

Catalogue B, for box-files B1 – B2.

Scope: Covers the early discussions for a *National Computing and Data-Processing Society* which led in 1957 to the formation of the *British Computer Society*. There are also various BCS ephemera from the 1960s and 1970s. Period covered: 1956 to 1982.

Background to the collection.

These items were donated by H G Carpenter (1920 – 2010), box B1 and by H W Gearing (1912 – 2005), box B2.

Harry Carpenter worked as an electronic engineer for Elliott Brothers (London) Ltd., where he was part of the design team for the Elliott 401. He subsequently worked for other computer companies. He was at the initial meeting in January 1957 which proposed that a *National Computing and Data-Processing Society* be formed. Once the British Computer Society (as it became known) was established, Harry served on its Engineering and Scientific Group Committee and, later, on the BCS's Education Committee and Public Relations Committee. From mid-1959 he was a member of the BCS Council. For the period up to August 1958, whilst he was working for Tube Investments Ltd., Harry was also a member of the BCS's Birmingham Branch.

Harold Gearing was an accountant and statistician who joined the Metal Box Company in 1939. Harold stayed with the company until his retirement in 1973. He was asked in 1956 to head up a new division at Metal Box to investigate the potential value of computers to the company. By then he was thoroughly familiar with unit record equipment and had already gained experience of computers including the Pilot Ace, and had attended some of the earliest computer courses run by Northampton Polytechnic (now the City University). Harold learned to write programs for applications such as invoicing and stock cataloguing, using Edsac, Pegasus and Orion. Harold was one of the driving forces behind the formation of the British Computer Society, and it was in the conference room of his employer, Metal Box, that the Society was formally brought into being on 20 May 1957. He was one of the 14 elected to form the first Council of the Society. Later he became Chairman of the Publications Committee responsible for the *Computer Journal* and the *Computer Bulletin*. He was one of the first members of the BCS to be awarded an honorary fellowship.

Cat. No.	Date	Description	Comment
B1	1956 - 1959	Papers from meetings to discuss the formation of the BCS, and the first two years of its life.	Green folder, containing correspondence, Agendas, Minutes and Membership lists covering the period 21 st November 1956 to 5 th March 1959. Includes papers relating to the initial meeting of 24 th January 1957, held at the NRDC, when it was proposed to form a National Computing and Data-Processing Society. Those present at this meeting were: Dr A D Booth (Chair) Birkbeck Mr W Bamford Hilger & Watts Mr P G Barnes De Havilland Aircraft Co. Ltd.

			<p>Mr N R Bligh Computer Developments Ltd Mr H G Carpenter Tube Investments Ltd Mr E C Clear-Hill De Havilland Aircraft Co. Ltd Mr H J Crawley NRDC Dr A S Douglas Cambridge University Mr A Geary Northampton Polytechnic Dr S Gill Ferranti Ltd. Dr R L Grimsdale Manchester University Mr C G Holland-Martin BTM Mr A St Johnston Elliott Bros (London) Ltd The Joint Secretaries of the London Computer Group (Mr Hough & Mr Bray) Mr R L Michaelson Decca Radar Ltd. Mr E N Mutch Cambridge University Mr E A Newman NPL Mr G R Phillips STC Mr O S Puckle EMI Mr D H Rees Rothamsted Experimental Stn Mr W E Scott English Electric Ltd Mr R H Tizard LSE Dr G C Tootill RAE Mr J C Wimpenny De Havilland Aircraft Co. Ltd Mr F S Ellis (In attendance)</p>
B1	1958 - 1959	BCS Council documents.	Orange folder, containing BCS Council documents, correspondence and other committee papers covering the period June 1958 to July 1959. Includes a postcard-sized formal group photo (of Council members?) taken at the BCS AGM, September 1958. (<i>Photo ref.10517/1; taken by Douglas C Morris & Co., 322 Brixton road, London SW9</i>).
B1	1957 - 1958		Green folder, containing BCS Birmingham Branch papers covering the period August 1957 to August 1958.
B2	1956 - 1957	Two photographs	Two b/w photographs: (i) First BCS Council members, 1957, with an attached hand-written guide to names; (ii) H W Gearing at the console of an IBM computer, Poughkeepsie, USA, 9 th March 1956, with an attached guide to names.
B2	1957	BCS Articles of Association	Memorandum and new Articles of Association of The British Computer Society, 3 rd July 1961. (This Article removes the word <i>limited</i> from the BCS's title used in the original incorporation dated 14 th October 1957).
B2	1969	Dudley Cooper Memorial Lecture	Presentation copy of the BCS's Dudley Hooper Memorial Lecture, given on the 28 th January 1969 by Lord Robens. (Lecture title: <i>people and computers</i>).
B2	1970	BCS Honorary Fellows	The Society's first Honorary Fellows. Two-page illustrated feature reprinted from <i>Computer Bulletin</i> , Vol. 14, No. 3, March 1970. (The five Fellows are: E E Boyles, H W Gearing, R H Tizard, M V Wilkes and F Yates).
B2	1982	BCS Silver Jubilee Year	Two publications from the BCS's Silver Jubilee year, 1982: (i) BCS Jubilee Year handbook (two copies), plus relevant correspondence; (ii) Spiral-bound folder and

			papers from the BCS Jubilee Conference, Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, 14 th October 1982.
B2	1976	History of the BCS	<i>Six chapters in the history of the BCS</i> , by Murray Laver. 36-page article dated Summer, 1976.