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Technology and Human Affairs

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TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN AFFAIRS

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Illustrated

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Preface

The point at which technology and the humanities intersect is the concern of this book of readings. It grew out of courses in the philosophy of technology offered at both the University of Texas at Austin and Texas A & M University over some seven years. While this book makes available a collection of material particularly suited to such courses, and thus fills a serious gap in available texts, it also offers the independent reader a foothold in this complex topic.

Two important omissions should be explained. We had hoped to include selections from the work of Martin Heidegger and Marshall McLuhan, both of whom have helped shape much current thinking about technology. But the late Dr. Heidegger's family holds the rights to his works, and to our misfortune it is not ready to see his work reprinted. The best we can do is refer the reader to the article we would have included—namely, an interview that appeared in *Der Spiegel* in 1976 and that was reprinted in English in *Philosophy Today*, Winter 1976, Vol. 20, No. 4/4.

In the case of Professor McLuhan the situation was more complex. Although permission was offered to reprint his essays "The Motorcar" and "Clocks," from *Understanding Media*, his required fee could not be met. Its payment either would have required the omission of other important essays or would have re-

sulted in a substantially higher price for this book. We regret this unfortunate situation, and can only recommend that Professor McLuhan's important essays be sought out and read.

In this vein, we are happy to acknowledge a debt to the late Herbert Marcuse, who gave special permission to reprint a selection from his work *Eros and Civilization*.

While the selection and organization of the material included in this anthology involved to some extent a joint effort, the headnotes and introductions to Part One, "Technology and Everyday Affairs," and Part Three, "Contemporary Perspectives," are solely the work of Larry Hickman. The headnotes and introductions to Part Two, "Some Salient Views on Technology," and Part Four, "Technology and the Professions," are solely the work of Azizah al-Hibri.

In all introductions, those entries followed by an asterisk are included among the selections in this book.

There are of course many people whom we would like to thank for their help. These include John J. McDermott, Manuel Davenport, Robert Cohen, Richard Stadelmann, Terry Winant, and Connie Sharp. For the preparation of the manuscript, we thank Linda Kocman, Linda Hosea, and Linda Maybry.

Larry Hickman
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