

carries not a single picture or diagram of textile machinery. These would jar alongside accounts of agents seeking first men and then the machinery they could operate, of machinery lying idle for years until the right man arrived to operate it, and of British technical expertise becoming Norwegian managerial strength and a major link to external sources of technological and commercial information. Bruland has overcome the temptation to write about the diffusion of textile technology in terms of throstles and spindles, and the result is both illuminating and exhilarating. There is a valuable lesson here for those who still insist on explaining the development and diffusion of technology almost solely in terms of the progress of the machine.

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**Deciphering Science and Technology — The Social Relations of Expertise** edited by *Ian Varcoe, Maureen McNeil and Steven Yearley*  
(Macmillan, London, 1990), pp. xi + 256, \$12.99, ISBN 0 333 46 555 5 (pbk.).

**In Science We Trust? Moral and Political issues of Science in Society** edited by *Aant Elzinga, Jan Nolin, Rob Pranger, Sune Sunesson*  
(Science and Technology Policy Studies, 2, Chartwell Bratt, Kent, UK), pp. 392, ISBN 0 86238 261 0.

These two texts are collections of papers presented at conferences held in Europe in the late 1980s. *Deciphering Science and Technology — The Social Relations of Expertise* presents papers from the 1987 Conference of the British Sociological Association, held in Leeds, UK. *In Science We Trust? Moral and Political Issues of Science in Society* collects papers from a conference held in Dubrovnik in Yugoslavia in May 1988. This conference had participants more varied than British sociologists, including scholars from East and West Europe, from the USA and some from Third World countries.

Both volumes have been assertively edited in terms of introductions and in the grouping of papers, which structure how the reader comes to the papers. Each set of editors demonstrates strong views on what constitutes science and technology studies and how they might be useful to practitioners.

Editors of the proceedings of the Leeds conference suggest that contemporary social change has distinctive features deriving from the characteristics of science and technology, which they feel are worth delineating. By engaging in this task, sociologists can assist practitioners and policy makers. *Deciphering Science and Technology* is aimed at those “enmeshed in the conduct of . . . policy who have no time in which to take the measured view” (p.26).

“The consequences of the episodes analysed range from the manner of eventual implementation of innovations to the question of whether the innovations are realised in anything approaching the form intended by their designers and sponsors” (p.25).