

THE EDITOR'S CORNER

The Eleutherian Mills Historical Library has recently opened the records of the Pennsylvania Power & Light Company (1854–1955, 1,000 linear feet) for scholarly research. This collection includes the records of the 1,043 companies that merged over an eighty-five year period to form the present day Pennsylvania Power & Light Company. It documents the electric industry's tentative beginnings using the Edison system of direct current, the technological innovations that allowed small, inner-city utilities to expand beyond their original urban centers, and the consolidation movement which culminated in the formation of a great regional power network. For further information, contact: Research & Reference Department, Eleutherian Mills Historical Library, P.O. Box 3630, Wilmington, DE 19807. (302) 658-2400.

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The Regional History Center at Northern Illinois University has recently acquired the inactive records of the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (1917–1979) and the Illinois Valley Area Chamber of Commerce (1946–1980). The Joliet collection (twenty-eight linear feet) contains board records, membership files, financial records and an extensive series of subject files. The IVAC records are incomplete but do provide documentation of the chamber's activities during the post-World War II period. Additional collections held by the center focus on agribusiness and the furniture, knitting, machine tool, and clockmaking industries in the northern Illinois region. For additional information please contact: Regional History Center, Swen Parson Hall, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115. (815) 753-1779.

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Baker Library at the Harvard Business School has opened three linear feet of papers of the nineteenth-century investment banker Harris C. Fahnestock (1835–1914). Fahnestock's long financial career began in his hometown of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where as a young man he took on major responsibilities in the bank of his uncle, J. W. Weir. In 1862 Jay Cooke invited him to Washington as a partner in Jay Cooke & Co. From there and from New York, Fahnestock participated in that firm's major investment work for the U.S. Treasury, and in its other regional and international investment ventures.

After the Jay Cooke & Co. bankruptcy in 1873, Fahnestock joined George F. Baker at the First National Bank of New York as its vice-president. He continued as a senior officer there through the next four decades, while holding partnerships and directorates in other business institutions.

Fahnestock corresponded with U.S. cabinet members, senators, state officials, and regional, national and international businessmen on financial and policy matters, such as the Virginia deferred securities issue and the repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act. His investments involved him in railroads, waterworks and other late-nineteenth-century business ventures, including the Oregon Steam Navigation Co., the Reading Railroad, the Tidewater Co., and the National Waterworks Investment Co.

The Fahnestock collection complements the Jay Cooke and the Henry Villard collections at Baker Library, and the Jay Cooke collection at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. For further information, contact: Florence Bartoshesky, Curatorial Associate, Manuscripts and Archives, Baker Library, Harvard Business School, Boston, MA 02163.

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The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics announces the opening of the 1985 History Manuscript Award contest for the best book-length manuscript in the history of aeronautics or astronautics. Entries must be in English, and not over 75,000 words long. An AIAA Medal, a certificate of citation, and a rosette pin will be awarded to the author submitting the best worthy manuscript dealing with the science, technology, and/or impact of aeronautics or astronautics on society. Nominations should be submitted by 14 May 1984. For further information, please contact: American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, 1633 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. (212) 581-4300.

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A conference on business in Canadian society will take place at Trent University in Peterborough, Canada, 24–26 May 1984. This conference represents the first attempt to provide a communal forum for Canadian business history. The conference aims to facilitate the exchange of views and research, and also, hopefully, to establish a foundation from which future endeavors—possibly a journal as well as future conferences—may grow. The goal of the conference is not to produce a closely defined group of academic specialists, but instead to encourage broad interest and participation in the study of business. An attempt has been made to bridge the interests of businessmen, academics, free-lance historians, archivists, and the general public.

The conference program will feature ten sessions spread over two days. Each session will pursue a theme in Canada's business past—a past encompassing topics as disparate as the cod fishery and the early evolution of the Toronto Stock Exchange. There will be ample time for informal discussion between the sessions. The two conference dinners will highlight three keynote speakers: a distinguished Canadian businessman and two prominent business historians.

Organization for the conference has been undertaken by a committee of academics and non-academics formed in June 1982. Trent University, through the Leslie M. Frost Centre for Canadian Heritage and Development Studies, has kindly endorsed the conference's goals and taken an active role in its preparation. The University has also agreed to act as financial repository for the conference. For further information, please contact: Douglas McCalla, professor of history and acting director of the Administrative and Policy Studies Program, Trent University, Ottawa, Canada. (705) 748-1294 or 1339.

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The Department of English and History of Southern Technical Institute, a four-year college of engineering technology, is sponsoring, in conjunction with the Humanities and Technology Association, the eighth annual conference on

the relationship of the humanities and technology, in Marietta, Georgia (near Atlanta), 25-26 October 1984.

The department invites papers and presentations that examine the relationship of the humanities and technology. To focus fully on this interaction, submissions should deal with the following areas: the relationship between the humanities and technology as perceived by business and industry; the ramifications of technology in ethics; the history and philosophy of science, technology, and architecture; public policy toward science and technology; curriculum design for the humanities and technology; the roles and effects of technology in science fiction, American studies, and popular culture; the responses of literature, aesthetics, and the arts to technology; and the international technology transfer.

Abstracts should be one-page, single-spaced, and typed in dark enough print to be reproduced. At the top center of the page should be the paper's title, author's name, and author's affiliation. Send abstracts to: Becky Kelly or Virginia Hein, Department of English and History, Southern Technical Institute, Marietta, GA 30060. (404) 424-7422 or 7204. The deadline for submitting abstracts is 27 April 1984.

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The Society for the History of Technology seeks session and paper proposals for its 1984 Annual Meeting, which will take place at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts, 18-21 October.

The society seeks a diverse and well-balanced program, including sessions on technology in medieval as well as modern periods. It would like to encourage historians of technology to address topics that have received relatively little attention at recent meetings. Accordingly, it will particularly welcome contributions on non-Western technology, technology and the state, literary images of technology (e.g. Orwell's *1984*), technologies of mass media (e.g. film, radio, and television), the history of technical education, and especially interdisciplinary proposals relating the history of technology to other specialties such as women's history, labor history, urban history, or new methodological approaches.

The deadline for proposals is 1 May 1984. Individual proposals must include a 150-word abstract of the paper and a one-page curriculum vita. Session proposals should include a statement of the general theme as well as an abstract and curriculum vita for each participant. Please address initial inquiries and proposals to: Jeffrey L. Sturchio, Department of Humanities, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, NJ 07102. (201) 645-5224.

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The thirty-eighth annual meeting of the Forest History Society, 18-19 October 1984, in Denver, Colorado, will feature a symposium on the theme: Forest History of the Rocky Mountain Region. The society invites inquiries and proposals for papers (twenty-minute oral presentations) from persons actively interested in the forest and conservation history of the Rocky Mountain West. The subject is defined broadly enough to encompass scholarship and other products of research from many academic disciplines—history, geog-

raphy, political science, economics, sociology, anthropology, and the several biological/ecological sciences that contribute to the field of forestry. Research concerning mankind's historical interaction with the forest environment—the utilization, management, and appreciation of such forest resources as timber, water, soil, forage, wildlife, recreation, and scenery—is pertinent.

Please send proposals, or address inquiries, to the symposium chairman: Dr. Norman I. Wengert, Forest History Society, 109 Coral Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. The deadline for formal proposals is 15 March 1984.

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As our faithful readers will no doubt notice, the *Business History Review* has, with this issue, made sundry changes in its hallowed format. We would like to express our appreciation to those people whose efforts and creativity made these changes possible. These include free-lance graphic designer Richard Bartlett, production manager Christopher Kellogg, and the staff of the Division of Research at the Harvard Business School.