Preface to the Anniversary Special Issue

The initial meetings that would lead to the formation of the Society for Philosophy and Technology (SPT) took place in 1975 and 1977 at the University of Deleware – making 2010 not just the 15th anniversary of *Techné*, but also the 35th anniversary of the beginnings of the Society.

It may seem strange that volume 14, number 1, of *Techné* celebrates the fifteenth anniversary of the journal, since volume 14 would seem to indicate only 14 years of publication. However, the numbering of the journal changed along the way to fit the calendar year, rather than going by academic year, and so the journal numbering is misleading for celebrations like this. Preceded by two book series, and then called the *Society for Philosophy and Technology Electronic Quarterly*, the publication of the first volume of *Techné* was in Fall of 1995. The journal went from a quarterly to a three-times-a-year publication schedule in 2000 and was renamed *Techné: the Journal of the Society for Philosophy and Technology*. The post-colon part of this title was changed again in 2003 to the journal's current title of *Techné: Research in Philosophy and Technology*. Despite these changes in title over the journal's fifteen years, its publication venue had always been Ejournals, an open-access online publisher housed at Virginia Tech. Starting with this anniversary issue, however, *Techné* will now be published by the Philosophy Documentation Center, with old issues available through both electronic publishers. Though *Techné* already carries a readership from across the globe (usage statistics bear this out), a move to the Philosophy Documentation Center was made in hopes of elevating the visibility and prestige of the journal.

Deciding whom to ask to contribute to this issue was a tough job, for we are lucky to have the great majority of the founders of SPT currently living. This puts the Society's history in a unique perspective. It would have been impossible to put together a single issue of all those available who played a role in SPT's history. We first approached former editors of *Techné* (not all of whom could contribute) and people who published in *Techné*'s very first issue (to get a sense of the changes since that time), along with a handful of more recent SPT presidents. What we asked each person to write was left open for their own interpretation. Since its inception, SPT has been open to a variety of perspectives and traditions, and this commitment to diversity was carried forward into all its publications, *Techné* included. For this reason, we asked contributors to offer their thoughts on the history of the field – how it has evolved, what we've learned, what the future might hold. This vague request has yielded papers that range widely in content – as it should be, in a growing, thriving society!

In 1995, Paul Durbin wrote an introduction to this journal that holds true, despite changes in names and publishing venues:

> SPT has no party line or narrow focus; papers, from the beginning, have been welcomed from any and all philosophical perspectives; the only unifying factor is a focus on technology, particular technologies, modern or traditional, or social problems associated with technology in any era... All that the editorial board insists upon is rigorous philosophical analysis, from whatever philosophical perspective the author chooses. In addition, contributions are welcome from authors who are not identified as academic philosophers--from social scientists,

engineers, managers of scientific or technological organizations or institutions, for example--as long as their work meets the standards of some philosophical perspective.

Here is a list of the editorship of *Techné* over its fifteen year history:

Paul Durbin (Fall 1995-Summer 1997 / Volumes 1 and 2)
Peter Tijmes (Fall 1997-Spring 1998 / Volume 3:1-3)
Davis Baird (Summer 1998-Spring 2007 / Volume 3:4 through 10)
       with Guest Editors Evandro Agassi and Hans Lenk for all of Volume 4
Joseph C. Pitt, Editor-in-Chief (Fall 2007-Current / Volume 11 to current issue)
       with Editor Pieter Vermaas (Fall 2007-Winter 2010)
       with Editor Peter-Paul Verbeek (Fall 2007-Current)
       with Editor Diane Michelfelder (Winter 2010-Current)

As you can see, the structure of the editorship has changed dramatically in the more recent past, given the increasing (and increasingly wide) readership and number of submissions *Techné* attracts. We hope this issue invites more interest in the Society and in the future of the field. Several authors in this issue give suggestions of what we should doing in philosophy of technology (or in relation to philosophy and technology) – and perhaps this is an invitation.... an invitation that can, of course, be construed broadly and that can be interpreted from many traditions and perspectives!