



The Charles Babbage Institute  
 For the History of Information Processing  
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# The Charles Babbage Institute Newsletter

Volume 6, Number 2

Winter 1984

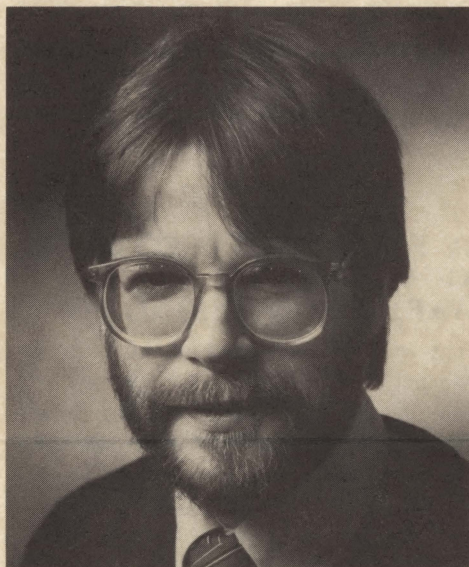


Photo by Tom Foley

## CBI ARCHIVIST APPOINTED

Bruce Bruemmer joined CBI at the beginning of the year to serve as the Institute's archivist. Mr. Bruemmer's archival experience covers a wide range of areas, including government archives, business records, records management as well as private manuscripts. His broad background will be essential to the development of the archival collection and programs of CBI.

Mr. Bruemmer received a B.A. in American Studies from Carleton College and his M.A. in Library Science from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where he specialized in archives administration at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. He has been involved in a number of manuscript processing projects, including work on environmental/conservation records and a large body of regional records belonging to the Northeast Minnesota Historical Center in Duluth. He also served as coordinator for the Minnesota Regional Research Centers, a network of eight regional archives and manuscripts repositories. Mr. Bruemmer has been involved in workshops and archival education for

the Society of American Archivists and Midwest Archives Conference, and has assisted in the formation of the Twin Cities Archives Roundtable.

Most recently he worked as project archivist at the Minnesota Historical Society to develop campus archives and a records management program for the state university system. This project entailed the physical inventorying of over 8000 cubic feet of records, the production of over 250 records schedules, and the development of appraisal and control guidelines to coordinate the work of each of the seven campuses.

## THE CBI ARCHIVES COLLECTION

The CBI archives contain historic materials from a number of different areas of information processing. In previous newsletters we reported on the various major categories of the repository:

- Manuscripts and records,
- Near Print materials (printed but unpublished),
- Oral Histories, and
- Photographs.

We reported on the processing of three of these categories—manuscripts, oral histories, and photographs—in previous newsletters. In the past few months, CBI staff completed processing of the near print materials, which constitute the largest part of our holdings, almost 350 cubic feet.

The near print materials, in fields as disparate as corporate product literature and evaluations of non-US computing developments, have been assembled into seven separate sections.

Product Literature Collection—a collection of product literature descriptions, annual reports, news releases, organizational changes, etc.

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Corporate Technical Manuals Collection—systems manuals from many computer companies produced from 1935 to 1980.

Corporate Technical Reports Collection—reports prepared by companies on their own or other company systems, new application techniques, and computer theory.

University Computing Collection—a similar accumulation of reports produced by university computing operations.

U. S. Government Collection—reports, manuals, descriptions of systems, and evaluations of U. S.-based computing activities produced by government agencies.

International Computing Collection—a similar set of papers on computing outside the U. S. prepared from many sources, both foreign and domestic.

Industry Assessment Collection—mostly the evaluations of consulting organizations of the products of U. S. manufacturers of hardware and software.

Finding aids for these sections contain general descriptions of the contents, but not a detailed inventory.

Our task now is to identify the records related to this near-print material and make available information about them that will provide a context for understanding their primary use and historical value. We encourage persons with knowledge of records of computer or corporate developments to contact CBI. CBI welcomes inquiries about its collections, either about their usefulness to research or to offer items for donation.

### **CBI ARCHIVES RECEIVE DONATION FROM ACM**

The amount of material in CBI's archives increased substantially last fall as the result of a donation by ACM of 65 boxes of materials from the late 1950s and 1960s. Much of this material had been collected by Margaret Fox and other ACM representatives in an effort to document the development of the computer industry. Included in the collection are technical manuals and reports, government documents, foreign computing materials, printed documents relating to academic computer development, and correspondence files of several of the Special Interest Groups. The Institute staff spent two and a half months processing this material and distributing it among our existing collections.

### **CBI SEEKS INFORMATION ON NEWSLETTERS OF PROFESSIONAL GROUPS**

CBI would like to hear from anyone who has information on collections of newsletters printed by local chapters of professional organizations during the 1950s or 1960s. A recent review of a set of newsletters from a Los Angeles chapter of ACM revealed some interesting information on computing activities in that area. In addition to providing names of individuals prominent in computing, it included a survey that described the distribution of computers in the southwest. It is possible that local newsletters could provide a perspective on computing activities in various regions of the country that does not exist in other publications.

Some specific newsletters that CBI would like to have additional information about are: TRADE (Techniques and Routines, Alwac Data Exchange), Computing News, and Computer Club News (UCLA).

### **REPOSITORY ESTABLISHED FOR MICROPROGRAMMING AND FIRMWARE ENGINEERING**

The Computer Science Department of the University of Southwestern Louisiana is forming a repository for materials related to microprogramming and firmware engineering. The purpose of the repository is to make available to practitioners and researchers in these and closely aligned areas materials which are difficult to obtain. In addition to an initial contribution of an extensive private collection containing reports and memorabilia, they plan to collect books, dissertations, manuals, engineering drawings and other documentation as well as actual computer systems or portions of computer systems. For additional information you may contact Dr. Bruce D. Shriver, Microprogramming Repository, Computer Science Department, University of Southwestern Louisiana, P.O. Box 44330, Lafayette, Louisiana 70504. His telephone number is (318) 231-6606.

## CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

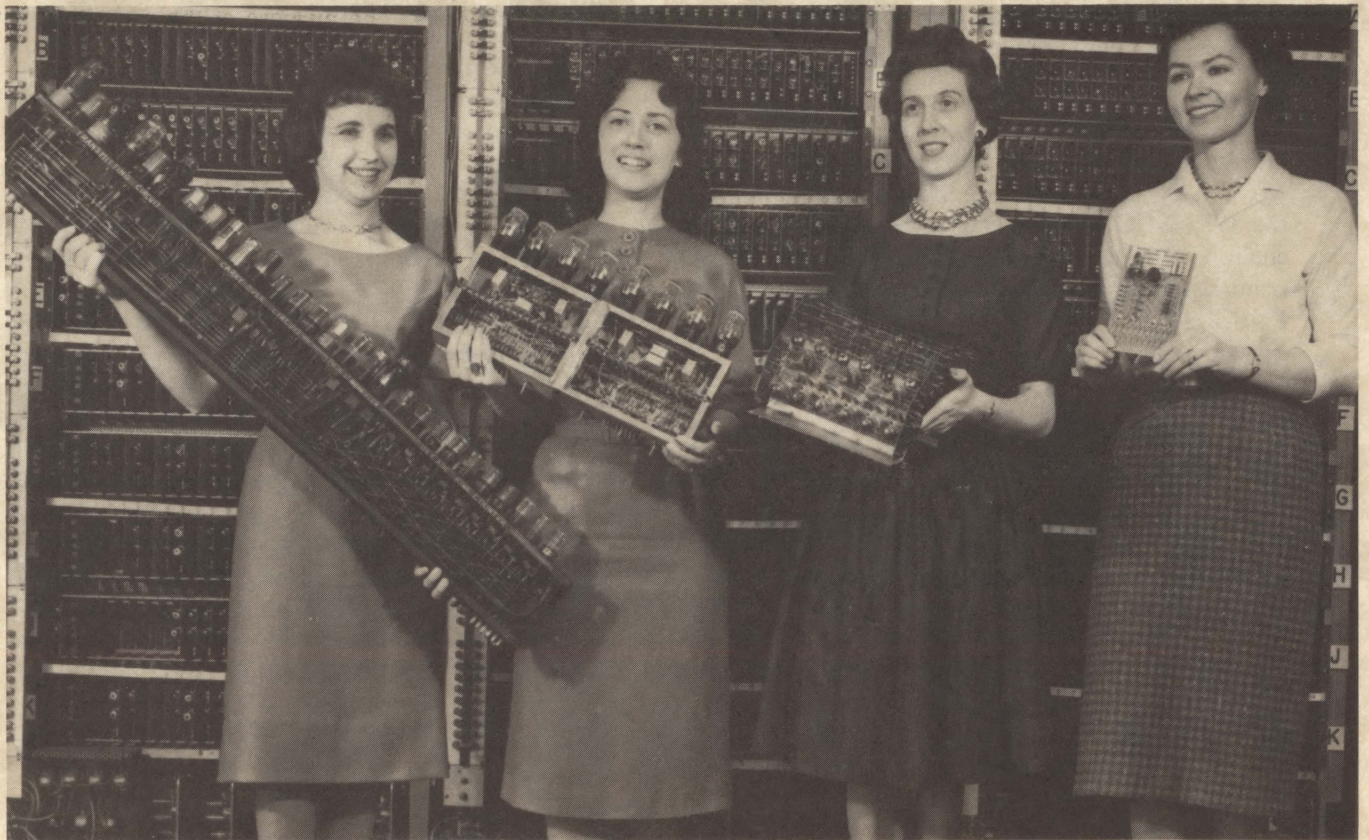
"Death of Research? Changing Documentation in American History" is one of the sessions scheduled for the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians that may be of special interest to many readers. Two of the papers deal with issues that are relevant to studying the history of information processing. A paper on "Contemporary Organizational Records: A Voluminous Medium, a Muted Message" will be presented by David Klaassen, Social Welfare History Archives, University of Minnesota. A second paper, "Doing the Recent History of Science: Possibilities, Problems, and Prospects," will be presented by Nathan Reingold, The Joseph Henry Papers, Smithsonian Institution. The conference is being held on April 4 - 7, 1984 in Los Angeles. For additional information you may contact the Organization of American Historians, 112 North Bryan Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47401.

## EXHIBIT ON THE HISTORY OF ACCOUNTING

"Tools of the Trade, From Pen and Ink to Computers" is the title of an exhibit on the history of accounting prepared by the Illinois CPA Society. Other topics represented in the collection in addition to tools of the profession are professional education, ethical standards, regulations, and important leaders and personalities. Displays will be changed periodically. Each display is accompanied by a brochure highlighting the exhibit. For additional information you may contact Cecile Margulies, Illinois CPA Society, 135 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 400, Chicago, Illinois 60603, (312) 346-7957.

## FROM CBI'S PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

The photograph below illustrates the decreasing sizes of major computer components. Left to right: a single decade unit of the electronic computer ENIAC, 1945; a serial binary adder of the 1949 EDVAC computer; a part of the digit resolver of the 1952 ORDVAC parallel adder; and a single tube, printed circuit, logical gating package for the BRLESC, 1962.



## PUBLICATIONS

- Andrew Hodges, *Alan Turing: The Enigma*. (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1983). ISBN0671492071.

This new biography of Alan Turing, based on an extensive set of oral interviews with people who knew Turing, describes Turing's contributions to mathematical logic and computational science while in Cambridge and Princeton prior to World War II, his work on mechanical code-breaking at Bletchley Park during the war, and his contributions to artificial intelligence, hardware and software design at the National Physical Laboratory and at the university in Manchester after the war.

- Michael Hogan, *A History of the JOVIAL Language*. Masters thesis, California State University at Northridge, 1983.

This 280 page document includes language summaries of JOVIAL/J3 and Jovial/J73 and more than 300 references.

- Bonnie Kaplan, *Computers in Medicine, 1950-1980: The Relationship between History and Policy*. Ph.D. thesis, University of Chicago, 1983.

This thesis deals with the long-standing perception of a lag in the use of computers in medicine, and the effects of public policies and of medical culture and social organization on the development of medical computing.

- *Annals of the History of Computing*, Volume 6 (January 1984).

This special issue commemorates the twenty-fifth anniversary of FORTRAN. A major portion of the issue is devoted to edited transcripts of the 1982 NCC Pioneer Day sessions that were chaired by John Backus and Jeanne Adams. The issue also contains an annotated bibliography of FORTRAN.

- *Annals of the History of Computing*, Volume 5 (October 1983).

This entire issue is devoted to SAGE (Semi-Automatic Ground Environment). It focuses on the technical aspects of the development of the system and the software produced for it. Among the articles in this issue are reprints of papers first presented in the mid 1950s, others written specifically for this issue, and a transcript of a discussion with some of the people who participated in the design and development of the SAGE system.

## NEW FOUNDERS

Recent contributions from Douglas T. Ross, James E. Thornton, Donald E. Peeples, and Lawrence J. Schoenberg increased the CBI Founders Group to 24 members.

Mr. Thornton is founder and Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Network Systems Corporation. He previously held positions in several computer-related enterprises beginning with Engineering Research Associates (ERA) in the early 1950s. During the years he spent at CDC he was a designer and co-designer of the CDC 1604, 6400, and 6600. Mr. Thornton holds design patents involving magnetic core storage, digital communications, multiprocessing systems and high-speed logic and circuit design. He is the author of several technical articles, papers, and a book, *Design of a Computer, the Control Data 6600*.

Mr. Schoenberg founded AGS Computers, Inc. in 1967 and since then has held several executive positions including Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer. He also has held management positions with IBM, Litton Industries and Computer Sciences. Mr. Schoenberg is an active member of a number of professional organizations and has served as an officer in ADAPSO and the Software Industry Association.

Mr. Ross began his career in the computer science field as a member of the research staff of the Electronics Systems Laboratory at MIT in 1952. From 1952 to 1969 he participated in instruction and research activities at MIT in various capacities; he served as head of the Computer Applications Group, was a lecturer in the Electrical Engineering Department, project engineer for the MIT Computer-Aided Design Project, and directed the AED language and compiler development. Currently, he is Chairman of the Board of Directors of SofTech, Inc., a company he founded in 1969. Mr. Ross is the author of many published articles and of a book entitled, *Introduction to Software Engineering with the AED-0 Language*.

Mr. Peeples is President of the GTE Data Services Incorporated. Since joining GTE in 1957, he has held positions in many of the regional divisions of GTE. He became director of data processing in 1967, joined GTE Data Services in 1968, and was elected Corporate Vice President of Operations in 1971. In 1978 Mr. Peeples became Vice President of Network and Engineering and then Vice President of Staff Data Processing, a position he held until he assumed his current duties as President in 1981.

The Charles Babbage Institute *Newsletter* is a publication of the Charles Babbage Institute for the History of Information Processing, University of Minnesota, 104 Walter Library, 117 Pleasant Street S.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455, telephone (612) 376-9336. The *Newsletter* reports on Institute activities and on other developments in the history of information processing. Permission to copy without fee all or part of this material is granted provided that the source is cited and a copy of the publication containing the copied material is sent to the Institute.

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## MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM:

Your renewed or new membership assists CBI's effort to assure the existence of an accurate record of the information processing field's evolution. If you are not currently a "Friend of CBI," please consider becoming one.

A Babbage Associate—\$30 donation—besides supporting the work of CBI you will receive:

- the *CBI Newsletter*
- a 20% discount on the *CBI Reprint Series for the History of Computing*.

A Babbage Participating Associate—\$75 donation—besides supporting the work of CBI you will receive:

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A Babbage Colleague—\$250 donation—besides supporting the work of CBI you will receive:

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- one book of my choice from the *CBI Reprint Series for the History of Computing* and 20% discount on any other books from the Reprint Series
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A Babbage Sustaining Colleague—\$500 donation—besides supporting the work of CBI you will receive:

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I would like to become a Friend of CBI:

- ( ) Associate Member—\$30                      ( ) Colleague—\$250                      ( ) Patron—\$1,000  
( ) Participating Associate—\$75              ( ) Sustaining Colleague—\$500

( ) My company has a matching gift program or might be willing to support the work of CBI

My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed payable to the Charles Babbage Foundation which is the support arm of CBI.  
Current *Annals* subscriber: ( ) yes ( ) no

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please show Prof., Dr., Mr., Ms., Mrs., Miss as appropriate)

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I am interested in the history of information processing:

- ( ) From the standpoint of someone involved in information processing.              ( ) Both of the above.  
( ) From the standpoint of a practicing historian.    ( ) For other reasons (Please state reasons).

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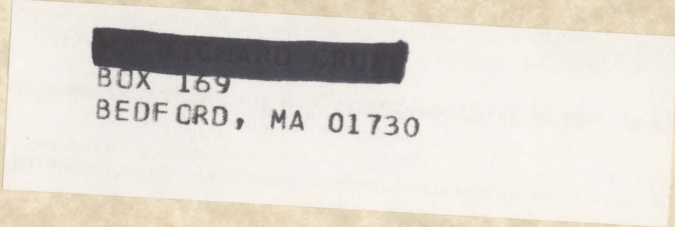
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