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Explorations in industrial history designed to reveal the significant sweep of technological change will soon be undertaken at the School of Industrial Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, it was announced last night by Professor E. P. Brooks, Dean of the School.

This field of study will be under the direction of Professor Elting E. Morison, now associate professor of English and history in the School of Humanities and Social Studies, who will join the faculty of the School of Industrial Management next July as associate professor of industrial history. Professor Morison is widely known as the editor of "The Letters of Theodore Roosevelt."

"The new history study," said Dean Brooks, "will take into consideration the past of this country and, within these national limits, concentrate on the history of science, technology and industrial development, including the influence of industry upon our political and social organization. The emphasis on American industry is not meant to preclude instruction and research on the experience of other countries in which industry has been a determining influence.

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Industrial  
History

Morison - M.I.T.

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"A field of special interest will be the significant sweep of technological change. This is a process, involving as it does the direct and indirect results of industrial development on American life, that should be closely examined.

"It is important that we know what are the causes of change, under what conditions change accelerates or slows down, who assists it, who resists it, how 'good' changes are selected and 'bad' changes rejected, how socially and administratively the necessary accommodations to change are made. If change is found to be the essential fact of our industrial society, we should know more about it and seek ways of preparing men to solve new problems."

In discussing plans for the program Professor Morison said, "Not only change, but many intimately related subjects can be isolated and studied. These might include the nature of the relationship between scientific investigation, technological development, and industrial production as history reveals them; the relations between capital, labor, and management; how and why management has reached its purposes or decisions; how industrial leadership has been recruited and trained in the past; what its objectives, hopes, fears, and ethics have been at different times; and what have been the 'conservative' and what the 'liberal' solutions to the problems presented by our expanding economy.

"The general intent should be to discover, first, what the thing we call industry is, how it works, what it is like to live in it, what it looks like to those outside of it. And it will be interesting to find out wherever possible how industry has affected the shape, feelings, hopes, fears, and the daily life of the society it has produced."

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Morison - M.I.T.

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Professor Morison has been a member of the Institute's faculty since 1946 and has served since 1948 as director of the Theodore Roosevelt Research Project, under which eight volumes of President Roosevelt's letters have been published.

A native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he was born in 1909, Professor Morison received the degree of bachelor of arts from Harvard University in 1932 and his master's degree in 1937. During the war he served as a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Naval Reserve and was consultant to the Research and Development Board of the Department of Defense from 1946 to 1952. He has also served as a consultant to the Houghton Mifflin Company. Professor Morison is the author of a biography entitled "Admiral Sims and the Modern American Navy." His home is in Cambridge.