

Inventing America
The Interplay of Technology and Democracy in Shaping American Identity



November 3 & 4, 2006
University of Virginia

Friday, November 3

Time: 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Dome Room, the Rotunda

Technology and Democratic Values in the Early Republic

Chair: Peter Onuf, University of Virginia

Comment: Brian Balogh, University of Virginia

Robert Parkinson, Shepherd University

“By the Press we can speak to Nations”: Franklin, Newspapers, and the Revolutionary Construction of an American Identity

Brian Murphy, University of Virginia

A Monopoly of Steam: Robert Fulton, Robert Livingston, and Commercial Collisions on the Hudson

Jeffrey Matsuura, Alliance Law Group

Thomas Jefferson and the Evolution of a Populist Vision of Intellectual Property Rights and Democratic Values

Saturday, November 4

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Location: Harrison Institute

Welcome and introductions

9:00 to 9:15 a.m.

Session 1

9:15 to 10:45 a.m.

Political Lives of Inventors

Chair: Tom Hughes, University of Pennsylvania, emeritus

Comment: Jack Brown, University of Virginia

Edward Gray, Florida State University

Tom Paine's Iron Bridge and the Technology of Nationhood

Sarah Kate Gillespie, Brooklyn Historical Society

Democracy, Technology, and Changing Ideas of "Americanness": the Case of Samuel F. B. Morse

Robert MacDougall, University of Western Ontario

King Crank: Technology and Democracy in the Golden Age of the American Eccentric

Coffee break

10:45 to 11:00 a.m.

Session 2

11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Manifesting Democratic Values in Art and Technology

Chair: Susan Stein, Monticello

Comment: TBD

Katherine Woltz, University of Virginia

Jeffersonian Politics, Republican Technology, and American Nationalism in Charles Wilson Peale's *The Exhumation of the Mastodon* (1806-08)

Jhennifer Amundson, Judson College

Monuments to the American Republic and its Technology

Karen Lemmey, National Gallery of Art

"That all my works may be cast [at] an American Establishment": H.K. Brown and the Origins of American Bronze Monuments

Lunch

12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Session Three

1:45 to 3:45 p.m.

Technology and the Practice of Democracy

Chair: Bruce Williams, University of Virginia

Comment: Chris Sprigman, University of Virginia

Bill Kirkpatrick, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Communications Technology and Democracy: Localism and Nationalism at the Birth of American Broadcasting

Woody Register, Sewanee: The University of the South

The Dictograph Era: Eavesdropping Technologies and the Quest for Social Knowledge in Progressive Era American Culture

Sam Abrams, Harvard University

The Trouble with Television: Understanding Rational Consumption of Mass Media in the Digital Age

Jonathan Coopersmith, Texas A&M University

Faxing in Politics: Revolutionary or Reinforcing Technology?

Participants

Sam Abrams

Mr. Abrams is a Graduate Fellow at the Weiner Center for Inequality and Social Policy in the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He is currently completing his dissertation in Political Science.

Jhennifer Amundson

Dr. Amundson is Assistant Chair and Associate Professor of Architecture in the Architecture Department at Judson College.

Brian Balogh

Dr. Balogh is Mayo Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Department of History at the University of Virginia, and co-director of the Miller Center Fellowships in Public Affairs, a project to promote and disseminate scholarship in contemporary politics, public policy, and political history.

Jack Brown

Dr. Brown is Associate Professor in the Division of Technology, Culture and Communication at the University of Virginia. He specializes in British and American industrial history, focusing particularly on the history of engineering.

Jonathan Coopersmith

Dr. Coopersmith is Associate Professor in the History Department at Texas A&M University.

Sarah Kate Gillespie

Dr. Gillespie is Director of the Fine Arts Initiative/Curator at the Brooklyn Historical Society. She was recently awarded her Ph.D. in Art History from The Graduate Center at the City University of New York.

Edward Gray

Dr. Gray is Associate Professor in the Department of History at Florida State University and Editor of *Common-place* (www.common-place.org), An Interactive Journal of Early American Life.

Thomas P. Hughes

Dr. Hughes is Emeritus Mellon Professor of the History and Sociology of Science at the University of Pennsylvania. His books include *American Genesis: A Century of Invention and Technological Enthusiasm*. He is currently a Distinguished Visiting Professor at MIT.

Bill Kirkpatrick

Mr. Kirkpatrick is a Ph.D Candidate in Media & Cultural Studies in the Department of Communication Arts at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Karen Lemmey

Dr. Lemmey is Andrew W. Mellon Curatorial Fellow in the Department of Sculpture and Decorative Arts at the National Gallery of Art where she is organizing an exhibition on French sculptor and medallist Alexandre Charpentier.

Robert MacDougall

Dr. MacDougall is Assistant Professor in the Department of History and Associate Director for the Centre for American Studies at the University of Western Ontario.

Jeffrey Matsuura

Jeffrey Matsuura is an attorney with the Alliance Law Group. He recently completed a fellowship at the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello, where his research explored Jefferson's philosophy towards intellectual property rights.

Brian Phillips Murphy

Mr. Murphy is a Ph.D Candidate in the Department of History at the University of Virginia and Thomas Jefferson Foundation Dissertation Fellow at the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello.

Peter Onuf

Dr. Onuf is Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation Professor in the History Department at the University of Virginia. He has co-edited and authored several volumes on Revolutionary and Jeffersonian America.

Robert Parkinson

Dr. Parkinson is Assistant Professor of History at Shepherd University and a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture.

Woody Register

Dr. Register is Professor in the Department of History and Director of the American Studies Program at Sewanee: The University of the South.

Chris Sprigman

Mr. Sprigman is Associate Professor of Law at the University of Virginia. His scholarship focuses on how legal rules affect innovation and the deployment of new technologies.

Susan Stein

Ms. Stein is Gilder Curator and the Thomas Jefferson Foundation's Vice President for Museum Programs. She organized the landmark 1993 exhibition *The Worlds of Thomas Jefferson at Monticello*, and authored a widely hailed book of the same title.

Bruce Williams
Media Studies, University of Virginia

Katherine Woltz
Ms. Woltz is a Ph.D. Candidate in the McIntire Department of Art at the University of Virginia
and Doctoral Fellow at the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at
Monticello.

Program selection committee

W. Bernard Carlson
Professor
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Maggie Dennis
Historian
Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation, Smithsonian Institution

Deborah Johnson
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Jerome and Dorothy Lemelson Director
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Saunders Director
Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies, Monticello

Acknowledgements

The Smithsonian's Lemelson Center documents, interprets, and disseminates information about invention and innovation to encourage inventive creativity in young people, and to foster an appreciation for the central role that invention and innovation play in the history of the United States. Please visit us on the web at <http://www.invention.smithsonian.org>.

The UVa Department of Science, Technology, and Society seek to advance understanding of the social and ethical dimensions of science and technology. Working with other groups at UVa, the STS Department is developing a major teaching and research initiative into the interaction of technology and democracy. For more information, see <http://www.tcc.virginia.edu>.

The Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies promotes the ongoing study of Thomas Jefferson internationally by building a network of scholars, teachers, and resources; by helping to define new areas of investigation; and by applying new technologies to Jefferson scholarship. The Center can be contacted at <http://www.monticello.org>.