

## Electrotechnology and Mankind

A. J. Parris

Department of Electrical Engineering, The University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies

**Abstract:** *All the great professions (medicine, law, engineering) began as needed arts or craft. Their evolution makes it impossible to really identify a particular day, or even a year, when they emerge as full-blown learned pursuits. In the case of electrical engineering, at least in the United States of America, it has been said that the profession was formalized more than a century ago. The vast changes brought about by electro-technology to homes, offices, schools and healthcare units. This paper presents some open-ended views relative to the impact of high technology on both the citizen at large and the engineering professional, in the hope of provoking further thought and maybe critical examination of the practice of our worthy profession in our relatively small regional area. During the relatively short history of electro-technology, professional work has already undergone radical changes. The forces that produce change are increasing, and the rate of change is quickening. It would be safe to predict that advances in electrotechnology and especially in automated decision making systems or so-called knowledge systems will dramatically alter the nature of professional work. Some professions will be made obsolete and disappear while others will change substantially, and other new professions will emerge to exploit and support new applications of electronics.*

**Keywords:** *Electrotechnology, professional work, knowledge systems*