Editor’s Introduction

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This issue marks a departure from our brief tradition. Each December Enterprise & Society has published the address of the president of the Business History Conference given in the spring meeting. JoAnne Yates elected to make her stimulating address on users and technological innovation, the basis for a symposium, held at the Hagley Museum and Library on March 10, 2006. Entitled “How Users Shaped Modern Technology . . . and Vice Versa,” the gathering brought together Yates and four other prominent scholars in the field, Margaret Graham, Naomi Lamoreaux, David Kirsch, and Steven Usselman, to discuss how businesses as users of technology shape their form and function and determine, by their consumption choices, the fate of technological variants offered in the market. We are pleased to present the revised versions of the JoAnne Yates’s paper and the comments from the Hagley Symposium in this issue as a Presidential Symposium.

As one of the principal venues for business history scholarship, Enterprise & Society plans a number of similar ventures addressing the state of the field in the near future. This issue contains a call for papers on business in the Middle East, being organized by Andrew Godley and Relli Shechter. Other special issues in the works plan to address corporate governance and entrepreneurship. As has been true from the start of the journal, these and other issues will emphasize comparative business systems and business in an international context.

We continue to extend an invitation to scholars who would like to propose special issues, symposia, and review essays on major themes in business history to contact the editor.

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