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Taking the invention as its object of study, *Figures of Invention* develops a radical new perspective on the making of modern patent law. It develops the first extended historical and conceptual exploration of the invention in modern patent law. In their account the crucial effect of the specification was turning the invention into a "thing" and thereby paving the way "for the emergence of the modern concept of invention" (p.59). At the end of the eighteenth century the invention came to be described in patent jurisprudence as the object of property rights. *Figures of invention: a history of modern patent law* Pottage, Alain (2010) *Figures of invention: a history of modern patent law*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK. "Taking the invention as its object of study, *Figures of Invention* develops a radical new perspective on the making of modern patent law. It develops the first extended historical and conceptual exploration of the invention in modern patent law.