



the world, he mysteriously disappeared and was never seen or heard from again. Three and a half years later, Thomas Edison, Le Prince's rival, made the device public, claiming to have invented it himself. And the man who had dedicated his life to preserving memories was himself lost to history—until now. *The Man Who Invented Motion Pictures* pulls back the curtain and reveals the riveting story of both Louis Le Prince's life and work, dispelling the secrets that shroud each. This captivating, impeccably researched work presents the never before told history of the motion picture and sheds light on the unsolved mystery of Le Prince's disappearance.

AC/DC tells the little-known story of how Thomas Edison wrongly bet in the fierce war between supporters of alternating current and direct current. The savagery of this electrical battle can hardly be imagined today. The showdown between AC and DC began as a rather straightforward conflict between technical standards, a battle of competing methods to deliver essentially the same product, electricity. But the skirmish soon metastasized into something bigger and darker: In the AC/DC battle, the worst aspects of human nature somehow got caught up in the wires: a silent, deadly flow of arrogance, vanity, and cruelty. Following the path of least resistance, the war of currents soon settled around that most primal of human emotions: fear. AC/DC serves as an object lesson in bad business strategy and poor decision making. Edison's inability to see his mistake was a key factor in his loss of control over the "operating system" for his future inventions?not to mention the company he founded, General Electric.

The definitive history of America's greatest incubator of innovation and the birthplace of some of the 20th century's most influential technologies: "Filled with colorful characters and inspiring lessons . . . *The Idea Factory* explores one of the most critical issues of our time: What causes innovation?" —Walter Isaacson, *The New York Times* Book Review "Compelling . . . Gertner's book offers fascinating evidence for those seeking to understand how a society should best invest its research resources." —*The Wall Street Journal* From its beginnings in the 1920s until its demise in the 1980s, Bell Labs—officially, the research and development wing of AT&T—was the biggest, and arguably the best, laboratory for new ideas in the world. From the transistor to the laser, from digital communications to cellular telephony, it's hard to find an aspect of modern life that hasn't been touched by Bell Labs. In *The Idea Factory*, Jon Gertner traces the origins of some of the twentieth century's most important inventions and delivers a riveting and heretofore untold chapter of American history. At its heart this is a story about the life and work of a small group of brilliant and eccentric men—Mervin Kelly, Bill Shockley, Claude Shannon, John Pierce, and Bill Baker—who spent their careers at Bell Labs. Today, when the drive to invent has become a mantra, Bell Labs offers us a way to enrich our understanding of the challenges and solutions to technological innovation. Here, after all, was where the foundational ideas on the management of innovation were born.

[The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of an American City](#)

[Nikola Tesla, Forgotten Genius of Electricity](#)

[Edison, Tesla, Westinghouse, and the Race to Light the World](#)

[City of Light](#)

[Bell Labs and the Great Age of American Innovation](#)

[A Life of Invention](#)

[A Captivating Guide to the War of the Currents and the Life of Nikola Tesla and Thomas Edison](#)

[The Construction of Penn Station and Its Tunnels](#)

[The Thrilling Story Behind Paris's Beloved Monument and the Extraordinary World's Fair That Introduced It](#)

[Empires of Light](#)

[Building Penn Station and Its Tunnels](#)

[A Battle Story Between Two Electrical Titans: Thomas Edison and George Westinghouse](#)

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