

The CHM Muse

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Staff & Volunteer Monthly Newsletter

September 2008

What's Going On In The Museum Store



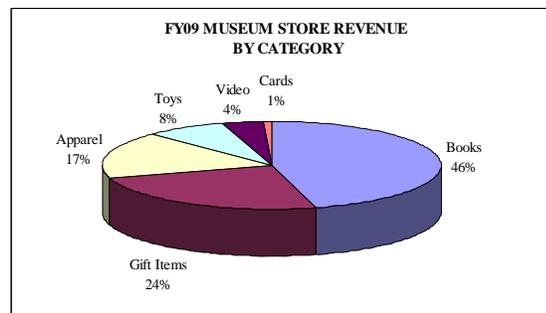
Friendly CHM front of house staff like **Jeanette Wood** and **Shelley Bergin** certainly help our sales.



With the significant increases in the museum's visitor attendance reported in last month's issue of *The Muse*, we are also experiencing some nice growth in our retail operations. Due to the outstanding efforts of **Jim Somers**, the store has shown increasing monthly revenues throughout the spring and summer, reaching an all-time high of **\$6600** in August 2008; and we are projecting \$50-60K for the year. In anticipation of the Babbage launch in May and the new 5-day open tour schedule, Jim expanded his merchandise mix in almost every area- the chart below shows his sales by product category for the year thus far:

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Of course, we expect the big revenue numbers will come with the opening of the Timeline exhibit- and the interesting benchmark statistics for museum stores below (from the American Association of Museums) help reinforce our forecasts for the future store expansion:

National average of museum store sales / sq ft / yr: **\$28**
 CHM sales per sq ft per yr. (our store is 400 sf): **\$125**

National average of \$ spent per museum visitor: **\$0.40**
 CHM average of \$ spent per tour visitor: **\$2.00**

Meet the 2008-2009 Volunteer Steering Committee

The Volunteer Steering Committee (VSC) team has recently added new members **Dave Bennet**, **Dave Cortesi**, **Peter Samson** and **Marcin Wichary**, and elected **Judith Haemmerle** as VSC Chairperson. Below is the entire 2008-2009 committee roster, with some interesting bios and pics.



Dave Bennet worked with IBM for 45 years, 1959 – 2004, including the design of airborne electronics for the B-52 bomber (Owego, NY), Design team then engineering hands-on support for the IBM 2321 Data Cell Drive (1964-1969, San Jose), Product Engineering Manager on IBM 3800 high speed printer and IBM 3380 Disk Drive (1978-1985), various engineering and engineering management jobs (1985-1995), then back to my roots as a product engineer. Hardware, always hardware! From about 1985 until retirement in 2004, Dave was the "keeper" of the extensive collection of IBM artifacts in San Jose as well as a lot of written historical material and photographs. After retirement Dave was asked to come back and catalog this collection, which was then divided between IBM archives in New York and Computer History Museum. When the collection came to CHM, Dave came with it.

Dave Cortesi wired circuits for Pac Bell; then for IBM he drove around San Francisco fixing first keypunches and accounting machines, later bugs in DOS/360. Moving into software development he helped create APL/1130 and other products that have taken well-deserved places in oblivion. Going free-lance at the start of the microcomputer revolution he published the immortal "Inside CP/M" and other books, then returned to gainful employment writing manuals for Informix, Novell, and SGI before retiring to a career in unbridled curmudgeonry.



After careers in education, construction, early music and cylinder phonograph repair, **Judith Haemmerle** has ended up as the Chair of the VSC. Her association with the Computer History Museum began with the website, which she came to know well while forcing dozens of middle-schoolers to write essays on computer history. She has worked in the library, in collections, as a greeter, and is currently on the Babbage Presenter and Maintenance teams and the 1401 Restoration Team. She is working towards a Master's Degree in Museum Science at SFSU, and her favorite artifact is the Utah teapot.

Herb Kanner started out as a pianist, winning a scholarship to the Oberlin Conservatory. He spent a second year at Oberlin as a chemistry major, then transferred to the University of Chicago. Sheer happenstance moved him from chemistry into physics. World War II got Herb into the army and into the Chicago branch of the Manhattan Project, followed by graduate work at Chicago, earning a Ph.D. in 1951.

After six years at Shell Development Company in Houston, largely running an operations research group and playing with an IBM 650, Herb returned to the University of Chicago as an Assistant Professor, joining a project building a transistorized computer on government money. He emigrated to California, working for Control Data and then the late-lamented RCA; further emigrating to England, Herb worked for ICL (International Computers Limited). After eight years he returned to the States, spending 1986 to 1996 at Apple. Herb thinks he now has the best job of all: a volunteer at the Computer History Museum.



James N. Porter first became involved with data storage products in 1968, when he joined the industry pioneer Memorex, serving in a variety of marketing management positions through 1971. After experience with early hand-held calculators at Rockwell International, with the first consumer video tape recorder at Cartridge Television, and with the original computer controlled video editing systems at CMX Systems, a CBS-Memorex joint venture, he began his own management consulting business in 1974. In 1977 he founded DISK/TREND, Inc., which published market studies of the worldwide disk drive and data storage industries. After 23 years, the company's publishing activities were phased out, and he is now working on several projects to preserve the history of the disk drive industry, in addition to management consulting in the data storage industry. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Computer History Museum, and chairs the museum's Storage Special Interest Group. He is also a founder and active participant of IDEMA, the disk drive industry's trade association.

VSC Team continued



Peter Samson was an undergraduate at MIT long enough to program many computers there, including music on the PDP-1 and the New York Subway competition on the PDP-6. At Systems Concepts in San Francisco he made a music synthesizer for Stanford, programmed a Chinese-character communication system, and wrote design-automation software that was used for numerous products, including add-ons for the ILLIAC IV and the Alto. He went to Autodesk and got patents in virtual reality and software encryption. Now he volunteers at the CHM, where he can talk a lot.

Warren Yogi will be celebrating his 7th anniversary as a volunteer with CHM in January 2009. Outside of his time at the Museum, Warren works as a computer scientist with the Fleet Numerical Meteorological and Oceanographic Center in Monterey. In his time with the Museum, Warren has been a mainstay of the Saturday Volunteer Days, specializing in ongoing archival projects.



Marcin Wichary argues that his professional life is a story of constant betrayal. First, he opted for mathematics instead of electrical engineering (the field of study is father pushed for). Halfway through the preliminary school math was abandoned in favor of computer science, which he pursued in high school and university in Szczecin, Poland (his home town in his home country). Gradually he escaped the world of ones and zeroes and branched into various forms of design (graphic design and typography, web design, multimedia design), to finally end up as an HCI specialist in User-System Interaction program in the Netherlands. Marcin enjoys learning about countless facets of interaction between Human and Machine, passing this knowledge to other people, and making the technology more accessible, attractive, enjoyable and useful. It is this interest, more than anything else that destined him to become a docent, Babbage presenter and operator, and photographer for CHM. He has been with the museum since 2007, a habit he supports as a user experience designer at Google.

August VSC Meeting Summary

By Judith Haemmerle, VSC Chair

The Volunteer Steering Committee met on August 19 to start the next volunteer year. We began planning a Staff-Volunteer Social for October 11, immediately following the regular Volunteer Saturday Work Day. The theme will be "Oktoberfest." Beer, pretzels and polka dancing are being explored. Lederhosen are optional.

We are developing a mission statement for the VSC and discussing ways to update the VSC guidelines. Other issues addressed included:

- increasing volunteer/staff communication
- need for an all-volunteer update on the status of the Timeline
- increased use of the internet for VSC communication.

The PDP-1 was moved without the PDP-1 Restoration team's knowledge. Fortunately, no harm seems to have been done. We are looking into the incident and intend to reduce the chance of such incidents in the future.

Suggestions and volunteers for a re-do of the volunteer website are being sought. We are looking for one or more web developers to volunteer for this. Drupal is being considered as a content management platform. Please see any VSC member if you have skills or ideas to contribute.

Full minutes are available in the VSC binder in Zuse and online on the volunteer website under "VSC Meetings & Minutes" > "VSC Meetings" > "August 19, 2008."

Next regular meeting, September 16, 2008, 4:30 PM.



Spotlight On: The CHM Archivists

By Paula Jabloner, Director of Collections

The Computer History Museum's Archives is an eyewitness to the computing revolution. The Archives holds one of the largest collections of documents relating to computer history anywhere in the world spanning pre electronic computing thru the Google revolution. The collection contains over 5,000 linear feet of materials. Within all those white boxes in the "cage" on the first floor is one of our standout collections, the papers of J. Pres. Eckert, the co-inventor of ENIAC, the first electronic computer, unveiled in 1946. These documents have been collected since 1979 with the founding of the Boston Computer Museum. The largest recent acquisition is 440 records cartons of mostly Telefunken and Seimans manuals received with the SAP Collection. Our collections database currently has over 24,000 catalog records for archival materials either at the individual item or an entire box of records in one record.

Archives contain the unique records of enduring value otherwise known as primary source materials. Archivists bring the past to the present by facilitating use, preservation and control over these records. Archival records can be almost anything that is unique and of historical importance including journals, emails, correspondence, manuals, minutes, design drawings and financial documents. By no means is paper the only format, currently much research and thought is going into appropriate means of preserving electronic records.

The CHM archives is currently active in moving the collection as we prepare for the opening of the Timeline exhibit. As a benefit of the move, we will have control over the entire collection for the first time. There are currently three archivists actively working on making available the records of our computing past. **Sara Lott** works closely with Software Curator, **Al Kossow**, on cataloging and moving the software collection. **Elizabeth Borchardt** is spearheading the move of the paper collections. **Judy Strebel** is busily steering of all things oral history, including posting 139 oral history transcripts on the CHM website.



Software Archivist **Sara Lott**



Documents Archivist **Liz Borchardt**



Move Assistant & Cataloger **Bernard Yeh**



Oral Histories archived



Volunteer **Wynne Dobyns** & Move Assistant **Mary Ellen Petrich** in Library

Archivists continued...

As a result of all this hard work, CHM will be able to better answer researcher's questions. We've posted our first 10 archival finding aids on the CHM site, <http://www.computerhistory.org/collections/findingaids/>, and a federated site that provides access to archival collections across California, <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/institutions/ark:/13030/kt5q2nd3pz>. A finding aid is a more in-depth look at a archival collection than a catalog record, composed of provenance information, a history or biography of the subject, and a detailed "scope and content" note of the collection.

The vitality of the archives is shown by the research requests we handle regularly. The archivist look forward to providing greater and enhanced access to much more of the CHM collection as we move forward with our work.



A sample archive document

Catalog Search

By Bob Sanguedolce, VP of Information Systems



Collections Corner

By Karen Kroslowitz, Registrar

Here are some exciting stats from Collections on our cataloguing project:

Project Plan Goal:	Status as of Aug 1, 2008:
Catalog 9000 objects	6,116 catalogued- 68% of goal
Process 11,000 images	9418 processed- 86% of goal
Volunteer donate 1456 hrs	1732 donated- 118% of goal!

As of today, the online Catalog Search makes 58,500 records available to the public.

Launched in the middle of July 2008, the new CHM Catalog Search has been a resounding success story. Already in less than two months, there have been 13,344 page views to the Catalog Search page, and 16,918 individual catalog items have been viewed over the web. Features of our new site include:

- Up-to-date access to all catalogued CHM artifact records
- Media browser with new picture viewer
- Direct access to 7 CHM Special Collections: Oral Histories, Computer Chess, Fortran, PDP-1, Marketing and IBM Stretch
- Predefined web addresses for every CHM artifact allowing external websites (like Wikipedia) to directly link to our collection
- Easy access to archival finding aids
- Dublin Core Metadata support
- Catalog record counter – we've got 58,500 artifacts available for access
- Catalog Search follows our new CHM Web Redesign Project look and feel

To truly appreciate our new Catalog Search, access it here: <http://www.computerhistory.org/collections/search/>

This was a collaborative effort of the Collections & Exhibits team and Information Systems. **Paula Jabloner**, **Allison Akbay** and **Kirsten Tashev** updated thousands of records to be extracted from the Mimsy database and crafted the search format and display. **Ton Luong** of IS did all the design and programming for the data extraction, search and display software. Congratulations to all for creating one of the best museum catalog search function on the web!

Client Kudos to Events

Hi Valerie,

Its been crazy busy the last couple of days. I want to take this opportunity to thank you much for your hospitality at the event on Tuesday, as you know, it was a great success. People just loved the place and as our SVP Nancy Kato indicated, it has been by far the best venue for our company. Definitely, we'll have our events there from now on...

Olivia Semanik
TiVo Inc.

Coming Soon- The Staff Summer Party



The CHM Staff Summer Picnic Party will be held at Shoreline Lake on Wednesday, September 17 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. This extraordinary event for CHM's phenomenal staff will feature sizzling barbeque, scrumptious side dishes and desserts, as well as an open bar for a variety of beer and wines. Traditional fun-filled picnic games such as tug-of-war, potato sack races, water balloon toss, and scavenger hunts will be part of the festivities- with prizes!

Thanks are in order for the party committee of **Alana Clarkson, Fiona Tang, Richard Verducci, and Chris Garcia** for putting together this special staff celebration event. We hope to see you there!

CHM Job Opportunities

<u>Department</u>	<u>Job Title</u>
Collections	Audiovisual Archivist
Collections	Document Archives Intern
Collections	Museum Registration Intern
Development	Database Administrator/Researcher
Development	Assoc Director, Corporate Relations
Education	Director of Education
Finance	Chief Financial Officer
IT	Web Developer

You can view these current openings at:
www.computerhistory.org/jobs



Promotions

Congratulations are in order for:

Chris Garcia has been promoted to Curator from Assistant Curator.

Alana Clarkson has been promoted to the position of Staff Accountant.

This Month in History

September 9, 1945

First instance of an actual computer bug being found

At 3:45 pm, Grace Murray Hopper records the first computer bug in her log book as she worked on the Harvard Mark II. The problem was traced to a moth stuck between a relay in the machine, which Hopper duly taped into the Mark II's log book with the explanation: First instance of actual computer bug being found.

Trivia

What ancient mechanical calculator, designed to calculate astronomical positions, was found in a shipwreck off a Greek island in 1900?

August's trivia question:

What university did William Hewlett and David Packard graduate from?

Answer: Stanford University. Hewlett and Packard, both members of the class of '34, were the first of many Stanford alumni that went on to found Silicon Valley high tech firms. Other companies found by Stanford grads include: Cisco Systems, eBay, Google, Intuit, Silicon Graphics, Yahoo, and Sun Microsystems

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