



Guide to the George R. Trimble Jr. Collection

Creator: George R. Trimble Jr.

Dates: 1948-2000, bulk 1955-1975

Extent: 10 linear feet, 8 record cartons

Collection number: X4586.2008

Catalog number: 102733954

Collection processed by: Bo Doub and Kim Hayden, 2015

Finding aid prepared by: Bo Doub, Kim Hayden, and Sara Chabino Lott, 2015

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Abstract

The George R. Trimble Jr. collection contains reports, papers, manuals, correspondence, conference proceedings, and notes that document Trimble's career in computer and data processing design and development from 1948 to 2000, with the bulk of the collection from 1955 to 1975. Materials come from Trimble's work at the Ballistic Research Laboratory at Aberdeen Proving Ground, IBM, Computer Usage Company, Penta Computer Associates, and as an independent consultant. Projects Trimble worked on include programming the ENIAC computer, design and software development of the IBM 650 and 700 series computers, design of traffic control and transit systems, and software and system design for companies like Lockheed Electronics Company and Texas Instruments. The collection also includes manuals, reports, and papers authored by Trimble.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Languages

The collection is entirely in English.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of Item], [Date], George R. Trimble Jr. collection, Lot X4586.2008, Box [#], Folder [#], Catalog [#], Computer History Museum.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Helen Trimble, 2007.

Repository

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Biographical/Historical Note

George R. Trimble Jr. was born April 26, 1929, in Elkton, Maryland. He received his BA from St. John's College in Annapolis, Maryland, in 1948, and his master's degree in mathematics from the University of Delaware in Newark in 1952.

In 1948, Trimble began working at the Computing Laboratory of the Ballistic Research Laboratories at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Aberdeen, Maryland, where he contributed to the programming and development of the ENIAC, EDVAC, ORDVAC computers as well Bell Laboratories and International Business Machine's (IBM) relay calculators. He joined IBM's research labs in Endicott, New York, in 1952 and worked as a senior staff member of the Applied Science Division where he helped design many of IBM's early computers, including the 650 and 700 series systems, and wrote one of the first commercially available software programs for the 650.

Trimble moved on to Computer Usage Company (CUC) in 1956, spending 12 years at the software development company as corporate technical director of systems programming. While at CUC, he supervised major application programs and was involved in most of the company's

projects, including heading the design of a computer-based air traffic control system for the Federal Aviation Administration and the development of software and an operating system for the Texas Instruments Advanced Scientific Computer.

In 1968, Trimble left CUC and went to Penta Computer Associates as the vice president of research and development. At Penta, he worked on the design and development of applications, mainly real-time and systems programming, and conceived and developed Penta's KeyLogic data entry system.

Trimble left Penta in 1971 after it was acquired by REDCOR and began working as an independent consultant with his own business, T-Logic. Projects Trimble worked on as a consultant include the design of personal rapid transit systems for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration and the creation of software for companies like Mergenthaler Linotype Company and Lockheed Electronics Company, among others. Trimble also led seminars and talks on computing around the world. He died March 13, 2007.

Scope and Content of the Collection

The George R. Trimble Jr. collection contains technical papers, conference proceedings, and manuals from Trimble's work at institutions including the Ballistic Research Laboratory and Computer Usage Company, as well as records from Trimble's projects as an independent consultant. The majority of the collection's independent consulting reports relate to the Mergenthaler 5500 System and also personal rapid transit system projects for the Urban Mass Transportation Administration. A significant amount of the technical papers and conference proceedings in this collection were authored by Trimble and relate to his work at BRL, CUC, and Penta Computer Associates, though writings by others are also included. Small amounts of promotional materials and catalogs are interfiled with technical papers and manuals when they are related to the same programs and products. The collection spans 1948 through 2000 with the bulk of the collection being from 1955 to 1975 during Trimble's years at CUC, Penta Computer Associates, and as an independent consultant.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into 4 series:

Series 1, Projects, 1966-1995, bulk 1972-1975

Series 2, Technical papers, notes, and program descriptions, 1948-2000, bulk 1952-1982

Series 3, Conference proceedings, 1952-2000, bulk 1953-1974

Series 4, Manuals and specifications, 1966-1988, bulk 1968-1973

Indexing Terms

Computer engineering

Computer software--Development.

Computer systems--Handbooks, manuals, etc.

Computer systems--Specifications.

Computer Usage Company

Personal rapid transit

Trimble, George R., Jr.

Related Collections at CHM

Computer Usage Company, Corporate Histories Collection,
<http://corphist.computerhistory.org/corphist/view.php?s=select&cid=13>.

Professional Services History Meeting, Lot X3805.2007, Catalog number 102657948.

Collection Contents

Series 1, Projects, 1966-1995, bulk 1972-1975

This series contains materials related to Trimble's work as an independent consultant after he left Penta Computer Associates in 1971. Materials consist mainly of reports, correspondence, and notes related to projects that Trimble worked on dating from 1966 to 1995, with the bulk of materials from 1972 to 1975. The largest portion of this series is made up of reports for personal rapid transit system projects for the Urban Mass Transportation Administration. Another large portion of this series consists of reports and manuals, most of which were authored by Trimble, for the Mergenthaler 5500 System. There are also records related to a rejected patent application for Trimble's Computer Tutor, Penta project proposals from Trimble's time with the company, and folders containing records related to Penta, KeyLogic, and Penta's acquisition by REDCOR, including press releases, promotional material, photographs, clippings about Trimble, and his letter of resignation. This series is arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Series 2, Technical papers, notes, and program descriptions, 1948-2000, bulk 1952-1982

This series contains technical papers, notes, articles, and correspondence relating to various computing machines, software, and companies that Trimble was associated with. Some of the earliest papers in this series were written by Trimble and others during work at the Ballistic Research Laboratory at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Aberdeen, Maryland, in the early 1950s. This material also includes writings about BRL written at later dates. Other institutions represented as either publishers or clients in these records include Auerbach Info Inc., Computer Usage Company, IBM, Penta Computer Associates Inc., Lockheed Electronics Co., Texas Instruments, Gilbarco Inc., and Amtrak. A small amount of promotional material, brochures, and newsletters are interfiled with papers that address the same products and companies. Other topics covered in this series include the Monte Carlo Method, ENIAC, linear programming, Project MAC (for multiple access, time-shared computers), work performed at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, the CPC Model II, and systems addressing transportation technologies. This series is arranged chronologically.

Series 3, Conference proceedings, 1952-2000, bulk 1953-1974

This series contains proceedings from conferences including the Deep South High-Speed Computer Conference (1954), various Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) conferences and workshops, and the Third Australian Computer Conference (1966). Many of the proceedings in this series feature papers and talks by Trimble. Trimble's work is featured in conferences and educational symposia held by the American Management Association (AMA), the Computer Usage Company, Computer Usage Education, Inc., and the University of Chicago Center for Continuing Education. The most recently published proceedings (2000) document a symposium and celebration inspired by the 50th anniversary of the invention of the ENIAC, held at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, in November 1996. These proceedings were bound and published by the United States Army Research Laboratory (ARL). This series is arranged chronologically.

Series 4, Manuals and specifications, 1966-1988, bulk 1968-1973

This series contains manuals, brochures, and product descriptions from computer companies from 1966 to 1988, with the bulk of materials from 1968 to 1973. A few of the folders also

include product catalogs, product price lists, order forms, worksheets, sales agreements, and invoices. The REDCOR folders include a large corporation profile report of the company from 1970. This series is foldered by company and arranged alphabetically by folder title.

<u>Catalog Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Folder List		
Projects		
Box 1	102734237 Advanced Group Rapid Transit System (AGRT)	1975-09
Box 1	102680144 Commodity activity display board	1980-1981
Box 1	102672848 Computer Tutor	1962-1974; bulk 1972-1974
Box 1	102672672 Data General Corp. antitrust litigation	1980
Box 1	102672838 Debevoise & Plimpton communication system	1983
Box 1	102734235 Dual Mode Transit System (DMTS)	1973-1974
Box 1; 2; 3	102734179 High Performance Personal Rapid Transit (HPPRT)	1972-1975
Box 3	102680146 Interact	1980-1981
Box 3	102672843 Lockheed Electronics Company project proposals	1972-1974
Box 3; 4	102734236 Mergenthaler 5500 System	1966-1978; bulk 1977-1978
Box 4	102672844 NetWeave Corp. manual project and sale records	1995-2000
Box 3	102734240 Penta Computer Associates Inc. and REDCOR Corp.	1969-1974
Box 4	102672841 Penta Computer Associates Inc. proposals	1970
Box 4	102672673 Sombers business development agreement	1989
Technical papers, notes, and program descriptions		
Box 4	102672671 Computing machines, programming, and statistical methods	1948-1994
Box 4	102672847 George R. Trimble Jr. writings	1951-2000
Box 4	102672666 Ballistic Research Laboratory (BRL) at Aberdeen Proving Ground,	1952-1961

	<u>Catalog Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
		Maryland	
Box 4; 5	102734238	Auerbach data communications and handling reports	1969-1970
Box 5	102672668	Penta Computer Associates, Inc.	1970
Box 5	102672842	Lockheed Electronics Co.	1973-1974
Box 5	102734256	Texas Instruments Professional Program Exchange (PPX)	1981-1982
Box 5; 6	102734239	Amtrak Centralized Electrification and Traffic Control (CETC) system	1982-1990
Conference proceedings			
Box 6	102734232	Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) proceedings	1952-1974
Box 6	102734233	Computing equipment conferences	1953-1954
Box 6	102672667	Conference and symposium proceedings featuring George R. Trimble Jr.	1957-1984
Box 6	102734234	Proceedings of the Third Australian Computer Conference	1966
Box 6	102672675	50 years of army computing : from ENIAC to MSRC	2000
Manuals and specifications			
Box 6	102734192	A guide for software documentation	1969
Box 6	102734246	Computer Machinery Corporation (CMC)	1970-1972
Box 6	102734248	Digital Equipment Corp.	1969-1973
Box 6; 7	102734247	Entrex Inc.	1971-1974
Box 7	102672846	Four-Phase Systems Inc.	1972-1973
Box 7	102734254	General Computer Systems Inc.	1972-1973
Box 7	102734250	Honeywell Inc.	1966-1968
Box 7	102672669	IBM Card-Programmed Electronic	ca. 1952-1954

	<u>Catalog Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
		Calculator (CPC)	
Box 7	102672845	Inforex Inc.	ca. 1972
Box 7	102734241	Interdata Inc.	1968-1975
Box 7	102734244	Lockheed Electronics Company Inc.	1971-1973
Box 7	102734255	Logic Corp. and GTE Information Systems	ca. 1971
Box 7	102734245	Mohawk Data Sciences Corp. (MDS)	1972
Box 7	102734253	Prime Computer Inc.	1978-1979
Box 7	102734249	Radio Shack TRS-80	1979-1981
Box 7	102734251	REDCOR Corp.	1969-1970
Box 7; 8	102734243	Scientific Data Systems Inc. (SDS)	1966-1968
Box 8	102734242	Texas Instruments Inc. (TI)	1968-1980
Box 8	102672670	Training materials	1970; 1988-08-18
Box 8	102672839	UNIVAC	1967-1968
Box 8	102734252	Varian Data Machines	1968-1972; bulk 1968