CBI TO REPRINT CLASSICS IN THE HISTORY OF COMPUTING

A Reprint Series for the History of Computing is being developed by CBI that will make available a substantial collection of early and difficult to obtain literature relating to the history of computing in a series of volumes to be published during the next five years. The complete series will represent a major resource for studies in the history of computing and will greatly increase the availability of important primary and secondary sources. The two main types of material included in the collection will be reprints of major works and collections of selected papers.

The reprints of major works will comprise many "classics" that are well known to computer historians. These will include books that have long been out-of-print, important conference proceedings, influential reports, and a number of translations of non-English works. Each volume will have an introduction written by either a computer historian or a participant of the original project. To ensure a balanced coverage of the field and to complement the major works, there will be several collections of selected papers. Each volume of selected papers will be devoted to a single theme and will be supported by an authoritative commentary and a bibliography.

The reprint series will be launched in the fall of 1982 with the simultaneous reprinting of four major works. The first of these will be the classic textbook on programming, The Preparation of Programs for an Electronic Digital Computer, by M. V. Wilkes, D. J. Wheeler and S. Gill, first published in 1951; the reprint has an introduction by Martin Campbell-Kelly.

The second volume will be Babbage's Calculating Engines, the collection of Charles Babbage's works assembled by his son Major H. P. Babbage and published in 1889; the reprint includes several plates missing from the original edition, and there is an introduction by A. G. Bromley.

The third volume will be The Handbook of the Napier Tercentenary Exhibition, edited by E. M. Horsburgh in 1914. This is perhaps the best English language description of the machines and techniques used for calculating before the first world war, the introduction is by M. R. Williams, University of Calgary.

The final book to appear in the fall will be the influential textbook High-Speed Computing Devices, prepared by the staff of Engineering Research Associates and published in 1950. The reprint has an introduction by Arnold A. Cohen, a contributing author to the original book, and now with the Charles Babbage Institute.


The reprint project is directed by a distinguished international editorial board led by Professor Brian Randell of the University of Newcastle, England. Other members of the board include I. Bernard Cohen, Harvard University; Arthur L. Norberg, Charles Babbage Institute; Henry S. Tropf, Humbolt State University; Heinz Zemanek, IBM Vienna; Allan G. Bromley, University of Sydney, Australia; and Martin Campbell-Kelly, University of Warwick, England.

Although the editorial board has laid down guidelines for the series, the participation of computer historians and other interested people is expressly invited. If you wish to make specific suggestions for future volumes in the series, or simply wish to know more about the project, please write to Martin Campbell-Kelly at the Computer Science Department, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, England.
Recent articles of interest in the history of computing:


1983-84 FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCED

CBI is accepting applications for a Graduate Fellowship to be awarded for the 1983-1984 academic year to a graduate student whose dissertation will be on some aspect of the history of computers and information processing. Appropriate thesis topics might be concerned with aspects of the history of the information processing industry and its infrastructure. These topics can address specific technological developments in the information sciences, including both hardware and software, especially if they also deal with the economic and organizational milieu of the developments, or with the economic, legal or social history of computing.

Residence can be at the home academic institute, other research facility where there are archival materials, the Babbage Institute, or some combination of these. There are no restrictions on the location of the academic institution which will be the venue for the Fellowship. The stipend will be $5,000 plus an amount up to $2,500 for tuition, fees, travel, and other research expenses. Priority will be given to students who have completed all course work and have completed all requirements for the doctoral degree except the research and writing of the dissertation. However, even incoming graduate students will be considered. The Fellowship may be extended for a period of one to three years if the Selection Committee concludes such support is appropriate.

Applications should be sent to the Charles Babbage Institute, University of Minnesota, 104 Walter Library, 117 Pleasant Street S.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455, U.S.A. by January 15, 1983. Applications should include biographical data and a research plan or design. Applicants should arrange for three letters of reference, certified transcripts of college credits and GRE scores (or their equivalents abroad) to be sent directly to the Institute.

S.H.O.T. ANNUAL MEETING

The Society for the History of Technology will be holding its annual meeting in Philadelphia, October 28-31, 1982. Two past recipients of the CBI Fellowship Award will be participating in a session titled “Marketing and Employing the Computer.” Paul Ceruzzi, Clemson College, will present a paper on “What Did They Think They Invented: Perceptions of the Digital Computer in its Early Years, 1945-1951.” William Aspray, Harvard University, (with Donald de B. Beaver from Williams College) will speak on “Marketing the Monster: Advertising Computer Technology.” The other paper to be presented in the session is “NASA’s Impact on Computer Development” by James F. Tomayko, Wichita State University. Arthur Norberg, CBI Director, will serve as commentator. The session will be chaired by Nancy Stern, Hofstra University.
CALL FOR PAPERS ON THE HISTORY OF COMPUTING

The *Journal of Computers in Mathematics and Science Teaching* is interested in receiving articles for its new department, “Historical and Social Perspectives.” Specifically, they are interested in receiving papers in the following areas:

—History of computing;
—Biography of a key figure in the history of computing, mathematics or science;
—Social effects and implication of using computers; and
—History of educational technology.

Author’s guidelines are available upon request from Gary H. Marks, Editor, *The Journal of Computers in Mathematics and Science Teaching*, P.O. Box 4455, Austin, Texas 78765.

CIPS CONFERENCE INCLUDES HISTORY OF COMPUTING SESSION

The History of Computing program session that was included in the 1982 national conference of the Canadian Information Processing Society marks the first year that an entire session was devoted to this topic. About 100 individuals attended the session and heard Arnold A. Cohen, CBI Senior Fellow, describe the activities and goals of the Institute. Other participants at the session were Andrew Booth, Automatics Research Associated, Inc., who spoke on “Digital Computers 1800-2000,” and Keith Smillie, University of Alberta, who presented a paper on “Logic Machines: From Ancient Greece to Silicon Valley.” Mike Williams from the University of Calgary chaired this session that was held on May 19 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Readers are reminded that the Charles Babbage Foundation is supported solely through private financing. If you would like to contribute to the promotion of the history of computing, join our Associates program. Associates receive at no charge a subscription to the AFIPS Annals of the History of Computing. The schedule for contributions is as follows:

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Please make your check payable to the Charles Babbage Foundation and mail to: CBI, University of Minnesota, 104 Walter Library, 117 Pleasant Street, S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455.