



Guide to the Harry D. Huskey Papers

Creator: Harry D. Huskey

Dates: 1937-2004

Extent: 2.54 linear feet, 4 manuscript boxes, 1 flat box

Collection number: X3247.2006 and X3462.2006

Catalog number: 102726107

Collection processed by: Sherwin Sabado, 2006; Staff 2011; Staff 2015

Finding aid prepared by: Sherwin Sabado, 2006; Staff 2011

Finding aid revised by: Staff 2015

Abstract

Harry D. Huskey was a mathematician who became a pioneer in the field of computer science. During his career, he worked on early and important computing systems such as the ENIAC, EDVAC, Pilot ACE, and SWAC. He also dedicated a significant amount of time to establishing and promoting computer education in both the United States and abroad. Ranging in date from 1937 to 2004, the Harry D. Huskey Papers document Huskey's work in computer science, with the bulk of the collection pertaining to the EDVAC and SWAC. The collection includes technical reports and papers, manuals, meeting minutes, product data sheets, newsletters, conference proceedings, correspondence, handwritten notes, a personal journal, an autobiography, and photographs.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Languages

English

Preferred Citation

[Identification of Item], [Date], Harry D. Huskey papers, Lot[#], Box [#], Folder [#], Catalog [#], Computer History Museum.

Note: For this collection the lot number citation will either be X3247.2006 or X3462.2006.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Harry D. Huskey papers were donated by Dr. Huskey to the Computer History Museum in two donations. Lot number X3247.2006 was donated in August 2005 and contains photographs, manuals, technical reports, and Dr. Huskey's autobiography. Lot number X3462.2006 was donated by Huskey in February 2006 and contains his personal journal dating from 1948 to 1952, as well as materials related to the National Bureau of Standards and the development of the Standards Western Automatic Computer.

Repository

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Biographical/Historical Note

Harry Douglas Huskey was born on January 19, 1916 in Bryson City, North Carolina, and grew up in Idaho. He received a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics from the University of Idaho in 1937. Upon graduation, Huskey spent a year studying mathematics and working as a teaching assistant at Ohio University. In 1939, he accepted another teaching assistant position at Ohio State University. Huskey received his Master's and Doctorate in Mathematics from Ohio State University in 1943. From 1943 to 1946 he taught mathematics at the University of Pennsylvania

while working part time on the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer (ENIAC) and Electronic Discrete Variable Automatic Computer (EDVAC) at the Moore School of Electrical Engineering.

In 1947, Huskey spent a year working at the National Physical Laboratory in Teddington, United Kingdom, where he worked alongside Alan Turing on the Pilot Automatic Computing Engine (ACE) and other projects.

In 1948, Huskey returned to the United States and began working in Los Angeles, CA, where he designed and managed the construction of the National Bureau of Standards Western Automatic Computer (SWAC). He worked at the National Bureau of Standards until 1954, when he joined the faculty of the University of California, Berkeley. While at Berkeley, he designed the G-15, which was manufactured and sold by the Bendix Aviation Corporation.

Huskey joined the faculty of the newly formed University of California, Santa Cruz in 1967. There, he dedicated a significant amount of time to bringing computer science and technology to universities in countries around the world. He also contributed to Ford Foundation and USAID-supported projects in India at I.I.T. Kanpur and Delhi University, as well as a UNESCO-funded project at Yangon University in Burma (Myanmar). Huskey retired in 1986, at age 70.

Scope and Content of the Collection

Ranging in date from 1937 to 2004, the Harry D. Huskey Papers document Huskey's work in computer science. The collection includes technical reports and papers, manuals, meeting minutes, product data sheets, newsletters, conference proceedings, correspondence, handwritten notes, a personal journal, an autobiography, and photographs.

The bulk of the collection is comprised of reports, manuals, and scholarly articles pertaining to Huskey's work on the EDVAC, Pilot ACE at the National Physical Laboratory, and SWAC between 1945 and 1955. Huskey's journal documents his daily work and the development of the National Bureau of Standards and SWAC between 1948 and 1952.

Of note are meeting minutes of the Applied Mathematics Executive Council (AMEC) from 1948 to 1952. Additionally, Huskey's 2004 autobiography *Harry D. Huskey: His Story*, which describes both his personal life and professional career, is included in the collection.

Photographs include portraits of Huskey throughout his career, images of SWAC components, promotional images of Huskey with SWAC, and an image of Huskey's Bendix G-15 computer at the Smithsonian.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 2 series:

Series 1, Printed Materials, 1945-2004, bulk 1945-1955

Series 2, Photographs, 1937-2001, bulk 1949-1954

Indexing Terms

AMEC (Applied Mathematics Executive Council)

ACE (Automatic Computing Engine)

Bendix Corporation
EDVAC (Electronic Discrete Variable Computer)
ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer)
Huskey, Harry D., 1916-
National Bureau of Standards (NBS)
National Physical Laboratory (NPL)
SWAC (Standards Western Automatic Computer)

Related Collections at CHM

Husky, Harry oral history, Lot X3455.2006, catalog number 102657983.

Collection Contents

Series 1, Printed Materials, 1945-2004, bulk 1945-1955

This series contains printed materials relating to Huskey's work in computer science, the bulk of which date from 1945 to 1955. The majority of the materials, including manuals, technical reports, and papers, relate to the EDVAC, Pilot ACE, and SWAC. There are a small number of handwritten notes, both on separate sheets of paper as well as on typed documents. This series also includes meeting minutes from the AMEC, a letter from the War Department addressing what information about the ENIAC and EDVAC could be used by Huskey in his professional work, and a product data sheet for the G-15 computer. Huskey's journal, which contains detailed notes of each work day and includes interfiled correspondence and handwritten notes from between 1948 and 1952, is also included in this series. This series is arranged chronologically.

Series 2, Photographs, circa 1937-2001, bulk 1949-1954

This series contains photographic prints from 1937 to 2001. Subjects include SWAC, the Bendix G-15, and portraits of Huskey throughout his career. This series is arranged chronologically.

	<u>Catalog Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Folder List			
Printed Materials			
Box 02	102659484	EDVAC documents from United States patent office	1945-1968
Box 01	102659478	First draft of a report on the EDVAC	1946-06-30
Box 01	102659480	Progress report on the EDVAC (Electronic Discrete Variable Computer)	1946-06-30
Box 01	102726096	8 index computer description and schematics	1947
Box 01	102659482	Letter from G. F. Powell to Harry Huskey	1947-03-18
Box 01	102659479	The EDVAC : a preliminary report on logic and design	1948-02-16
Box 04	102660277	Progress report on the automatic computing engine	1948-04
Box 04	102660146	Symposia on modern calculating machinery and numerical methods: July 23, 30, 31, 1948	1948-07
Box 02	102659483	Applied Mathematics Executive Council (AMEC) minutes and handwritten notes	1948-1952
Box 03	102659486	H. D. Huskey journal	1948-1952
Box 04	102660147	Proceedings of a second symposium on large-scale digital calculating machinery	1949-09; 1951
Box 02	102659485	Manual of the SWAC computing system with handwritten technical notes and diagrams	1949-1954
Box 04	102660152	Characteristics of the Institute of Numerical Analysis	1950-04

	<u>Catalog Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Printed Materials			
Box 04	102660150	National Bureau of Standards: Technical news bulletin; The bulletin: A monthly publication of the Los Angeles section Institute of Radio Engineers	1950-1953
Box 04	102660151	SWAC technical notes and papers	1950-1953
Box 04	102660149	SWAC technical reports and manuals	1950-1953
Box 04	102660278	Preliminary copy of engineering manual for the National Bureau of Standards Western Automatic Computer	1950-01
Box 01	102659481	Report on the pilot model of the automatic computing engine	1951-09
Box 04	102660148	Performance of electronic components in the SWAC	1952-09
Box 03	102660487	Manual of the SWAC computing system	1954-1956
Box 04	102660145	Computer development (SEAC and DYSEAC) at the National Bureau of Standards Washington, D.C.	1955-01-25
Box 02	102659487	Bendix model G-15 datasheet	ca. 1960
Box 01	102659488	Harry D. Huskey : his story	2004
Photographs			
Box 05	102652157	Portrait of a young Harry Huskey	ca. 1937
Box 05	102652153	Harry Huskey portrait	ca. 1940
Box 05	102652150	Harry Huskey watching the construction of the SWAC computer	ca. 1949
Box 05	102630793	Harry Huskey watching the construction of the SWAC computer	ca. 1949

	<u>Catalog Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Photographs			
Box 05	102652151	Harry Huskey working at his desk	ca. 1949
Box 05	102652146	Harry Huskey in front of the SWAC computer console	ca. 1950
Box 05	102652148	Harry Huskey in front of the SWAC computer holding a module	ca. 1950
Digital Archive	102652147	Harry Huskey sitting in front of the SWAC computer console	ca. 1950
Box 05	102652139	Set of 3 plug in tubes and transistor Board	ca. 1950
Box 05	102652142	SWAC chassis	ca. 1950
Box 05	102652145	SWAC chassis front view	ca. 1950
Box 05	102652144	SWAC chassis front view	ca. 1950
Box 05	102652143	SWAC chassis rear view	ca. 1950
Box 05	102710649	The SWAC System Console	ca. 1950
Box 05	102652152	Three woman sitting in front of a computer	ca. 1950
Box 05	102652140	Harry Huskey sits in front of the SWAC	ca. 1951
Box 05	102652149	The SWAC System	1953
Box 05	102652154	Harry Huskey portrait	ca. 1954
Box 05	102652155	Harry Huskey portrait	ca. 1975
Box 05	102652137	Bendix G-15 computer on display in a museum	ca. 1989
Box 05	102652156	Harry Huskey portrait	ca. 1990
Box 05	102652138	Harry Huskey portrait	ca. 2001