

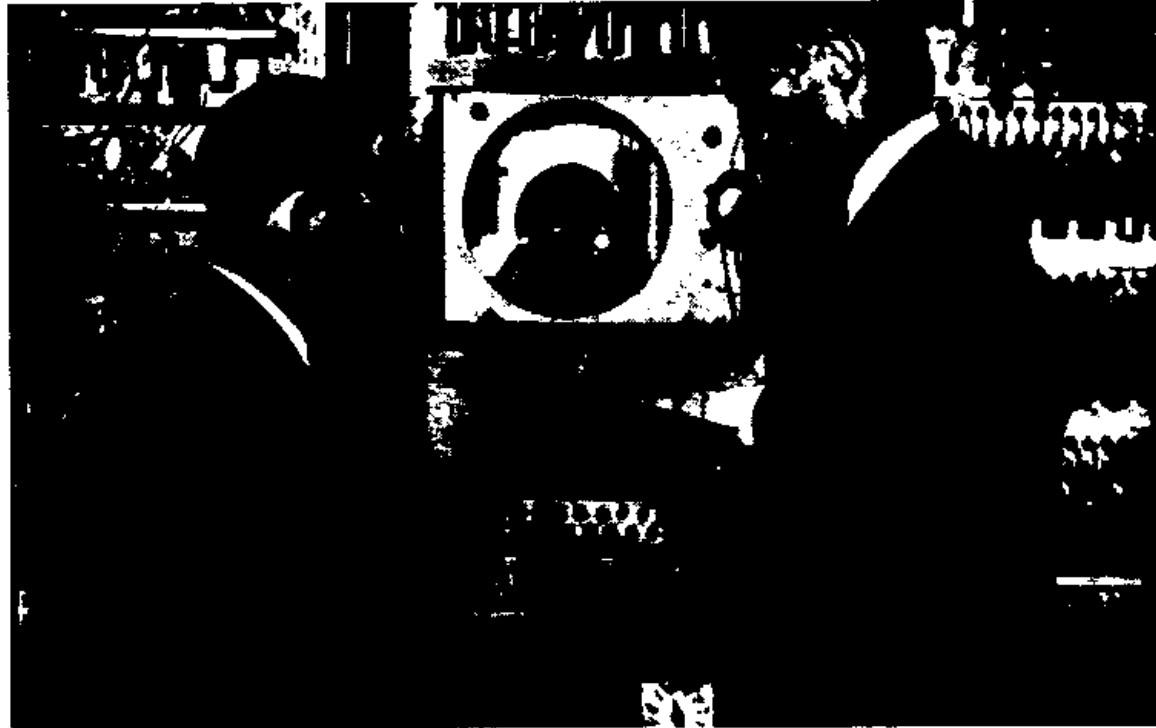
Baby's 50th Celebrated

Representatives of CBI and CBF participated in the festivities commemorating the first dynamic stored program computer at the University of Manchester in June. CBF trustees Erwin and Adelle Tomash and Arthur Humphreys and CBI Director Bob Seidel attended the festivities, which were marked by a combination of high-tech showmanship and traditional ceremony.

The official celebration, held in Bridgewater Hall, included a dramatic reenactment of the "Birth of the Baby." Following were talks by Professor Tom Kilburn, who built the computer in collaboration with Professor F. C. Williams, Sebastian de Ferranti, whose company worked with the University of Manchester to develop a series of computers in the 1950s and 1960s, and a switch-on of the computer reconstructed by Chris Burton via satellite telecast from the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry. After further presentations by representatives of BBC, Barclay's Bank and British Telecom on their views of the future of computing, Kilburn, de Ferranti, Burton and Professor Mike Brady of Oxford University were awarded honorary degrees by Lord Flowers, Chancellor of the University of Manchester, in a ceremony replete with pomp and circumstance.

The day was topped off with a concert by the Hallé Orchestra, featuring a new composition by University of Manchester students and British works composed at about the time the computer was built.

A dozen conferences formed part of the celebrations, including a special meeting, "New Directions in the History of British



The Manchester Stored Program Computer, "Baby," was first operated by Tom Kilburn and F. C. Williams on June 21, 1948. On June 17, 1998, the reconstructed "Baby" was turned on again.

Computing," of the British Society for History of Science. Seidel presented a talk at the meeting, which was organized by his British counterpart, Dr. John Agar of the National Archive for the History of Computing. Dr. Agar's hospitality, which included an extended look at the holdings of the Archive, was generous.

The Golden Anniversary Congress following the ceremonies featured many of the local computer pioneers, as well as representatives of the international computer industry. It was followed in turn by an Open Day in the Department of Computer Science, the Manchester Museum, which displayed a special exhibition on the History of Computers and Calculation, and the Museum of Science and Industry, where the reconstructed "baby" machine will be on display.

Paderborn Conference Set

The International Conference on the History of Computing will be held at the Heinz Nixdorf Museums Forum in Paderborn, Germany on August 14-16, 1998. The conference will feature a series of discussions, accounts of the reconstruction and demonstrations of early computers. CBF Trustee I. Bernard Cohen will present "Howard Aiken and the Harvard Mark I - The Dawn of the Computer Age," CBI Director Bob Seidel will discuss "Reconstructions, Historical and Otherwise," and CBI fellows Bill Aspray and Paul Ceruzzi will discuss the von Neumann computer architecture and its aftermath.

For more information, hotel booking and registration, contact Margret Amedick and Ulf Hashagen, HNF Heinz Nixdorf Museums Forum, Fuerstenallee 7, 33102 Paderborn Germany. Tel: +49/5251/306-983; FAX: +49/5251/306-989; email: ICHC@hnf.de



CBI Staff Changes

Kevin Corbitt, Assistant Archivist at CBI, has taken a new position at the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. He has been with CBI since January, 1991 and, in recent years, has been the principal contact for those using the CBI archives. He was also responsible for completing the work begun on the Burroughs Papers by Susan Stepka and for supervising processing of the Control Data Corporation papers.

We will miss Kevin, and wish him well in his new career at AANA.

CBI Associate Director Anne Fitzpatrick has accepted a joint postdoctoral appointment with The George Washington University Center for the History of Recent Science and Los Alamos National Laboratory. She recently completed her Ph.D. at Virginia

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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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Lecuyer receives Dibner Postdoctoral Fellowship

Christopher Lecuyer, the 1996-1997 Cerwin and Adelle Tomash Fellow, has been selected as one of only seven postdoctoral fellows of the Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology at MIT, where he will work on the project "From the Lab to the Fab: Physics Research, Manufacturing Practice and Ion Implantation at High Voltage Engineering Corporation and Fairchild Semiconductor, 1962-1978."

Lecuyer, a native of France, completed his dissertation, "Shaping Cold War Industrial Economies: The Military, Electronics Manufacturing and the Rise of Silicon Valley," in 1997. It focuses on the semiconductor and microwave tube industries, and examines how the military and groups of engineers and entrepreneurs shaped the emergence of new process technologies and systems of production in Silicon Valley. His analysis seeks better understanding of the relations between military procurement and technological change in manufacturing, and the impact of electronics manufacturing on the computer industry.

Important Notice for CBI Archives Users

Beginning June 22, 1998, CBI's Archival Collection will be available on an appointment basis only. CBI is experiencing a staffing shortage because of vacancies in a number of positions.

The staff will monitor voice mail and electronic mail, and will respond to requests as quickly as possible. For quicker service, please call (612) 625-9053 instead of CBI's general number. □

Please send change of address to
CBI, 103 Walter Library, 117 Pleasant
Street, University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Recently Published

IEEE Annals of the History of Computing, 20 (April-June 1998) contains the following articles:

Bissell, Don. "Was the IDIOM the First Stand-Alone CAD Platform?" Bloomenthal, Jules, (compiler). "Graphics Remembrances." Fallon, Kristine K. "Early Computer Graphics Developments in the Architecture, Engineering and Construction Industry." Kirsch, Russell A. "SEAC and the Start of Image Processing at the National Bureau of Standards." Wright, Tom. "History and Technology of Computer Fonts."

Guice, Jon, *Designing The Future: The United States Advanced Research Projects Agency And Revolution In Computing* Ph.D. Dissertation, 1997. University Of California, San Diego.

Hauben, Michael and Ronda, *Netizens : on the history and impact of Usenet and the Internet* (Los Alamitos, CA: IEEE Computer Society Press, c1997).

Matsushita, Marimi, *A Woman Mathematician And Her Contributions: Mina Spiegel Rees* ED.D. Dissertation, 1998. Columbia University Teachers College.

Northrup, Mary, *American Computer Pioneers Collective Biographies*, Enslow, 1988.

Strassmann, Paul A., "40 years of IT history," *Datamation*, 43:10 (Oct 1997) 80.

Swisher, Kara, aol.com: How Steve Case Beat Bill Gates, Nailed the Netheads and Made Millions in the War for the Web, *Times Business*, 1998.

Silvester, June P., Computer supported indexing: a history and evaluation of NASA's MAI system <microform> (Washington, DC : National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Springfield, VA: National Technical Information Service, distributor, 1997). □

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A Year in the Life of a Tomash Fellow

Mark Bowles, Erwin and Adelle Tomash Fellow, 1997-1998

My year spent as Tomash Fellow has been the most productive of my life. While the process began with an uncertain dissertation in January 1997, it ended with a complete draft in July 1998 (and a defense scheduled for November 1998).

Dissertation

What I have written is a history of the "information explosion" in the generation after World War II. Focusing primarily on the scientific, engineering and business communities, I explored the meanings, myths and metaphors associated with the idea that these and other intellectual disciplines were generating too much information for individual scholars to keep up. This concern was also intimately tied with the Cold War. Information, as a new commodity, was viewed as yet another benchmark with which to compare the United States with the Soviet Union. With rumors of a vast scientific information service existing behind the Iron Curtain, the information race quickly became as important as the space race. However, this race was not about which nation generated or produced the most information. The contest was framed as a race for which superpower would learn to control the information that they already had, thereby assuring the continued advancement of their political ideologies.

Interviews

As a Tomash Fellow I have engaged in a number of diverse scholarly activities. I have interviewed a number of key individuals who were important actors in my history including Allen Kent (who helped found the Center for Documentation and Communication Research at Western Reserve University) and Charlotte Mooers (whose father Watson Davis founded the American documentation movement and whose husband Calvin Mooers was key to the history of information retrieval).



Mark Bowles, 1997-1998 Tomash Fellow

Publication

I have also published and presented portions of my dissertation at conferences. For example, in April 1997 I published "The Information Crisis in Cold War America" in the newsletter *Antenna*. In the summer of 1998, I will be publishing a portion of one of my chapters in the journal *The Historian* on the information explosion's effects upon the business community. Later in the year I will publish a chapter in a book edited by Prof. Miriam Levin, *Cultures of Control*, that analyzes the frequent use of metaphor to describe the idea of too much information. Last summer I presented a paper on the "Information Frontier" at the Cincinnati Symposium on Computers and History, and this coming Fall I will present a paper on the information crisis faced by scientists at a Conference on the History and Heritage of Science Information Systems.

Travel

The Tomash Fellowship has also enabled me to travel. While the majority of my resources are from the published record, the Tomash Fellowship has provided me with the opportunity to

travel to important archival resources that have been very important to my dissertation. Most of my archival research was spent in the Case Western Reserve University archives, but I also traveled to the University of Pittsburgh, as well as the University of Minnesota. While at the Babbage Institute I was able to pour through an enormous amount of material on the history of computing and information processing with the expert help of Kevin Corbitt.

Entrepreneurship

One final endeavor that I have engaged in over the last year has been to help start a business with fellow historian Dr. Virginia P. Dawson. The result has been History Enterprises, Inc. (www.HistoryEnterprises.com), a company whose vision is to bring the highest quality of research and writing to corporate and nonprofit institutions.

As my time as a Tomash Fellow comes to an end, I would like to publicly thank Adelle and Erwin Tomash and Dr. Robert Seidel for giving a young scholar the rare opportunity to fully invest themselves into their work.

Over the past year when I have mentioned that I was a Tomash Fellow to others in the field, I have gained a measure of respect in their eyes that I know I would not otherwise have received. I hope that other philanthropists might look to the Tomash's as models for how to make a truly significant contribution to not only to the health of a discipline, but to the professional life of an individual.



CBI Staff Changes

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Tech, in Science and Technology Studies. For her postdoctoral research project, Ms. Fitzpatrick will be conducting research in the history of computing and nuclear physics in Russia and Ukraine.



CBI's New Home Nears Completion

The Minnesota Library Access Center, which will be the new home for the Charles Babbage Institute Center of the History of Computing and the CBI Archives, is progressing rapidly. The first phase of the project, the digging of the storage areas in a limestone shelf bordering the Mississippi River, is nearing completion. Phase II of the building has been slightly delayed by the decision to rebid the project after the initial bidding was challenged by two vendors. The rebidding is now completed and the successful bidder will be announced shortly.

Certain features of the building have been reduced, postponed or eliminated because of cost. The furniture and equipment budget has been reduced by 50%, and the moving budget has been reduced by a similar amount. Ten per cent of the shelving in the caverns has been deferred, as have been the archives conveyor and a decontamination freezer. All special landscape design has been eliminated, as have a number of electrical



The MLAC Advisory Board and many of the Special Collections and Archivist staff enter the tunnel that will house the University of Minnesota Special Collections, including those of the Charles Babbage Institute. Bruce Bruemmer, Librarian, Charles Babbage Institute, is the person waving.

features, including a large emergency generator.

The current schedule calls for the new building to be habitable by November, 1999. We expect to move the collections

from Walter Library to the new storage area in Winter, 2000. The new facility will provide superior storage facilities for CBI's collections, as well as a new home for CBI, adequate to house ten staff and visiting scholars. □

CHARLES BABBAGE INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

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