Research Center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration near Mountain View, California. Ames is providing temporary storage in its Building 126 warehouse while the History Center seeks a permanent home in the Bay Area.
Computing History in Europe

The conference “Past and Future of Computing Technology,” in Prague, Czech Republic, from November 11-14, 1997, celebrates the fortieth anniversary of the first electronic computer in Czechoslovakia, the SAPO designed by Antonin Svoboda. It will be sponsored by the Society for the History of Science and Technology in the Czech Republic and the National Technical Museum in Prague. The conference languages will be English and German. Speakers and contributors are asked to submit a 100-120 word abstract by August 30, 1997. For further information, contact Jaroslav Forst, Past-Future, National Technical Museum, Kostelní 42, Cz-170 78 Praha 7, Czech Republic; email liso@ntm.anet.cz, FAX ++(422)379151.

The Fifth French Conference on the History of Computing in Toulouse, France in March 1998, will be convened by the École nationale supérieure d'électronique, d'électrotechnique, d'informatique, et d'hydraulique de Toulouse (ENSEEIHT) at the University of Toulouse. It will focus on five themes: Informatics and aerospace, the teaching of Informatics, man/machine/system communication, norms, standardization, and patents, and the software industry. Those wishing to present a paper should send 3 copies of a two-page outline by February 15, 1997. For further information, contact Pierre-E. Mounier-Kuhn, Centre Roland-Mousnier, Paris-IV Sorbonne, 1 rue Victor-Cousin 75005: mounier@sorbonne.msh-paris.fr, phone (33)01 40 46 25 40.

New CBF Officers...

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Cray. In 1994, President Bill Clinton appointed Carlson to the President’s Export Council to advise the president on export and international trade. He also serves on the Computer Systems Policy Project, a group of 13 U.S. computer company CEOs, and is a member of the board of directors of a number of public and private organizations.

Margaret Loftus, the co-founder of Loftus-Brown-Wescott, Inc., a business consulting company focusing on organizational and individual change founded in 1989, has consulted on a variety of subjects, including organizational growth, strategic and technical product planning, software evaluation and pricing, corporate culture, and management and executive coaching. She graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1965 with her bachelor’s degree in mathematics, and joined Control Data Corporation, where she developed software for CDC’s line of supercomputers. In 1976 she joined Cray Research to found Cray’s Software Development organization, which grew to 350 people in a number of locations around the world. She was also a founder of Netstar, Inc., and is on the Board of Directors of IBEX Corporation and Analysts International Corporation.

Treasurer Carolyn Parnell has been at the University of Minnesota for twelve years, and is currently the Director of Networking and Telecommunications. She received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Minnesota, Morris, and a Masters of Business Administration from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. Carolyn is also a member of the Midwest Higher Education Commission Telecommunications Committee, and on the Board of Directors of Crisis Connection, an organization providing mental health intervention services to the Twin Cities metra area.

Recent Publications...

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Personnel Changes

On December 23, a new secretary, Debra Brims joined CBI. Debra has two sons, Chris, 13, and Joe, 18. She is pursuing her bachelors degree in Urban Studies. When not studying, working, or busy with children’s activities, Debra pursues a number of other interests, including gardening, antiques, anthropology, and psychology. She is busy learning the varied duties at CBI, and has already improved some of our internal procedures. We welcome her on-board!

Jackie Geier, CBI’s former secretary, is now the International Student Coordinator for the Carlson School of Management.


Shields, Mark A., ed., Work and Continued on page 4
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of each discipline, with a comparative assessment. Secondary products will include several papers, conference presentations, and bibliographic materials hosted on the World-Wide-Web produced by CBI’s archival staff. The study officially starts on March 1, 1997, and will end on February 29, 2000.

Recent Publications...
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