

Good, Irving J., Papers

Irving J. Good Papers

1925-2004



Title Statement

Good, Irving J., PapersIrving J. Good Papers, 1925-2004 Ms.1982.018

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1982.018

Unit Date

1925-2004

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

The Irving J. Good Papers, 1925-2004, consist of thirty-six bound volumes of photocopied articles reviews, interviews, correspondence, and lectures, created and compiled by Good, a British mathematician and codebreaker during WWII, and Emeritus University Distinguished Professor at Virginia Tech. The collection also includes research notes, bibliographies of works, and correspondence.

Creator

Good, Irving John, 1924-2009

Extent

6.6 Cubic Feet 14 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The Irving J. Good Papers were donated to Special Collections in several accessions between 1982 and 2013. A final donation of the last 5 volumes of Good's bound works were donated in June 2016.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement, and description of the Irving J. Good Papers was completed in May 2013. The 2016 donation was processed in June 2016.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], Irving J. Good Papers, Ms1982-018, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

Irving John Good (December 9, 1916-April 5, 2009) was an Emeritus University Distinguished Professor of Statistics at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Educated at Cambridge University (Ph.D., mathematics, 1941; Sc.D., 1963) and Oxford University (D.Sc., 1964), Good went on to work with Alan Turing breaking German naval ciphers from 1941-1943. Following World War II, Good taught at Manchester University and Oxford University until 1967 when he moved to the United States. From 1967 until his retirement in 1994, Good taught at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He became a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and a distinguished member of the Crypto-Mathematics Institute as well as the author of *The Scientist Speculates: An Anthology of Partly-Baked Ideas and Good Thinking: The Foundations of Probability and Its Applications*.

For more about Good, see the SCUA blog post, "I. J. (Jack) Good: Virginia Tech's Own Bletchley Park Connection" by Marc Brodsky, January 15, 2015.

Scope and Content

The Irving J. Good Papers, 1925-2004, consist of forty-one bound volumes of photocopied articles reviews, interviews, correspondence, and lectures, created and compiled by Irving John Good. Also included is a videotape, "From Codebreaking to Computing," which features interviews with Good and Donald Michie, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of their joint work on the breaking of German codes for the United States during World War II. Additionally, there is a publication by Good, "Early Notes on Electronic Computers," a list of his published works, and some correspondence included in the collection.

Keywords

Faculty and staff
Science and Technology
University History
Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1944-1970)
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (1970-)

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is organized into two series: Series I. Collected Works and Series II. Papers. The collected works were donated to Special Collections already bound and numbered. They are arranged in order, according to the spine labels. The Papers are in their original order from the time of donation.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I. Collected Works (Bound)

I.J. Good Collected Works Vol. 1-3

box 1

I.J. Good Collected Works Vol. 4-6

box 2

I.J. Good Collected Works Vol. 7-9

box 3

I.J. Good Collected Works Vol. 10-12

box 4

I.J. Good Collected Works Vol. 13-15

box 5

I.J. Good Collected Works Vol. 16-18

box 6

I.J. Good Collected Works Vol. 19-21

box 7

I.J. Good Collected Works Vol. 22-24

box 8

I.J. Good Collected Works Vol. 25-27

box 9

I.J. Good Collected Works Vol. 28-30

box 10

I.J. Good Collected Works Vol. 31-33

box 11

I.J. Good Collected Works Vol. 34-36

box 12

Series II. Papers

"Early Notes on Electronic Computers"

box-folder 13 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

"From Codebreaking to Computing"

box-folder 13 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

I.J. Good- Personal PBI Notes

box-folder 13 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

I.J. Good- List of Published Works

box-folder 13 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Irving John Good Collected Papers, Vol. 3

box-folder 13 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

PBI: Futures

box-folder 13 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

PBI (MENSA): Contributors- Acknowledged and Used

box-folder 13 (box)

Container 7-8 (folder)

PBI (MENSA): Correspondence

box-folder 13 (box)

Container 9-10 (folder)

PBI (MENSA): Herrell

box-folder 13 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

PBI (MENSA): Pending

box-folder 13 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

PBI (MENSA): Rejected Contributions

box-folder 13 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

PBI (MENSA): "Not Serjak or Harding"

box-folder 13 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

"Comments on PBI's Past

box-folder 13 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

"Serjak 1976-1978"

box-folder 13 (box)

Container 16 (folder)