The Prometheus Gift: The Spark that Set and Perpetuated the Evolution of Computer Technology

Ashleigh N. Pirone
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Follow this and additional works at: https://knowledge.library.iup.edu/etd

Recommended Citation
https://knowledge.library.iup.edu/etd/59

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by Knowledge Repository @ IUP. It has been accepted for inclusion in Theses and Dissertations (All) by an authorized administrator of Knowledge Repository @ IUP. For more information, please contact sara.parme@iup.edu.
THE PROMETHEUS GIFT:
THE SPARK THAT SET AND PERPETUATED THE EVOLUTION OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

A Thesis
Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies and Research
in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts

Ashleigh Pirone
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
August 2011
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
The School of Graduate Studies and Research
Department of History

We hereby approve the thesis of

Ashleigh Pirone

Candidate for the degree of Master of Arts

____________________________________
Werner Lippert, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of History, Advisor

____________________________________
Gary Bailey, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of History

____________________________________
Dighton McGlachlan Fiddner, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Political Science

ACCEPTED

____________________________________
Timothy P. Mack, Ph.D.
Dean
The School of Graduate Studies and Research
Title: The Prometheus Gift: The Spark that Set and Perpetuated the Evolution of Computer Technology
Author: Ashleigh Pirone

Thesis Advisor: Dr. Werner Lippert

Thesis Committee Members: Dr. Gary Bailey
Dr. Dighton McGlachlan Fiddner

Abstract

The argument that has been outlined within this thesis is established by examining the underlying connections within the evolution of computer technology. I argue that the initial steps in computer technology evolution were sparked by the perception of military need. From the first development of the modern computer in World War II; to the scientific revolution due to Sputnik that resulted in the establishment of ARPA; to the efforts of the Jasons and McNamara in the Vietnam War to implement computers into the military at last; to the emergence of the ARPAnet that would revolutionize communications and information sharing; all were steps that would result in the implementation of computers into the military and bring computer technology to the forefront of military research and as a result the public’s as well.