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# Newsletter of the International Committee for the History of Technology ICOHTEC

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## Editorial

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It was a pleasure to meet many of you in Budapest three weeks ago. Reports on this very successful conference will follow. In order to integrate our new ICOHTEC logo presented in Budapest in the newsletter, the appearance of this newsletter has changed.
Thanks to Sonja Petersen and Melike Sahinol the ICOHTEC Newsletter publishes a report on the History of Robotics Conference of the German Society for the History of Technology (GTG) in May 2009.

Best wishes for the last weeks of summer
Yours Stefan Poser

Contents

# I. Conference Report „History of Robotics“

## Annual meeting of the German Society for the History of Technology (GTG), May 2009[1]

**Sonja Petersen**, DFG Graduate School Topology of Technology, Darmstadt University of Technology, Sonja.Petersen@pg.tu-darmstadt.de

**Melike Sahinol**, Interdepartmental Centre for Ethics in the Sciences and Humanities, Research Training Group Bioethics, University of Tuebingen, melike.sahinol@izew.uni-tuebingen.de

The mutual relationship between human and machine was the main focus of the conference “History of Robotics”, the annual meeting of the *German Society for the History of Technology / Gesellschaft für Technikgeschichte (GTG)*. In May 2009 contributors from different academic disciplines such as history of technology, sociology, computer science, engineering, media studies and Japanese studies discussed the subject at the *Hochschule für Gestaltung*, Offenbach. The university’s president, Bernd Kracke, and the chair of the German Society for the History of Technology, Martina Heßler, welcomed the attendees. Catarina Caetano da Rosa, the creative mind of this conference and a member of the GTG program committee, outlined the relevance of „History of Robotics“ for the history of technology.

Jan Müggenburg[2], Eric Lettkemann[3] and Martin Meister[4] dealt with the history of knowledge about robotics. Based on Steve Austin´s novel “Cyborg” Müggenburg analysed the presentation of bionics in science and fiction. During the 1960s three technological concepts were developed: the *prosthetic man,* whose extremities were replaced through prosthesis, the *amplified man,* whose technological extremities support his naturals during hard work and the *closed cycle man*, who is part of a technical mechanism and doesn’t have to accommodate. All three concepts are dealing with technologies compatible with biological organisms. These concepts are the source of the cyborg concept. The cyborg, for example, was able to move, think and feel independently – based on technology; and his technology was hidden. Technology is always present with robots. A history of cybernetics was presented by Lettkemann and Meister. Based on US-American military research during the Second World War, they emphasised the change of „human-machine-symbioses“ from weapon systems and medical technology to „cute robots“, like the artificial turtles of Grey Walters. These turtles were designed to demonstrate the results of cybernetics in a playful manner. The general discussion dealt with the question, if there is already

[1] This report was published in German language at „HSOZKULT“. A detailed report in German has been published at the GTG homepage (www.gtg.tu-berlin.de/mambo/index.php) and is going to be published in the journal „Technikgeschichte“.
[2] Initiativkolleg "The Sciences in Historical Context", University of Vienna, Austria.
[3] Institute of Technology Studies, Technical University of Berlin, Germany.
[4] Center of Technology and Society, Technical University of Berlin, Germany.

a tradition in research in the history of robotics follows already traditions. Except Lisa Nocks' book[5] there is no general history of robotics written until today; therefore special attention must be drawn to the question, what kind of stories concerning history will be launched by the actors of robotics.

Industrial robots, their capabilities and their impact on work and society were also discussed. Ralf Spicker[6] analysed the relation between industrial robots and humans. He gave an overview on the development of modern industrial robots based on the first industrial robot „Unimate“, used in a casting house at General Motors / USA. Spicker argued that industrial robots not necessarily destroyed jobs: human skills and human knowledge are still important and can't be replaced by machines easily. Judith Igelsböck[7] and Astrid Weiss[8] also discussed personal reactions on robots. They reported on the first results of the EU Project ROBOT@CWE, which is dedicated to dealing with the fear humans have about their possible replacement by robots. According to the paper presenters, there is no reason for too much concern: in case of many operations it is still too difficult to standardise the work flow in order to make it suitable for robots. Igelsböck and Weiß suggested that robots are to be used especially for dangerous, dirty and repetitive work. General acceptance of robots does not necessarily lead to their successful application, as Michael Schöneich[9] showed. The first industrial robot of the German Democratic Republic was used at „VEB Sachsenring“, Zwickau, in 1978. Imported from Norway it was applied to lacquer the auto-body of the „Trabant“ car. Workers and managers were educated to apply the machine and to deal with their fear. Despite good technical solutions the robots were not applied successfully and the technological gap with West Germany could not be closed.

Robots were used in industry as well as in everyday life. Frank Dittmann[10] presented the history of service robots since the 1960s. Early service robots, like „Shaky“, were designed to combine results from different fields of artificial intelligence. Current research projects concentrate on robot-based monitoring, protection and inspection, as well as on robots used in products of mass consumption, such as vacuum cleaners, lawn mowers or toys. The aim to place robots on the mass market makes their production economically attractive. Dittmann showed that the modification of classical robot technology has led to applications in the field of medical science, as for instance surgical robots. He argued that the lack of social behaviour, e.g. the non-ability to interact on a social level, should be a reason to abdicate *nurse robots*. The participants discussed the question if it makes sense to apply service robots. Favourable are those used for clearing mine fields for example. Christian Schlette[11]

[5] Nocks, Lisa: The Robot. The story of a technology. Greenwood Press, Westport, Conn. 2007.
[6] Deutsches Museum, Munich, Germany.
[7] HCI & Usability oft he ICT& Center. EU-project ROBOT@CWE, Vienna, Austria.
[8] HCI & Usability oft he ICT& Center. EU-project ROBOT@CWE, Vienna, Austria.
[9] Königstein, Germany.
[10] Deutsches Museum, Munich, Germany.
[11] Institut for Technical Informations, RWTH Aachen, Germany.

analysed the usability of humanoid service robots in everyday life. He made the point that the challenges associated with the complexity of everyday life are significant tasks in the development of robots. Robots should be able to act not only in the lab but in any environment. The complexity of the environment requires robots to be equipped with "*intelligent" algorithms'*, sensors and actors to calculate problems of moving and to avoid collisions. Schlette introduced in different problems of the development of intelligent algorithms' for humanoid service robots. In the discussion it was mentioned that engineers partially co-construct human action as an integral part of robots.

Stefan Stein[12] took the attendants on a journey trough the colourful world of comics, from Nick Knatterton up to Daniel Düsentrieb. He analysed different presentations of robots and discussed different types of robots as the good buddy, the mad scientist, the robotic body double, or the fighting robot. Karsten Weber[13] took the attendants on a journey to moving images. The presentation of robots in film has changed since the 1950. Robots developed from tools to actors, from obedient servants with integrated directives based on values and morals to onboard computers which revolt against humans. The film "I Robot" (2005) presents robots as entirely autonomous actors. Stein and Weber showed how different sources could contribute to a history of robotics. Lisa Nocks[14] addressed the use of science fiction literature as a source for the history of technology. Science fiction novels are a field, in which the great issues of society can be displayed and resolved, even if this is not possible in the real world. The genre of science fiction shows the impact of technology on society. In the discussion it was argued that narratives have an impact on historiography. A „History of Robotics" has to use narrative sources as comics, movies and novels too, to get insights about how society deals with technology and how technology influences society.

The high significance of narrative figures is mainly reflected in Japanese society. In his presentation, Erich Pauer[15] asked whether there is a direct link between early Japanese machines, i.e. the *karakuri ningyô*, of the Edo period (1600 - 1867) and today's Japanese humanoid robots. The techno-historical literature of Japan focuses on the Karkuri master Hisashige (1799 - 1881) whose work is seen as a link between tradition and modernity. His knowledge on mechanics and on the application of different materials was important. The Edo-automata, however, influenced the industrialisation only to a small degree and seem to have been overrated as the forerunners of modern robots. Investigating the origins of humanoid robots, Kenji Ito[16] gave an overview on the cultural and political significance of *Manga figures* as *Astroboy*. These figures were important for the acceptance of robots among the Japanese. Ito assessed the socio-cultural significance of science and technology in

[12] Heinz Nixdorf MuseumsForum, Paderborn, Germany.
[13] University of Opole, Poland.
[14] New Jersey Institute of Technology, USA.
[15] Japan Centre, University of Marburg, Germany.
[16] Hayama Centre for Advanced Studies, Hayama, Kanagawa, Japan.

Japan since the pre-war period. Astroboy's creator Tezuka Osamu reflected Japanese war experience with the first episode of Astroboy. Astroboy gradually rose to adapt the image of a superhuman with likeable charm and promoted enthusiasm for science and technology in post-war Japan. In result, the Astroboy story gave a portrait of Japan's future as a country of techno-utopias. Cosima Wagner[17] focused on the characteristic features of Japanese robots with Astroboy and ASIMO serving as examples. She emphasised the vision which guided robotics of Japan: the producer Honda for instance did not combine the development of ASIMO with an interest in a direct application. The robot merely functioned as an image product and a PR figure. In the 1970s Japan apparently attempted to strengthen its national image by producing entertainment robots. Wagner pointed out that robots ought to be understood as a product of techno-cultural orchestration and (excessive) cultural presentation. She pointed out that a cultural-scientific perspective on technical artefacts is indispensable in order to localise the socio-cultural embedding of technology. Hironori Matsuzaki[18] analysed the cultural dimension of technology and investigated the restraints in the relationship between man and machine; he focused on the sociology of knowledge. Following him, inhabitants of Europe have a normatively and cognitively exceptional position (i.e. human rights, etc.) which is fundamental for the differentiation between human beings and machines. In European human-centred social structures the conceptualization of robots objecting to man-machine differences (based on anthropological terms) is seen as a huge problem. In Japan, this potential of ethical conflicts seems to be hardly recognised. Based on a Buddhist and Shintoist tradition of thinking Japanese tend to assume a coexistence of humanoid robots, thus accepting an integration of robots into many areas of life and admitting a semantic shift of social life.

The computer scientist Sven Behnke[19] reported about the current development of robot science in his contribution „Role model human: humanoid robots". In the „Klingspor Museum" of Offenbach he presented the current development of human robots. These robots are characterized by their human-shaped bodies, "behaviour" and sensors. Soccer robots, which have been developed since 1997, are the best known robots of this type. They compete in international tournaments and RoboCup leagues. Hans-Joachim Braun[20] analysed the relevance of robot competitions for the development of technology and society. Already in the 1920s, Taylor's scientific management was applied to soccer tactics in order to make soccer more effective. New possibilities arose for the development of real soccer matches by making use of tactical moves experimented with in computer games and in the RoboCup's simulation league. The paradigm of the automation soccer was already integrated

[17] Department of Linguistics, Cultural and Civilization Studies, Art Studies, Japanology, Goethe University of Frankfurt, Germany.
[18] Institute of Social Sciences, Carl von Ossietzky University, Oldenburg, Germany.
[19] Institute of Computer Science, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhlems-Univerität, University of Bonn, Germany.
[20] Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Helmut Schmidt University, Universität der Bundeswehr, Hamburg, Germany.

into soccer tactics by different actors (coach, player etc.). We will have to rethink the relationship between man and machine. Thus, robot football can well serve as a catalyst to reassess basic problems of human soccer including ethics and morals. As Silva Porfirio[21] explained in his talk, robot competitions already existed in the Ancient Greek and Roman period. He investigated how robots in the ancient world were first classified as a variation from the humans, as some sort of fabulous races, and characterised as humanoid monsters. Silva was interested in the theoretical groundwork of the term "humanoid". Analysing this term will enable us to better understand the significance of humanoid robots. On the one hand, resemblance with human beings is important for robots in order to react on human thinking and behaviour. On the other hand our reaction towards humanoid robots is usually somewhat dismissive and we tend to see them as monsters. Jessica Heesen[22] examined the identity of robots, too. In our society the Self would originate from social interactions, the interrelation of organisational forms, social orders and material contexts. In a world dominated by communication technologies, the development of identities would be determined by electronic interactions as well as by material parameters. Due to the expansion of inter-subjective electronic communication processes in the physical surrounding, an alter ego would be created in this context and the concept of a reflexive identity be charged normatively. This might promote an ironical turn of the development: the context itself would become the explicit communication partner. Thus the idea of a reflexive identity could be substituted pragmatically by an adaptive construction of user-stereotypes.

Two excursions were part of the conference of the German Society for the History of Technology. One group visited the industrial history of Rüsselsheim, made a city walk and also visited the city museum. The other excursion was dedicated to the old Opel factories, where the first German assembly line for automobiles was erected in the 1920s. Scholarly research on the issue „History of Robots" was thus combined with impressions of industrial plants where humans had to deal with machines. „History of Robotics" discussed the development of robots from different points of view. To do so, the annual meeting connected technological, societal and cultural aspects of the application of and the relationship to robots.

[21] Institute for Systems and Robotics, Lisbon, Portugal.
[22] Centre for Basic Studies in Ethics and Philosophy, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, University of Freiburg, Germany.

## II. Conferences

**17 – 19 September 2009**
**Elektrizität als Energieform im Übergang von der industriellen zur postindustriellen Gesellschaft / Electricity in the Industrial and Post-Industrial Society.**
Universität Jena, Germany

The interdisciplinary conference will analyse the development and presentation of electricity as well as the discourse on the role of electricity for energy supply in contemporary history.
Please find the program on http://hsozkult.geschichte.hu-berlin.de/termine/id=12045.
Please contact Hendrik Ehrhardt and Thomas Kroll, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, Historisches Institut, Professur für Westeuropäische Geschichte, h.ehrhardt@uni-jena.de.

**8 – 9 October 2009**
**Tagung der Fachgruppe Technikmuseen im Deutschen Museumsbund**
**In Kooperation mit der IBA Fürst-Pückler-Land**
Großräschen, Germany
Please find the program on http://www.gtg.tu-berlin.de/mambo/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=855&Itemid=267
Please contact Rita Müller, Fachgruppensprecherin, Rita.mueller@saechsiches-industriemuseum.de and Urs Diederichs, Stellvertretender Fachgruppensprecher, diederichs@str.de

**25-27 March 2010**
**The Automobile in a Time of Crisis - Lessons of History.** Eighth Biennial Automotive History Conference.
Tupelo, Mississippi
CFP – Deadline **30 September 2009**

The Society of Automotive Historians and the National Association of Automobile Museums are seeking proposals for papers to be presented at their eighth biennial automotive history conference to be held in Tupelo, Mississippi, USA, from March 25 to 27, 2010. Entitled "The Automobile in a Time of Crisis - Lessons of History," the conference will be a symposium exploring the response of the automotive industry and of public policy when confronted by changing economic conditions, political imperatives and cultural preferences. Of interest to a wide range of people, from academic researchers to lay historians to museum professionals, it will be hosted by the Tupelo Automobile Museum.

Proposals are invited on such topics as automobile manufacturing, design evolution, labor conditions, competitive pressure, directed marketing, the effect of industrial concentration and the international motor trade and may address the effects on individual manufacturers, national markets or the industry worldwide. Other potential subjects of interest include the transformation of society through the adoption of the automobile in developed and developing regions and the impact of growing constraints on the utilization of resources and the environment. Proposals unrelated to the conference theme will also be considered. Papers dealing with the interpretation of automotive history to the general public are particularly sought, especially involving the museum setting.

Proposals should include the title of the submission, names and affiliations of presenters, chairs, participants etc., together with addresses, phone/fax numbers, e-mail addresses of contact personnel, proposed format (paper, panel, workshop, etc.) and a one-page abstract describing the content of the presentation.
Please contact Arthur W. Jones, Program Chair**,** nomecos@verizon.net

**17 – 20 June 2010**
**Technology & East-West relations: Transfers, parallel histories, and the European laboratory.** 4th Tensions of Europe Plenary Conference & Closing ESF Inventing Europe Conference
Sofia (Bulgaria)
CFP - Deadline **18 December 2009**

The European Science Foundation (ESF) and the Foundation for the History of Technology in the Netherlands are jointly organizing the final and closing conference of the ESF EUROCORES program Inventing Europe and the bi-annual conference of the Tensions of Europe network (ToE). Inventing Europe and ToE strive, through collaborative research and coordinating efforts, to promote studies of the interplay between technical change and European history. Instead of focusing on national histories, the emphasis of both initiatives is on transnational technological developments that have shaped and are shaping Europe.

We encourage scholars from all disciplines who study subjects related to the overall conference theme or the Inventing Europe/Tensions of Europe intellectual agenda to submit abstracts for the research sessions, roundtables and research collaboration sessions.

**Overall Theme of the Conference**
The main theme of the conference applies to papers, which treat processes of circulation and appropriation of technologies between Eastern and Western Europe as an entry point into the contested practice of Europeanization. During the Cold War, for instance, Europe has been one of the central laboratories for the

experimentation with ideological and political regimes, which deeply infected traditional paths of knowledge and technology transfer in Europe. While the history of the Cold War has mainly been told as a history of discontinuity and fragmentation, we would especially welcome papers and sections dealing with examples of successful co-operation or hidden continuities in inter-European technology transfer during the 20th century. Despite the fact that focus of the conference will be on the post-WW II period, we will welcome session proposals and individual papers referring to the practices of appropriation and circulation of ideas, skills and people in Europe from the mid-19th century onwards thus from the period before the notions of Eastern and Western Europe were coined. This results from our conviction that one should look for the roots of the European integration and fragmentation in a longue duree perspective.

**Deadlines and Time-line**
The deadline for proposals is DECEMBER 18, 2009. The research session abstracts (maximum 600 words) should be submitted by the organizers together with the abstracts for the individual presentations (maximum 500 words each). To propose a roundtable, please submit a list of invited participants and an abstract (maximum 600 words). Note: When giving the proposal a digital file name, please include the organizer's last name, and either RS for research session, RT for round table or RCS for Research Collaboration Session. The abstracts should be sent to the Program Committee by email to TOE@tue.nl. Please direct queries to the Program Committee Chair, Andreas Fickers, A.Fickers@maastrichtuniversity.nl.

The Program Committee will inform the session organizers about its decisions no later than February 15, 2010. Inventing Europe & Tensions of Europe programs are seeking to provide a contribution towards travel and/or accommodation costs for those who have no opportunity to participate otherwise.

Papers and roundtable discussion texts must be submitted to the Program Committee by May 1, 2010 because they will be distributed to all conference participants before the conference on a CD and made available on the website.
For the Program Committee for the Fourth Plenary Conference of Tensions of Europe, Andreas Fickers, Chair, Maastricht University, Helena Durnova, Prague University, Valentina Fava, Bocconi, Ivan Tchalakov,University of Plovdiv.

Please contact the Program Committee Chair, Andreas Fickers, A.Fickers@maastrichtuniversity.nl.

**22 – 25 June 2010**
**21st International Association of Historians of Asia (IAHA) Conference**
Singapore
CFP – Deadline **30 September 2009**

The 21st International Association of Historians of Asia (IAHA) Conference will be held in Singapore, 22-25 June 2010. The Conference is being hosted by the Department of History of the National University of Singapore with the generous support of the *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies* and the Asia Research Institute at the National University of Singapore.

The IAHA Conferences offer a unique opportunity for scholars within the Asian region, as well as from other parts of the world, to discuss, share and gain new insights from their latest historical studies, and to foster solidarity and camaraderie among academics working on Asian history. Proposals for individual papers, panels and colloquia, along with titles and short abstracts, are strongly encouraged from all interested parties and should be sent in no later than 30 September 2009.
More information can be found at: http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/hist/iaha/index.htm

**22 – 25 June 2010**
**3rd International Conference on the History of Medicine in Southeast Asia (HOMSEA 2010)**
Singapore
CFP – Deadline **30 December 2009**

All proposals on the subject of the history of medicine and health in Southeast Asia will be considered, but preference will be given to those on the theme of "New Medicines, Markets, and the Development of Medical Pluralism" which intends to explore how both local and metropolitan actors in Southeast Asia have contributed historically to the growth and development of medical markets throughout the region, here implying both traditional pharmacopeia as well as the arrival of newer pharmaceuticals in colonial and post-colonial settings. With a time frame preceding formal colonial intervention in the region and ranging up to the present, with the creation of a local infrastructure for biomedical and biotech work, participants are encouraged to submit individual papers and panels with possible themes including: *Women and Health in Southeast Asia, Medical pluralism in Southeast Asia: A Historical Perspective, Medical markets in SEA, Southeast Asian Biopoleis* (including the growth of biomedical infrastructure, Science Parks, and Local Production Facilities—identification of pharmacopoeia, drug development), and *New Sources, New Methodologies, New Historiographies.*

As the HOMSEA meeting will coincide with the IAHA 2010 meeting in Singapore, those interested in expanding the discussion either geographically—to include North East Asia and South Asia—chronologically, or methodologically are encouraged to apply to HOMSEA as well as the IAHA meeting to broaden the scope of discussion.

Please submit a one-page proposed abstract for a 20-minute talk, and a one-page CV by 30th December 2009 to: Laurence Monnais, laurence.monnais-rousselot@umontreal.ca. Please note that it may be possible to subsidize some of the costs of participation for scholars from less wealthy countries. For further information about funding and the general organization of the meeting, please contact: John DiMoia, hisjpd@nus.edu.sg.

Please visit the IAHA website at: http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/hist/iaha/index.htm. Please contact Laurence Monnais, laurence.monnais-rousselot@umontreal.ca and John DiMoia, hisjpd@nus.edu.sg.

**28 – 29 October 2010**
**International Workshop on the History of Cocoa and Chocolate.**
Historisches Seminar II, Heinrich Heine Universität, Düsseldorf; Rheinisch-Westfälisches Wirtschaftsarchiv Köln und Schokoladen-Museum Köln, Schokoladen-Museum, Köln, Germany
CFP – Deadline **31 October 2009**

The history of chocolate, its production and consumption is a fascinating and important part of our modern economic, social and cultural history. Since the arrival of the cocoa bean in Europe in the early 16th century its products have shaped the pattern of consumption and enjoyment.

Today it is hard to imagine a life without chocolate in the western world. The industry has acquired a central position in some European countries. In Germany the chocolate industry had a turn-over of 4.4 billion Euros in 2008 and in Switzerland 1.2 billion Euros. Indeed, Switzerland has had the highest per capital consumption with 12.4 kg, closely followed by Belgium, Britain and Germany. Chocolate is not only a mass product but life-style. Within the last few decades multiple new products have been created, which on the one hand draw on the indigenous cultures of America. On the other hand a new culture of chocolate consumption has emerged which manifests itself in chocolate festivals, exhibitions and chocolate shops or “chocolateries”. Medicine has also rediscovered chocolate. Big international research programmes have been undertaken on the health supporting properties of the flavanols or polyphenols in the cocoa beans.

While chocolate has become the relish of the masses, the history of chocolate has been neglected in historical research for a long time. Only within the last few years a certain change can be seen. A few publications have come out either on the history of single companies or on particular aspects.

However, since the arrival of the chocolate in Europe it has experienced a profound change. It was turned from an Indian hot drink to a solid chocolate bar and truffles

followed by a variety of new product variations. In the regions of origin it has also had a deep impact on the production methods and working conditions. The cultural and economic changes shall be subject of an international workshop on the history of chocolate.

Proposals are invited on any aspect of research relating to the history of chocolate including the following themes:

1. Areas of cultivation and production methods
2. Development and organisation of the cocoa trade
3. Technical innovations and product innovation (transition from craft to industry)
4. Cultural innovations specific patterns of chocolate consumption and rituals, chocolate china etc)
5. Working conditions on the plantations and in the European chocolate manufactories)
6. Enterprise and marketing
7. Chocolate and health

Proposals for papers should include a short (one page) abstract, and a brief CV. If you have any questions, please contact Margrit Schulte Beerbuehl at schulteb@phil-fak.uni-duesseldorf.de

**10 – 14 November 2010**
**AREA: "Loving the Machine: Human-Machine Relationships in Film and Television"**
2010 Film & History Conference: Representations of Love in Film and Television
Milwaukee, USA
First Round Deadline**1 November 2009**

In the last century, the long-running discourse of human-machine relations extended to film and television depictions of struggles for power, intimacy, identity, or security. Potential social conflicts engendered by producing machines that operate in their own self-interest have been explored in films such as 2001: A Space Odyssey, Bladerunner, AI: Artificial Intelligence, I, Robot, and The Bicentennial Man, and, on television, in stories such as the classic Twilight Zone episode "The Lonely," the "Valerie 23" and "Mary 25"episodes of The Outer Limits, and the 1980s TV series Small Wonder. Human-machine relationships run the gamut from comedic to sinister. In The Desk Set, a satire of contemporary worries about how smart computers would affect the human labor force, Woody Allen's character struggles with toasters, tape recorders, and cars, whereas much darker forces are at work in the relationship between a man and his machine in Christine. These and other stories have raised numerous questions: Is sex with an android any different than sex with a vibrator? Could a machine love you back? What does the "cyborg-ization of society" mean,

and how does it alter the Cartesian distinction between living and non-living things?

This area, comprising multiple panels, invites submissions that explore this subject from a variety of methodologies. Topics might include but are not limited to the following:

- Human/machine relationships in Anime
- The anthropomorphism and/or gendering of ships, vehicles, and weapons
- The recent trend of producing shorts with robotic pets for YouTube
- Android love
- Obsession with a particular machine
- Dystopian representations of machine-run societies
- Love/hate relationships with machines
- Robots as either saviors or conquerors
- Mystical or magical sources in human/machine stories
- Literary sources of films and teleplays about love and the machine
- Philosophical bases of our ideas about our relationship with machines

Please send your 200-word proposal to the area chair Lisa Nocks, lnocks@gmail.com.
Panel proposals for up to four presenters are also welcome, but each presenter must submit his or her own paper proposal. For updates and registration information about the upcoming meeting, see the Film & History website, www.uwosh.edu/filmandhistory.

Please contact the area chair, Lisa Nocks**,** lnocks@gmail.com.

## III. Call for Contributions

**Thematic Issue: Labour History of Computing, IEEE Annals of the History of Computing**
Deadline **15 January 2010**

*IEEE Annals of the History of Computing* invites article manuscript submissions for a thematic/special issue on the history of labour and computing. Manuscripts that connect to the broader literature on labour history are particularly encouraged. Submissions can address labour issues, practices, or structures within a wide range of settings including computer, software, networking, or semiconductor/components companies throughout the world; user organizations (corporations, government, universities, hospitals, etc.); peer production projects (open source); trade organizations; professional associations; etc. Possible themes and approaches include, but are not limited to, the history of work practices, work culture, shop floor dynamics, labour organization, legislation/lobbying, professionalization, automation

and labour displacement, off shoring, gender/race/ethnicity and IT work, safety and risk in the workplace, etc.

The deadline for submission to this thematic issue is January 15, 2010. Manuscripts will go through *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing's* standard peer review process. If there are more accepted manuscripts than slots for the issue, editors will decide which articles to include based on quality, coverage, and synergies between manuscripts. If there are accepted manuscripts not included in the issue, they will be added to the general publication queue and published in a later issue of *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing*.

All articles must be between 5,000 and 8,000 words, including citations/endnotes. To submit your manuscript go to http://www2.computer.org/portal/web/annals/home; select the "Write for Us" tab at the top and follow instructions (including selecting the Labor History thematic/special issue).

Please contact *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing* Editor in Chief Jeffrey Yost, yostx003@umn.edu.
For further information please email secretary@ambix.org

## IV. Recently Published Books

**Comité National Français de histoire et de la philosophie des sciences (ed.):** Guide de la recherche en histoire des sciences et des techniques en France / A Guide to Research in History of Science and Technology in France, prepared by Patrice Bret and Jean Mosconi. International Union of History and Philosophy of Science and Technology 2009.

The survey of research in history of science and technology, published in preparation of the Budapest ICHST 2009, can be ordered from the Comité National Français de Histoire et de la Philosophie des Sciences, 16 rue Mazarine, F-75006 Paris.

**Krebs, Stefan:** Technikwissenschaft als soziale Praxis. Über Macht und Autonomie der Aachener Eisenhüttenkunde 1870 – 1914. = Vierteljahrschrift für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte, Beiheft 204. Steiner-Verlag, Stuttgart 2009.

The author analysed the development of scientific approaches to technology at the end of the long 19th century; the focus is on mutual influences of scientific, social and political developments. Krebs well done piece of work is based on a case study on the development of research and teaching of ferrous metallurgy at Aachen Technical University. At the turn to the 20th century the university hosted the most important institute on iron metallurgy.