

# Twenty-Five Years of FORTRAN (Exhibit, 1957-1982) International Business Machines Corporation Collection

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1982



## Title Statement

Twenty-Five Years of FORTRAN (Exhibit, 1957-1982) International Business Machines Corporation Collection  
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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

Ms.1983.003

### Unit Date

1982

### Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

### Abstract

Pioneer Day was celebrated on June 9, 1982, at the National Computer Conference in honor of the 25th anniversary of the delivery of the first FORTRAN compiler. As part of the celebration IBM created and displayed this exhibit. Materials include photographs of FORTRAN pioneers, facsimiles of documents, textual analysis, flow charts, memorabilia, FORTRAN manuals and other publications, and a twelve-minute videotape on the history of FORTRAN.

### Creator

International Business Machines Corporation

**Creator**

Lee, John A. N.

**Extent**

5 Cubic Feet 5 boxes, 10 oversize items

**Repository**

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

## Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Access**

The collection is open for research.

**Condition Governing Reproduction and Use**

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**Source of Acquisition**

The collection was donated to Special Collections and University Archives in 1982 and prior to 1984.

**Processing Information**

This collection is unprocessed. Minimal description was completed prior to 2002 with minor additions in 2021.

**Preferred Citation**

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## Historical Note

Fortran is a programming language developed by John Backus and IBM in 1957. Pioneer Day was celebrated on June 9, 1982, at the National Computer Conference in honor of the 25th anniversary of the delivery of the first FORTRAN compiler. IBM created and displayed this exhibit at the celebration.

## Scope and Content

This exhibit was created by IBM for the 25th anniversary of the programming language FORTRAN in 1982. Materials include photographs of FORTRAN pioneers, facsimiles of documents, textual analysis, flow charts, memorabilia, FORTRAN manuals and other publications, and a twelve-minute videotape on the history of FORTRAN starring the members of the original FORTRAN development team: John Backus, Sheldon Best, Richard Goldberg, Lois Mitchell Haibt, Harlan Herrick, Grace Mitchell, Robert Nelson, Roy Nutt, David Sayre, Peter Sheridan, and Irving Ziller.

## Separated Materials

Several publications have been separated to the Rare Book Collection.

## Related Archival Materials

See also the John A. N. Lee Papers, Ms1973-005. Lee was a professor of computer science at Virginia Tech interested in the history of computer programming and involved in the 25th anniversary of Fortran in 1982.

See also the George Grigg and John Carnochan Papers, Ms2017-006, which relates to the use of FORTRAN at Virginia Tech in the 1960s-1970s.

**Keywords**

## Keywords

FORTRAN (Computer program language)  
Science and Technology  
International Business Machines Corporation

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## Technical Access

The videotape is a standard 3/4" Sony U-matic cassette, and unfortunately, we currently do not have the equipment necessary to play the tape.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Exhibit materials

**Unit Date** 1982

**box** 1

**box** 2

**box** 3

**box** 4

**box** 5

**oversize** 1+