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Recently Completed Dissertations

Rita Zajacz. "Technological Change, Hegemonic Transition and Communication Policy: State-MNC Relations in the Wireless Telegraph Industry, 1896-1934." Ph.D. diss., Indiana University, May 2006, 438 pp. ISBN 0-542-43644-2 DAI-A 66/11, p. 3852, May 2006

This dissertation investigates the ways in which changes in the international system influence the relationship between multinational corporations and their home states and the policies that regulate this relationship. How do ascendancy and decline influence MNC-home state relations in the radiotelegraph industry? How do the policy strategies of the declining hegemony, hoping to maintain its leadership position, differ from the policies appropriate for a rising system leader, intent on improving its position in international communications?

The two extended case studies of this dissertation compare British policymakers' attitudes towards the Marconi Company in the 1896-1906 period, on the one hand, and American policymakers' attitudes toward International Telephone and Telegraph in the 1920-1934 period, on the other. The cases explain the regulations examined—the Wireless Telegraphy Act of 1904 and Section 310 of the Communications Act of 1934—as a result of conflicts between multinational corporations and their home states, and situate the regulations in the context of hegemonic rivalry. Policymakers in both countries looked at wireless telegraphy from a systemic perspective, in relation to the submarine cable network controlled by Britain since the mid-19th century.

British decisionmakers in the Post Office and in the Admiralty clashed over the usefulness of the technology and the importance of the Marconi Company for the national interest the same way as State Department officials and officers of the U.S. Navy disagreed about the value of the two technologies and the importance of I.T.T. for the national interest. Both sets of conflicts revolve around what may be called the central conflict of hegemonic transition in state-MNC relations: the desirability and extent of expansion at different stages of the hegemonic cycle. This interdisciplinary work lies at the intersection of communications policy, international relations, diplomatic history, and business history. The analysis of the cases relies on extensive archival research in private and public records from the United States and Great Britain.

Susan Shelangoskie. *Transmitting the Home: Photography, Telegraphy and Victorian Domestic Narratives*. Ph.D. diss., University of Utah, 2006, 194 pp. ISBN: 0-542-40833-3 DAI-A 66/11, p. 4034, May 2006

Though critical attention has focused on the intersection of Victorian fiction and Victorian technology, this study examines the specific relationship between domestic narratives and two related technological processes: photography and telegraphy. The author argues, first, that photography and telegraphy were considered under a single cultural rubric described by the classification "philosophical instruments." Second, I claim that these technologies are based strongly on process (rather than product). The author shows how process included both the scientific and technological principles required for the practice of photography and telegraphy as well as the social processes that described the application of these technologies.

Shelangoskie also asserts that photography and telegraphy were often both distinctly domestic in practice, and that their domestic applications were the foundation for the relationship between these technologies and Victorian domestic fiction. She articulates these arguments by examining three Victorian fiction genres, each treated in a separate chapter. Elsewhere, the author examines domestic sentimental texts that featured photography and telegraphy to show how sentimental fiction demonstrated the proper use of new technologies in the domestic sphere in order to reinforce existing social conventions.

Shelangoskie then examines three sensation novels—*The Woman in White*, *Lady Audley's Secret*, and *Dracula*—to show how fantastic literary tropes like telepathy were linked to new technologies and how fantastic and technological forms of communication were integrated into legal and imperial plots to transform the Victorian conception of femininity. The dissertation's final chapter shows how new technologies in two realist texts, Thomas Hardy's *Imaginative Woman* and Henry James' *In the Cage*, became conduits between imagination and external reality and redefined both intimacy and infidelity in domestic relations.

Thus, Shelangoskie argues, photography and telegraphy inhabited the domestic sphere and these technologies entered into a reciprocal relationship with domestic narrative conventions.



New Books on History of Communication Technologies

Kristen Haring. *Ham Radio's Technical Culture*. Cambridge: MIT Press, December 2006. Pp. 224 + 30 illus. \$27.95/£18.95. ISBN: 978-0-262-08355-3.

Decades before the Internet, ham radio provided instantaneous, global, person-to-person communication. Hundreds of thousands of amateur radio operators—a predominantly male, middle- and upper-class group known as “hams”—built and operated two-way radios for recreation in mid-twentieth century America. In *Ham Radio's Technical Culture*, Kristen Haring looks at ham culture: why so many adopted this technical hobby and how the pastime helped them form identity and community.

Ham radio required solitary tinkering with sophisticated electronics equipment, often isolated from domestic activities in a “radio shack,” yet thrived on fraternal interaction. Conversations on the air grew into friendships, and hobbyists gathered in clubs or met informally for “eyeball contacts.” Within this community, hams developed distinct values and practices with regard to radio, creating what Haring calls a “technical culture.”

Outsiders viewed amateur radio operators with a mixture of awe and suspicion, impressed by hams’ mastery of powerful technology but uneasy about their contact with foreigners.

Drawing on a wealth of personal accounts found in radio magazines and newsletters and on technical manuals, trade journals, and government documents, Haring describes how ham radio culture rippled through hobbyists’ lives. She explains why high-tech employers recruited hams and why electronics manufacturers sought out these specialty customers. She discusses hams’ position within the military and civil defense during the Second World War and the Cold War as well as the effect of the hobby on family dynamics. By considering ham radio in the context of technical hobbies—model building, photography, high-fidelity audio, and other popular pursuits—Haring shows what experiences were shared by people who took up various technologies for leisure and how their perspec-

tives influenced attitudes toward technology beyond hobby communities.

Manuel Castells, Mireia Fernández-Ardèvol, Jack Linchuan Qiu, and Araba Sey. *Mobile Communication and Society: A Global Perspective*. Cambridge: MIT Press, November 2006. Pp. 392 + 10 illus. \$29.95/£19.95. ISBN: 978-0-262-03355-8

Wireless networks are the fastest growing communications technology in history. Are mobile phones expressions of identity, fashionable gadgets, tools for life—or all of the above? *Mobile Communication and Society* looks at how the possibility of multimodal communication—from anywhere to

anywhere—at any time affects everyday life at home, at work, and at school, and raises broader concerns about politics and culture, both global and local.

Drawing on data gathered from around the world, the authors explore who has access to wireless technology, and why, and analyze the patterns of social differentiation seen in unequal access. They explore the social effects of wireless communication—what it means for family life, for example, when everyone is constantly in touch, or for the idea of an office when workers can work anywhere. Is the technological ability to multitask further compressing time in our already hurried existence?

The authors consider the rise of a mobile youth culture based on peer-to-peer networks, with its own language of texting, and its own values. They examine the phenomenon of flash mobs, and the possible political implications. And they look at the relationship between communication and development, and the possibility that developing countries could “leapfrog” directly to wireless and satellite technology. This sweeping book—moving easily in its analysis from the United States to China, from Europe to Latin America and Africa—answers the key questions about our transformation into a mobile network society.



New Books on History of Communication Technologies (continued)

Mizuko Ito, Daisuke Okabe, and Misa Matsuda, eds., *Personal, Portable, Pedestrian: Mobile Phones in Japanese Life*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2006. Pp. 368 + 55 Illus. \$39.95/£25.95. ISBN: 0-262-09039-2.

The Japanese term for mobile phone, keitai (roughly translated as "something you carry with you") evokes not technical capability or freedom of movement but intimacy and portability, defining a personal accessory that allows constant social connection. Japan's enthusiastic engagement with mobile technology has become—along with anime, manga, and sushi—part of its trend-setting popular culture. *Personal, Portable, Pedestrian*, the first book-length English-language treatment of mobile communication use in Japan, covers the transformation of keitai from business tool to personal device for communication and play.

The essays in this groundbreaking collection document the emergence, incorporation, and domestication of mobile communications in a wide range of social practices and institutions. The book first considers the social, cultural, and historical context of keitai development, including its beginnings in youth pager use in the early 1990s. It then discusses the virtually seamless integration of keitai use into everyday life, contrasting it to the more escapist character of Internet use on the PC. Other essays suggest that the use of mobile communication reinforces ties between close friends and family, producing "tele-cocooning" by tight-knit social groups. The book also discusses mobile phone manners and examines keitai use by copier technicians, multitasking housewives, and school children. *Personal, Portable, Pedestrian* describes a mobile universe in which networked relations are a pervasive and persistent fixture of everyday life.

About the editors:

Mizuko Ito is Research Scientist at the Annenberg Center for Communication, University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

Daisuke Okabe is Lecturer at the Graduate

School of Media and Governance, Keio University, Shonan Fujisawa Campus, Japan.

Misa Matsuda is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Chuo University, Tokyo.

Mark Lloyd, *Prologue to a Farce: Democracy and Communication in America*. Champaign: University of Illinois Press, January 25, 2007. Pp. 304. \$60.00. ISBN 0-252-03104-0.

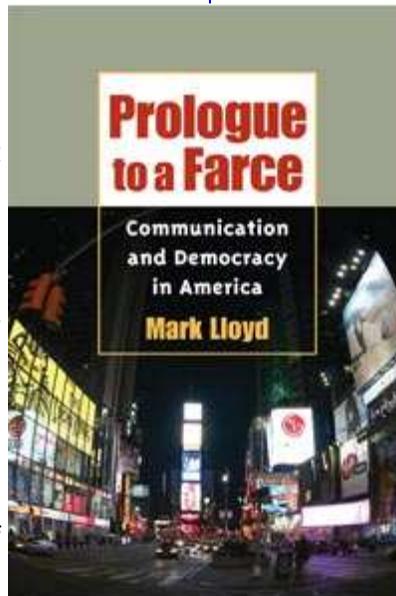
"A popular Government without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy or perhaps both."

—James Madison, 1822

Inspired by Madison's observation, Mark Lloyd has crafted a complex and powerful assessment of the relationship between communication and democracy in the United States. In *Prologue to a Farce*, he argues that citizens' political capabilities depend on broad public access to media technologies, but that the U.S. communications environment has become unfairly dominated by corporate interests.

Drawing on a wealth of historical sources, Lloyd demonstrates that despite the persistent hope that a new technology (from the telegraph to the Internet) will rise to serve the needs of the republic, none has solved the fundamental problems created by corporate domination. After examining failed alternatives to the strong publicly owned communications model, such as antitrust regulation, the public trustee rules of the Federal Communications Commission, and the underfunded public broadcasting service, Lloyd argues that we must re-create a modern version of the Founder's communications environment, and offers concrete strategies aimed at empowering citizens.

Mark Lloyd is Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress and a professor of public policy at Georgetown University. He is both a communications lawyer and an award-winning broadcast journalist.



New Books on History of Communication Technologies (continued)

David M. Henkin. *The Postal Age: The Emergence of Modern Communications in Nineteenth-Century America*. Chicago: University Of Chicago Press, November 15, 2006. Pp. 238 + 11 halftones. \$38.00. ISBN: 0-226-32720-5.

Americans commonly recognize television, e-mail, and instant messaging as agents of pervasive cultural change. But many of us may not realize that what we now call snail mail was once just as revolutionary. As David M. Henkin argues in *The Postal Age*, a burgeoning postal network initiated major cultural shifts during the nineteenth century, laying the foundation for the interconnectedness that now defines our ever-evolving world of telecommunications.

This fascinating history traces these shifts from their beginnings in the mid-1800s, when cheaper postage, mass literacy, and migration combined to make the long-established postal service a more integral and viable part of everyday life. With such dramatic events as the Civil War and the gold rush underscoring the importance and necessity of the post, a surprisingly

broad range of Americans—male and female, black and white, native-born and immigrant—joined this postal network, regularly interacting with distant locales before the existence of telephones or even the widespread use of telegraphy. Drawing on original letters and diaries from the period, as

well as public discussions of the expanding postal system, Henkin tells the story of how these Americans adjusted to a new world of long-distance correspondence, crowded post offices, junk mail, valentines, and dead letters.

The Postal Age paints a vibrant picture of a society where possibilities proliferated for the kinds of personal and impersonal communications that we often associate with more recent historical periods. In doing so, it significantly increases our understanding of both antebellum America and our own chapter in the history



of communications.

Table of contents available at: <http://www.press.uchicago.edu/cgi-bin/hfs.cgi/00/204564.ctl>

Aje-Ori Agbese. *The Role of the Press and Communication Technology in Democratization: The Nigerian Story*. London: Routledge, October 19, 2006. Pp. 160. \$95.00. ISBN: 0415981492.

In the 1990s, Nigeria, like several countries in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Latin America, underwent transitional programs to return the country to democracy. Nigeria's democratization in the 1990s was a civil and international movement to free Nigeria from over 20 years of authoritarian military rule. Aje-Ori Agbese examines the role and agenda of the Nigerian press in the democratization process, highlighting the grave challenges the Nigerian press faced—such as jail, arrest, and assassination—in pushing for democratization in Nigeria.

Before undertaking graduate courses in the United States, Aje-Ori Agbese was a reporter for African Independent Television and *The Week* magazine in Lagos, and served in local and national governmental positions in his home country, as a Corps Liaison Officer in the local government of the Gusau Zamfara State and as Public Relations Officer for the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development.

The book additionally is based on the author's August 2004 doctoral dissertation, "The Role of the Press and Communication Technology in Democratization: The Nigerian Case, 1990-1999," Bowling Green State University, School of Communication Studies. Previously he received a Masters of Arts degree in Communication studies from the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls and a Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communication from the University of Lagos in Nigeria. The author currently is Assistant Professor at Salve Regina University, Newport, Rhode Island. He also is the author of "Maintaining power in the face of political, economic and social discrimination: The tale of Nigerian women," *Women and Language*, 26(1) (2003): 18-25.



New Book by Mercurian Richard Bellaver

Richard F. Bellaver. *Characters of the Information and Communication Industry*. Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, September 2006. Pp. 374 + xi. \$39.95. ISBN: 9781425945022.

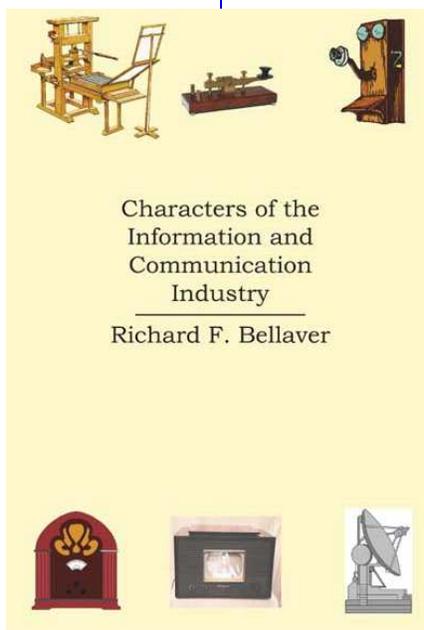
Prof. Bellaver teaches a graduate course called the History and Culture of the Information and Communications Industry. This book is a result of that course. It shows how the world has moved from primitive means of communication to the integrated multi-media situation we are in today. Its concentration is on the fields of journalism, telecommunications, broadcasting, and computing. Emphasis is placed on the leaders of the areas of interest and the political and cultural surroundings that encouraged or discouraged growth of the industry. One of the leaders mentioned is that lucky fellow Johann Gutenberg.

Gutenberg certainly built a press that used movable type, but he became famous because of an early confluence of technology. At the time of his work, good cheap paper became available from Italy and longer lasting inks were developed in India. The technology of printing took off because quality and economy came together. We also are lucky that we know so much about Gutenberg because the Germans had such a good legal record keeping system in the sixteenth century and Mr. G. had so many run-ins with the law. Four hundred years later the confluence of satellite broadcasting and color printing techniques enabled another printing leader, Allen Neuharth, to produce a national newspaper called *USA Today*.

This book mentions several lucky incidents or "what ifs" in the computer industry. For example, where would Microsoft be if Gary Kildall of Digital Research Corp. hadn't taken off to fly his airplane when the IBMers came to invite him to build the operating system for their new PC? Or before that, what if Charles Ramlett Flint had reconsidered hiring a convicted felon to run the Computing-Tabulating Recording Company when he brought on Thomas Watson Sr. who turned it into IBM? Or before that, what if Charles Babbage had had the money and the machinery to do the fine grinding work

on the Analytical Engine?

Politics, especially represented by the U.S. government, have had many strange or unplanned effects on the information and communications industries throughout the years. The fact that Congress would not fund the telegraph system that Samuel Morse wanted to build set the precedent for a private telecommunication industry in the United States that led to AT&T becoming the most valuable stock in the world. The desire to keep those "nasty British" from controlling the U.S. wireless telegraphy industry after World War I led the government to create the Radio Corporation of America (RCA), which opened the United States to leadership in the broadcast radio (and later, television) industries, but also led to the suppression of practical wireless voice telecommunications systems for about sixty years. Isn't it interesting that the RCA brand now belongs to a French company?



Available from Author House at <http://www.authorhouse.com/BookStore/BookHome.aspx>

Also available from Barnes & Noble and Amazon.com.

About the author

Prof. Bellaver has forty years' experience in telecommunications and information technology and for seventeen years has been at Ball State University, where he is the Associate Director of The Center for Information and Communications Sciences. He teaches courses in the History of the Information and Communications Industry, Human Factors in Design, Knowledge Management and Strategic Planning.

Immediately prior to Ball State, he was the Acting Director for System Engineering at AT&T Headquarters. He was responsible for the integration of the activities of the General Departments, Long Lines, and Information Systems programming staffs. He also helped establish the Data Stewardship program at AT&T and helped supervise the integration of the activities of 13,000 programmers. Prof. Bellaver spent six years at the Bell Telephone Laboratories as Department Head for Directory Assistance Computer, Bell System Coordinator for the BISCOP project, and Member of the Technical Staff responsible for various technical and human factors usability studies.

Conference Announcements

"Transportation Technology and the Mail"

The Second Annual Postal History Symposium

Where: American Philatelic Center, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania (near State College, PA)

When: October 21-22, 2007

Call for Papers Deadline: June 1, 2007

Sponsors: Smithsonian National Postal Museum, American Philatelic Society, and the American Philatelic Research Library

Through the application of new technologies, the postal service and transportation industries have encouraged mutual growth and development. The Postal History Symposium provides a forum in which philatelists, academic scholars, public historians, and the public discuss and present research integrating philately and postal history in the broader context of American history.

The conference will open Sunday evening October 21, with a reception and plenary panel titled "Further, Farther, Faster: Transporting the Mail." Invited speakers include philatelic and academic scholars discussing a variety of transportation technologies.

Paper proposals may be submitted either as individual papers or in panels. Papers outside the transportation theme will be considered. Posters should emphasize using visual elements to tell a story and will be displayed throughout the conference.

One-page proposals for papers and posters should be accompanied by a one-page curriculum vita with contact information (e-mail, phone, and address). For possible themes and technical specifications, visit <http://www.stamps.org/news/P1525.htm>. Submit proposals via e-mail to symposium@stamps.org.

Notification of accepted papers will be made in July. Conference papers will be posted on the American Philatelic Society website and will be considered for possible publication.

For more information, contact:

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"2007 Symposium on Cryptologic History"

Where: Center for Cryptologic History, Laurel, Maryland (near Baltimore-Washington Airport)

When: October 18-19, 2007

Call for Papers Deadline: April 30, 2007

Sponsor: National Security Agency, Center for Cryptologic History

A major feature of the Center for Cryptologic History's public outreach is the biennial Symposium on Cryptologic History. The symposium is a venue for leading cryptologic historians and experts, from the National Security Agency and the Center for Cryptologic History and from around the world, to present papers on new avenues of historical research.

The Center for Cryptologic History is calling for proposals for papers or panels for its 2007 Symposium on Cryptologic History. The center is looking for papers to be presented on fresh topics relating to the history of cryptology, with an emphasis on World War II and the Cold War, although papers on other topics will be considered.

Send proposals for papers and/or panels—as well as any questions about the symposium—via e-mail to history@nsa.gov or via FAX to 301-688-2342. An agenda and registration information will be posted at a later date.

The Center for Cryptologic History staff consists of professional historians who are veterans of cryptologic operations. The Center can be reached at:
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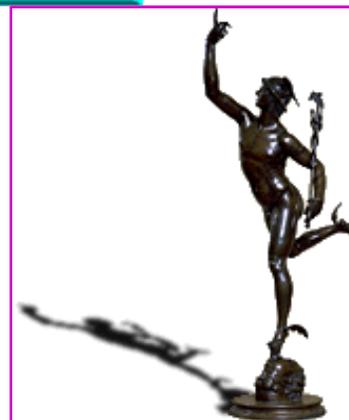
Information on the 2005 symposium, "Cryptology and the Cold War," held at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory's Kossiakoff Center, can be found at: <http://www.nsa.gov/cch/cch00019.cfm>.

Historians attending the 2005 symposium came from the National Security Agency and its Center for Cryptologic History and other branches of the United States government (such as the FBI) as well as from distinguished U. S. and foreign academic institutions and the Library of Congress.

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