

CBI on the Move

This year has seen the fulfillment of the strategic plan outlined by the Charles Babbage Foundation, the Institute of Technology, and the Program in History of Science and Technology in the fall of 1994.

CBI has acquired a new home in the archives center to be built on the west bank campus of the University of Minnesota, received a major grant for the study of the history of the computer as a scientific instrument, and made itself more visible to the local community through conference and lecture series commemorating the 50th anniversary of the computer.

Governor Arne Carlson approved bonding for the University of Minnesota Library Access Center on February 11. The \$38.5 million facility will provide climate-controlled archival and office space for CBI.

The Charles Babbage Institute has won a three-year grant to research the history of the "Computer as a Scientific Instrument" from the National Science Foundation. CBI will investigate the use of the computer as a scientific tool in high energy physics, systems ecology, and artificial intelligence.

The Board of Directors elected James Cortada as Chairman, John Carlson as President, Margaret Loftus as Secretary, and Carolyn Parnell as Treasurer.

This year, the Tomash Fellowship was awarded to Mark Bowles of Case Western Reserve University.

CBI acquired 37 new archival collections. CBI's resources are being used at the same pace as our record year of 1994-5. We are receiving more requests through innovative use of the World-Wide Web.

The September 1996 conference, "50 Years of Computing in Minnesota: Innovation, Education, and Diversity,"

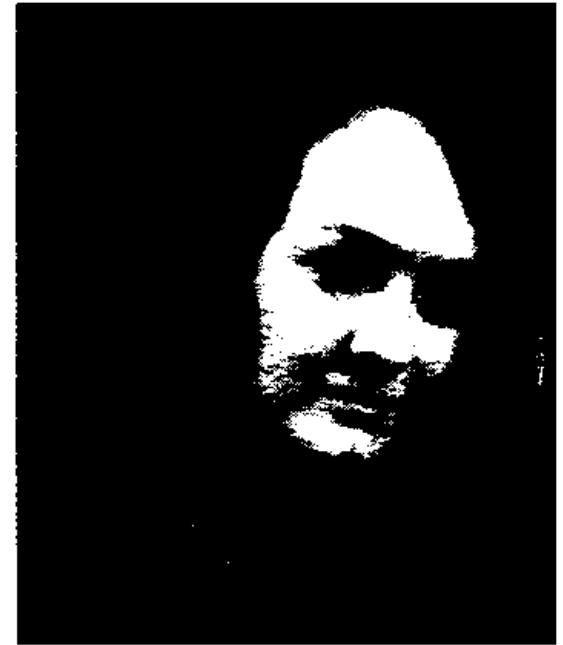
Anne Fitzpatrick Joins CBI

Anne Fitzpatrick, the new Associate Director of CBI, spent the last three years at Los Alamos National Laboratory researching the role of computing in the American thermonuclear weapons program.

Her dissertation, "Technology and Secret Science: The U.S. Thermonuclear Weapons Program, 1942-1952," explores the technical and social dynamics of why it took Los Alamos ten years to construct and test a hydrogen weapon. Anne's academic advisor is Professor Joseph C. Pitt, in the Science and Technology Studies Program at Virginia Tech.

Anne has presented results of her research at the Society for the History of Technology; History of Science Society; the Society for Social Studies of Science; the National Association for Science, Technology, and Society; and at several invited seminars. She has taught courses in both upper level history of modern science and American history.

She plans to complete a comparative study of the role of computing in the



Anne Fitzpatrick

American and Soviet thermonuclear weapons projects, which she began in 1993 while living in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Born and raised in rural upstate New York, Anne took up winter sports such as skiing and ice skating at an early age. She is an avid swimmer, and enjoys travel and music, in her spare time. □

CBI Leads IEEE Workshop

CBI and CBF were amply represented at the IEEE History Center Meeting at the College of William & Mary, June 19-22, 1997. CBI Director Bob Seidel presented a talk on the government's role in early computing, focusing on agencies ranging from the Office of Naval Research (ONR) to the Defense Advanced Research Agency DARPA. CBF Chairman James Cortada described marketing and support techniques used by early office appliance manufacturers

drew many distinguished participants to discuss the information superhighway, international competitiveness, quality, education, and medicine. CBI also co-sponsored a lecture series on the history of Minnesota's computer industry. Outgoing Foundation President Willis K. Drake contributed \$25,000 to fund these activities. His contribution was matched by donations from Analysts International, Control Data Systems, the Minnesota Historical Society, the University of St. Thomas and Unisys--St. Paul. □

NSF Staff Gather

Visiting Scholar Joel Hagan of Radford University, Visiting Scientist Charles Musselman of the Metanoia Corporation, and research assistants Kai-Henrik Barth and Ioanna Semendeferi have joined CBI's NSF study of the "Computer as a Scientific Instrument." Hagan, an historian of the life sciences, is examining the role of the computer in the development of systems ecology.

Charles Musselman, a physicist and consultant, is examining the role of computing in high-energy physics.

Kai-Henrik Barth and Ioanna Semendeferi, graduate students at the University of Minnesota, are assisting the principal investigators with their literary search. Bob Seidel is principal investigator for the project, and Hagan and Stephen Johnson of the University of North Dakota are co-principal investigators. □

CHARLES BABBAGE INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

The Charles Babbage Institute, Center for the History of Computing, is sponsored by the University of Minnesota and the information processing community.

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Bruemmer Leads Digital Initiative

CBI Archivist Bruce Bruemmer is planning a number of projects to digitize archival materials at the University of Minnesota Libraries. Discussions about technology for the new Minnesota Library Access Center have led to interest using digital technology to make accessible materials from CBI and the other nine archives and special collections at the University of Minnesota.

In July, Bruemmer attended a six-day workshop on the Use of Digital Image Technology for Preservation and Access at Cornell University. The workshop included hands-on use of benchmarking techniques developed at Cornell, and presented elements of project planning, a dose of reality to some of the grander plans for digitizing archives. The participants consisted of preservation professionals, archivists, and computer technical specialists. All of the attendees faced the same problem: how to economically and effectively harness digital technology for archival and library material.

Planning for the University of Minnesota Libraries' digital archives emphasizes access

Interactive Culture Conference

The Visual Arts Foundation will be sponsoring *The Culture of Interactivity*, a weekend conference in New York City on January 17 and 18, 1998. This conference will bring together distinguished guests from inside and outside the field of computing, and will reveal new ways of thinking about interactive technology and the political, social, economic, and cultural issues connected with it. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Hansen, 15 Gramercy Park South, New York, NY 10003, Tel. (212) 260-7607, Fax (212) 673-1078, or visit *The Culture of Interactivity* website at <http://www.interactive-culture.org>. □

over preservation. Electronic access to digital files would reduce access to originals, aiding preservation of the most popular portion of CBI's photograph collection.

Most recently, Bruemmer worked with Immigration History Research Center to participate in a project to digitize important immigration records. The Research Libraries Group developed the project, for which it is currently seeking funding. Bruemmer is working with the University Libraries to develop other digital projects that will enhance access to archival collections and develop an infrastructure to support a long-term digital program. □

IEEE ...

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and argued that they contributed to International Business Machine (IBM)'s successful marketing of business computers.

Former CBI Director Arthur Norberg analyzed the search for a stable computer design by early computer manufacturers.

Former CBI Associate Director Bill Aspray analyzed the history of Computer Science through the development of NSF's regional computing centers and DARPA support for timesharing in the 1960's.

Tomash Fellow Janet Abbate told how SAGE and the modems developed for it by AT&T facilitated early data communication.

Brian Randell, Michael Williams and Michael Mahoney filled out the list of invited speakers. A number of historians and computer practitioners who are new to the history of computing also presented shorter talks. The IEEE History Center plans to publish a series of essays based on the talks.

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*Production of the CBI Newsletter
is supported by
Analysts
International.*

Smithsonian Hosts Monticello Fellows

CBI Director Bob Seidel attended the second annual meeting of the Monticello Memoirs Fellows at the Smithsonian and Jefferson's home in Virginia, on June 23-24.

Tim Berners-Lee, Anita K. Jones, Professor Henning Kagerman, Robert Kahn, Roland Moreno, and Jacques Stern took part in four private workshops and one public session at the Smithsonian Institution followed by private sessions at Monticello.

The results of the sessions will be available on the Internet at <http://www.si.edu/resource/tours/comphist/montic.html>, which contains several of last year's lectures and excerpts from conversations at Monticello.

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'97 Great Year for Archives

CBI received thirty-four donations of archival material relating to wide variety of subjects, including the computer industry, computer-based education, supercomputers, user groups, and professional associations. The three largest collections were the Strategic Computing Collection, the National Bureau of Standards Literature Collection, and the Neil Lincoln Papers.

The Strategic Computing Collection originated from the Defense Advanced Projects Agency (DARPA) and consists of thousands of reports of interest to ARPA, including ARPA, mostly from the 1980s. The collection is broad in scope, and includes titles such as Next Generation Space Robot, Model Driven Edge Detection, Lessons from Poker, and the MIT Alewife Machine. CBI has constructed a database to title/author information in the collection, and hopes to make this available on the World Wide Web. Also, the donation contains over 600 video tapes, mostly from ARPA-sponsored projects. A partial index is

Alison Trahan is New CBI Secretary

The staff of CBI welcomes Alison Trahan, the new senior secretary. Born in San Diego, Alison has spent most of her life in Minneapolis, where she graduated from Edison High School.

Alison majors in sociology, and is interested in practicing social work in the future.

Alison enjoys rollerblading, biking, basketball, backpacking, and camping, although she enjoys urban life as well, and likes to visit the Art Institute of Minneapolis, view foreign films, and in general check out what the city has to offer. □



Alison Trahan

available to the video tapes.

Similar in scope to the Strategic Computing Collection is the donation of National Bureau of Standards Computer Literature Collection, mostly covering the period from 1942 through 1962. This collection originally was donated to the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum as part of a larger collection, the second part of which was donated to CBI in 1986 (see CBI 32). Through the efforts of Paul Ceruzzi, the Smithsonian's half of the collection was donated to CBI.

Neil Lincoln is a computer engineer in the Twin Cities who donated materials

relating to large-scale mainframe computers at the Control Data Corporation. While at CDC, Lincoln worked with Seymour Cray, and eventually headed the company's effort to form a subsidiary supercomputer company known as ETA. Among the technical literature is a transcript of Control Data engineers discussing the technical history of CDC computers, particularly around the period of development of the STAR-100.

The Charles Babbage Institute thanks the individuals listed in the table below for donating important archival materials during the past year:

William Aspray Bentley Historical Library, Greg Kinney Norbert Berg Morton Bernstein James W. Birkenstock David Boslaugh Ken Brumbaugh CMP Media Inc., Janice Healy Dick Clarke Dynecorp, Regina Colbert W. G. Falardeau Mr. Charles R. Fillerup B. I. Florey Ralph E. Griswold John Hamblen Neil R. Karl Axel Kornfuehrer Rex Krueger Niel R. Lincoln	Evan Linick J. A. Maeda Georgia Miller H. R. Oldfield Donald Ream Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, Paul Ceruzzi Ruth Stanley John K. Swearingen Erwin Tomash Unisys Corporation, Cindy Locke University of Connecticut, D. McChesney University of Illinois Archives, William Maher University of St. Thomas, Robert L. Raymond A. D. Walsh
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Archives Staff News

Assistant Archivist Kevin Corbitt received a Libraries Support Staff Award for extraordinary contributions to a library Unit. Prominent in his nomination was his work in cataloging the CBI collection and making it accessible on the World-Wide Web.

Archivist Bruce Bruemmer was elected to the executive committee of the Society of American Archivist at its council meeting in June. Bruemmer, who was elected to SAA's council in 1995, will serve one year on the executive committee.

Student archives worker Heather Beaton graduated from the University of Minnesota and currently works at the Minnesota Historical Society.

Archives volunteer Lynn Leitte was hired by the Minnesota Historical Society, and is currently processing the Hubert H. Humphrey papers. □

New Virtual Address

CBI's e-mail address has changed to cbi@tc.umn.edu. Please update your e-mail address list accordingly!

40 years Ago: Software Spinoff



System Development Corporation evolved out of the System Development Division of the RAND Corporation. It specialized in the design and development of computer-based command control and information systems for military, governmental, scientific and educational applications. The System Development Division was spun off in 1956, and became the non-profit company named SDC, or System Development Corporation. SDC became a for-profit operation in 1968, and was acquired by Burroughs Corporation in 1980. Historical records from SDC came to CBI with the donation of the Burroughs Corporation Collection from Unisys.

Pictured here is computer specialist Max Kostiner at the console of large-scale AN/FSQ-32 computer, a major piece of equipment in System Development Corporation's Command Research Laboratory. The computer was used for research in command and control technology, and for the SDC Time-Sharing System. (CBI photograph)

CHARLES BABBAGE INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

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