

Lee, John A. N., Papers

John A. N. Lee Papers
1973-1990



Title Statement

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Author: John M. Jackson, Archivist

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1973.005

Unit Date

1973-1990

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The collection contains correspondence, computer programs, publications, and meeting notes all relating to John A. N. Lee's work for the National Bureau of Standards to develop a standard for the BASIC programming language. Included in the papers are a survey of twenty-seven descriptions of BASIC and a collection of published works relating to the language up to 1973. Also contains records (1977-1990) from the editorial staff of the *Annals of the History of Computing*.

Creator

Lee, John A. N.

Extent

30 Cubic Feet 20 boxes

Physical Location

Please note: Most of this collection is located in off-site storage and requires 2-3 days for retrieval. Contact Special Collections for further information.

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open to research.

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Source of Acquisition

The John A. N. Lee Papers were donated to Special Collections in 1973 and 1982; the *Annals of the History of Computing* editorial files were donated in 1992.

Processing Information

The John A. N. Lee Papers are unprocessed. The guide is a preliminary inventory, created in 2005.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], John A. N. Lee Papers, 1973-1990, Ms1973-005, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

John A. N. Lee, a professor of computer science at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, was born in Coventry, England. After earning his doctoral degree at the University of Nottingham, Lee worked as a civil engineer with Freeman, Fox & Partners, where he served on teams which designed the Medway Bridge near London, the Firth of Forth Road Bridge, and Australia's Sydney Opera House. In 1959, Lee joined the faculty of Queens University (Kingston, Ontario), where he initiated computer classes and a computer center. Lee moved in 1964 to the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where he established a computer science program and served as its first department head. During this time, he authored *The Anatomy of a Compiler* (1967) and *Computer Semantics* (1971). In 1973, the National Bureau of Standards contracted with Lee to form a "nucleus standard for the BASIC programming language."

Lee joined the faculty of Virginia Tech in 1974. Here, he assisted in the development of a graduate program and extended the undergraduate program. He served as chairman of the undergraduate program for many years and developed several new courses.

The recipient of several distinguished awards, Lee has made significant contributions to the development of computer language standards, the history of computing, and professional development. His interest in history led Lee to organize the 1982 25th anniversary commemoration of FORTRAN programming. Among his many other activities, he served as editor and editor-in-chief of the *Annals of the History of Computing* from 1987 to 1995.

Scope and Content

This collection contains the papers of John A. N. Lee, civil engineer, professor of computer science, author and editor. The collection is essentially comprised of two sets of materials:

Boxes 1-3 contain materials relating to Lee's involvement with the National Bureau of Standards in establishing standardization of the BASIC computer programming language. The files include the project contract, correspondence, surveys, meetings reports, printed materials, and the final report resulting from Lee's work. (Also included in Box 1 is some background material for a 1973 lecture by Grace Hopper.)

Boxes 4-20 contain the editorial files of the *Annals of the History of Computing*, from 1977 to 1990. The files contain such material as correspondence, drafts, rejected manuscripts, background material and office

records.

Separated Material

Several published works were transferred out of the collection in 2004. A list of these works is available in the collection's administrative folder.

Keywords

Faculty and staff

Science and Technology

University History

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (1970-)

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged by subject.

Description of Subordinate Components

Box 1

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Documentation for Grace Hopper's lecture (3 binders)

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BASIC standardization

Unit Date 1961-1978, n.d.

UMA #11 contract documentation

Unit Date 1973

Outgoing correspondence

Unit Date 1973

Incoming correspondence

Unit Date 1973-1974

BASIC surveys completed

Unit Date 1974

UMA Dartmouth programs

UMA #14 ASCII character set

UMA #17, 22: reports of National Bureau of Standards meetings

Unit Date June-July 1973

UMA #13 conference attendees

Unit Date 1973

UMA #12 mailing list

UMA #7 rounding (American standards)

Unit Date 1961

UMA #10 USA Standards Institute manual of style

Unit Date [1968?]

UMA #9 "The Formal Definition of the BASIC Language" by Lee

Unit Date 1970-1971

UMA #4 "The Case Against BASIC"—Datamation

Unit Date September 1, 1971

UMA #3 "Proposal for an American National Standard Project Under Committee X3; the BASIC Programming Language" (preliminary draft)

Unit Date 1971

UMA #15 "Proposed American National Standard Representation of Numeric Values in Character Strings for Information Interchange" (draft)

Unit Date February 2, 1972

UMA #16 Federal Information Processing Standards Publication #21

Unit Date 1972

UMA #6 ACT survey

Unit Date [1972?]

UMA #3 Proposal for X3 standards development project: BASIC

Unit Date 1973

UMA #5 Navy COBOL validation users guide

Unit Date 1973

NTIS report #NBSD-GRC 73-17 American National Standard for Minimal BASIC

Unit Date 1978

"A Candidate Standard for Fundamental BASIC"

Unit Date 1973

Box 2

box 2

BASIC standardization

Unit Date 1961-1978, n.d.

2000F: A Guide to Time-Shared Basic: For Reference and Self-Instruction (Hewlett-Packard)

Unit Date 1972

2000C: A Guide to Time-Shared Basic: For Reference and Self-Instruction (Hewlett-Packard)

Unit Date 1972

BASIC/3000 Interpreter: Reference Manual (Hewlett-Packard)

Unit Date 1975

BASIC 1 Service Reference Manual (General Electric(rev.))

Unit Date 1971

BASIC Language (General Electric, (rev.))

Unit Date 1970

BASIC Language: Mark III Foreground Reference Manual (General Electric, (rev.))

Unit Date 1973

My Computer Likes Me: When I Speak in BASIC (Dymax)

Unit Date 1972

"BASIC" (National Cash Register Company)

Unit Date 1972

"IBM Virtual Machine Facility / 370: BASIC Language Reference Manual" (IBM)

Unit Date 1973

"BASIC Language Reference Manual" (IBM)

Unit Date 1970

Time-Sharing BASIC: Series 600/6000 Software (Honeywell)

Unit Date 1971

UNIVAC 1100 Series BASIC: Programmer Reference (Sperry Rand)

Unit Date 1972

"UMASS User's Guide" (University of Massachusetts, Amherst, (rev.))

Unit Date 1971

Adapts User's Guide (Varian Data Machines)

Unit Date 1973

Varian 73/620 BASIC Language Reference Manual (Varian Data Machines)

Unit Date 1973

Xerox BASIC, Sigma 5-9 Computers: Language and Operations Reference Manual (Xerox)

Unit Date 1972

Xerox Batch Processing Monitor (BPM), Sigma 5-8 Computers: Batch Processing and Real-Time Reference Manual (Xerox)

Unit Date 1973

Call/370: BASIC Direct Access General Information Manual (Service Bureau Corporation)

Unit Date 1972

Call/370: BASIC Reference Handbook (Service Bureau Corporation)

Unit Date 1973

"BASIC: Multics" (Honeywell)

Unit Date 1974

CAC / 3600: BASIC and BASICX Reference Manual (Call-A-Computer)

Unit Date 1972

"Decsystem10 BASIC: Conversational Language Manual" (Digital Equipment Corporation)

Unit Date 1972

Box 3

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BASIC standardization

Unit Date 1961-1978, n.d.

L'Abbe Wu, Nesa. BASIC: The Time-Sharing Language (Wm. C. Brown Co.)

Unit Date 1975

Burroughs B 1700 Systems: BASIC Reference Manual (Burroughs)

Unit Date 1973

BASIC: A Manual for BASIC "An Easy-to-Use, Conversational Problem-Solving Computer Language for Many Applications" (AL/COM)

Unit Date 1969

Control Data Cyber 70 Computer Systems Models 72, 73, 74 6000 Computer Systems (Control Data Corporation)

Unit Date 1973

BASIC-Plus Language Manual (Digital Equipment Corporation)

Unit Date 1975

Spencer, Donald D., A Guide to BASIC Programming (Addison-Wesley)

Unit Date 1975

Stevenson, Sally L., BASIC Manual (Computer Services, Environmental Research Laboratories, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

Unit Date n.d.

Waite, Stephen V. F. and Diane G. Mather, eds., BASIC (University Press of New England)

Unit Date 1971

"If You Do Know BASIC, If You Don't Know BASIC" (Data General Corporation)

Unit Date 1973

"Modular One Programming Handbook: BASIC 1 and 2" (Computer Technology Limited)

Unit Date 1972

Control Data 6000 Series Computer Systems (Control Data Corporation)

Unit Date 1971

"Extended BASIC User's Manual" (Data General Corporation)

Unit Date 1973

OS/8 BASIC User's Manual (Digital Equipment Corporation)

Unit Date 1972

BASIC-Plus Language Manual (Digital Equipment Corporation)

Unit Date 1972

Hennefeld, Julien, Using BASIC (Prindle, Weber and Schmidt)

Unit Date 1978

"CPS Terminal User's Manual"

Unit Date n.d.

Ahl, David H., ed., BASIC Computer Games (Digital Equipment Corporation)

Unit Date 1973

Garland, Stephen J., Dartmouth BASIC: a Specification (Trustees of Dartmouth College)

Unit Date 1973

Schoman, Kenneth Jr., The BASIC Workbook for Beginning Programmers (Wilbraham and Monson Academy)

Unit Date 1974

Gottfried, Byron S. Schaum's Outline of Theory and Problems of Programming with BASIC (McGraw-Hill)

Unit Date 1975

Leavy, Linda C. "A Survey of Dialects of the BASIC Programming Language"

Unit Date 1977

BASIC Self Teacher (Service Bureau Corporation)

Unit Date 1973

BASIC (Modular Computer Systems)

Unit Date 1973

"Microdata Micro 1600 Computer" (Microdata Corporation)

Unit Date n.d.

Response 1: BASIC Reference Manual (Leasco Response)

Unit Date 1972

Response / 360 Reference Manual for the Programming Language BASIC (Leasco Response)

Unit Date 1972

BASIC Users Manual (Microdata Corporation)

Unit Date 1972

Isaacs, Gerald L. "Interdialect Translatability of the BASIC Programming Language" (ACT Technical Bulletin, no. 11)

Unit Date 1973

Isaacs, Gerald L. "A Tabular Survey of BASIC Computer Systems" (ACT Technical Bulletin supplement no. 11-1)

Unit Date 1973

"System / 370 VS BASIC Language" (IBM)

Unit Date 1974

MBASIC (vols. 1-2) (Jet Propulsion Laboratory)

Unit Date 1973

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Annals of the History of Computing

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