
Guide to the Rey Johnson Papers

Collection number: X3312.2006

Computer History Museum

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Guide to the Rey Johnson Papers

Dates: 1933-1998

Collection number: X3312.2006

Creator: Johnson, Rey

Collection Size: 1 linear foot1 box

Repository: Computer History Museum

Mountain View, CA 94043

Abstract: Reynold B. (Rey) Johnson's papers are comprised of International Business Machines (IBM) company documents, newspaper clippings, project ideas and drawings, and photographs from his thirty-seven years with IBM. Of particular note is Johnson's involvement in the development of magnetic disk storage during the 1950s.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of Item], [Date], Rey Johnson papers, Lot X3312.2006, Box [#], Folder [#], Computer History Museum

Provenance

The Rey Johnson papers were donated by his son, David R. Johnson, to the Computer History Museum in 2005.

Biography / Administrative History

Rey Johnson graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in education. While teaching high school science in Michigan, Johnson developed a machine to electronically grade multiple-choice tests taken in pencil. He sold the idea to IBM in 1934 and took a job as a senior engineer at their Endicott, NY laboratory where he worked on projects involving punch cards.

In 1952, IBM sent Johnson to San Jose, CA to set up a West Coast laboratory. Johnson and the San Jose team developed magnetic disk storage, which was marketed as the IBM 305 RAMAC in 1956. Johnson retired from IBM in 1971. Johnson had more than 90 patents to his

name.

Scope and Content of Collection

Rey (Reynold B.) Johnson's papers are comprised of IBM company documents, newspaper clippings, project ideas and drawings, and photographs.

The first series is Corporate and consists of papers and publications relating to IBM such as staff listings, internal news, and programs from company dinners. This series contains several issues of Tabulating Pointers, which detailed tips and tricks for accounting punch card machines, from the early 1930s. The second series is Johnson's Personal Papers containing personal correspondence, news clippings, speeches, and accolades. The third series focuses on Johnson's Inventions and Projects. There are two folders of mostly hand-written project ideas and drawings, as well as a transcript of an interview concerning his test scoring machine.

- Series 1. Corporate papers
- Series 2. Personal papers
- Series 3. Inventions and projects

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Computer Industry

Computer Storage Devices

Punched card systems

International Business Machines Corporation. San Jose Research Laboratory

Test scoring machine

IBM 305 RAMAC (Computer)

National Medal of Technology

Johnson, Reynold B.

Separated Material

Physical objects including a prototype of Johnson's test scoring machine as well as photographs, mostly taken at the National Medal of Technology ceremony in 1986, can be found in the CHM collections database at <http://www.computerhistory.org/search/>.

box 1

Corporate Papers 1933-1998**Creator:** Johnson, Rey**Physical Description:** 22 folders**Series Scope and Content Summary**

Consists of papers and publications relating to IBM such as staff listings, internal news, and programs from company dinners. Of note are several issues of Tabulating Pointers, which detailed tips and tricks for accounting punch card machines, from the early 1930s.

folder 16	102687875 A Quarter Century of Innovation 1977
folder 19	102687878 Clippings from local newspapers 1958-1973
folder 15	102687874 Corporate Recognition Dinner February 16, 1970
folder 11	102687870 Dedication of IBM San Jose 1958
folder 9	102687868 Fortune with cover story about "Tom Jr.'s IBM" September 1956
folder 12	102687871 IBM San Jose
folder 17	102687876 IBM San Jose: The First Quarter Century 1977
folder 7	102687866 IBM memos 1953-1971
folder 20	102687879 IBM news publications 1935-1978
folder 2	102687861 IBM staff listings
folder 10	102687869 Industrial and Housing Review: Santa Clara county edition May 1956
folder 6	102687863 Luncheon in honor of his excellency the honorable Warren R. Austin November 13, 1949
folder 13	102687872 Programs from the conference on communication of scientific information May 26, 1958
folder 14	102687873 Programs from various IBM awards dinners 1962-1971
folder 18	102687877 IBM in San Jose 1978
folder 3	102687862 Tabulating Pointers 1930 ca.
folder 4	102687864 The 5 C's challenge September 1, 1936
folder 21	102687880 Various issues of Think (the IBM employee magazine) 1940-1989
folder 1	102687859 Think: a biography of the Watsons and IBM
folder 5	102687865 IBM Thirty-eighth annual report for the year ended December thirty-first 1949
folder 8	102687867 Time: the weekly newsmagazine with cover story about "IBM's Thomas J. Watson, Jr." March 28, 1955
folder 22	102687881 Vision (vol 2, num 3) "This company of ours" 1989

box 1 **Personal Papers 1933-1998**

Creator: Johnson, Rey

Physical Description: 7 folders

Series Scope and Content Summary

Contains personal correspondence, news clippings, speeches, and accolades.

folder 27	102687887 Accolades given to Rey Johnson 1965-1994
folder 28	102687888 Hundred percent club convention book July 12, 1948
folder 24	102687884 Newspaper clippings, mostly articles about Rey Johnson 1952-1998
folder 26	102687885 Rey Johnson biographical information
folder 23	102687883 Rey Johnson correspondence 1959-1986
folder 25	102687886 Speeches given by Rey Johnson 1963-1978
folder 29	102687889 Think notebook containing speech notes

box 1 **Inventions and projects 1933-1998**

Creator: Johnson, Rey

Physical Description: 8 folders

Series Scope and Content Summary

Focuses on Johnson's Inventions and Projects. There are two folders of mostly hand-written project ideas and drawings, as well as a transcript of an interview concerning his test scoring machine.

folder 30 102687890 **Products developed by Rey Johnson**

folder 35 102687894 **RAMAC project information 1954-1957**

folder 32 & 33 102687891 **Rey Johnson project ideas 1933-1963 1933-1963**

Physical Description: 2 folders

folder 36 102687895 **Rey Johnson speeches about RAMAC 1984-1988**

folder 31 102687860 **Test punch cards August 20, 1948**

folder 34 102687893 **Test scoring machine 1978**

folder 37 102687896 **Various pamphlets and articles on hard drive advancements since RAMAC 1962-1994**

box Misc oversize 2, 102687897 **Technical Reminiscences, volumes I & II**

folder 9