

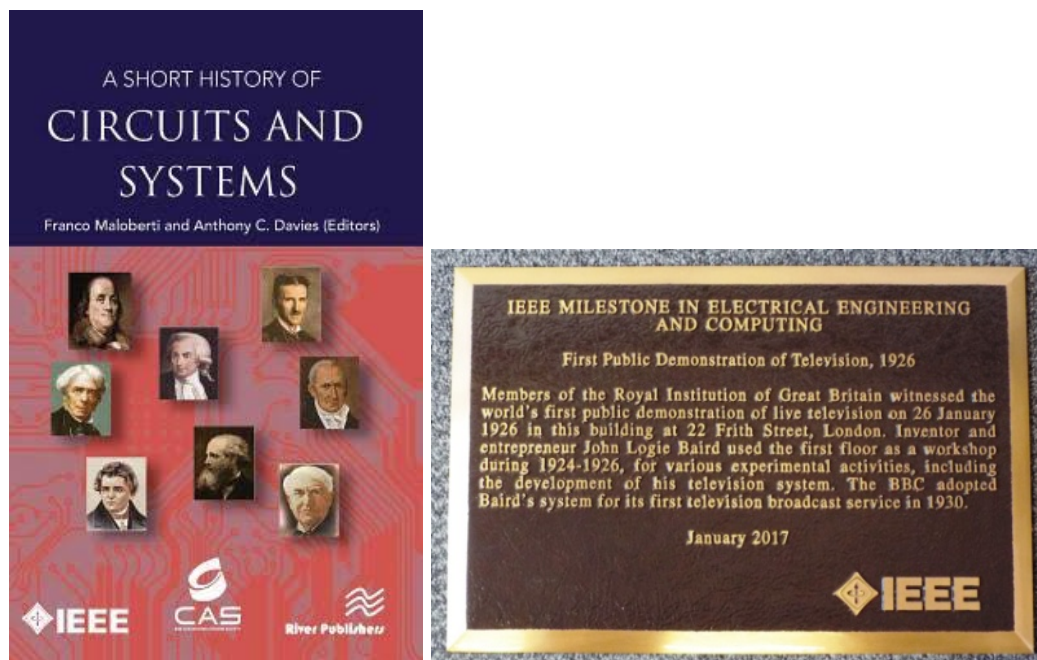
## History Activities Coordinator

**Anthony Davies**

- **Primary mission:** to encourage recognition of achievements and inventions in science and engineering fields related to the scope of IEEE which took place in R8 and to promote awareness of them and their significance.
- **Secondary mission:** to persuade Sections and Chapters in R8 to preserve the history of their committee minutes and their events and maintain availability via web access..
- **Purposes:**
  - 1) Encouraging students and young professionals to take an interest in the historical development of science and engineering enables them to be better prepared for “inventing the future”, a central aspect of IEEE’s humanitarian mission.
  - 2) Documenting the historical record of matters relevant to IEEE R8.

## Status

In early 2016, I co-edited with Franco Maloberti an IEEE book “A Short History of Circuits and Systems” which is now available in print for ~\$40 and free to all as an e-book.



A substantial task was planning and preparation for the unveiling on 26th January 2017 of a History Milestone in London to commemorate the world’s first public demonstration of television, by John Logie Baird, on 26th January 1926 (e.g. the 91st anniversary) and on 27th January 2017, a highly successful all day technical symposium “THE EVOLUTION OF TELEVISION FROM BAIRD TO THE DIGITAL AGE“ was held in the Royal Institution of Great Britain, London. A grandson of John Logie Baird participated in these events. Photos and other details are on the UK and I Section website. A video recording of the unveiling is available. Several other proposals for History Milestones are under discussion in the UK and I Section Life Members Affinity Group.

In 2016, a Milestone for the Dadda Multiplier was unveiled in Milan, Italy. After a long delay, it is hoped that the unveiling of a Milestone in Kharkiv, Ukraine will take place in mid-2017 for “Zenit Parabolic Reflector L-band Pulsed Radar, 1938“. Also approved and awaiting unveiling are the Gotland 1954 HVDC link in Sweden and Otto Lehmann’s 1889 discovery of liquid crystals at Karlsruhe, Germany. Not yet finally approved but in process are one in Norway (Object oriented programming) and one in Benelux (The birth of Wi-Fi, 1987).

## Outlook

The former GHN (Global History Network) website has now become a part of ETHW, which is no longer the sole responsibility of IEEE, with many other (mainly USA) organizations involved (ASME, ASCE, AIChE). Maintaining the IEEE contribution is important, as is liaison between R8 and the IEEE History Center and the IEEE History Committee. This is also important in presenting an international perspective which would otherwise seem limited in ETHW.

**HISTELCON 2017** is taking place on 7-8 August 2017 at the University of Hyogo, Kobe Campus for Information Science, 7-1-28, Minatojima-minamimachi, Chuo-ku, Kobe, Japan. This is the 5th HISTELCON, and the first time it has been held outside R8, and so is an example of the international context in which R8 is able to operate.

## Points of Concern

There are many topics deserving IEEE History Milestones in R8, but it is difficult to find ‘champions’ who will do the work to prepare proposals and see them through to approval by the IEEE History Committee. The R8 History Activities subcommittee has a responsibility to ensure that historical claims and proposals for Milestones are valid and accurate.

Some relevant contributions from me in 2016

- “Relic Hunting: TV Towers in Region 8” in IEEE History Center Newsletter, November 2016, pages 6-8.
- “Manpacks and Mobiles WW2 and after” – presented at Defence Electronics History Society (DEHS) Symposium at the Steam Museum, Swindon, 6th October 2016
- “The Interwar Years: A comparison of British Navy, Army and Air Force Telecommunications Developments” – presented at conference at IET, Savoy Place, London, 10th August 2016

### Remember

A forgotten tool of the past (?) – from ~ 1960. At the Computer Museum in Swindon.



### R8 History Activities Subcommittee

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