Book Review

ELECTRONIC INTERVENTIONS 1745–1976 by G. W. A. Dummer. Pergamon Press, Oxford, U.K., 1977. 158 pages; 22 illustrations. (£4.50; \$7.50)

This 158 page book starts at 1642 with Blaise Pascal's mechanical calculators and closes at 1976 with the Intel Corporation's "complete general-purpose computer subsystem that fits on a single printed-circuit board". In between are given, in chronological order, the first inventions of the most important items that make up electronics. This list is also indexed by date, author, subject and initial letter and enlivened with sufficient text to indicate the importance of each entry. There is a good list of general references and a few pages of statistical diagrams.

The book will be valuable to those who wish to investigate a subject from its published origins, for instance at the start of a thoroughgoing patent search, as well as being of great interest to anyone who wants

to know when particular items made their first appearance.

Every researcher will go through this book to see if his particular brain-child has gained a mention and will then make a list of the (other) items the author has omitted. My own instant list is: memory core ferrites, microwave ferrites, microwave absorbers, electrooptic single crystals and ceramics, high K dielectrics, piezoelectric ceramics, piezoelectric polymers, positive temperature coefficient ceramics and plastic film capacitors. No doubt when all the omissions are collected a 1580 page book will be possible. We should thank Mr Dummer for his present moderation.

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