**Catalogue NA, for box-files NA1 – NA4.**

**Scope.**
This collection covers three closely-related initiatives aimed at setting up a UK national computing archive, and also several later (unrelated) CCS archiving initiatives. Specifically, the documents include:

- the British Computer Society's Working Group on the History of the Development of Computing in the UK, 1981 – 1984. Includes a BCS proposal for sponsoring a book on the subject;
- the ICL-sponsored Computer Museum and Archive group, 1984 – 1986. Includes the 1985 ICL-funded 6-month study of the UK computer industry's own company archives; this study was hosted by the IEE's Archive section at Savoy Place, London.
- the October 1985 bid by the University of Manchester to be the host institution for a proposed National Archive. This led to the award of a three-year Leverhulme grant in 1987 and the establishment of the National Archive for the History of Computing in Manchester.
- The Computer Conservation Society's cataloguing and archiving work from 1998 onwards. The outcomes included the CCS's 1999 Appeal for documents (91 responders); the 2003 *Our Computer Heritage* website project*;* Hamish Carmichael's catalogue of ICL documents

**Background notes.**
Amongst the people prominent in the 1981/83 BCS initiative were Peter Hall (BCS President and former Ferranti manager), D W Harding (BCS Secretary), Jack Howlett (ICL and ex-Harwell & Rutherford Appleton Lab.) and SHL (Manchester University). Many UK organisations were represented on ICL's initiative. Within ICL, the lead was taken by A C D (Colin) Haley (ex-English Electric DEUCE, etc.). The initial case for the National Archive for the History of Computing (NAHC) to be established in Manchester was made by Prof. D B G Edwards and SHL (both of the Department of Computer Science), Prof. M Gibbons and Dr J V Pickstone (of the Department of the History of Science and Technology) and Dr M A Pegg (Director of the John Rylands University Library, Manchester). The first Director of the NAHC was Geoffrey Tweedale.

There were at least five eventual outcomes of all the above collective enthusiasm:
(i) A report by Serena Kelley, available at the IEE Archives, documenting the 1985 ICL-funded 6-month study of the UK computer industry's own company archives;
(ii) the establishment of the National Archive for the History of Computing at Manchester in 1987.
(iii) the CCS's 1999 Appeal for documents and artefacts and the resulting 91 responses (see catalogue below);
(iv) The 2003 *Our Computer Heritage* website project as an alternative to a second edition of *Early British Computers.*

| Box | Date | Title | Description/comments |
|-----|------|-------|----------------------|
| NA1 | 1981-1984 | The BCS initiative | Folder containing correspondence, Minutes of meetings, working papers, etc. |
| NA1 | 1984 | ICL's initiative, part 1. | Folder containing correspondence, Minutes of meetings, working papers, etc. |
| NA1 | 1985 | Extracts from the Report of the IEE Computer Archives project | This 6-month (total 272-page) study by Serena Kelly, funded by ICL, was set up at the Institution of Electrical engineers in May 1958. The study's underlying purpose was to demonstrate the lack of proper company archives maintained by the main UK computer manufacturers and therefore the need for the establishment of some form of National Computer Archive. Here are 36 key photocopied pages, extracted from the full report. Some hand-written notes are also included. |
| NA2 | 1985 | ICL's initiative, part 2. | Folder containing correspondence, Minutes of meetings, working papers, etc. |
| NA2 | 1985 | ICL's initiative, part 3. | Folder containing correspondence, Minutes of meetings, working papers, etc. |
| NA2 | 1985 | ICL's initiative, part 4. | Folder containing correspondence, Minutes of meetings, working papers, etc. |
| NA2 | 1986 | ICL's initiative, part 5. | Includes the announcement of successful funding for the NAHC to be set up in Manchester. |
| NA2 | 1987-1998 | Early NAHC documents | National Archive for the History of Computing. |
| NA3 | c. 1988 | Brochure for the National Archive for the History of Computing. | 6-sided b/w illustrated brochure, introducing the NAHC. |
| NA3 | 1988 | Letter from the Charles Babbage Institute (CBI) about a joint CBI/NAHC meeting. | The meeting, held in conjunction with the British Society for the History of Science, was scheduled for 15th July 1988 in Manchester. |
| NA3 | 1988 | Correspondence relating to plans to mark the bicentenary of Charles Babbage | Relates to the BCS and to the IEE. |
| NA3 | 1988 | Letter from Doron Swade concerning new plans at the Science Museum. | Doron Swade was at that time the Curator of Computing & Data Processing Electronics at the Science Museum. This was at a high point of computing interest in the museum, when a new gallery and an Information Age Centre were being planned. Three new posts were to be recruited. Unfortunately this enthusiasm, which followed from the work of the ICL-sponsored Computer Museums & |

| | | | Archive Group (CM&A), did not last for too long! |
|---|---|---|---|
| NA3 | 1989 | Letter from Geoffrey Tweedale, first Archivist at the National Archive for the History of Computing, to SHL, dated 20th February 1989. | A draft catalogue was enclosed but this has not been included because a better version (20th March 1989) is given below. Points of interest in the letter: (a) states that the historical material transferred from the Dept. of Computer Science alone to the NAHC occupies 47 boxes; (b) predicts funding problems when the Leverhulme Grant runs out in June 1990; (c) comments forlornly on the lack of ICL support and the disinterest of Doron Swade and the Science Museum; (d) states that "for a very modest outlay, a lot of very important material has been properly catalogues and safely stored. Certainly, the material that you [SHL] collected has given the Archive the best start possible …". |
| NA3 | 1989 | Manuscript catalogue for the National Archive for the History of Computing | 58 typed pages. Marked 'Preliminary draft, for private circulation only'. Includes covering letter from Geoffrey Tweedale to SHL dated 20th March 1989 and three loose handwritten pages of SHL's notes. |
| NA3 | 1989 | Correspondence and programme relating to the NAHC's Computer History Conference. | This International Conference, which was organised by Jeff Tweedale, took place in Manchester on 11th & 12th July 1989. |
| NA3 | 1990 | *Machines of the 1950s restored to life in the Science Museum.* W S Elliott and A E Sale. May 1990. | Eleven A4 typed pages, headed 'Computer Conservation Society'. This paper introduces the Computer Conservation Society and its aims. It lists six computers 'in more or less complete condition' held by the Science Museum and states that CCS Working Parties have been set up to examine possibilities of restoration. The history and present condition of two machines, the Elliott 401 and the Ferranti Pegasus, are described in some detail. This copy was sent by Tony Sale to H G (Harry) Carpenter with a note inviting Harry to join the CCS. A Membership form is included. |
| NA3 | 1990 | Invitation and programme for a Computer Conservation Society Evening reception, held in the Science Museum on 11th October 1990. | This is possibly the second Open Meeting of the CCS. A list of guests and of CCS Committee members is included. |
| NA3 | 1997 | Catalogue listings of early | Includes Tony Sale's Bletchley Park index |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | computers, from various sources. | and Ceruzzi's index from America, June 1999. |
| NA3 | 1998, 1999 | Preservation priorities. Collection of documents, minutes of meetings and letters relevant to CCS preservation and archiving policy. | This is a mix of several overlapping projects that arose more or less at the same time: (a) Tony Sale's efforts at document collection and archiving, firstly at the Science Museum and then at Bletchley Park; (b) a CCS-supported project to produce an enlarged second edition of the book *Early British Computers;* (c) the CCS cataloguing and collecting work of Harold Gearing and, later, Hamish Carmichael; (d) SHL's attempts at producing lists of early UK computers and UK computer pioneers. There were at least three eventual outcomes of all this collective enthusiasm: (i) the CCS's 1999 Appeal for documents and artefacts (see below); (ii) The 2003 *Our Computer Heritage* website project as an alternative to a second edition of *Early British Computers;* (iii) Hamish Carmichael's extensive catalogue of ICL documents. |
| NA3 | 1999 | Index for the ICL Archive held at Blythe House, London. | The index is 55 photocopied pages. Includes a covering letter from Rod Smith, Assistant Curator, Computing & Data Processing, Science Museum, to SHL dated 24th March 1999. |
| NA3 | 1999 | Early British Computers – proposed second edition. | File of correspondence and summary of referees' comments. Attempt to get funding for a research assistant. |
| NA3 | 1999 | Catalogue listings of early digital computers (period 1940 – 1955), compiled by SHL. | The main list, derived from four named sources, comprises 125 computers, of which about 40 were not strictly of the stored-program type. The countries of origin are approximately: USA = 58%; UK = 28%; rest of world = 9%. |
| NA3 | 2001 | SHL's alphabetical list of contacts relevant to computer history and the proposed second edition of *Early British Computers*. In confidence. | This ten-page typed document contains confidential data. In practice, most of the address-details are now obsolete – either because the named person is now dead or because the person has moved house or changed their e-mail address. |
| NA3 | 2001 | Cliff Dilloway's list of his historical computing documents. | Covering letter and 19 hand-written pages listing his documents. Many of the 'documents' are back numbers of computing magazines, etc. |
| NA3 | 2002 | G E Coles' list of his historical computing documents. | Covering letter and two typed pages listing his documents. These are mainly manuals and brochures. |
| NA4 | 1999 | Background notes and two published articles, relevant | The articles are in: (a) *The Computer Bulletin*, Sept. 1999, page 12; (b) The *IEE News*, No. |

| | | to the CCS's launch of an Appeal for historic artefacts and documents. | 150, Oct. 1999, page 20. |
|---|---|---|---|
| NA4 | 1999; 2015 | (a). Checklist of 91 replies to the CCS's 1999 Appeal. (b). The documents from 60 responders are in this file. | For each responder, this list gives the serial-number (in the range 1 – 91), date received, method of transmission (e-mail, GPO, 'phone call), name of responder, brief description of historical information offered, and follow-up. The 'follow-up' records the retrospective actions taken (if any). For 31 responders, the 'actions' in 2015 have simply been to place their written contributions (eg a document) in an appropriate catalogued file. For example, if a responder provides an account of the uses of a Ferranti Pegasus computer then their document is placed in the 'Pegasus' file. For the 60 responders for whom no special action was taken, their documents are kept in this present file. |
| NA4 | 2002, 2003 | *Our Computer Heritage* project pre-history. (a) Contact details of participants and link-persons relevant to a CCS Workshop held in Manchester on 6th March 2002 to discuss the *Our Computer Heritage* project. (b) Progress letter to prospective partners. | (a) The purpose of the Workshop, organised by SHL, was to bring together prospective partners in a Heritage Lottery bid to fund the *Our Computer Heritage* initiative. At that time it was conceived as an *Auditing Archival Collections* collaborative project. (b) Copy of letter sent to all partners, namely: CCS; National Archive for the History of Computing; Public Record Office (later The National Archive); Science Museum, London; Museum of Science & Industry, Manchester; National Museums Scotland. |
| NA4 | 2003, 2004 | The launch of the CCS's *Our Computer Heritage* project | Collection of 31 A4 Overhead Projector slides, in colour, used by SHL at seminars promoting the *Our Computer Heritage* project amongst participating organisations. |
| | | *Note: a box-file of other OCH material was given to David Bew on 15th September 2015.* | David Bew agreed to help with the organisation of the *Our Computer Heritage* project. david@bew9.orangehome.co.uk |