



Guide to the Rey Johnson Papers

Dates: 1933-1998

Extent: 1 linear foot in 1 box

Collection number: X3312.2006

Accession number: 102680907

Processed by: Elizabeth Borchardt

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.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

The 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.

Repository

Computer History Museum
1401 N. Shoreline Blvd.
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USA
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www.computerhistory.org

Biographical Note

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 Note

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.

Separated Items

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/>.

Indexing Terms

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.

Folder List

Rey Johnson papers

X3312.2006

<u>Folder Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Corporate Papers		
Box 1		
102687875	A Quarter Century of Innovation	1977
102687878	Clippings from local newspapers	1958-1973
102687874	Corporate Recognition Dinner	1970-02-16
102687870	Dedication of IBM San Jose	1958
102687868	Fortune ("In this issue: Tom Jr.'s IBM")	1956-09
102687877	IBM in San Jose	1978
102687866	IBM memos	1953-1971
102687879	IBM news publications	1935-1978
102687871	IBM San Jose	
102687876	IBM San Jose: The First Quarter Century	1977
102687861	IBM staff listings	
102687865	IBM Thirty-eighth annual report for the year ended December thirty-first 1949	
102687869	Industrial and Housing Review: Santa Clara county edition	1956-05
102687863	Luncheon in honor of his excellency the honorable Warren R. Austin	1949-11-13
102687872	Programs from the conference on communication of scientific information	1958-05-26
102687873	Programs from various IBM awards dinners	1962-1971
102687862	Tabulating Pointers	1930 ca.
102687864	The 5 C's challenge	1936-09-01
102687880	Think (the IBM employee magazine)	1940-1989
102687859	Think: a biography of the Watsons and IBM	
102687867	Time: the weekly newsmagazine with cover story about IBM's Thomas J. Watson, Jr.	1955-03-28
102687881	Vision (vol 2, num 3) "This company of ours"	1989
Personal Papers		
Box 1		
102687887	Accolades given to Rey Johnson	1965-1994
102687888	Hundred percent club convention book	1948-07-12
102687884	Newspaper clippings, mostly articles about Rey Johnson	1952-1998
102687885	Rey Johnson biographical information	
102687883	Rey Johnson correspondence	1959-1986
102687886	Speeches given by Rey Johnson	1963-1978
102687889	Think notebook containing speech notes	
Inventions and Projects		
Box 1		
102687890	Products developed by Rey Johnson	

<u>Folder Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Inventions and Projects		
Box 1		
102687894	RAMAC project information	1954-1957
102687891	Rey Johnson project ideas 1933-1963	1933-1963
102687895	Rey Johnson speeches about RAMAC	1984-1988
102687860	Test punch cards	1948-08-20
102687893	Test scoring machine	1978
102687896	Various pamphlets and articles on hard drive advancements since RAMAC	1962-1994
Box Misc oversize 2		
102687897	Technical Reminiscences, volumes I & II	