

12/ 5 / 1984 Michael Harrison

Walter tried, but the CBI priority was higher. The Board is what matters, the Exec Committee is less important. It's easy to get 25K and we should come to the 3/8-9 meeting. Must come with a presentation (eg. slides) but it is critical to get the board members at TCM soon. Mike said he would come. They were trying to cut budgets. Politics are that CBI has 4 members on the AFIPS board. We are viewed as a potential regional museum, not an international museum.

June 18, 1984

Mr. Alan Shughart  
Seagate Technology  
360 El Pueblo Road  
Scotts Valley, CA 95066

Dear Al:

I'm writing to get your support for The Computer Museum.

A first rate team is designing the exhibits, including Dr. Oliver Strimpel, curator of the Science Museum in London and Dr. Paul Ceruzzi, a young history of computing scholar. In addition to the exhibits with historical artifacts, two major interactive galleries are being built for PC's and on the computer and the image. We predict attendance of over 200,000. This world-class, international Museum should be a major attraction and asset for the computing community.

The enclosed brochure describes the Capital Campaign. I would like your financial support in this crucial phase of the project which culminates in the opening, November 12:

1. Seagate's Foundership at \$2500. The money, or letter or call of intent must be in by July 1 when the founding period terminates. Or, a "core" membership in the Capital Campaign at the 4K, 8K, ... level.
2. Your own "core" support.

Perhaps most important to me as the Museum's unoffical curator, I would like your artifacts, especially at the opening of the PC gallery. The floppy and wini were major contributions to computing and to the PC, and I don't believe people appreciate or understand the importance. You clearly pioneered the standard component notion that made the PC generation possible.

Finally, I recall your speech to DEC's engineering community at Stratton Mountain Vermont when you were starting on the wini. At that time, I changed the direction of the DEC PC's to use your product, and regret the execution of the DEC PC's were so poor and untimely. Now, I would like to give a major talk at the Museum when it's open.

I'll call you next week to discuss these details.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosure

Mr. Alan Shughart  
Seagate Technology  
360 El Pueblo Road  
Scotts Valley, CA 95066

408-438-6650

25 November 1984

Dr. Alexander Schure  
Chancellor  
New York Institute of Technology  
Old Westbury, New York, 11568

Dear Dr. Schure:

The Museum finally opened on November 12.

The physical realization has turned out to be much more exciting than any plan could have communicated. The staff made a very large "stretch" to open a range of galleries. The reviews have been positive and it is easy to spend a half day in productive learning. Knowledgeable teenagers are spending their days at the Museum. The most flattering comment to date has been that it is the first American technology museum to be at European standards. Dr. Oliver Strimpel, who did the Museum's Image Gallery has just become the Associative Director and Curator. Oliver was formerly the Curator of the Mathematics Section of The Science Museum, London. The long collecting period and five year breadboard at Digital really paid off in collecting artifacts, building exhibits, doing lectures (ranging from Amdahl to Zuse) and gaining widescale support from computer people and companies.

I want to see this phase aimed at:

- . putting a formal educational program in place,
- . continued collecting of artifacts (whether letters, films, manuals or machines) in order to record the significant, information processing events, and
- . getting broad public support from computer-knowledgeable people who want to learn more about the past and future history of computing.

The Image Gallery has turned out to be a major work and attraction. I would like to urge you to come and give a Pioneer Lecture on Computer Graphics at NYIT. We have a February to May lecture series.

Since the Museum is quite unlike the plan you saw, I hope you can visit the Museum with me on your next trip to Boston and see the transformation. The perspective you now have would also be beneficial. If you have time, I hope you could join Gwen and I for a meal.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

June 18, 1984

Mr. Allan Wallach  
Vice President, Marketing  
Massachusetts Computer Corporation  
543 Great Road  
Littleton, MA 01460

Dear Allan:

It was great to see you at the Museum last month. I am delighted at your enthusiastic support to help it get going. The irony of the Museum is that, with the exception of Digital, it has it's greatest support from small companies. I believe this has a parallel as to why innovation also comes from small companies. My simple explanations are: decisions are easy to make and the people have imagination, understanding and vision that seem to be totally lacking or mired in the bureaucracy in large corporations.

Gwen enjoyed the interaction with Lorrin and someone else that sounded very much like Jack Burness. They are going to do some very nice demos and interactive exhibits for the image gallery. The exhibit should be great, and I hope we can also show the complete line: Linc, 12, Minc and your machine.

I enclose The Computer Museum brochure on the Capital Campaign and I hope Masscomp can also support us at one of the "Core" levels of 4K, 8K... because we also need cash for the November 12 opening. This will also enable the company to use the various facilities including the library, artifacts and have functions in the Museum.

Right now, the founding period of the Museum is just closing, and I hope you'll become a founder. On this one, the money is needed by June 24.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosure

November 7, 1983

Andy Knowles  
Nourse Road  
Bolton, Massachusetts 01740

Dear Andy,

"If we invested money in the future rather than the past, then what?"

Each time I invest "in the past" -- it has future payoff.

The idea of a computer museum started for me, at Carnegie doing research for Computer Structures, a computer science reference that I consider mostly history. Allen Newell and I collected materials and objects from the past machines so that we could use them to build theories. The Unibus and general registers both came out of this work, and I can remember inventing the concepts by building an encompassing theory of past structures. Some of the architecture of the 11 and then the overall goals of the VAX grew out of a knowledge of the past. When I returned to Digital in 1972, I knew the truth of the statement: "Those who forget history are doomed to repeat it."

One goal at Digital was to build an engineering group who stayed at the cutting edge and this required understanding other views, including history. I started close associations with Universities (who fundamentally teach history), then put together Computer Engineering so that all the engineers in the growing organization could have a ready-reference to Digital's computer evolution, and finally helped establish the museum right in the middle of an engineering/marketing area of DEC. Although The Computer Museum itself is leaving, I hope that DEC keeps their own collection of historic machines on display.

Fred Brooks famous book, The Mythical Man Month, required reading for many engineering students, grew out of his historical observations from designing the 360 system software. It is a classic on the nature of organizations and work, especially with regard to large software developments. Neither Fred Brooks or I market books as history, but rather as fundamental understanding.

Computer Generations, marking technological time, are the main organizing principle. The Computer Museum provides the best place to gain an understanding of this powerful idea. Each generation's new technologies, startup companies, and new products are listed and displayed. For example over 100 minicomputer startups are recorded at the beginning of the third generation, and now the fourth shows a similar pattern for micro-based companies. Analyzing winners, losers, and also-rans provides some insight on what is happening today. This is in a paper (which you might want to look at) that attempts to provide insight on today's industry.

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The Computer Museum, although presently marketed as a historical museum, has another, and probably more important role: providing basic understanding for a variety of levels of visitors. Everytime I visit the museum, I get insight relevant to a current problem. A month ago while looking at the Honeywell 116, a very early IC machine, ideas jelled about board size, pins and function. Just last week I observed that nearly all of the micros repeated, for the third time, the time worn memory management evolution path that began in 1960 with Atlas, which we followed with the 10 in the 60's, and then again with minis in the early 70's.

At another level, four very bright kids from a New Hampshire prep school spent three hours trying to find out everything they could about old computers -- and their teacher felt this helped their fundamental understanding of computing. I continue to get statements from my friends in the U. K. when we tour the galleries together about how the Science Museum turned them on to science and technology.

Andy Van Dam, Professor of Computer Science at Brown and founder of ACM's Siggraph illustrated the importance of learning from the past in a wonderful two hour lecture composed of about 20 films on computer graphics to an audience of about 100 on a beautiful autumn Sunday. He gave his time and was able to get the films because it was for the Computer Museum's archives. Twice he noted how viewing the films had moved him and others to action, even though they were historical: Sketchpad and the Englebart system at SRI. I'll even conjecture that if the later film had been preserved and shown more widely, then the human interface would have evolved more rapidly. It is even possible that the work at Xerox Parc which post-dated SRI's work would have been unnecessary. Bob Kusik, one of DEC's CAD managers sat by me and remarked that the modern work is better, but NOT that much better considering 20 years has gone by; things would have gone much faster if people had built on earlier work. This is a major facet of the Museum and one which I'll bet your company will use sometime. If you support The Computer Museum you are supporting an important educational institution for the present and future generation of engineers, programmers, artists, and hackers who will make history.

In the fall of 1970, when The Computer Museum took its first non-Digital donation, we decided it was much better to try to learn from the whole past of computing, just not our own. People who stay insular don't have a see the alternatives. Looking at other peoples good and bad ideas provides perspective on your own. Being industry-wide is most economical and ecumenical. It's not a job to leave solely to IBM who invests a great deal in preserving its own history. Their excellent multi-million dollar presentation at 590 Madison Avenue exhibit claims they built the first stored program computer (the SSEC -- and they omit Eckert and Mauchly or Wilkes) and that Wang and RCA invented the core memory (while J. Forrester holds the main patent). The Computer Museum provides the story of all the companies, not just the big ones, but the wide range of people, ideas and companies that made the world's most exciting industrial adventure.

Museum's are the ultimate in the future: they provide immortality of all kinds. Look at baseball club owners supporting the Hall of Fame as well as training camps, or the Corning Glass Museum next to the Steuben factory which millions have visited. The PDP-1 playing spacewar -- elevates it to a famous status as the first computer game. Lawyers come there and prove that all the war game ideas existed in 1961-2: this keeps many games in the public domain. Many have commented on seeing the first mini, the PDP-8, in The Science Museum, London, along with Jacquard's Loom, Babbage's Difference Engine, Watt's Steam engine, etc.

At The Computer Museum: the Apollo computer that went to the moon, the Altair (the first home computer with a company now hardly in existence), Whirlwind, other machines and the display of the Noyce patent and Fairchild planar process that really made the industry we know, all pay homage to seminal efforts. The Computer Museum provides stature to our industry, can't we afford it?

To make the Museum more contemporary, a major exhibition on the computer and the image is being planned and curated by Oliver Strimpel, a young Phd astrophysicist who's the computer section curator at The Science Museum. It will let the public and specialized or non-technical computer professionals into some of the "secrets" of computer graphics. Lewis Schure is giving the exhibit a working paint machine; HP is giving it a high-speed plotter controlled by a new touch sensitive screen personal computer; SIGGRAPH is providing all their tapes; **how would you feel about providing some display of a Lexidata product?**

It's not an either/or choice between the past and future. Tradeoffs between supporting, understanding, and preservation at the Museum versus many other lines on a corporate P&L such as engineering, marketing, PR, sales, library, personnel, corporate relations or the line that buys all the memorabilia to make everyone feel good for an instant. (It may be fitting that all of the four battery operated clocks given to me while at DEC have now stopped.) Or on a personal level between investments, tax shelters, luxury consumer items, or other giving. Charitable giving to a cause in which you believe -- or the Museum that immortalizes and improves your industry -- is the ultimate in tax shelters.

At last May's Board of Director's meeting, the notion was expressed that the Museum should develop some income-generating activities. As a result, the store (with no capitalization -- only bootstrapping) has grown from a thousand dollars a month in June 1982; to triple by January 1983; and we expect about \$8-10K a month, mainly from mail order. With some capitalization and high level advice, the museum's retail and service activities could provide significant income and educational service. **We sure could use your marketing expertise here -- what about a couple of hours of your time to review the plan?**

The Museum is reaching more than 100 million people this year via the media. Each article, tv spot, and radio interview educates more people about computers. The first issue of Perspective the magazine you started at DEC, used the museum for the source of its cover and an article on the first personal computer, the Whirlwind. Data General,

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Fairchild and other companies have also used materials. In addition, the more popular magazines -- Ms., American Airlines Magazine, TWA Magazine as well as Channels 2 and 7 have major items based on the museum in October and November. In addition, the Museum sells the services of the use of its space a artifacts for litigation information, commercial television (such as 60 Minutes), historic exhibits in corporate headquarters (such as ADP), and helps with materials for centennial productions (Burroughs and NCR). The Museum is about the most comprehensive source for materials on any historic aspect of computing.

In a fiercely competitive world, The Museum is something we can do together and point to with pride. Everyday visitors enjoy and learn from the exhibits and more companies are supporting it with artifacts and money. Thus, it's the best hobby I've had. Given the infinity of displays, archives and research it needs, there's plenty of room for everyone to have it as a hobby too. Les Hogan got all the material for a major display on the chip. **Hope you too find something in this letter that you feel like becoming active in doing.**

The Computer Museum is a pleasant club; old friends meet there -- including machines and people -- and enjoy companionship while learning. Just recently, Bill Gates, founder and technical leader of Microsoft and Alexander Schure, President of NYIT and a computer graphics pioneer, support it, along with about 1000 others from Amdahl to Zuse. You may have different tastes but its a club to me and a number of others where we meet sociably and unlike other clubs, the "dues" are totally tax deductible. The Museum can do right in the long run, doesn't really have to make its deadlines. But right now, I hope that you will agree with me, that it would be a good idea to get out of DEC and moved into Museum Wharf. To do this, it will take money. I don't have a salary; but I'm going to give the maximum that I can this year -- and still take a tax deduction, (I'm giving one-third of my income). Now I don't expect this of anyone else. **But as a member of the Board of Directors, I hope that you would be one of the people commemorated on the "brass plaque -- or equivalent".**

I would really like to spend some time with you and your associates at Lexidata and Fred Adler if you want to discuss any aspects of the Museum in more detail and why I feel it is a significant investment in the future, not the past. The current museum is an excellent setting for this and the new location, assuming you help us, will be even more accessible to all.

Basically, we need your help. I'd like to proceed in a way to obtain it. **What you say?**

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

GB13.3

November 14, 1983

Mr. Andy Knowles, President  
Lexidata Corporation  
755 Middlesex Turnpike  
Billerica, MA 01865

Dear Andy,

Good to talk to you and I hope to have your support for the Museum.

The Statement of Case for the move to Boston is enclosed. We have five years to raise \$10 million and clearly we have to go after some major gifts by folks able to give in a major way. We're spending alot of effort on IBM and are going to see the HP Foundation on Friday. First support is needed from the Board and from you. My own gift is \$100,000 -- which is a lot to me as I'm in a salary-less startup. **Do you think you could pledge \$25,000?** It can be over five years and the Museum takes any form of stock.

**Lexidata's support is also needed as one of our Annual Corporate Founder Members (\$2500 per year).**

The listings of commemoratives enclosed does not include support for the gallery on The Computer and the Image. This will take about \$250,000 plus the donation of equipment. Ten sponsors of \$25,000 each would be ideal. How does this sound to you. (You can choose to have a commemorative or be entirely anonymous.)

It sounds like your new, high performance product could be a major focus of the gallery. I look forward to visiting Lexidata and viewing it. This is being curated by Dr. Oliver Strimpel who is on a year's leave from The Science Museum in London. He is a bright young PhD astrophysicist who got along very well with the Schures, Andy Van Dam, and has some very exciting ideas.

We'd be happy to put on a dinner for you and some of your friends at the new space or at the present site and solicit more help for this move and the museum. **How about making a date for this?**

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Chief Technical Officer

Enclosures

To: Bernard Gordon  
May 16, 1984

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May 17, 1984

Bernard Gordon  
Chief Executive Officer  
Analogic  
10 Centennial Drive  
Centennial Park  
Peabody, MA 01960

Dear Bernard,

This is to follow up our phone conversation of May 15th. The Computer Museum needs both corporate and personal level support right now in order to open on November 12 and demonstrate its capability. Enclosed is various material, including a short letter on why the Museum.

Our goal is to have 200 companies who provide annual support between \$2500 and \$25,000. This will create the needed additional annual funds and insure that the museum is industry wide.

Digital is providing \$600,000 annually (paying the building costs and a variety of operating costs), for the next four years. After that, The Computer Museum must be on its own. A large portion will come from visitors and other earned income, but the Museum also needs annual membership from a large number of corporations. At present, **the annual membership is \$2500** (and Analogic can also become a Corporate Founder if this happens **prior to June 24.**)

\$2500 annual support would insure that Analogic could use the archives, hold several membership cards for employee check out, and help us insure that such machines as the LINC and its documentation are saved. This already has directly benefited your corporation, I understand. The Museum will also make its facilities available after hours and on closed days, only to Corporate members. Gwen will be happy to prepare any documents for your contributions committee or appear before them.

On the other hand, the capital campaign to raise \$10,000,000 is largely directed towards individuals. At the level of \$100,000

To: Bernard Gordon  
May 16, 1984

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gifts we are willing to consider a wide variety of commemorative and other opportunities to insure given exhibitions and collections. One possibility is the "Bernard Gordon Collection and Archive of Analog-Digital Computers", that would be archived and targetted as a special exhibit. You could also make sure that the right things were saved just by creating the "shopping list" of things to go after.

To: Bernard Gordon  
May 16, 1984

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We are seeking about \$1.5M for the November 12 opening, of which we have commitment now for about \$350K from various companies, board members and others. Mike Spock, a board member and the director of the Children's Museum, believes we will have an audience of over 240,000. Our breakeven is about 120,000 so the push now is to get the Museum open in Boston in order to really test the market. I believe we have the plan and capability to do it, provided we get the money to open. The past five years have proven that The Museum can deliver what it promises. **This is why I solicit the \$100,000 from you now.**

On my side of it, I believe that your college that teaches real engineering can be an important addition to the educational scene. However, as you know, I have left DEC (and my large salary and benefits) and Encore is not yet established. I'm in a real start up. However, I will help you raise \$100,000 or more, and take some interest in the program. Now I serve on the advisory board at the Wang Institute and since hardware is much more my strength I'd be willing to work on your project after we get open. If Encore ever goes then my own giving pattern can improve.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

GB13.18

June 13, 1984

Mr. Benjamin Rosen  
200 Park Aveue  
New York, New York 10166

Dear Ben,

It was good to talk with you about The Computer Museum. I'm enlisting your support for this first round of The Computer Museum when it opens in Boston, November 14. The Museum operated in a Digital facility for five years where it gathered artifacts, enlisted members and built a team. The Museum has achieved international-level excellence as a public insitution. Now it is going public in Boston to a wider audience and 240,000 visitors are expected annually.

The Museum is technologically current, yet archival and will be interactive. It will illustrate the dynamic growth of the industry and its potential. The Board of Directors is broadly representative of the industry with each of the 24 members having a 4-year non-reelectable term of office. The Curatorial Staff is lead by Dr. Oliver Strimpel who had been curator of the computer gallery at London's Science Museum. He is the best in the field.

Your leadership is needed now as a founding partner in several ways:

- . help in collecting artifacts you have or believe are significant (eg. your statement about Visicalc, an early Osborne, a Compaq, Grid); The PC Gallery will use PC's interactively in lieu of text panels.
- . direct financial support on this "first round"; and
- .help in New York by sponsoring some affair at which the Museum could be presented. For example, in Silicon Valley, we are accepting Amdahl's WISC at Trilogy, and in Minneapolis, CDC is presenting Cray's Little Professor.

Since this is a request for your precious time and money, I know you'll want to visit the Museum before making a commitment. I hope we can discuss this at lunch or dinner at the Museum, or I'd be happy to meet with you in New York. You can call me at Encore (617-237-1022), at home (259-9144) or the Museum (426-2800) if your coming to Boston.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Chief Technical Officer

P.S.

An essay on the current micro computer generation is also enclosed which I hope you'll find interesting or useful.

June 25, 1984

Mr. William Gates, Chairman  
Microsoft Corporation  
Bellevue, WA 98004

Dear Bill:

The Computer Museum is opening in downtown Boston on November 12.

A first-rate team is designing the exhibits, including Dr. Oliver Strimpel, curator of the Science Museum in London and Dr. Paul Ceruzzi, a young history of computing scholar. In addition to the exhibits with historical artifacts, two major interactive galleries are being built for PC's and on the Computer and the Image. Predictions are that we should have attendance of over 200,000. This world-class, international Museum should be a major attraction and asset for the computing community.

The enclosed brochure describes the Capital Campaign. Note that Mitch Kapor has joined the Board. Now I want to enlist your support as a leader in the software industry:

1. Microsoft's "core" contribution to the Capital Campaign at the 4K level or becoming a founder (\$2,500) during this last month of the two-year founding period,
2. your personal "core" contribution and foundership, and
3. assistance by making your "Flight Simulator" suitable for use in the Museum in the Image Gallery. The modifications are attached. The Museum is broadening its audience to include the computer interested, general public.
4. PC artifacts that you have in storage that would be appropriate for the galleries and archives.
5. Microsoft's own historical artifacts.

I'd like to call you next week to discuss these items and to get the name of a person who could modify the simulator. We need the modifications and artifacts quite soon for the exhibits.

Gwen and I will be in Seattle the first week of August and would enjoy seeing you.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosures

Mr. William Grinker, President  
American Computer Company  
? see the letter to me or literature

Dear Bill:

It was good to talk with you yesterday, and get your candid feelings about supporting The Computer Museum. The Museum started out with the name, The Digital Computer Museum, and that was probably a mistake because people thought it only had DEC computers in it. When it opened in 79 to DEC folks and friends it was already more than 50% non-DEC. Now, only a few artifacts are DEC computers. More importantly, the IRS believes the Museum is a public, non-profit institution -- eighteen months ago it achieved this status.

To make it a truly great (one of the top 6) world-class technology museums requires that it be in Boston and not tied to a particular company. DEC is still committing major support after the move. They bought the building, but unless we raise enough to make the move and get an endowment, the Museum won't exist. The target amount over the next four years is \$10 million.

Today there are over one thousand members ranging from Amdahl to Zuse (both of whom have spoken at the Museum and are archived on videotaped). We are getting very strong support from other companies. For example, DG has pledged \$75K, and CDC has committed to raise \$1 Million in the midwest for the archives/library.

Enclosed is a letter which that describes why I think the Museum is so important to the future (and to Boston). Also enclosed are several Museum Reports that describe the various activities and list people involved with the Museum. I would like a chance to convince you and your partner to become a corporate founder, and to help us with the fund-raising. If the material raises your level of interest, let me know. I'd be delighted to offer a tour and dinner at the current site.

Several of us from Encore will visit you in the next few months to see if there are possibilities of interest.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Chief Technical Officer

June 18, 1984

Dr. William Perry  
Hambrecht and Quist  
235 Montgomery Street  
San Francisco, California 94104

Dear Bill:

Enclosed is a brochure on The Computer Museum which describes the plan for opening the Museum in downtown Boston in November. We believe that the Museum will draw 200,000 people annually. Since the Museum is both international and industry wide, including everything from semiconductors to computer users, we are anxious for wide-scale participation. We would like you to lead in getting participation within the financial community.

Given the important roles that you as the leading venture capital company has played in the industry formation, I would like to urge you to become a Corporate Founder and a "Core" Supporter. Since the founding period closes July 1, a letter of intent or phone call would suffice to meet the deadline.

I hope you, too will become a personal founder. We were delighted to have Bill Hambrecht as a founder, and hope you'll discuss this corporate membership with him.

When you're in Boston, I hope you'll stop by the Museum to get a better feel of the real thing.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosure

May 18, 1984

Dr. Robert Metcalfe,  
Chairman  
3COM  
1390 Shorebird Way  
Mountain View, CA 94043

Dear Bob,

Congratulations on going public. I now want to take you up on the offer to get The Computer Museum \$5,000,000 (recall I agreed to work on the other \$5,000,000).

The Museum is now moved to Boston, and we had our first opening, the Pre-Preview Party at which Bob Noyce recounted the invention of the IC for our archives and report. 300 people, including bankers, new company presidents and contributors visited the Museum for the first time.

The Computer Museum needs **both corporate and personal level support** right now in order to open on November 12 and demonstrate its capability. Enclosed is various material, including a short letter on why the Museum that I wrote.

Our goal is to have 200 companies who provide annual support between \$2500 and \$25,000. This will create the needed additional annual funds and insure that the museum is industry wide.

Digital is providing \$600,000 annually (paying the building costs and a variety of operating costs), for the next four years. After that, The Computer Museum must be on its own. A large portion will come from visitors and other earned income, but the Museum also needs annual membership from a large number of corporations. At present, **the annual membership is \$2500** (and 3COM can also become a Corporate Founder if this happens **prior to June 24.**)

\$2500 annual support would insure that 3COM could use the archives, hold several membership cards for employee check out, and help us insure that artifacts are saved. The Museum will also make its facilities available after hours and on closed days, only to Corporate members. Gwen will be happy to prepare any documents for your contributions committee or appear before them.

On the other hand, the capital campaign to raise \$10,000,000 is largely directed towards individuals. At the level of \$100,000 gifts we are willing to consider a wide variety of commemorative and other opportunities to insure given exhibitions and collections. One possibility is the "Bob Metcalfe Collection and Archive of LANS", that would be archived and targetted as a special exhibit. You could also make sure that the right things were saved just by creating the "shopping list" of things to go after, like the cable that IBM just announced. Currently, we have an Alto, and one of the early Ethernet Transceivers from PARC.

To: Dr. Robert Metcalfe  
May 18, 1984

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We are seeking about \$1.5M for the November 12 opening, of which we have commitment now for about \$350K from various companies, board members and others. Mike Spock, a board member and the director of the Children's Museum, believes we will have an audience of over 240,000. Our breakeven is about 120,000 so the push now is to get the Museum open in Boston in order to really test the market. I believe we have the plan and capability to do it, provided we get the money to open. The past five years have proven that The Museum can deliver what it promises. **This is why I solicit \$100,000 from you now.**

Gwen will be out to visit on Friday, June 8 to discuss this in more detail and to enlist help from you and Robin.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Chief Technical Officer

Enclosures

GB13.

June 18, 1984

Dr. Lewis Branscomb, Chief Scientist  
International Business Machines  
Old Orchard Road  
Armonk, New York 10504

Dear Lewis:

I'd like to thank you for all the help you've given the Museum that resulted in IBM becoming a Corporate Founder. It is great to be able to "communicate" with IBM for photos and artifacts for the November opening.

Enclosed is a new brochure on the Capital Campaign that outlines the plan. If you have any ideas that might help get IBM support for the campaign or exhibits such as Sage or the 1401 that Travelers Insurance is sponsoring, I'd certainly welcome them.

A first rate team is designing the exhibits, including Dr. Oliver Strimpel, curator of the Science Museum in London and Dr. Paul Ceruzzi, a young history of computing scholar. In addition to the exhibits with historical artifacts, two major interactive galleries are being built for PC's and on the computer and the image. We predict attendance of over 200,000. This world-class, international Museum should be a major attraction and asset for the computing community.

Given the difficulty of obtaining large corporate support for public institutions, it is vital to get support from individuals. I hope you'll consider becoming a "Core" supporter to the campaign. Also, I hope you'll become a founder. (The founding period closes July 1.)

Thanks again. I hope you'll consider visiting the Museum in the near future when you're in Boston; Gwen and I would be delighted to give you a tour and a meal.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosure

October 28, 1983

Mr. Brook Byers  
Kleiner, Perkins, Caufield and Byers  
4 Embarcadero Center  
Suite 3520  
San Francisco, California 94111

Dear Brook:

Just a short note to follow our phone call last week requesting help for the Computer Museum. I understand your firm's reluctance in fund raising for the Museum at this time, and regret that you and Tom will be unavailable when Gwen and I visit the Bay Area Thanksgiving week. I do hope to call on you for personal assistance after your sabbatical. As a first step, I hope you can visit the Museum soon to see it and understand the vision behind it.

As I mentioned on the phone, the Museum is now raising 10 Million dollars in order to: buy 55,000 square feet of space with the Boston's Children's Museum; move from the current space within Digital's facility in Marlboro Massachusetts; build new exhibits; and provide an endowment for future growth. We will spend about \$500,000 for San Francisco's Computer Mart exhibit when it opens in September.

I'm enclosing Reports which describe the Museum together with a Statement of Case for our fund raising. Note the extensiveness of the collection, its supporters, and hence why the institution is both unique and so important.

My plea right now is to urge you to **give a substantial gift this year**, perhaps with a conditional pledge for subsequent year gifts if our efforts continue to bear fruit. I have currently pledged \$100,000 for the next 3 years, and hope to increase this as my earning power increases... hopefully along with the price of Digital's stock. We have a commitment of \$1 Million from Digital for the building; \$1 Million to be raised by CDC in the Midwest area; and several \$ 50,000 gifts. The campaign just started this fall.

I do hope you can begin to support us now financially, and follow this with your very persuasive and enthusiastic personal support over the coming years.

Have a good sabbatical.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Mr. Brook Byers  
Kleiner, Perkins, Caufield  
and Byers  
4 Embarcadero Center  
Suite 3520  
San Francisco, California  
94111

June 25, 1984

Mr. Charles Sporck, President  
National Semiconductors  
2900 Semiconductor Drive  
Santa Clara, CA 95051

Dear Charlie:

The Computer Museum is opening in downtown Boston on November 12. A major semiconductor exhibit is being planned and John Payne is really helping on an overall conceptual level. I am delighted at National's support as a founder and driving force of the semiconductor exhibit, your contemporary chips will be shown as a result. Of course, the historic chips from Fairchild and Intel will be appropriately placed in the evolutionary story.

A copy of the statement of purpose and case for raising \$10,000,000 is enclosed. The levels of giving start with 4K (\$4096) and get as large as a megabit. Our latest thought is that we will burn all contributor's names into ROM! I'd like to ask you for a personal pledge because like all public institutions, the main financial support comes from individuals. My own gift so far has been \$128K from a relatively small net worth, and provided Encore is successful, I intend to give all gains to the Museum. Bob Noyce has just made a very generous contribution. Could I get a pledge from you for \$128K over five years?

A first-rate team is designing the exhibits, including Dr. Oliver Strimpel, curator of the Science Museum in London and Dr. Paul Ceruzzi, a young history of computing scholar. In addition to the exhibits with historical artifacts, two major interactive galleries are being built for PC's and on the Computer and the Image. Predictions are that we should have attendance of over 200,000. This world-class, international Museum should be a major attraction and asset and resource for the computer and high-technology community.

I'm visiting Silicon Valley on July 5 and 6. Could I see you then?

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosure

The Programs Coordinator reports to the Director.

I. The Coordinator's programs include the organization of:

A. Pioneer Lecture Series

1. 6 annually - 3 in Spring, 3 in Fall
2. held in Lecture Hall of cafeteria
3. for members or by special invitation
4. content of talks generally deals with pioneering developments in the field of computing and/or major contributions to the industry
5. checklist for procedures has been developed to make sure everything gets done
6. most scholarly (and often technical) of all museum lecture programs and always archived for scholarly use.

B. Gallery Talks

1. usually held Wednesdays at 4 p.m. during summer months
2. one hour talks by local speakers or others who are in the area
3. talks relate to speakers' area of expertise, usually as it relates to a particular museum exhibit
4. Museum visitors, DEC employees and/or customers, interns and staff attend
5. talks are audio-taped
6. less technical and scholarly than Pioneer lectures but still for relatively "initiated" into the world of computing

C. Bits and Bites

1. Sunday series of one hour talks by local speakers
2. Spring and Fall series with an average of 8 speakers each
3. free to the public; refreshments sold at modest prices
4. not too technical in approach; the lighter side of the computing world with a historical or artistic bent

D. Excursions

Trips to significant computer installations, or exhibits relating thereto, access to which

might normally be difficult for general visitors

#### E. All Special Events

Past events include Babbage Play.  
Future event will be Archiving Conference in May 1983.

II. Another major area of responsibility for the Programs Coordinator is  
public relations through

#### A. Publicity and Promotion

1. Computer Conferences both locally and nationwide--making all exhibit arrangements and occasionally representing the Museum at conference

2. developing press releases and acting as Museum liason for general level promotion (e.g. Boston Globe Calendar, Middlesex News)

3. liason to the membership association which functions as a resource pool for volunteers, to provide suggestions, and to act as a sounding board for prospective programs

#### B. Dinner Functions

1. held in museum galleries outside function spaces or lecture hall following lectures

2. by request for outside groups (connected to the computer field)

3. in connection with lectures or special events

### III. Other Responsibility

#### A. Tours

1. Docent training - tour guides come mostly from the staff or DEC

2. Scheduling of tour guides

#### B. Other

1. Request donations for special events (e.g. champagne for play)

2. Some solicitation letters sent for fundraising when Program Coordinator is the primary contact

#### IV Documentation used in Programs Area

- A. Floppy - Chris R. (correspondence, etc.)
- B. Chronological list of major publicity since 6/10/82
- C. Chronological list of programs since 6/10/82

July 12, 1978

Harold Cohen  
University of California, San Diego  
LaJolla, California 92093

Dear Harold Cohen:

I was happy to receive your letter; in particular, the piece with your wife began to give me an idea of this work. The drawings just came and I'm really grateful for them. One will be hung in a prominent place in my office.

I'd like to explore the possibility of adding your work as a panel in what we call the DEC Distributed Museum. Here, we'd have a short (about 10 minute) recording together with slides. A brochure would include some of the slides together with the text of the voice. How much would you charge to make such a tape, with a few slides?

As to whether we had any quid pro quo, either explicit or implied: we clearly did not. I expected nothing, aside from some good will, from the venture...I don't want to jeopardize that by my actions now. The misunderstanding is two way: I was recently reprimanded by our Contributions Committee because you had implied that I had offered to continue support. To this I said: 1. We had one satisfactory deal, 2. I would hope that you would get the money to buy a computer from us somehow. (I had forgotten how badly universities administer themselves in regard to capital equipment and salaries. This is probably compounded by proposition 13.) I didn't comment on whether we should support you or not, only that I would hope you would try to buy a DEC machine.

To: Harold Cohen

July 12, 1978

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Let me urge you to go through Ron Masulla, and get Dave Williams and Noordhuisen to write letters of support for a contribution. Ron should propose to help you as he sees fit. I know we support the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and I believe your work is a lot more relevant to art and us. The work is really great and I support it too.

I hope this clears things up a bit and that we can find a way to help you.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President,  
Engineering

GB:ljp  
ID#0167

CC: Ron Masulla  
Dave Williams  
Contribution Committee  
Jos Noordhuisen, Utrecht

00 BURT DECGRAM ACCEPTED S 10465 O 76 30-JAN-82 15:49:55

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\* d i g i t a l \*

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TO: ANDY KNOWLES

DATE: SAT 30 JAN 1982

3:46 PM EST

BILL STEUL

FROM: GORDON BELL

cc: DICK BERUBE

DEPT: ENG STAFF

DIGITAL MUSEUM

EXT: 223-2236

LARRY PORTNER

LOC/MAIL STOP:

ML12-1/A51

SUBJECT: PLEASE FUND HAROLD COHEN... BUT I CAN GO TO THE OC IF NECESSARY

### History

Gwen asked Andy, head of MR and the Technical Product lines for an 11/44 for Harold Cohen. Harold will do more paintings with his new program. Andy agreed, and Harold is waiting. Therefore, I don't see any way out of doing it. I want to do whatever is necessary to fund it, including seeing the Operations Committee.

I see these alternatives for funding Harold:

1. Andy fund it or load it out in his past job.
2. I get some funds from engineering and support it that way.  
Larry, what you say?
3. Technical and Engineering do it.
4. Operations Committee. Since 6 is out, I'll go there, very sheepishly with the request.
5. If none of the above, then I see no alternative but for Gwen and I to fund it personally or we assist Harold in getting a computer somewhere else.

Harold had offers from others, I asked him to stay with us because I had confidence in this work and that we would benefit. I believe Intel, Motorola, HP or IBM would fund Harold if both of us asked them.

Andy and Bill,  
What you say?

If no, then I'll go to the next Operation Committee meeting.

6. The Corporate Contributions Committee would fund it when hell freezes over. I don't see why they didn't fund it.

Harold's at the University of California/San Diego. The machine will be available to others there. I don't know what the issue is about it being his or theirs. At any rate, I believe this point could be gotten around. Given the strange overhead associated with organizations, having Harold responsible for it sure makes good sense. Given that Harold travels around for shows and sabbaticals, I don't think the University should own it. (The rule about not supporting people is idiotic. Organizations don't do anything, people do! All real work is funded to people.)

Digital directly benefits in many ways. It is good AI research. His paintings are in our buildings and the results of this larger program will be a larger painting. His students are exposed to our computers. We get the benefit of his publicity. His painting of the MR2 building was on the cover of Datamation. His next work is resulting in many shows including the Tate, etc. The 11/44 and GIGI will occupy a predominate point in the exhibit! We'll get more PR from this than 50% of our spending in this area. Thus DIGITAL directly benefits!

As a commentary on our values, I think funding Harold is much more important than the self serving, glossy brochure that extolled our contributions. This was clearly designed to make the committee feel good because it had no substantive or useful information, but was a complete waste of resources.

Dr. Glen Culler, Chairman  
Culler Scientific Systems Corp.  
100 Burns Place  
Santa Barbara, California 93117

Dear Glen:

It was nice to see you at the workstation conference on the 9th of January. I've just looked at some of the material on the Culler 7 from Jeffrey Simon, and want to congratulate you and your team on producing an exciting new scientific computer.

I am writing to begin to enlist your support of The Computer Museum, and enclose some material describing it. Although I would eventually hope you might contribute important artifacts, I believe it is essential to visit The Museum in order to appreciate what it does. Therefore, let me simply invite you to join as a member so that you get its material, and then come for a visit. Gwen, my wife, is its founder and president and is usually tending the "store". Either of us would be delighted to give you a tour.

Please give my regards to Gerry Butler.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Trustee

Mr. Dan Bricklin, Chairman  
Software Arts  
27 Mica Lane  
Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts 02181

Dear Dan:

Enclosed is a copy of the Capital Campaign brochure and also the letter I wrote about a year ago on why support the Museum. The Core Membership program is described on page 11, and I hope you can make a personal pledge for the four years, but if this time is not right, then I certainly understand.

Your observations today were helpful:

1. The east coast is the right place to record the history, because it has been involved much longer is probably the best answer we can give. The west is still plowing up farms to get space for building new companies and is hardly stable enough to consider recording what they do. Also there is a tradition about learning from the past here, near Europe.

2. The Museum is a place where one should see a number of ideas that were explored before the right technological time. The best example is the Babbage machine which not only could not be programmed, it couldn't be built. The technology was about 100 years too late for Babbage.

We see lots of modern day examples, including the tremendous surge of multiprocessor now made possible by the Micro, whereas the B5000 and PDP-6 tried, but the economics weren't right. I'll start scouting around for a copy of the design notebook for Multics, including Daly, Jim Mills, Mike Spier, etc. as another example which, no doubt, will contain ideas.

3. We see inspiration from early artifacts which were personally created by today's leaders such as Kemmeny, Kurtz, Olsen and Wang.

4. There are lots of funny gadgets for the time, such as the fire extinguisher for the Sage.

The Museum will certainly appreciate receiving your pioneer, videotape library.

Also, I look forward to the scheduling of a talk this spring at the Thursday evening or Sunday afternoon lecture series. Someone from the Museum will contact you.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

CC: Gwen Bell

June 18, 1984

Mr. Dan Gregory  
Greylock Management Corporation  
One Federal Street  
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Mr. Gregory:

I enjoyed meeting you at the Museum Pre-Preview party last month.

A first rate team is designing the exhibits, including Dr. Oliver Strimpel, curator of the Science Museum in London and Dr. Paul Ceruzzi, a young history of computing scholar. In addition to the exhibits with historical artifacts, two major interactive galleries are being built for PC's and on the computer and the image. Predictions are that we should have attendance of over 200,000. This world-class, international Museum should be a major attraction and asset for the high tech and computing community.

The enclosed brochure describes the Capital Campaign. Now I want to enlist your support as a leader in the venture capital community in this first round which will result in opening the Museum, November 12:

1. Greylock's "core" membership in the Capital Campaign at the 4K level, Since we've also talked with Bob Henderson, I hope that the company is convinced and can justify this investment. The Museum will be available for company functions.
2. your personal "core" membership, and
3. assistance in the capital campaign to reach world-class status.

I'm also enclosing two articles: a letter which attempts to justify why I think the Museum is a good investment in the future, and a paper on the micro-based industry, which is drafted for publication in November. I hope both will be of interest to you.

I'll call you next week and hope that we can have lunch soon at The Musuem to discuss your support.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosures - 3

8 December 1984

Mr. Edson DeCastro, President  
Data General Corporation  
4400 Computer Drive  
Westboro, Massachusetts 01580

Dear Ed:

I was glad you could come to dinner on Thursday and view the Museum first hand. I hope you like what we've done with Data General's generous funding and its equipment.

The physical realization has turned out to be much more exciting than our plans showed. The staff made a very large "stretch" to open a range of galleries. The reviews have been positive and it is easy to spend a half day in productive learning. Knowledgeable teenagers are spending their days at the Museum. The most flattering comment to date has been that it is the first American technology museum to be at European standards. Dr. Oliver Strimpel, who did the Museum's Image Gallery has just become the Associative Director and Curator. Oliver was formerly the Curator of the Mathematics Section of The Science Museum, London. The long collecting period and five year breadboard at Digital really paid off in collecting artifacts, building exhibits, doing lectures (ranging from Amdahl to Zuse) and gaining widescale support from computer people and companies.

I want to see this phase aimed at:

- . putting a formal educational program in place,
- . continued collecting of artifacts (whether letters, films, manuals or machines) in order to record the significant, information processing events, and
- . getting broad public support from computer-knowledgeable people who want to learn more about the past and future history of computing.

Henry recently gave a thousand shares of Data General stock to the Capital Campaign, and I've given about 1/2 of my salaried earnings the last two years. I would like to convince you to become a major financial supporter now, and a board member within the next few years. The board is a four-year appointment.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

25 November 1984

Mr. Arnaud De Vitry  
41 rue de l'Universite, 75007  
Paris, France

Dear Arnaud:

Thank you for the gift to the Capital Campaign and the moral support that helped open the Museum on November 12. I hope it will be one of Digital's greatest achievements.

The physical realization has turned out to be much more exciting than any plan could have communicated. The staff made a very large "stretch" to open a range of galleries. The reviews have been positive and it is easy to spend a half day in productive learning. Knowledgeable teenagers are spending their days at the Museum. The most flattering comment to date has been that it is the first American technology museum to be at European standards. Dr. Oliver Strimpel, who did the Museum's Image Gallery has just become the Associative Director and Curator. Oliver was formerly the Curator of the Mathematics Section of The Science Museum, London. The long collecting period and five year breadboard at Digital really paid off in collecting artifacts, building exhibits, doing lectures (ranging from Amdahl to Zuse) and gaining widescale support from computer people and companies.

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- . getting broad public support from computer-knowledgeable people who want to learn more about the past and future history of computing.

Again, thanks for the support. I hope you can visit it soon.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

September 2, 1980

Richard Buxton  
North European Regional Support  
Digital Equipment Co. Ltd.  
42-44 Portman Road  
GB-Reading, Berkshire RG3 1JW  
ENGLAND

Dear Richard,

Thanks for the information on the PDP8 serial no. 2. The Museum now has a table top 8 on display and has no money. However, 8's are in demand as museum pieces -- we've supplied one to the British and Canadian science museums. I suggest that you store it -- don't throw it out -- since I believe there are going to be more and more requests for these in museums. If you want to ship it to the US, then we can store it here.

I'm enclosing a copy of our latest newsletter and brochure. Do hope that you get the chance to see the Digital Computer Museum.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President,  
Engineering

GB:swh  
GB1.S6.28

Enclosures: Museum Newsletter + Brochure

November 25, 1984

Mr. Doug Drane  
Drane Associates  
231 Boston Post road  
Wayland, MA

Dear Doug and Sandra:

Thank you for the gift to The Capital Campaign and moral support that helped open the Museum on November 12.

The physical realization has turned out to be much more exciting than any plan could have communicated. The staff made a very large "stretch" to open a range of galleries. The reviews have been positive and it is easy to spend a half day in productive learning. Knowledgeable teenagers are spending their days at the Museum. The most flattering comment to date has been that it is the first American technology museum to be at European standards. Dr. Oliver Strimpel, who did the Museum's Image Gallery has just become the Associative Director and Curator. Oliver was formerly the Curator of the Mathematics Section of The Science Museum, London. The long collecting period and five year breadboard at Digital really paid off in collecting artifacts, building exhibits, doing lectures (ranging from Amdahl to Zuse) and gaining widescale support from computer people and companies.

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- . putting a formal educational program in place,
- . continued collecting of artifacts (whether letters, films, manuals or machines) in order to record the significant, information processing events, and
- . getting broad public support from computer-knowledgeable people who want to learn more about the past and future history of computing.

I hope we can have another assault on Rochester, but based on the attempts to call there, I can understand your frustration. Kodak has a number of artifacts that I'd like to see collected, so we somehow have to establish a connection with them.

Again, thanks for the support. Please let us know when you can come for a personal tour and dinner.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

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July 10, 1984

Dr. Irwin Dorros  
Executive Vice President  
Technical Services  
Bell Communications & Research  
290 West Mount Pleasant Avenue  
Livingston, NJ 07039

Dear Irwin:

The Computer Museum is opening in downtown Boston on November 14 after operating successfully for five years within a Digital Equipment Corporation building, the last two as a non-profit, public Museum. The Museum wants AT&T to become a major supporter!

A first-rate team is designing the exhibits, including Dr. Oliver Strimpel, curator of the Science Museum in London and Dr. Paul Ceruzzi, a young history of computing scholar. In addition to the exhibits with historical artifacts, two major interactive galleries are being built for PC's and on the Computer and the Image. Predictions are that we should have attendance of over 200,000. This world-class, international Museum should be a major attraction and asset for the computing community. The enclosed brochure describes the Capital Campaign, and several reports give an idea of the Museum's activities.

The Museum has started communicating with the AT&T Foundation. Bob Everett asked Robert Lucky to help, who in turn sent the request to Ms. Esther Novack, Vice President of Cultural Programs. In talking to Ms. Novack, the Museum fits within the Foundation's frame of reference, but she needs to understand how The Computer Museum would benefit AT&T. Now I want to enlist your support to:

1. work with us to prepare an appropriate proposal to the Foundation. As AT&T becomes a significant computer supplier, it will increasingly benefit from The Computer Museum. George Stibitz was one of our first speakers and would like to contribute in a major way, but never reaped many rewards from his contributions to computing and as he said in his last letter, is facing one or two lingering illnesses. He has given many of his papers, made the Museum a model of his first relay adder, and when he can, he comes to Museum functions on the bus from Dartmouth. We show the first transistor and need to incorporate software more prominently in our exhibits.

AT&T might want to name a lecture series recording its

---

contributions which have benefitted computing including: programming, UNIX, C, speech and music, graphics, semiconductor technology, communications etc. We also want critical artifacts for the collection and the possibility of assigning this important function to us. We continue to need an unlimited supply of working computers for various exhibits.

---

We are looking for a complete, AT&T sponsored package that would amount to \$400,000 or \$100,000 per year. DEC gives \$600,000 per year!

2. become a personal "core" contributor (\$4K over 4 years) or foundership, (\$250); (The founding period is just closing.)

3. contribute your own important artifacts; (The Museum will act as a repository for things that would otherwise be forced to be scrapped.)

I will call you to discuss these activities and how we can be responsive to AT&T's needs. Even though it's not open, I'd be honored to give you a tour and a meal.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosures  
GB13.44

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July 9, 1984

Dr. John R. Pierce  
Professor of Engineering Emeritus  
California Institute of Technology  
Pasadena, CA 91109

Dear John:

The Computer Museum is opening in downtown Boston on November 14 after operating successfully for five years within a Digital Equipment Corporation building, the last two as a non-profit, public Museum. The Museum wants AT&T to become a major supporter!

A first-rate team is designing the exhibits, including Dr. Oliver Strimpel, curator of the Science Museum in London and Dr. Paul Ceruzzi, a young history of computing scholar. In addition to the exhibits with historical artifacts, two major interactive galleries are being built for PC's and on the Computer and the Image. Predictions are that we should have attendance of over 200,000. This world-class, international Museum should be a major attraction and asset for the computing community. The enclosed brochure describes the Capital Campaign, and several reports give an idea of the Museum's activities.

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AT&T might want to name a lecture series recording its

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---

We are looking for a complete, AT&T sponsored package that would amount to \$400,000 or \$100,000 per year. DEC gives \$600,000 per year!

2.become a personal "core" contributor (\$4K over 4 years) or foundership, (\$250); (The founding period is just closing.)

3. contribute your important artifacts, for example, I recall the report you wrote on natural language translation -- we need a copy for the time line; (The Museum will act as a repository for things that would otherwise be forced to be scrapped.)

4.give a lecture at the museum on a topic of your choice.

I will call you to discuss these activities and how we can be responsive to AT&T's needs. Even though it's not open, I'd be honored to give you and your wife a tour and a meal.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosures

GB13.52

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July 10, 1984

Dr. Richard W. Hamming  
Professor of Computer Science  
Navl Postgraduate School  
Code 52HG  
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Dr. Hamming:

The Computer Museum is opening in downtown Boston on November 14 after operating successfully for five years within a Digital Equipment Corporation building, the last two as a non-profit, public Museum. The Museum wants AT&T to become a major supporter!

A first-rate team is designing the exhibits, including Dr. Oliver Strimpel, curator of the Science Museum in London and Dr. Paul Ceruzzi, a young history of computing scholar. In addition to the exhibits with historical artifacts, two major interactive galleries are being built for PC's and on the Computer and the Image. Predictions are that we should have attendance of over 200,000. This world-class, international Museum should be a major attraction and asset for the computing community. The enclosed brochure describes the Capital Campaign, and several reports give an idea of the Museum's activities.

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1. work with us to prepare an appropriate proposal to the Foundation. As AT&T becomes a significant computer supplier, it will increasingly benefit from The Computer Museum. George Stibitz was one of our first speakers and would like to contribute in a major way, but never reaped many rewards or was recognized for his contributions to computing and as he said in his last letter, is facing one or two lingering illnesses. He has given many of his papers, made the Museum a model of his first relay adder, and when he can, he comes to Museum functions on the bus from Dartmouth. We show the first transistor and need to incorporate software more prominently in our exhibits.

AT&T might want to name a lecture series recording its

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2. become a personal "core" contributor (\$4K over 4 years) or foundership, (\$250); (The founding period is just closing.)

3. contribute your own important artifacts; (The Museum will act as a repository for things that would otherwise be forced to be scrapped.)

4. give a lecture at the Museum.

I will call you to discuss these activities and how we can be responsive to AT&T's needs. Even though it's not open, I'd be honored to give you a tour and a meal on your next trip to Boston.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosures  
GB13.50

25 November 1984

Mr. Erich Bloch, Director  
National Science Foundation  
Washington, DC 20550

Dear Erich:

Thank you for the support at IBM and your personal support to the Capital Campaign that helped open the Museum on November 12.

The physical realization has turned out to be much more exciting than any plan could have communicated. The staff made a very large "stretch" to open a range of galleries. The reviews have been positive and it is easy to spend a half day in productive learning. Knowledgeable teenagers are spending their days at the Museum. The most flattering comment to date has been that it is the first American technology museum to be at European standards. Dr. Oliver Strimpel, who did the Museum's Image Gallery has just become the Associative Director and Curator. Oliver was formerly the Curator of the Mathematics Section of The Science Museum, London. The long collecting period and five year breadboard at Digital really paid off in collecting artifacts, building exhibits, doing lectures (ranging from Amdahl to Zuse) and gaining widescale support from computer people and companies.

I want to see this phase aimed at:

- . putting a formal educational program in place,
- . continued collecting of artifacts (whether letters, films, manuals or machines) in order to record the significant, information processing events, and
- . getting broad public support from computer-knowledgeable people who want to learn more about the past and future history of computing.

Since the Museum is quite unlike the plan you saw, I hope you can visit the Museum with me on your next trip to Boston and see the transformation. The perspective you now have would also be beneficial. If you have time, I hope you could join Gwen and I for a meal.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

June 30, 1980

C. Lester Hogan  
Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation  
464 Ellis Street  
Mountain View, CA 94042

Dear Les:

I heard from Carver Mead that you have compiled a book on the origins of semiconductors. Could I please have a copy?

Attached is a copy of a brochure on the Digital Computer Museum which we have established in our Marlboro building to preserve artifacts. It's contents are less than 50% Digital related. Is there any chance you or someone at Fairchild would put together an exhibit on the origin and evolution of semiconductors for it?

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President,  
Engineering

GB:swh  
GB1.S5.15

Enclosure - Digital Computer Museum Brochure

July 24, 1980

C. Lester Hogan  
Fairchild Camera and Instrument Corporation  
464 Ellis Street  
Mountain View, CA 94042

Dear Les,

So nice to get your short history of semiconductors and beautiful book, A SOLID STATE OF PROGRESS. We learned a lot from each of them.

We would like to use them as a basis for an exhibit at the Digital Computer Museum. Could you help us collect the photographs and artifacts that would cover the history of semiconductors, somewhat along the lines of your microphotograph book? However, we would like each panel (corresponding to a year in your book) to include: a microphotograph, a schematic, the specification, prices(t), a part (with magnifier) and the process steps by which the part was made. In some cases, there should be exhibits or photographs of the critical manufacturing equipment. As you stated it would be worthwhile to try to cover some of the contributions of other organizations such as Bell Labs.

I would like to encourage you to carry out this project and in addition, prepare a well-documented and illustrated book or small, highly pictorial monograph. I'd, of course, like to encourage you to publish it in our history series of Digital Press. (In case you've not seen some of these publications, I'm sending some brochures, together with a copy of the book, Computer Engineering on DEC's computers under separate cover.

It seems if you took the approach of collecting the above information, coupled with your article, a short monograph might be easy to write.

Please let me know what you think of my sketchy idea for an exhibit and book. What can I do to help?

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President, Engineering  
Keeper, Digital Computer Museum

GB:swh  
GB1.S5.60

CC: Heidi Baldus  
Gwen Bell

July 9, 1984

Mr. Jean H. Felker  
R.D. 1, Box 3  
Kintnersville, PA 18930

Dear Jean:

The Computer Museum is opening in downtown Boston on November 14 after operating successfully for five years within a Digital Equipment Corporation building, the last two as a non-profit, public Museum. The Museum wants AT&T to become a major supporter!

A first-rate team is designing the exhibits, including Dr. Oliver Strimpel, curator of the Science Museum in London and Dr. Paul Ceruzzi, a young history of computing scholar. In addition to the exhibits with historical artifacts, two major interactive galleries are being built for PC's and on the Computer and the Image. Predictions are that we should have attendance of over 200,000. This world-class, international Museum should be a major attraction and asset for the computing community. The enclosed brochure describes the Capital Campaign, and several reports give an idea of the Museum's activities.

The Museum has started communicating with the AT&T Foundation. Bob Everett asked Robert Lucky to help, who in turn sent the request to Ms. Esther Novack, Vice President of Cultural Programs. In talking to Ms. Novack, the Museum fits within the Foundation's frame of reference, but she needs to understand how The Computer Museum would benefit AT&T. Now I want to enlist your support to:

1. work with us to prepare an appropriate proposal to the Foundation. As AT&T becomes a significant computer supplier, it will increasingly benefit from The Computer Museum. George Stibitz was one of our first speakers and would like to contribute in a major way, but never reaped many rewards from his contributions to computing and as he said in his last letter, is facing one or two lingering illnesses. He has given many of his papers, made the Museum a model of his first relay adder, and when he can, he comes to Museum functions on the bus from Dartmouth. We show the first transistor and need to incorporate software more prominently in our exhibits.

AT&T might want to name a lecture series recording its contributions which have benefitted computing including:

---

programming, UNIX, C, speech and music, graphics, semiconductor technology, communications etc. We also want critical artifacts for the collection and the possibility of assigning this important function to us. We continue to need an unlimited supply of working computers for various exhibits.

---

We are looking for a complete, AT&T sponsored package that would amount to \$400,000 or \$100,000 per year. DEC gives \$600,000 per year!

2. become a personal "core" contributor (\$4K over 4 years) or foundership, (\$250); (The founding period is just closing.)

3. contribute your important artifacts; (The Museum will act as a repository for things that would otherwise be forced to be scrapped.)

4. give a lecture at the museum on the first transistor computers, Tradic and Leprechan.

I will call you to discuss these activities and how we can be responsive to AT&T's needs. Even though it's not open, I'd be honored to give you a tour and a meal.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosures  
GB13.51

June 18, 1984

Dr. Ralph Gomory, Vice President  
International Business Machines  
Thomas J. Watson Research Center  
P.O. Box 218  
Yorktown Heights, New York 10598

Dear Ralph:

I'd like to thank you for all the help you've given the Museum that resulted in getting IBM to become a Corporate Founder. It is great to be able to "communicate" with IBM for photos and artifacts for the November opening.

Enclosed is a new brochure on the Capital Campaign that outlines the plan. If you have any ideas that might help get IBM support for the campaign or exhibits, I'd certainly welcome them.

A first rate team is designing the exhibits, including Dr. Oliver Strimpel, curator of the Science Museum in London and Dr. Paul Ceruzzi, a young history of computing scholar. In addition to the exhibits with historical artifacts, two major interactive galleries are being built for PC's and on the computer and the image. We predict attendance of over 200,000. This world-class, international Museum should be a major attraction and asset for the computing community.

Given the difficulty of obtaining corporate support from large corporations for public institutions, it is vital to get support from individuals. I hope you'll consider becoming a "Core" supporter to the campaign. Also, I hope you'll become a founder. (The founding period closes July 1.)

Thanks again. I hope you'll visit the Museum and we better describe the overall plans.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosure

July 10, 1984

Mr. Henry S. McDonald  
Member Technical Staff  
600 Mountain Avenue  
Murray Hill, NJ 07976

Dear Hank:

The Computer Museum is opening in downtown Boston on November 14 after operating successfully for five years within a Digital Equipment Corporation building, the last two as a non-profit, public Museum. The Museum wants AT&T to become a major supporter!

A first-rate team is designing the exhibits, including Dr. Oliver Strimpel, curator of the Science Museum in London and Dr. Paul Ceruzzi, a young history of computing scholar. In addition to the exhibits with historical artifacts, two major interactive galleries are being built for PC's and on the Computer and the Image. Predictions are that we should have attendance of over 200,000. This world-class, international Museum should be a major attraction and asset for the computing community. The enclosed brochure describes the Capital Campaign, and several reports give an idea of the Museum's activities.

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2. become a personal "core" contributor (\$4K over 4 years) or foundership, (\$250); (The founding period is just closing.)

3. contribute your own important artifacts; (The Museum will act as a repository for things that would otherwise be forced to be scrapped.)

4. give a lecture at the museum, and help us organize a program of Bell Labs speakers and contributions.

I will call you to discuss these activities and how we can be responsive to AT&T's needs. Even though it's not open, Gwen and I would like to show you the new site on your next trip to Boston.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosures  
GB13.47

March 16, 1984

Mr. Larry Hollander, President  
Expoconsul International Inc.  
55 Princeton-Hightstown Road  
Princeton Junction, New Jersey 08550

Dear Larry,

This letter confirms the agreement made in our telephone conversation of March 7 and the discussion with Steve Barth for Expoconsul to become a founding member of The Computer Museum. I enclose various material about the Museum. The Museum has just moved from a DEC facility to co-locate with the Children's Museum on Museum Wharf. The Museum will open officially in October and we look forward to your continued support and hope you will visit the Museum in April at DEXPO time. The Museum will be available for tours, archives and various functions.

Please send the founder's check of \$2500 to:

Membership Coordinator  
The Computer Museum  
300 Congress St.  
Boston, Ma 02210

I look forward to giving the talk at the Independent RSTS Users Society which is concurrent with DEXPO. Since I am no longer affiliated with Digital other than via emotional attachment to some of its products and engineers with whom I have had a long association, it is completely inappropriate for me to discuss Digital. The talk I wish to give is:

IS THE NEXT COMPUTER GENERATION REVOLUTIONARY OR EVOLUTIONARY?

Since Eniac, the early Manchester machines and EDSAC, computer development has been evolutionary. Revolutionary circuit technology has provided new structures resulting in new computer generations. New companies form to exploit the new structures following the time-worn path. Can the next, Fifth Generation, based on very- and ultra-large scale integration be any different? Can we really have a near generation based on parallelism and machines that learn when there are really no suitable laboratory examples?

Again, I'm delighted that you have decided to become a founder. I hope this new abstract clears up the topic so that there is no misunderstanding on the part of your attendees, many of whom are my personal friends too.

Thank you,

Gordon Bell  
Chief Technical Officer  
Encore Computer Corporation

CC:  
Steve Barth  
Robert Wittig

October 9, 1980

Lewis M. Branscomb  
IBM Corporation  
Old Orchard Rd.  
Armonk, NY 10504

Dear Lewis,

It was great to chat with you and hear your talk last week at the ICC80 meeting. The Brazil paper that you had read was written after the enclosed paper on Japan. I think you might be interested in this as well. All of our efforts will be needed in keeping the US in the forefront...or viable.

The Digital Computer Museum, that Gwen and I started about a year ago, is aimed towards the computer professional, preserving and displaying materials of special historical interest. As part of the program we're video taping lectures on the first 10 computers. The next one, by John Atanasoff is on November 11, and then Konrad Zuse is coming on March 4, in case you can plan a trip to the museum coinciding with one of these unique events. (Our newsletter and brochure are enclosed for your information.)

I would like to make a personal plea that you could help me so that our Museum can make use of the services of Roberto Guatelli of New York, who builds calculator and computer models for IBM. Michael Sullivan agrees in principle that Guatelli should be able to do some work for us, but has not yet cleared this through his superiors. A letter to Michael is enclosed describing exactly what we would like. I hope you think this is appropriate and will help us. I can see only positive benefits to IBM. As we need an exhibit that slows the card-based origin of computing. Also, two of the items will be needed when IBM decides on the artifacts for the 100th anniversary of Hollerith.

Cordially,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President, Engineering  
Keeper, Digital Computer Museum

GB:swh  
GB1.S7.29

Enclosures: Japan paper  
Letter to Michael Sullivan  
Museum Brochure and Newsletter

October 10, 1980

Jerrier A. Haddad  
IBM Corporation  
Old Orchard Rd.  
Armonk, NY 10504

Dear Jerrier,

Do hope that you can come to see the exhibits at the Digital Computer Museum at some time. A copy of our newsletter is enclosed announcing John Atansoff's lecture on November 11 and Konrad Zuse on March 4. Both should be very interesting.

Can you help me as Keeper of the Digital Computer Museum? We would like Roberto Guatelli to make some models for us, but apparently Michael Sullivan will has not been able to get the appropriate approvals. I can see only a positive benefit for IBM since the models we need are to show the card-based orgin of computing.

For example, two of the items we'd like will be required by IBM when it celebrates the 100th anniversary of Hollerith.

Please help.

All the best.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President, Engineering  
Keeper, Digital Computer Museum

GB:swh  
GB1.S7.27

Enclosure: Museum Newsletter

October 10, 1980

Michael J. Sullivan, Manager  
Corporate Exhibit Programs  
IBM  
Old Orchard Road  
Armonk, NY 10504

Dear Michael,

Friday, October 3, we had lunch with Roberto Guatelli and Joe. We were hoping that they would agree to do some work for the Digital Computer Museum, but they said that they were not free to do anything for us until it was approved by IBM.

Specifically we would like the following:

- A replica of the Pascal calculator;
- A quarter scale model of the Jacquard loom, especially showing the card control mechanism;
- A scale model of card control mechanism of the Babbage analytic engine;
- A second copy of the Hollerith machine if one is ordered by IBM Germany.

In addition, from time to time, we would like to be able to commission Guatelli to make other things.

On all items obtained from Guatelli we would be willing to give IBM appropriate credits.

I hope you can decide quickly and in our favor.

Cordially,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President, Engineering  
Keeper, Digital Computer Museum

GB:swh  
GB1.S7.28

CC: Lewis Branscomb  
Jerrier Haddad

September 29, 1983

J. N. Snyder  
Head of Department  
Department of Computer Science  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
1304 West Springfield Avenue  
Urbana, IL 61801-2987

Dear Dr. Snyder:

I am very grateful to you and your department for inviting me to give the Eighth Gillies Lecture. Please extend my special thanks to Mrs. Snyder for the wonderful party and dinner on Sunday. I do hope it was up to Professor Gillies' standards. It was truly an honor to be in the company of the seven previous lecturers.

The very short time at the university with your impressive faculty and students was truly stimulating, but all too short. Hopefully the next visit will be longer. I particularly enjoyed the discussions on the Cedar Project, and I hope that the machine can somehow be built.

Of course the Computer Museum is deeply indebted to the department for the ILLIAC artifacts, and I hope that each of you will visit the museum in the future. I was impressed with your library and encourage you to send us books and reports that you retire from the library. Some of the Museum reports and brochures are enclosed.

Let me urge you to join the Museum as a member or founder and help preserve computing history.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Chief Technical Officer  
& Computer Museum Board Member

Enclosures - Computer Museum literature  
Expense report

cc: Prof. David J. Kuck  
Mrs. Donald Gillies

September 29, 1983

Professors Chung Lang and Jane Liu  
Department of Computer Science  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
1304 West Springfield Avenue  
Urbana, IL 61801-2987

Dear Professors Liu:

I enjoyed our interaction at the Gillies Lectures.

I hope you'll visit the Computer Museum in the near future such as the TX-0 celebration on November 12. (Let me know.)

Enclosed is a sample report and brochures on the Computer Museum. Let me also encourage you to donate any books and papers you might have of historical significance.

Let me urge you to join the museum and help preserve computing history.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Chief Technical Officer  
& Computer Museum Board Member

Enclosures - Museum literature

GB7.14

September 29, 1983

Dr. R. S. Michalski  
Department of Computer Science  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
1304 West Springfield Avenue  
Urbana, IL 61801-2987

Dear Dr. Michalski:

I enjoyed our visit at the time of the Gillies Lectures. Enclosed are some reports and a brochure on the Computer Museum. I hope you'll consider joining and giving your important papers and artifacts for safe keeping.

I have passed on your request for various copies of my slides to Gwen Bell, Director of the Museum. I will add as many of my lecture slides as possible and as appropriate to the museum collection.

A catalog is forthcoming and you will note it has several of these slides.

Please join the Museum and help us preserve history.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Chief Technical Officer  
& Computer Museum Board Member

GB7.14

September 29, 1983

Professor Saburo Muroga  
Department of Computer Science  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
1304 West Springfield Avenue  
Urbana, IL 61801-2987

Dear Professor Muroga:

I thoroughly enjoyed the visit with you on Tuesday and the discussion of the computing evolution. The book on the Abacus and your other artifacts and library were especially nice.

As you know, the Computer Museum is dedicated to the preservation of important information processing artifacts. As such, we would be honored to accept and care for any papers, books, objects you have, including the various Abacii and Abacus references, the Toko WoKen Wire memory, Parametrans used in the machines you designed and other books from your library.

I am enclosing several reports and brochures on the Museum, and would like to encourage you to join and become a founding member. I would also ask you to present the brochure to friends who visit you from Japan because we want to acquire more Japanese artifacts of all types. The Museum also especially wants more Japanese visitors and members. In this regard, we have invited one of Japan's computer industry leaders to become a member of our Board.

I was pleased to accept the two books by you and have placed them in the Computer Museum.

Again, I enjoyed our visit.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell  
Chief Technical Officer  
& Computer Museum Board Member

September 29, 1983

Ms. Jeanne Adams  
Chairman Fortran 8X committee  
University Service Center  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523

Dear Ms. Adams:

Could you please send me a copy of the current FORTRAN 8X draft together with proposals for extensions?

What is the status of the draft vis a vis the time when it will become a standard?

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell  
Chief Technical Officer

J. N. Snyder  
Head of Department  
Department of Computer Science  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
1304 West Springfield Avenue  
Urbana, IL 61801-2987

-

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University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
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-

Ms. Jeanne Adams  
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University Service Center  
Colorado State University  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523



April 2, 1984

Dr. S. Flaschen  
International Telephone & Telegraph Corporation  
320 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Dr. Flaschen:

In regard to our phone conversation last week about Encore, I am enclosing our Private Placement Memorandum.

The Memorandum describes only a small part of Encore. We now have 5 companies and about 100 people working on these products:

- . high performance minicomputer predicated on multiple, microprocessors which should provide significant cost-performance and performance advantages,
- . very high performance/high reliability computer, programmerless system for writing business and transaction processing applications,
- . high resolution terminals/workstations, and
- . networking of our products to form a total environment which can link to established communications and local area networks.

In addition, we have a central Sales, Service and Finance Company to distribute products from these companies.

You will note that Encore is really a new kind of company, although you may recognize us to be most like your own because it is formed as a collection of highly focused separate companies. In our case, Encore Central in Wellesley Hills, consists of only 15 people who: fund, supply strategic and tactical management assistance via being members of our company boards, and who provide an overall product strategy umbrella. Each member of our central group has about 25 years of successful experience in the computing industry.

I anticipate having 8 companies by the end of the year, and believe all could be synergistic with IT&T as suppliers, customers, distributors, and licensees (especially militarized and ruggedized versions). We are finding no shortage of talented engineering groups who are driven by Entrepreneurial Energy and who want to be part of Encore and have their own Engineering/Manufacturing company. We also believe there will be significant joint venture opportunities whereby IT&T can use us to get significant time-to-market advantages with highly innovative products, staffed by class A people.

Dr. S. Flaschen  
April 2, 1984

- 2 -

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Since IT&T has been really innovative in its approach to investing in other companies, either for acquisition of talent or products, I believe Encore would exceed all your criteria for investment. We have not closed the current offering due to the current market conditions, and in addition are searching for one or two industrial partners. IT&T would be at the top of my list. (My affiliation with IT&T began in 1961 as the project engineer for the PDP-1 which Digital adapted for IT&T to do message switching, and which IT&T marketed as the ADX 7300.)

I hope you'll investigate this opportunity.

Sincerely,

C. Gordon Bell  
Chief Technical Officer

GB9.24

Dr. S. Flaschen

April 2, 1984

- 1 -

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International Telephone & Telegraph Corporation

320 Park Avenue

New York, New York 10022

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Dr. S. Flaschen

April 2, 1984

- 2 -

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Dr. S. Flaschen

April 2, 1984

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Sincerely,

C. Gordon Bell  
Chief Technical Officer

GB9.24

July 20, 1982

Mr. Osamu Seki, Director  
Electronics Policy Division  
Machinery & Information  
Industries Bureau  
Ministry of International  
Trade and Industry (MITI)  
Tokyo

Dear. Mr. Seki:

It was a pleasure to meet with you on 30 June on behalf of  
Digital Equipment Corporation.

At that time I mentioned that Digital would like to become  
a member of the Fifth Generation Research Program.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President, Engineering

CC: Dr. Tom Kobayashi

July 20, 1982

Mr. Shigeru Sato  
Fujitsu Limited  
1015, Kamikodanaka Nakahara-Ku  
Kawasaki-Shi, Kanagawa-Ken 211,  
Japan

Dear Mr. Sato:

It was nice to meet you again at the talk I gave on Ethernet  
at Tokyo University.

I'm grateful to you for supplying the early Fujitsu parts to  
the Computer Museum four years ago.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President, Engineering  
Curator, The Computer Museum

CC: Dr. Gwen Bell, Director, The Computer Museum

28 November 1984

Mr. Kenneth Olsen, President  
Digital Equipment Corporation  
146 Main Street  
Maynard, Massachusetts, 01754

Dear Ken:

The Museum finally opened on November 12. Needless to say, it was not possible or even thinkable without you or Digital.

The physical realization has turned out to be much more exciting than any plan could have communicated. The staff made a very large "stretch" to open a range of galleries. The reviews have been positive and it is easy to spend a half day in productive learning. Knowledgeable teenagers are spending their days at the Museum. The most flattering comment to date has been that it is the first American technology museum to be at European standards. Dr. Oliver Strimpel, who did the Museum's Image Gallery has just become the Associative Director and Curator. Oliver was formerly the Curator of the Mathematics Section of The Science Museum, London. The long collecting period that you started with Whirlwind and five year breadboard at Marlboro really paid off in collecting artifacts, building exhibits, doing lectures (ranging from Amdahl to Zuse) and gaining widescale support from computer people and companies.

I want to see this phase aimed at:

- . putting a formal educational program in place,
- . continued collecting of artifacts (whether letters, films, manuals or machines) and a vigorous lecture series with the pioneers who built the industry and its products, in order to record the significant, information processing events, and
- . getting broad public support from computer-knowledgeable people who want to learn more about the past and future history of computing.

I hope you'll visit it soon and give some comments. The interactive and modern parts about the future really attracts the users, but people watch the old films and hopefully learn alot. The timeline I struggled over gets studied by those who lived through it, but passed over quickly by others. Oliver did a spectacular job on the Image Gallery, and already the 750 is overloaded.

Gwen and I would be happy to prepare a picnic if you and Aulikki

can visit and have lunch some Sunday or any other time.

Sincerely,

Gordon

---

Dr. Ken Thompson  
Bell Laboratories  
600 Mountain Avenue, MH 2C519  
Murray Hill, New Jersey 07974

Dear Ken:

The Computer Museum is opening in downtown Boston on November 14 after operating successfully for five years within a Digital Equipment Corporation building, the last two as a non-profit, public Museum. The Museum wants AT&T to become a major supporter!

A first-rate team is designing the exhibits, including Dr. Oliver Strimpel, curator of the Science Museum in London and Dr. Paul Ceruzzi, a young history of computing scholar. In addition to the exhibits with historical artifacts, two major interactive galleries are being built for PC's and on the Computer and the Image. Predictions are that we should have attendance of over 200,000. This world-class, international Museum should be a major attraction and asset for the computing community. The enclosed brochure describes the Capital Campaign, and several reports give an idea of the Museum's activities.

The Museum has started communicating with the AT&T Foundation. Bob Everett asked Robert Lucky to help, who in turn sent the request to Ms. Esther Novack, Vice President of Cultural Programs. In talking to Ms. Novack, the Museum fits within the Foundation's frame of reference, but she needs to understand how The Computer Museum would benefit AT&T. Now I want to enlist your support to:

1. work with us to prepare an appropriate proposal to the Foundation. As AT&T becomes a significant computer supplier, it will increasingly benefit from The Computer Museum. George Stibitz was one of our first speakers and would like to contribute in a major way, but never reaped many rewards from his contributions to computing and as he said in his last letter, is facing one or two lingering illnesses. He has given many of his papers, made the Museum a model of his first relay adder, and when he can, he comes to Museum functions on the bus from Dartmouth. We show the first transistor and need to incorporate software more prominently in our exhibits.

AT&T might want to name a lecture series recording its contributions which have benefitted computing including: programming, UNIX, C, speech and music, graphics, semiconductor technology, communications etc. We also want critical artifacts for the collection and the

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We are looking for a complete, AT&T sponsored package that would amount to \$400,000 or \$100,000 per year. DEC gives \$600,000 per year!

---

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3. contribute your important artifacts; (The Museum will act as a repository for things that would otherwise be forced to be scrapped.)

4. give a lecture at the museum on the UNIX story.

I will call you to discuss these activities and how we can be responsive to AT&T's needs. Even though it's not open, I'd be honored to give you a tour and a meal.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosures  
GB13.44

25 November 1984

Mr. Andy Knowles  
Prime Computer Corporation  
Prime Parkway  
Natick, MA 01760

Dear Andy:

Thank you for the gift to the Capital Campaign and the moral support that helped open the Museum on November 12. Joe Henson and Prime are promising their support beginning next year. I believe it can be a significant asset to Prime and its employees.

The physical realization has turned out to be much more exciting than any plan could have communicated. The staff made a very large "stretch" to open a range of galleries. The reviews have been positive and it is easy to spend a half day in productive learning. Knowledgeable teenagers are spending their days at the Museum. The most flattering comment to date has been that it is the first American technology museum to be at European standards. Dr. Oliver Strimpel, who did the Museum's Image Gallery has just become the Associative Director and Curator. Oliver was formerly the Curator of the Mathematics Section of The Science Museum, London. The long collecting period and five year breadboard at Digital really paid off in collecting artifacts, building exhibits, doing lectures (ranging from Amdahl to Zuse) and gaining widescale support from computer people and companies.

I want to see this phase aimed at:

- . putting a formal educational program in place,
- . continued collecting of artifacts (whether letters, films, manuals or machines) in order to record the significant, information processing events, and
- . getting broad public support from computer-knowledgeable people who want to learn more about the past and future history of computing.

Again, thanks for the support. I hope you can visit it soon. Gwen and I would be delighted to give you and Skip a tour and dinner.

Sincerely,

Gordon

Mr. L. J. Sevin  
5050 Quorum Drive  
Suite 635  
Dallas, Texas 75240

Dear Mr. Sevin:

Ben Rosen gave me your address, and I'm enlisting your support for this first round of The Computer Museum when it opens in Boston, November 14. The Museum operated in a Digital facility for five years where it gathered artifacts, enlisted members and built a team. The Museum has achieved international-level excellence as a public museum. Now it is going public on a wider scale in Boston and 240,000 visitors are expected annually.

The Museum is technologically current, yet archival and will be interactive. It will illustrate the dynamic growth of the industry and its potential. The Board of Directors is broadly representative of the industry with each of the 24 members having a 4-year non-reelectable term of office. The Curatorial Staff is lead by Dr. Oliver Strimpel who had been curator of the computer gallery at London's Science Museum. He is the best in the field.

Your leadership is needed now as a founding partner in specific ways:

- . help in collecting artifacts you have or believe are significant at the companies you've been involved with; We are working to get TI's historical artifacts and would like those from Mostek.
- . direct financial support on this "first round" as a "core" member as a personal and corporate level; and
- . help in Dallas by sponsoring some affair at which the Museum could be presented. For example, in Silicon Valley, we are accepting Amdahl's WISC at Trilogy, and in Minneapolis, CDC is presenting Cray's Little Professor.

Since this is a request for your precious time and money, I know you'll want to visit the Museum before making a commitment. I hope we can discuss this at lunch or dinner at the Museum. Please call me at Encore (617-237-1022), at home (259-9144) or the Museum (426-2800) if you're coming to Boston.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Chief Technical Officer

P.S.

An essay on the current micro computer generation is also enclosed which I hope you'll find interesting or useful.

March 14, 1980

Lowell Wood  
Lawrence Livermore Laboratory  
Univeristy of California  
P.O. Box 808  
Livermore, CA 94550

Dear Lowell,

I'm having great fun creating a DIGITAL COMPUTER MUSEUM and I have heard that you might have some old computers or components that you might make available to us.

Our displays begin with pre-computing calculating devices, such as Napier's bones, a Thomas arithmometer, etc. and move right up to the fifth generation of computing devices. We have a lot of Whirlwind in storage and some on display and have recreated the TX-0 as it was at MIT in the fifties.

If you come to the Boston area, I'd enjoy personally showing you the display...and am interested in obtaining more non-DEC early computers.

Regards,

Gordon Bell  
Keeper, Digital Computer Museum  
Vice-President Engineering  
Digital Equipment Corporation

GB1.S2.52

April 6, 1981

George A. Michael  
Lawrence Livermore Laboratory  
University of California  
Leader, Computer Research Group, L-76  
P.O. Box 808  
Livermore, CA 94550

Dear George:

Thanks for organizing the stimulating conference on high speed computing and for hosting the conference. The interaction among users and builders was interesting and intense. Thanks for allowing me to attend; I learned a lot. As members of the Digital Computer Museum staff, Gwen and I also found the interaction worthwhile.

Please also pass along my thanks to the Workshop Committee and Workshop Staff.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President,  
Engineering

GB:swh  
GB2.S5.5

June 6, 1983

William Perry  
Hambrecht and Quist  
235 Montgomery Street  
San Francisco, Ca 94104

Dear Bill,

It was a pleasant surprise to meet you in California and learn of your interest in The Computer Museum. Bob Everett has been a splendid supporter of our efforts from the very beginning and delighted with your offer to help.

Several recent issues of the museum's quarterly, The Computer Museum Report, are enclosed. They can give you a better feeling of what the Museum has, what it does, and its first supporters.

More to the point, the press release about our move to Museum Wharf in downtown Boston is enclosed. This has thrust the museum from its incubation stage within a Digital building to having to fly on its own wings downtown. This fall we will be undertaking a \$5 million capital campaign in order to accomplish this move and provide a small endowment. You can be of the greatest help by joining Lester Hogan's team of solicitors on the West Coast.

Bob plays the role of overall Chairman of Fundraising and I'm on his committee so any ideas that you might have please let one of us know.

I'd be happy to show you around the Museum on one of your trips to Boston and will keep you informed.

Cordially,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President of Engineering,  
Digital Equipment Corporation

Director, The Computer Museum

June 6, 1983

Brian Randell

Dear Brian,

Gordon and I are both home for the summer. And I am beginning to feel relaxed, rested and ready to face the new opportunities ahead.

Oliver Strimple has been here for the last three weeks and I believe is quite excited to come to the States for a year. He is not interested in a "historic" gallery per se, but in doing a thematic gallery with an historic approach. He will probably do one on "The Computer and the Image" that will open in November 1984. If all goes well, Oliver will come January 1984 and leave a year later. It is not yet fixed with his director so please don't talk about it.

Jamie, Beth, Meredith, Bruce McIntosh (designer), and I will be working on revamping the present materials to do an integrated historic exhibit (using video) and being much more involving. This will open (with luck) on May 11.

As the Chairman of the exhibits committee, I think it would be a very good idea if you would/ or could call a meeting sometime in the winter to review what we will be doing (before it is done). The best time would be between November 1 and February 1. We'll work out a way to bring you over.

Then I think that a meeting of the committee on May 13th - Saturday - to review Oliver's ideas would also be a good idea.

The committee is made up of you, Ken Olsen, George Michael, and Eugene Fairfield (who declined). See enclosed letter. I will see if we can get an alternative IBMer, or a least, I. Bernard Cohen. Any other ideas? Let me know your preference on this.

CBI Bibliography. I'm enclosing my critique. It was written on just an awful terminal that we had in Gordon's hotel room in California. But the job got done. We approached the same problem from different angles.

Books at the store. Books still make up 25-30% of the purchases at the store; but for the amount of inventory and diversity that we must keep any individual title moves quite

slowly. Yet, we believe that this is an important element in our stock and perhaps over the years, people will get into the habit of buying from us. (But, I believe that your remark on books at Sturbridge probably were much less costly and technical books than we carry.) Books like Randell, History of Programming Languages, History of Computing in the Twentieth Century, etc. are not impulse purchases. The best selling books are: Computing Catastrophes (\$11.95 paper); Soul of a New Machine (\$7 paper); Discovering Computers (\$10.95 for children); 101 Basic Games (\$10 paper). But the people who find the historical book that they want at the museum are very happy.

Thanks for coming,

Cordially,

Gwen Bell  
Director

June 6, 1983

Walter Safford  
GTE

Dear Walter,

Delighted that I had the opportunity to meet with you -- even for such a short time.

We are very interested in your participation in The Computer Museum and that of GTE. In particular the whole area of applications is an important story that needs to be told. Without insatiable users experimenting and demanding more and more equipment, the progress would have been much slower and computing much smaller.

At the very least, we would like a good copy of the first computer generated telephone bill. Then we would like some ideas of what you think we might do to tell the application story. The time to do this is now, since The Computer Museum is planning its move to downtown Boston. I'm enclosing a copy of the press release regarding this move.

The move to Boston means that The Computer Museum will be weaned from its protective Digital incubator -- and must stand on its own as a generic museum for the entire industry. We have been very fortunate to have been able to get ready-made museum space at a very favorable price allowing us to make the move with a \$5 million capital campaign in the fall of 1982. This will get us into new quarters with 55,000 square feet and provide a small endowment to pay off the Industrial Revenue Bond of \$1.6 million (at 8.5% interest). Can we count on you to help? What ideas do you have? The Museum is at a very formative stage and your ideas will really count.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Cordially,

Gwen Bell  
Director

25 November 1984

Dr. Lewis Branscomb, Chief Scientist  
International Business Machines  
Old Orchard Road  
Armonk, New York 10504

Dear Lewis:

Thank you for the support at IBM that helped open the Museum on November 12.

The physical realization has turned out to be much more exciting than any plan could have communicated. The staff made a very large "stretch" to open a range of galleries. The reviews have been positive and it is easy to spend a half day in productive learning. Knowledgeable teenagers are spending their days at the Museum. The most flattering comment to date has been that it is the first American technology museum to be at European standards. Dr. Oliver Strimpel, who did the Museum's Image Gallery has just become the Associative Director and Curator. Oliver was formerly the Curator of the Mathematics Section of The Science Museum, London. The long collecting period and five year breadboard at Digital really paid off in collecting artifacts, building exhibits, doing lectures (ranging from Amdahl to Zuse) and gaining widescale support from computer people and companies.

I want to see this phase aimed at:

- . putting a formal educational program in place,
- . continued collecting of artifacts (whether letters, films, manuals or machines) in order to record the significant, information processing events, and
- . getting broad public support from computer-knowledgeable people who want to learn more about the past and future history of computing.

Can I ask you to visit the Museum with me on your next trip to Boston? If you have time, I hope you could join us for a meal.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

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Subject: **Thanks for the Calculator**

To: Max Burnett

Date: 1/16/79

From: Gordon Bell

Dept: OOD

Loc: ML12-1/A51 Ext: 223-2236

I was overjoyed to get the calculator. It was great to have one that was really tuned to the mixed radix system (pounds, shillings and pences).

If you have the opportunity to get any equipment either for the DEC Museum, or me personally I would be glad to pay for it. Specifically, I am looking for one of the Curta hand-held calculators that was made in Leichtenstein. It would be good to get parts from some of the old CSIRO or Weapons Research Establishment machines if they haven't been thrown out.

How are VAX sales and installations going?

Has there been any reaction to our book on Computer Engineering?

Kindest regards to you and your family and fellow workers in Australia.

August 20, 1979

British Science Museum  
Jane Raimes, Assistant Keeper  
South Kensington London SW72DD  
ENGLAND

Dear Jane:

We can give you a Classic PDP-8 (circa 1965) that we believe was the first minicomputer. It would sit on some pedestal (we'll supply if you want) and is approximately 2 1/2' high and 20W wide x 30" deep. Do you still want it?

We're in the throes of opening our own Digital Computer Museum in Marlboro, Massachusetts this fall. It includes a reasonably good collection of calculators; a logic exhibit; MIT's Whirlwind and TX-0; MIT's LINC, a LINC-8, PDP-12, and our MINC Laboratory series evolution, a PDP-1 (first Spacewar), a PDP-8, and a collection of artifacts from our machines.

What's the chance of borrowing some parts from the Science Museum for a year?

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President  
Engineering

GB:mjf  
GB0004/36

October 11, 1979

Jane Raimes  
Assistant Keeper  
British Science Museum  
South Kensington  
London SW7  
ENGLAND

Dear Jane:

We are sending the PDP-8 to the Science Museum to your attention.  
Also, I'm enclosing the specification we use in describing it  
at our exhibit.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President  
Engineering

GB:mjf  
GB0005/3

Enclosure

CC: Bob Lane - DEC

September 2, 1980

Richard Buxton  
North European Regional Support  
Digital Equipment Co. Ltd.  
42-44 Portman Road  
GB-Reading, Berkshire RG3 1JW  
ENGLAND

Dear Richard,

Thanks for the information on the PDP8 serial no. 2. The Museum now has a table top 8 on display and has no money. However, 8's are in demand as museum pieces -- we've supplied one to the British and Canadian science museums. I suggest that you store it -- don't throw it out -- since I believe there are going to be more and more requests for these in museums. If you want to ship it to the US, then we can store it here.

I'm enclosing a copy of our latest newsletter and brochure. Do hope that you get the chance to see the Digital Computer Museum.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President,  
Engineering

GB:swh  
GB1.S6.28

Enclosures: Museum Newsletter + Brochure

Dr. Max V Mathews  
Director, Acoustical and Behavioral Research  
Bell Telephone Laboratories  
600 Mountain Avenue  
Murray Hill, New Jersey 07974

Dear Max:

Was delighted to get your letter recommending Richard Cohen, and hope we can persuade him to work here.

I've also asked our corporate real estate to look at buying the property in Berlin.

Let me be presumptuous in offering you an alternative to the disposal of the lot: Why not give it to the Computer Museum? The Museum is a fully non-profit charitable foundation under the IRS code 501(c)3, giving individuals full advantages of making charitable donations. As you could imagine, the job of transforming what started as a corporate effort into an independent charitable foundation is not easy: we have been very encouraged that over 100 individuals have given \$250 or more and 15 corporations have given \$2500 or more, with another 15 pledged. We had been waiting for the right moment to start an endowment program -- and I think this is it. Gwen and I have left one-third of our estate to the Museum -- but we hope to have a long life -- and we are urging others to do a variety of things to ensure that the Museum will endure.

But, we have yet to receive our first endowment -- and your land could provide just that. You could designate the funds for a special purpose -- related to the evolution of computer music and of course, we would be greatly pleased if you were to advise the Museum on its activities in this area. I trust that Bell Labs has a matching grant that could amplify the gift too.

I know that if you are the first, then this will be the ideal role model for other leaders in the industry to set the Museum up so that it can best preserve information processing history.

We are having our first program of Computer Music at the museum on Sunday afternoon November 7th, as part of our "Bits and Bites" Program. We've had an offer from Barry Vercoe to do some "space dependent" music for the Museum, too, but this hasn't materialized yet.

Progress on collecting and building enthusiasm is being made on a daily basis. Claude and Betty Shannon were at the Museum last Thursday -- we were talking to Claude about an exhibit of his mouse. Then we found that Betty Shannon's first boss was George Stibitz, and she worked as a "computer" on the Model I. We have a "Model 19" on display with Stibitz' Model K breadboard. When Betty saw this, she started reminiscing (???) and then we talked about a replica of the Model I and she said they probably had enough old relays in their basement to make one. Clearly, we would like your help in getting some basic support from Bell Labs. At this point we are asking corporations for a one percent match of Digital's annual giving, i.e., \$2500. If they join in the next year and a half then they will be listed as a founder. We also need your suggestion as to who to contact at Bell Labs in order to get their support.

The museum is really growing in many dimensions and I'm enclosing a copy of the last issue of our quarterly and a copy of our first field trip to Northbay Canada to visit the SAGE computer before it is retired. In addition, we are starting to get National attention: a full page photo appeared in the October National Geographic, an article will appear in the November issue of OMNI, and a photo of the replica the museum built of D. H. Lehmer's number sieve will appear in the December issue of Scientific American. On a low budget, Gwen has made a first rate museum that is really scholarly work in terms of preserving and displaying history. In the year and a half since your visit, the Museum has roughly doubled in the depth and breadth of its intellectual base, activities and exhibitions.

What we need now, is the funding so that we can fully realize the dream of becoming the truly recognized, international computer museum. Do hope that you will help us on this project.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President of Engineering, Digital Equipment Corporation; and  
Curator, The Computer Museum

P. S.

At yesterday's Bits and Bites Program, Tracy Kidder, Author

of "Soul of a New Machine" and Tom West, the Project Leader spoke to an audience of ?.

encl.

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July 10, 1984

Dr. Max V. Mathews  
Director, Acoustical & Behavioral Research  
Bell Laboratories  
Room 2D-554  
600 Mountain Avenue  
Murray Hill, NJ 07974

Dear Max:

The Computer Museum is opening in downtown Boston on November 14 after operating successfully for five years within a Digital Equipment Corporation building, the last two as a non-profit, public Museum. The Museum wants AT&T to become a major supporter!

A first-rate team is designing the exhibits, including Dr. Oliver Strimpel, curator of the Science Museum in London and Dr. Paul Ceruzzi, a young history of computing scholar. In addition to the exhibits with historical artifacts, two major interactive galleries are being built for PC's and on the Computer and the Image. Predictions are that we should have attendance of over 200,000. This world-class, international Museum should be a major attraction and asset for the computing community. The enclosed brochure describes the Capital Campaign, and several reports give an idea of the Museum's activities.

The Museum has started communicating with the AT&T Foundation. Bob Everett asked Robert Lucky to help, who in turn sent the request to Ms. Esther Novack, Vice President of Cultural Programs. In talking to Ms. Novack, the Museum fits within the Foundation's frame of reference, but she needs to understand how The Computer Museum would benefit AT&T. Now I want to enlist your support to:

1. work with us to prepare an appropriate proposal to the Foundation. As AT&T becomes a significant computer supplier, it will increasingly benefit from The Computer Museum. George Stibitz was one of our first speakers and would like to contribute in a major way, but never reaped many rewards from his contributions to computing and as he said in his last letter, is facing one or two lingering illnesses. He has given many of his papers, made the Museum a model of his first relay adder, and when he can, he comes to Museum functions on the bus from Dartmouth. We show the first transistor and need to incorporate software more prominently in our exhibits.

AT&T might want to name a lecture series recording its

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contributions which have benefitted computing including: programming, UNIX, C, speech and music, graphics, semiconductor technology, communications etc. We also want critical artifacts for the collection and the possibility of assigning this important function to us. We continue to need an unlimited supply of working computers for various exhibits.

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We are looking for a complete, AT&T sponsored package that would amount to \$400,000 or \$100,000 per year. DEC gives \$600,000 per year!

2.become a personal "core" contributor (\$4K over 4 years) or foundership, (\$250); (The founding period is just closing.)

3. contribute your own important artifacts; (The Museum will act as a repository for things that would otherwise be forced to be scrapped.)

4.give a lecture at the museum on the origins of Computer Music.

I will call you to discuss these activites and how we can be responsive to AT&T's needs. Even though it's not open, Gwen and I would like to show you the new site on your next trip to Boston.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosures  
GB13.46

July 2, 1984

Mr. Max Palevsky  
924 Westwood Boulevard  
Suite 700  
Los Angeles, California 90024

Dear Mr. Palevsky:

The Computer Museum is opening in downtown Boston on November 12 after operating successfully for five years within a Digital Equipment Corporation building, the last two as a non-profit, public Museum.

A first-rate team is designing the exhibits, including Dr. Oliver Strimpel, curator of the Science Museum in London and Dr. Paul Ceruzzi, a young history of computing scholar. In addition to the exhibits with historical artifacts, two major interactive galleries are being built for PC's and on the Computer and the Image. Predictions are that we should have attendance of over 200,000. This world-class, international Museum should be a major attraction and asset for the computing community.

The enclosed brochure describes the Capital Campaign, and several reports are also enclosed to give an idea of the Museum's activities. Now I want to enlist your support as a computer industry pioneer by:

1. your personal "core" contribution and foundership, (The founding period is just closing.)
2. contribution of any artifacts that you have in storage that would be appropriate for the galleries and archives, and
3. eventual participation in the historical program by "telling" the story of SDS, which I personally saw and remember from a competitive vantage.

I will call you and discuss the possibility of being a supporter of the Museum and visiting it when you're in Boston. I'd be honored to give you a tour.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosures

July 2, 1984

Mr. Max Palevsky  
924 Westwood Boulevard  
Suite 700  
Los Angeles, California 90024

Dear Mr. Palevsky:

The Computer Museum is opening in downtown Boston on November 12 after operating successfully for five years within a Digital Equipment Corporation building, the last two as a non-profit, public Museum.

A first-rate team is designing the exhibits, including Dr. Oliver Strimpel, curator of the Science Museum in London and Dr. Paul Ceruzzi, a young history of computing scholar. In addition to the exhibits with historical artifacts, two major interactive galleries are being built for PC's and on the Computer and the Image. Predictions are that we should have attendance of over 200,000. This world-class, international Museum should be a major attraction and asset for the computing community.

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I will call you and discuss the possibility of being a supporter of the Museum and visiting it when you're in Boston. I'd be honored to give you a tour.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosures

Arlene M. McGrane, Library  
Massachusetts Computer Associates Inc.  
26 Princess Street  
Wakefield, Ma 01880

Dear Arlene McGrane,

We are now getting our library established for scholars to use and are grateful for the contribution of your retired documents. They are just what a scholarly historical museum needs.

Since The Computer Museum's goal is to be an industry-wide resource, it must also have financial support from a broad base across the industry. I hope that you will recommend that Massachusetts Computer Associates, Inc., becomes a Corporate Founder. This is a unique opportunity to forever be chronicled helping to lay the critical foundations of the Museum. This is possible by a fully tax-deductible contribution of \$2,500.

The Founders will be listed in our quarterly, The Computer Museum Report and receive all invitations to activities held at the Museum. (Report and invitation to Huskey lecture enclosed.)

The Computer Museum is open free to the public six days a week, Sunday through Friday from 1 to 6 PM. It has gotten more and more visibility and use: a listing of the coverage that we have had since June 10th is enclosed.

This is the only Computer Museum providing a unique center for the preservation of the history of computing. We need your support to develop to our full potential.

Cordially,

Gwen Bell  
Director

Robert H. Matthews  
Dow Chemical Canada Inc.  
P.O. Box 759  
Highway 21  
Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta T8L 2P4  
CANADA

Dear Robert Matthews,

I am enclosing a copy of the fall issue of our quarterly, The Computer Museum Report. It has a catalog of books and a poster and calendar at the end. In addition to these we have a number of other posters, suitable for framing, for sale. These include:

\$15.00	a set of 10 posters of the Pioneer Computers	-
4.00	a poster on Communications	-
5.00	a chart of the gynealogy of Silicon Valley	-

I hope that Dow Chemical Canada Inc. will join the Museum so that you can receive our quarterly on a regular basis. This will keep you informed of the development of the Museum's services. We are getting ready a slide and videotape and photo distribution service that will be announced in our Spring Report.

Looking forward to having you as a Corporate Member.

Cordially,

Gwen Bell  
Director

Alan Kay  
Vice President, ATARI  
1265 Borregas Avenue  
Sunnyvale, CA 94086

Dear Alan,

Kitty Selfridge (the Computer Museum Association's chairman) reminded me of your "existence" when she said that you had recently been at their home. Of course I had not forgotten you or the promises made by ATARI to the Museum.

I must say, the Museum is forging ahead full steam -- and it is very important to have one of the first Atari's for exhibit in the Four Generation Gallery. We have an early Altair and an early Alto with its Mouse. Xerox has agreed that if we wanted a working Alto they would support it at the Museum. If we really start becoming interactive, we shall do so with a bang -- and then of course, would also want working Ataris. But for now, all we want is one of the early ones for exhibit purposes.

Secondly, The Computer Museum needs the support of ATARI as a Corporate Founder -- \$2500. This is one percent of Digital's annual contribution is absolutely necessary to become a truly representative Museum. As time goes on, of course, we will also be looking for major foundation support. But now we need the initial Founders. I hope that either you or Steve will see that this is accomplished.

The Computer Museum is open free to the public six days a week, Sunday through Friday from 1 to 6 PM. It has gotten more and more visibility and visitation: a listing of the coverage that we have had since June 10th is enclosed.

Third, I would like to invite you to speak in our Sunday afternoon Bits and Bites series. (The fall Report is enclosed that lists the ones this season.) The speakers have all donated their time -- and of course our biggest draw was Tracy Kidder and Tom West (with about 650 in the audience). The schedule for the spring talks from March 6th through May 30th is completely open and we hope that you might coordinate this with a trip to the Boston area. Gordon and I would be pleased to have you stay in our home and would put a dinner party on in your honor on that Sunday evening.

Looking forward to hearing from you and please feel free to call and ask any questions,

Cordially,

Gwen Bell  
Director

cc: Steve Mayer  
Kitty Selfridge

Micahel J. Mellinger, President  
Data Research Associates, Inc.  
4225 Laclede AVE.  
St. Louis, MO 63108

Dear Michael Mellinger,

If you haven't seen The Computer Museum since early 1981, then you are in for a very pleasant surprise. We have several new galleries and a very active program. I'm enclosing one of our new brochures so that you can get an idea of the scope.

While Ken Olsen started the museum -- because no one else was doing the job -- he then saw that if the museum was to truly represent the industry, it must be a separate non-profit foundation. The Computer Museum has its own board of directors and must raise a minimum of one-third its annual support from the public.

As an authorized Digital Computer Distributor, I want to offer you the opportunity of becoming a Corporate Founder of the Museum. For \$2500, you can make a tax deductible donation that will allow Data Research Associates, Inc. to be chronicled as a Founder in the history of this major, new industry-wide institution.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me (617-467-5004).

Cordially,

Gwen Bell  
Director,  
Digital Computer Museum

Dott. Marisa Bellisario  
1984  
Chief Executive Officer  
Italtel Corporation, S.p.A.  
20154 MILANO  
Via A. di Tocqueville, 13  
Italy

September 10,

Dear Mrs. Bellisario:

I enjoyed the brainstorming session with you and your colleagues. I hope it was of value to Italtel. It was great to see such an alert organization with a strong feeling and commitment to building state of the art switching equipment. I regret that time didn't permit my learning more about your company and products, especially the new switch. I hope you'll send me more information on the company and products.

Enclosed are several brochures on The Computer Museum. The Museum is international and cross-industry, being dedicated to the preservation of artifacts and the understanding of Information Processing. The Museum moved to downtown Boston about one year ago, and will officially open to the public, November 14. If you're in the U. S. at the time, I hope you'll consider coming to the opening.

**I would like to invite you and Italtel to become Members of the Museum. The Corporate Membership schedule is attached, and I hope Italtel can join at the \$1024 / year level.** In addition, the Museum would like to have various artifacts that have been pivotal in information processing. For example, Ugo just contributed the Macrodata/Olivetti computer that he believes was the first 32-bit, mini.

I hope you'll consider visiting Boston on a forthcoming trip. I would like to introduce you to The Museum, and also **discuss Encore's forthcoming products, which I believe could be very important components for switching and "added-value" services.**

Ken Fisher sends his regards.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Chief Technical Officer,

Professor, on leave, Carnegie-Mellon University

CC: Ken Fisher

August 10, 1982

Erich Bloch  
IBM  
Armonk, New York 10504

Dear Eric:

Delighted that you will take the responsibility for establishing good relationships with IBM and the Museum. A trip to Japan for most of July and working on the MCC research proposal held me up from replying to your letter of June 14th.

You will be pleased to know that at its first Board meeting, it was decided to start to change the name to "The Computer Museum." The next issue of the Museum's quarterly will have this new masthead. Our legal counsel recommends that we do this officially at next year's Board meeting.

Gwen has been working closely with Professor I. Bernard Cohen from Harvard who consults regularly with your communication people. He now shares our vision of the great potential of the The Computer Museum making the point that the US has three great industrial contributions: agriculture for which there is a museum in almost every state (40 alone in Massachusetts); aerospace with its grand new museum; and computing. The Computer Museum can be thought of as a very important, unique and singular institution. It is large enough and has the potential for developing enough support to be an independent institution. Although we'd like to be physically close to universities and are now collaborating with Harvard, WPI, MIT and Wang Institute, I don't think we want to be organizationally connected. Digital has taken on the role of providing an incubator.

This summer we have started to receive inquiries about the potential for moving the Museum -- the local State Senator, Chet Atkins, wants to provide state money for a Marlboro convention center (and Gwen is fielding that one), and The Wang Institute would like it in a separate building on their grounds. We knew we'd have to think about a permanent location -- but we didn't realize that we should have to think about it so quickly. Bob Everett, President of MITRE, who chairs the Fund Raising Committee, thinks it would be a good idea to convene a subcommittee to discuss the issue of a building/home for the Museum. Would you serve on this committee?

We thought we would also ask Professor Cohen, Michael Dertouzos from MIT, Bill McKeeman from the Wang Institute, and the members of the Fund Raising Committee (myself, Bob Everett, Pat McGovern - President of ComputerWorld, and Les Hogan). Such a meeting would be held at the Museum on a Friday after one of the next Pioneer Lectures. The possibilities include Friday morning October 8th (squeezed between the lecture by Derek Lehmer on his sieve machines and our excursion to North Bay to see the ANFS/Q7); Friday October 22 after Herb Grosch (on the Columbia work); Friday November 19th after Harry Huskey (on SWAC and the G15). Would like to have a small group that could brainstorm. Have never been more enthusiastic. The Board really would like you to join us.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President,  
Engineering

October 18, 1982

Dr. Max V Mathews  
Director, Acoustical and Behaviorial Research  
Bell Telephone Laboratories  
600 Mountain Avenue  
Murray Hill, New Jersey 07974

Dear Max:

Was delighted to get your letter recommending Richard Cohen, and hope we can persuade him to work here.

I've also asked our corporate real estate to look at buying the property in Berlin.

Let me be presumptuous in offering you an alternative to the disposal of the lot: Why not give it to the Computer Museum? The Museum is a fully non-profit charitable foundation under the IRS code 501(c)3, giving individuals full advantages of making charitable donations. As you could imagine, the job of transforming what started as a corporate effort into an independent charitable foundation is not easy: we have been very encouraged that over 100 individuals have given \$250 or more and 15 corporations have given \$2500 or more, with another 15 pledged. We had been waiting for the right moment to start an endowment program -- and I think this is it. Gwen and I have left one-third of our estate to the Museum -- but we hope to have a long life -- and we are urging others to do a variety of things to ensure that the Museum will endure.

The museum has yet to receive its first endowment -- and your land could provide just that. You could designate the funds for a special purpose -- related to the evolution of computer music and of course, would be greatly pleased if you were to advise the Museum on its activities in this area. Bell Labs may have a matching grant that could amplify the gift too.

I know that if you are the first, then this will be the ideal role model for other leaders to set the Museum up so that it can best preserve information processing history.

We are having our first program of Computer Music at the museum on Sunday afternoon November 7th, as part of our "Bits and Bites" Program. We've had an offer from Barry Vercoe to do some "space dependent" music for the Museum, too, but this hasn't materialized yet. Of course we would like you to give a pioneer lecture on your music work. Most likely the compiler is appropriate since to an outsider, most all works seem to be derived from it.

Dr. Max V. Mathews  
Page 2  
18 October 1982

Progress on collecting and building enthusiasm is being made on a daily basis. Claude and Betty Shannon were at the Museum last Thursday -- we were talking to Claude about an exhibit of his mouse. Then we found that Betty Shannon's first boss was George Stibitz, and she worked as a "computer" on the Model I. We have a "Model 19" on display with Stibitz' Model K breadboard. When Betty saw this, she started reminiscing and then we talked about a replica of the Model I and she said they probably had enough old relays in their basement to make one. Clearly, we would like your help in getting some basic support from Bell Labs. At this point we are asking corporations for a one percent match of Digital's annual giving, i.e., \$2500. If they join in the next year and a half then they will be listed as a founder. We also need your direct help or a suggestion as to whom to contact at Bell Labs in order to get their support in becoming a founder.

The museum is really growing in many dimensions and I'm enclosing a copy of the last issue of our quarterly and a copy of our first field trip to Northbay Canada to visit the SAGE computer before it is retired. In addition, we are starting to get national attention: a full page photo appeared in the October National Geographic, an article will appear in the November issue of OMNI, and a photo of the replica the museum built of D. H. Lehmer's number sieve will appear in the December issue of Scientific American. On a low budget, Gwen has made a first rate museum that is preserving and displaying history. In the year and a half since your visit, the Museum has roughly doubled in the depth and breadth of its intellectual base, activities and exhibitions.

What we need now, is the funding so that we can fully realize the dream of becoming the truly recognized, international computer museum. Do hope that you will help us on this project.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President of Engineering, Digital Equipment Corporation; and  
Curator, The Computer Museum

P. S.  
At Sunday's Bits and Bites Program, Tracy Kidder, Author of "Soul of a New Machine" and Tom West, the Project Leader spoke to an audience of about 450.

encl.  
GB3.S8.18

October 5, 1983

Mr. Fred Wang  
Wang Laboratories, Inc.  
1 Industrial Avenue  
Lowell, MA 01851

Dear Fred:

As we discussed on the phone, I would like to invite you to visit the Computer Museum. The purpose is simply to get acquainted with the Museum as the world's foremost collection, and to solicit your help in fund raising so that it can make the critical move to Boston.

I would also like to solicit your support in getting Dr. Wang to speak on the invention of the core memory. The lecture will be videotaped and preserved.

As you may know, Wang Laboratories is a Computer Founder and we are working through Leo Beranek and various people on your staff to acquire artifacts and form a closer relationship.

Can you join us at the Museum on one of the following dates:

<input type="checkbox"/>	October 12	Dinner	6:30P
<input type="checkbox"/>	October 16	Lunch	1:00P
<input type="checkbox"/>	November 9	Dinner	6:30P

Just check a date and return a copy of this letter to me in the enclosed envelope. A map is also enclosed for your convenience.

Please come have a walk through the Museum, a pleasant dinner with us and learn of our plans.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Chief Technical Officer  
& Member of the Computer Museum Board

GB7.17

Mr. Fred Wang  
Wang Laboratories, Inc.  
1 Industrial Avenue  
Lowell, MA 01851

October 5, 1983

Mr. Dan Bricklin  
Software Arts, Inc.  
27 Mica Lane  
Wellesley, MA 02181

Dear Dan:

As we discussed on the phone, I would like to invite you (and your wife) to visit the Computer Museum. The purpose is simply to get acquainted with the Museum as the world's foremost collection, and to solicit your help in fund raising so that it can make the critical move to Boston.

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Gordon Bell  
Chief Technical Officer  
& Member of the Computer Museum Board

GB7.17

Mr. Dan Bricklin  
Software Arts, Inc.  
27 Mica Lane  
Wellesley, MA 02181

October 5, 1983

Mr. Steve Levy  
Bolt Beranek & Newman  
10 Moulton Street  
Cambridge, MA 02238

Dear Steve:

As we discussed on the phone, I would like to invite you (and your wife) to visit the Computer Museum. The purpose is simply to get acquainted with the Museum as the world's foremost collection, and to solicit your help in fund raising so that it can make the critical move to Boston.

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Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Chief Technical Officer  
& Member of the Computer Museum Board

GB7.17

Mr. Steve Levy  
Bolt Beranek & Newman  
10 Moulton Street  
Cambridge, MA 02238

October 5, 1983

Richard Nolan  
40 Highland Avenue  
Lexington, MA 01773

Dear Richard:

As we discussed on the phone, I would like to invite you (and your wife) to visit the Computer Museum. The purpose is simply to get acquainted with the Museum as the world's foremost collection, and to solicit your help in fund raising so that it can make the critical move to Boston.

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Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Chief Technical Officer  
& Member of the Computer Museum Board

GB7.17

Richard Nolan  
40 Highland Avenue  
Lexington, MA 01773

October 5, 1983

Mr. John Cunningham  
Wang Laboratories, Inc.  
1 Industrial Avenue  
Lowell, MA 01851

Dear John:

I would like to invite you (and your wife) to visit the Computer Museum. The purpose is simply to get acquainted with the Museum as the world's foremost collection, and to solicit your help in fund raising so that it can make the critical move to Boston.

I would also like to solicit your support in getting Dr. Wang to speak on the invention of the core memory. The lecture will be videotaped and preserved.

As you may know, Wang Laboratories is a Computer Founder and we are working through Leo Beranek and various people on your staff to acquire artifacts and form a closer relationship.

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Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Chief Technical Officer  
& Member of the Computer Museum Board

GB7.17

Mr. John Cunningham  
Wang Laboratories, Inc.  
1 Industrial Avenue  
Lowell, MA 01851

October 5, 1983

Mr. John Cullinane  
Cullinet Software  
400 Blue Hill Drive  
Westwood, MA 02090

Dear John:

As we discussed on the phone, I would like to invite you (and your wife) to visit the Computer Museum. The purpose is simply to get acquainted with the Museum as the world's foremost collection, and to solicit your help in fund raising so that it can make the critical move to Boston.

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Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Chief Technical Officer  
& Member of the Computer Museum Board

GB7.17

Mr. John Cullinane  
Cullinet Software  
400 Blue Hill Drive  
Westwood, MA 02090

5 May 1983

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Handler  
Universitat Erlangen-Nurnberg  
Institut for Mathematische Maschinen  
U.Datenverarbeitung (III),  
Martensstrasse 3, 852 Erlangen

Dear Prof. Dr. Handler:

Enclosed is copy of the Computer Museum Report, a brochure on the museum, and a list of the current Founders of the museum. Today we have 200 Founders, and about 1000 Members.

The founder and membership program is described in the material, and I would like to invite you to join this important effort to preserve important artifacts. As one of the originators of the museum, I believe we have created a world class insitution.

Currently the museum has 6 Computer Pioneer Lectures each year and has preserved history on videotape from a range of speakers from Atanasoff to Zuse. In addition, we have about 20 talks each year. For example, Donald Davies talked on the Enigma last Sunday to an audience of 150. Of course, I'd also like to invite you to visit the museum, which is open every afternoon from Sunday to Friday.

I hope you can join me as a member of this institution. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President, Engineering

GB5.31

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+-----+

Subject: **Museum Project**

To: Dave Rockwell, MR1-2/S39

Date: April 12, 1979

From: Gordon Bell

Dept: OOD

Loc: ML12-1/A51   Ext: 223-2236

Thank you for the manuals. They are a nice addition to the museum.

GB:swh

October 19, 1981

Professor Murray Allen  
University of New South Wales  
Department of Computer Science  
P.O. Box 1  
Kensington, New South Wales  
AUSTRALIA

Dear Murray:

Sorry that I missed you on your visit to Boston this time, but very glad that you had the opportunity to visit the Museum. It has been a very rewarding project to work on with wonderful response to our requests for artifacts from all over the world. It is our intention to build the present collection to reflect the entire history of computing.

For personal and historic reasons we would be especially delighted to have the drum from the Deuce for our memory display. Among other things, we believe that it is important to show that not all computing and early developments were carried out in the United States.

Gwen mentioned that you had some kind of display of early computing. If appropriate, we could send you a logic register from the Whirlwind.

If you could get the drum to Max Burnet in the Sydney office, he will arrange to have it shipped to the Museum.

Do hope that I get a chance to see you on your next visit.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President, Engineering  
and Keeper  
Digital Computer Museum

GB3.S1.7

May 4, 1982

Professor Robert Stewart  
Head, Computer Science  
Iowa State University  
Ames, Iowa 50011

Dear Professor Stewart:

I saw John Lehmann at the Ninth Computer Architecture Conference and he said you were no longer operating Symbol and were looking for a new home for it. Let me urge you to give it to the Digital Computer Museum. The Museum is now a public foundation for the permanent preservation of important computer artifacts. I believe Symbol is important and we'd like to preserve it... and if at all possible, be able to demonstrate it.

As a separate issue, we're trying to get Atanasoff's drum either given or to be on a permanent loan to the Museum.

If you have questions and would like to discuss this, please call me anytime (work: 617-493-2236, or home: 493-3525) or write.

I hope you'll honor this request.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President,  
Engineering  
Keeper, Digital Computer Museum

cc: Dr. John Lehmann, National Science Foundation  
Dr. Gwen Bell, Digital Computer Museum

GB:mal  
GB3.S4.4

November 3, 1983

Doug Drane  
Drane Associates  
231 Boston Post Road  
Wayland, MA 01778

Dear Doug,

Am delighted to see that you're enthusiastic about the Museum and the images gallery. Oliver will be sending a draft of the design.

As soon as you have time, Gwen would like to start working on the videodisk experiment with you which we all find exciting.

I hope that you can contribute to the capital campaign this year. Enclosed is a Case Statement. The Museum would be happy to co-host a party with you and friends to introduce them to the Museum.

We enjoyed the interaction last night and look forward to more.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell  
Computer Museum Board Member

Enclosure

Doug Drane  
Drane Associates  
231 Boston Post Road  
Wayland, MA 01778

00 CORE DECGRAM ACCEPTED S 000354 O 46 03-NOV-82 8:52:07

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I n t e r o f f i c e M e m

TO: DIGITAL MUSEUM

DATE: WED 3 NOV 1982 8:42 AM

FROM: GORDON BELL

DEPT: ENG STAFF

EXT: 223-2236

LOC/MAIL STOP: ML12-1/A51

MESSAGE ID: 5180664510

SUBJECT: MANUALS, SOFTWARE AND AL PERLIS

Mike Fisher at Yale has a manual collection.

Al Perlis will give the talk next fall. Please arrange directly with him.

#### SOFTWARE

Al suggests a display of software manuscript like maps that you look at. He only says manuscripts, not listings.

He recommends Doug McIlroy, BTL to give history of assembly language, plus Wilkes (for first assembler), plus John Carr, plus Charles Adams. Charlie is really important in OS and in assembly language. We must talk with Gilmore on this one. It would include edsac, soap, sap and (soda... I described is a copy).

There's a history of compilers too. Al should start this one off.

Clearly McCarthy for lisp and allen Newell for IPL (the predecessor) as the beginning of ai.

#### IBM

He gave a good story about Watson going through a factory and seeing a light on a 604: the light said IDLE. Watson said change the light to READY.

I forgot to ask him for a copy of Perlis' Pearls. Am asking Jeff Rudy, who had them originally.

January 19, 1980

Robert Taylor  
2 The Poplars  
Gosfarth  
Newcastle Upon Tyne NE3 4AE  
ENGLAND

Dear Robert,

We really enjoyed talking to you in Newcastle and seeing the clock that you made.

This note is simply to confirm that we definitely would like you to make an operating replica of the Shickard machine. We expect that this will be highly crafted using the materials of the time. When you do it, any drawings or materials to exhibit with it illustrating the way it works would also be useful. We are convinced that your making this unique and significant artifact is important to do.

We are awaiting an estimate from you so that we can put the project into our budget planning process.

Do hope that you will have a most interesting New Year.

Cordially,

Gordon and Gwen Bell  
Digital Computer Museum

GB2.S1.22

March 31, 1981

Terd Jesse  
Central European Region  
Digital Equipment GmbH  
Wallensteinplatz 2  
D-8000 Munich 40  
WEST GERMANY

Dear Terd Jesse:

The result of our trip to Europe last November has been considerable growth of the Museum. Do hope that you get a chance to visit it sometime. I am sure that Gwen will make a special effort to show it off to you.

I am enclosing a copy of the correspondence that I have had with Siemens regarding the loan of a needle telegraph and parts of the 2002. We would really like to have these on a permanent loan basis, as I have stated.

But if this is impossible then we would still be interested in getting the materials for a year -- but would have to plan the timing with a special exhibit.

At present the Museum is still wholly a part of Digital Equipment Corporation. We are however working with the lawyers to create it as a non-profit museum that would be an industry-wide resource. We hope to have a good cooperative working arrangement with a number of folks in other companies in order to acquire and exhibit the most meaningful parts of our shared history.

I am also enclosing a letter for Dr. Konrad Zuse regarding the Z 11.

For your information our wish list from Siemens also includes one of the wartime code machines. We are having Tommy Flowers, who built the Colossus, the British code-breaking computer, come and talk in October.

If we could have a machine to show at that time, it would be incredible.

I find negotiations by letter quite difficult and then when the native language is different even worse. I do hope that it will not inconvenience you greatly to help with these matters.

Cordially,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President, Engineering  
Keeper, Digital Computer Museum

GB:swh  
GB2.S5.2  
Enclosures: (2)

January 26, 1981

Dr. Roberto A. Guatelli  
187 Lafayette Street  
New York, NY 10013

Dear Dr. Guatelli,

Thank you so much for making the Hollerith and Pascal machines. They are both beautiful. We will be sending you some pictures of the Hollerith and the way it is exhibited at the Museum. The small model of the Hollerith is in my office and I like having it, since Gwen can see the real machine every day at the Museum.

I do hope that you will be able to come to see the Museum someday. We were fortunate enough to acquire a nineteenth century model of a Jacquard loom made in France and showing the card-forwarding mechanism. In another year we hope to have a history of card computing completed.

Enclosed please find a check for the Pascal machine. Gwen and I are delighted to own this machine for our own collection. It is on display now as part of the calculator exhibit at the Museum.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President, Engineering  
Keeper, Digital Computer Museum

GB:swh  
GB2.S1.29

Enclosure - Check for the Pascal Machine - (\$3,500)

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* d i g i t a l \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

TO: DIGITAL MUSEUM  
EDT

DATE: TUE 18 MAY 1982 8:29 PM

cc: MARY JANE FORBES  
KEN OLSEN

FROM: GORDON BELL  
DEPT: ENG STAFF  
EXT: 223-2236  
LOC/MAIL STOP: ML12-1/A51

SUBJECT: GETTING SYMBOL FROM ROY ZINGG, IOWA STATE 515-294-8307

We talked. He's sending photos and some documentation.

I say go ahead and call him and have him send the machine:  
2x2x10 coffin shaped  
Burroughs paging disk (neat in itself)  
seperate core stack  
console built into a desk

He recommends we don't get:  
the power supply that goes under the computer... very heavy  
an L shape part of the desk that holds the card reader

Maybe we should get the card reader just to show the whole  
system. Getting it to run is NOT recommended as it is very  
unreliable.

We want this because:  
It was what Rex Rice used to research IC packaging in early 60's  
and it led to the dual in line pack... the standard for the next  
25 years.

It had a package for zero insertion force connectors

It was the First (and maybe only) true, language processor  
computer...an idea whose time has never yet come and probably  
won't.

They are still trying to get Clare Maple to give the drum to  
the Museum where there's real PR.

I told him to give JVA an honorary degree. What ever happened  
to the proposal to Wisconsin to give JJVA a degree?

Please contact and get SYMBOL here.

GB3.S5.39

Dear Heinz Nixdorf,

I was delighted to learn that Ken Olsen had requested that you give a talk at The Computer Museum.

The Computer Museum, dedicated to the preservation of the history of information processing, integrates its physical exhibitions with a program of lectures and gallery talks that expand on the conceptual ideas behind the machines, their software or early applications. A brochure of the Museum and copy of our latest quarterly The Computer Museum Report are enclosed.

You have an open invitation to give a lecture on a Thursday evening at your convenience. All that we request from you is that we have sufficient time to prepare an appropriate postcard invitation and fit it into our program. (We generally avoid the depths of winter and summer vacation periods.) This coming spring the speakers will be Gene Amdahl (on his machines before the 360), Grace Hopper (on the Harvard Mark I), Donald Davies (on early computing at The National Physical Laboratory), and Edward Teller (on early support and use computers at Los Alamos). I'm enclosing postcard invitation for the lecture by Herbert Grosch so you can get an idea of what we do. The lecture hall holds up to 600 people and we generally attract a large number from the Boston community and history buffs from afar.

These lectures also often provide a focus for amplifying our exhibit in relationship to the materials that the speaker is talking about. We would like to have some significant early artifacts, documentation, and photographs of your work for the permanent collection of the Museum.

Ken really started the Museum on his own -- with his good friend -- Bob Everett, from MITRE Corporation. He was extremely gracious in now turning the collection over to a "public foundation" for the creation of a new international museum. Ken and Digital Equipment Corporation continue to provide two-thirds of the support for the Museum. The reverse of that is that The Computer Museum must raise one-third of its support from individuals and the rest of the industry.

You are invited to become a Founder of The Computer Museum (\$250) and Nixdorf to become a Corporate Founder (\$2500) equalling one percent of Digital's annual contribution. You will see the first 15 Corporate Founders listed on the inside

back cover the the enclosed Report. Since publication,  
Fujitsu and The Ford Motor Company are also added to this list.

I hope that you will join us in these efforts,

Cordially,

Gwen Bell  
Director

October 23, 1984

Mr. Norman Winningstad, Chairman  
Chairman of the Board  
Floating Point Systems  
PO Box 23489  
Portland, Oregon 97223

Dear Norm:

Come to Boston on Monday, November 12 and join me and the Board for the private inauguration of The Computer Museum.

Today, I had lunch with Charlie Waite and we discussed the importance of introducing you and Floating Point Systems to the Museum at the beginning.

The Computer Museum is a world-class center for the preservation of the history of computing and exhibition of current innovations. I'm sure that you will personally want to be part of this project and make sure that the innovations of FPS will be appropriately preserved through artifacts, videotapes, lectures, etc.

A first-rate team has designed the exhibits, including Dr. Oliver Strimpel, curator of the Science Museum in London and Dr. Paul Ceruzzi, a young history of computing scholar. In addition to the exhibits with historical artifacts, two major interactive galleries are being built for PC's and on the Computer and the Image.

While a brochure describing our capital campaign and some reports are enclosed, they really don't show what we are: a startup and the product is ready to be shown on November 12th.

Let me urge you to come.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosures

CC: Charlie Waite

Mr. William Norris, Chairman  
Control Data Corporation  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Norris:

Thank you for the financial contribution and moral support that helped open the Museum on November 12.

Bob Chinn and John Lacey have been great supporters and were great emmisaries at the opening. The physical realization has turned out to be much more exciting than any plan could have communicated. The 10 year collecting period and five year breadboard at Digital really paid off in collecting artifacts, building exhibits, doing lectures (ranging from Amdahl to Zuse) and gaining widescale support from computer people and companies.

The next phase is aimed at:

- .getting broad public support from computer-knowledgeable people who want to learn more about the past, present and future,
- .collecting the archives and artifacts so that we have records of all the significant events in computing,
- .teaching of the staff, students, research associates, etc. so that we can begin to see payoff from those who have been part of the Museum, and
- .deciding on the next phase requiring a larger, standalone site.

I would like to invite you to come and give a Pioneer Lecture at the Museum. It would be videotaped and archived for use by the Museum, and of course, available to you. I hope this might also stimulate papers, a lecture series, or a book which we could all learn from. The choice of topic is yours. I have especially enjoyed the interaction with you and your employees; understanding more about Control Data's roots going back to ERA and your philosophy about management, enginnering, products and entrepreneurism would be very valuable to present and future generations of computer builders.

Again, thanks you for the support. I hope you can come and give a Pioneer Lecture.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

CC: Robert Price, Bob Chinn, John Lacey

25 November 1984

Dr. Robert Noyce, Vice Chairman  
Intel Corporation  
3065 Bowers Avenue  
Santa Clara, CA 95051

Dear Bob:

Thank you for the very generous gift to the Capital Campaign and the great moral support that helped open the Museum on November 12.

The physical realization has turned out to be much more exciting than any plan could have communicated. The staff made a very large "stretch" to open a range of galleries. The reviews have been positive and it is easy to spend a half day in productive learning. Knowledgeable teenagers are spending their days at the Museum. The most flattering comment to date has been that it is the first American technology museum to be at European standards. Dr. Oliver Strimpel, who did the Museum's Image Gallery has just become the Associative Director and Curator. Oliver was formerly the Curator of the Mathematics Section of The Science Museum, London. The long collecting period and five year breadboard at Digital really paid off in collecting artifacts, building exhibits, doing lectures (ranging from Amdahl to Zuse) and gaining widescale support from computer people and companies.

I want to see this phase aimed at:

- . putting a formal educational program in place,
- . continued collecting of artifacts (whether letters, films, manuals or machines) in order to record the significant, information processing events, and
- . getting broad public support from computer-knowledgeable people who want to learn more about the past and future history of computing.

I hope to visit Intel sometime the week of the 10th in order to learn about a next generation, Intel microprocessor from Les Vadesz.

Again, thanks for the support. Let me know when you are coming to town and can see your Museum. If you have time, Gwen and I would like to have dinner with you.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

December 14, 1983

Dr. Robert Noyce  
Vice Chairman of the Board  
Intel Corporation  
3065 Bowers Avenue  
Santa Clara, CA 95051

Dear Bob,

Thanks for the hospitality, interaction and comments on The Computer Museum. I am sorry that you don't have time to help in the fund raising, but I fully understand and support your need for a sabbatical.

Thanks for the suggestion of Gerald Piel--he is a founder. Also, we take to heart the need to make the museum live. Our model is the Science Museum, London; we'll try to do as well.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I wrote (to Andy Knowles) which argues for the support of the Museum.

I hope you can help recruit an intellectual and fund-raising leader for the integrated circuit collection and gallery. In addition to the current artifacts, we'll solicit ideas and artifacts throughout the industry and academe. We're doing this successfully now on an imaging gallery. We estimate this will cost approximately \$500,000.

We are holding Friday evening May 11, 1984, for your lecture on the origin of the integrated circuit which will kick off the gallery. This lecture and dinner will be the first use of the new space and be attended by members. The Museum Board meeting will be on Friday with another optional half day which focusses on the details of the exhibits.

It was nice to see you again and I hope that you can sign up and contribute in a significant way over these next 5 years.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell  
Chief Technical Officer  
& Computer Museum Board Member

Dr. Robert Noyce  
Vice Chairman of the Board  
Intel Corporation  
3065 Bowers Avenue  
Santa Clara, CA 95051

August 2, 1982

Dr. Alexander Shure  
President, New York Institute of Technology  
Old Westbury  
New York, 11568

Dear Dr. Shure:

It was a great honor to have you, Dr. Parke, the faculty and staff from the graphics laboratory at Marlboro last Friday. The entire audience was enthusiastic and very impressed with the effort at NYIT. I know that this took an extraordinary effort to put on and we certainly appreciated the presentation. As a museum director, I am also grateful for the gift of the photograph and videotapes.

Gwen and I were delighted that you could stop by on your return to the airport on Saturday so that we could discuss the various future aspects of computers and graphics in education.

Others from Digital will be contacting the members of your staff about buying systems for use in industrial design, for example. Also, I hope George Champine will present our product plans so that you may help define more useful future systems.

Again, thank you for the wonderful presents and presentations.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President of Engineering

CC:  
Gail Barrett  
Dr. Gwen Bell, The Computer Museum  
George Champine  
Dr. Fred Parke, NYIT

GB3.S6.46

June 2, 1982

Dr. Alexander Schure  
President, NYIT  
Tower House  
Northern Boulevard  
Old Westbury, New York 11568

Dear Dr. Schure:

Please accept my heartiest thanks to you and your staff for the technical presentations and the warm hospitality presented to me, Gwen and the other Digital engineers that accompanied us on Friday. It was indeed an honor to see the impressive work and to meet your staff, including Dr. Glenn.

New York Institute of Technology seems to me to be totally rare in regard to the way it is treating research and engineering because it produces a product. I believe product development is the best way to learn about engineering. According to my own model of the evolution of computing, universities should transfer research results in the form of programs, versus the more conventional forms of knowledge. Therefore, you are certainly one of the few institutions at this leading edge.

I showed the videotapes to our Operations Committee and will circulate them within our engineering groups, prior to placing them permanently in the Digital Computer Museum.

Again, thanks for the extraordinary hospitality, especially the 13 course dinner Friday evening. I look forward to having you and your staff visit us during SIGGRAPH in Boston.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President of Engineering

GB3.S5.11

CC: Bill Avery  
Gail Barrett  
George Champine  
Andy Knowles  
Bruce Laskin, NYIT



June 18, 1984

Mr. Paul Severino, President  
Interlan, Inc.  
3 Lyberty Way  
Westford, MA 01886

Dear Paul:

I was delighted to see you again at the Museum Pre-Preview party last month.

A first rate team is designing the exhibits, including Dr. Oliver Strimpel, curator of the Science Museum in London and Dr. Paul Ceruzzi, a young history of computing scholar. In addition to the exhibits with historical artifacts, two major interactive galleries are being built for PC's and on the computer and the image. This certainly is a major contribution. Predictions are that we should have attendance of over 200,000. The Museum should be a major attraction and asset for the Boston high-tech community.

Gwen and I are really excited about your participation by Etherneting the Museum. The enclosed brochure describes the Capital Campaign. Although you aren't public, I hope it will be possible to get some financial support for the opening, November 12:

1. Interlan's Foundership at \$2500. This must be in by July 1 when the founding period terminates or "core" membership in the Capital Campaign at the 4K level. Note that we still have about \$1M to raise for this opening. The Museum will be available for company functions.
2. becoming a personal founder at \$250.

I'll call you next week to discuss these details.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

October 4, 1984

P. J. Spillane  
Vice President  
Manufacturing and Technology  
Sperry Corporation  
1290 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10104

Dear Paul:

I'm enclosing a letter I wrote a year ago to justify the Museum. It might help your selling. The case is much stronger because it includes a public orientation through the image and other galleries now and in the future. Also, we hope to merge with the Boston computer Society to get much wider user support and an education program. Public oriented galleries are turning out to be very useful in uncovering and saving "priceless" object like the first paint machines, or the "first satellite image" etc. These are useful now in showing the principles through the evolution, but they will be really important and useful to future generations.

Gwen is sending a proposal for a \$25K per year support from Sperry, and I think we'll be able to show that on a quid pro quo basis, with 200K people per year, this will be worth it. But the main thing is that you have to have enough faith in our ability to make the first investment. DEC is the main supporter at \$600K per year and DG is giving \$25K per year... they are not known for giving, and this was sponsored by Ed DeCasto, who I worked with on the first minis.

We have not gone after funding in the large computer companies except to IBM because the priorities are to demonstrate competence... then we believe support will follow. Many small companies give lots of support in equipment, artifacts and "founder's stock". Note, that Bill Poduska, CEO of Appollo is the Museum's Chairman of the Board. IBM have moved very slowly and taken the position to be able to do something if we succeed, but to hope that we won't because they are pretty much committed to defining history. I estimate their internal effort on history and historical exhibits budgets to be at least twice that of the Museum. One of the main results to date has been an article, two books and an exhibit that proclaims the SSEC as the world's first computer that could operte on its own instructions, and hence the first computer. Our interface to IBM is at least good enough to be able to get artifacts.

Also, our board is made up of people who only serve for 4 years, and in this way we try to bring in support across the industry. I would like to invite you, Joe Kroger or Mr. Probst to serve on the board beginning in May. Also we'd like to interface to acquire objects you might discard.

I think Sperry's leadership now at \$25K per year will really make a difference. I hope you can make the sale.

Sinclerely,

Gordon Bell

bcc: Ed Feigenbaum

October 5, 1981

Mr. W. Van't Hoff  
N.V. Philips  
Elcoma Division  
5621 CT Eindhoven  
The Netherlands

Dear Mr. W. Van't Hoff:

Let me take this opportunity to thank you and your colleagues for the hospitality extended to me last week.

I especially enjoyed the interaction with you and your colleagues last Tuesday in Eindhoven. The discussion on the component insertion machine was stimulating. I also understand that we learned much more during the remainder of the week. I'm indebted to Mr. Frits Kunnen and Mr. Ed Vander Woude who escorted us through the impressive science and technology museum.

Ward McKenzie and I are working to arrange a meeting where we could explore:

1.  
Licensing of PDP-11 hardware and software for ELCOMA (and Signetics) products.

2.  
Interchanging chip level interfaces for micro systems.

I look forward to subsequent interaction with you and your colleagues.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President  
Engineering

GB3.S1.9

cc: Philips - Mr. G. Kunnen,  
Mr. E. Vander Woude  
Mr. C. Krijgsman

DEC - Henk Schalke  
Don Metzger  
Ward McKenzie

October 5, 1981

Dr. A. E. Pannenberg  
N.V. Philips  
5621 CT Eindhoven  
The Netherlands

Dear Dr. Pannenberg:

Let me take this opportunity to thank you and your colleagues for the hospitality extended to me last week in Eindhoven.

I enjoyed all aspects of the interaction:

1. Drs. K. Teer and H. Bosma of the research laboratory and their colleagues described work in computer systems and VLSI research. Also, I was able to introduce a view of computing in the '80's.

2.  
Mr. W. Van't Hoff of Elcoma presented an overview of their components. We had a very lively discussion when Mr. P. Sygall presented the design of a machine for placing components on printed wire boards. Also Mr. G. Kunnen escorted us through the impressive Philips' Museum.

3. Drs. Martin DeHaan presented the Digital Optical Recording system. I was particularly glad to see this work and placed an order with Mr. A. Dinkelo for an evaluation unit as soon as Philips can deliver the unit. Hopefully, we can get this unit in a timely fashion as your plans get more firm.

4.  
We would also like to obtain an early model of your 4" audio unit!

The visit was very worthwhile to me and others from Digital as it gave a view of a very sound and technologically oriented company. I'm glad we're beginning to work more closely with one another.

I look forward to subsequent interactions with you and your colleagues.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President,  
Engineering

GB:mal  
ID#GB3.S1.11

CC: Drs. K. Teer and H. Bosma, Philips Directors of Research

Mr. W. Van't Hoff, Philips Elcoma Div.  
Mr. A. Dinkelo, Philips Data Systems  
Mr. L. Heessels, Director of Research  
Mr. G. Kunnen, Philips Public Relations  
Henk Schalke  
Don Metzger  
Grant Saviers

September 25, 1981

Dr. John M. Murray  
Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering  
University of Colorado  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907

Dear Professor Murray:

I really appreciate your teaching of VLSI here and in Colorado Springs and hope to eventually take the course. Do you and your students use our facilities for various theses in this area? Please consider us when you do your technical and managerial sabbaticals.

Sorry that I missed you on your visit to Boston this time, but very glad that you had the opportunity visit the Museum. It has been a very rewarding project to work on with wonderful response to our requests for artifacts from all over the world. It is our intention to build the present collection to reflect the entire history of computing. For personal and historic reasons we would be especially delighted to have the drum from the Deuce for our memory display. Among other things, we believe that it is important to show that not all computing and early developments were carried out in the United States.

Gwen mentioned that you had some kind of display of early computing. If appropriate, we could send you a logic register from the Whirlwind.

Sincerely yours,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President,  
Engineering

cc: Lee Williams

GB:mal  
GB2.S8.17

5 May 1983

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Handler  
Universitat Erlangen-Nurnberg  
Institut for Mathematische Maschinen  
U.Datenverarbeitung (III),  
Martensstrasse 3, 852 Erlangen

Dear Prof. Dr. Handler:

I'm familiar with only a small portion of Prof. Burks' work, which I think clearly qualifies him for an honorary degree. Therefore, I am pleased to recommend him for an honorary doctorate from your institution.

I am not familiar with his work as a philosopher, which is outside my field, nor am I familiar with his work at Princeton after he left the University of Pennsylvania. Clearly the work with von Neumann and Goldstein, "Preliminary Discussion of the Logical Design of an Electronic Computing Instrument," is the classic paper on computers. In addition, Burks edited the book on von Neumann's automata which is a classic.

He was a pioneer on ENIAC, and most recently I have had occasion to hear Prof. Burks lecture on ENIAC at the Computer Museum, and read the paper in the Annals of the History of Computing by he and Mrs. Burks, "The ENIAC: First General Purpose Electronic Computer." Also he has edited a film on ENIAC for the Computer Museum. These works are important contributions to the History of Computing.

Thank you for permitting me to comment on his work, and let me urge you to grant him the honorary doctorate.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President, Engineering

GB5.30

25 November 1984

Mr. Regis McKenna,  
Regis McKenna  
Palo Alto, California

Dear Regis:

Thank you for the gift to the Capital Campaign and the moral support that helped open the Museum on November 12.

The physical realization has turned out to be much more exciting than any plan could have communicated. The staff made a very large "stretch" to open a range of galleries. The reviews have been positive and it is easy to spend a half day in productive learning. Knowledgeable teenagers are spending their days at the Museum. The most flattering comment to date has been that it is the first American technology museum to be at European standards. Dr. Oliver Strimpel, who did the Museum's Image Gallery has just become the Associative Director and Curator. Oliver was formerly the Curator of the Mathematics Section of The Science Museum, London. The long collecting period and five year breadboard at Digital really paid off in collecting artifacts, building exhibits, doing lectures (ranging from Amdahl to Zuse) and gaining widescale support from computer people and companies.

I want to see this phase aimed at:

- .putting a formal educational program in place,
- .continued collecting of artifacts (whether letters, films, manuals or machines) in order to record the significant, information processing events, and
- .getting broad public support from computer-knowledgeable people who want to learn more about the past and future history of computing.

Again, thanks for the support. Let me know when you are coming to town and can see your Museum. If you have time, Gwen and I would like to have dinner with you.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

March 31, 1981

Dr. Goetzeler  
Siemens Museum  
Postfach 103  
D-8000 Munchen 1  
WEST GERMANY

Dear Dr. Goetzeler:

Thank you for your very kind offer to loan some materials to the Digital Computer Museum. Our Museum is very new and dedicated to show the evolution and development of Digital Computers. Our intention is to represent significant artifacts from all sources, other corporations, university and laboratory developments, and works of individuals. We would like Siemens' cooperation in loaning some materials for permanent display, i.e., a renewable loan on a year by year basis. Is this possible?

Let me tell you about some other pieces we have recently acquired. Texas Instruments has given us the major components of one of their Advanced Scientific Computers. We have several cases of display on this machine. Brigham Young University gave us their IBM 7030 "Stretch" Computer. These two machines are the beginning of an exhibit of super computers that will also include the CDC 6600 and other large-scale machines for their generation.

We have the entire TX-0 from MIT on display. At the time this was thought to be the first transistorized machine. But since then we have learned of the Siemens' 2002 and Bell Labs' Leprechaun (both of which are of the same period). Bell Lab's is helping us develop a display of the Leprechaun and the Siemens' 2002 would round out this exhibit of the "first" transistorized computers.

The needle-telegraph is of interest for a display that we will develop on the evolution of input-output devices. I also acquired a Siemens printing telegraph from an antique dealer in London for this exhibit. More recent devices include various teletypes hooked up with computers.

On March 5, Dr. Konrad Zuse, gave a lecture at the Museum on his early computers. On viewing the Museum, he felt that it would be very appropriate to include a Z 11. As a result he has contacted Fa.Siemens AG in Bad Hersfeld regarding a Z 11. We would be very interested in one for our exhibit of first generation computing. The Whirlwind and all existing components of the Atanasoff-Berry Computer are now on display.

A copy of this letter is being sent to Terd Jesse in Digital's Munich office. He will be able to help facilitate these issues.

Thank you very much for your cooperation. I do hope that you have the opportunity to visit our Museum and see these items for your yourself. I am sending you our last newsletter and will put you on the mailing list to receive further information about it. We will, of course, feature the loan of your materials in our newsletter which is widely circulated.

Cordially,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President, Engineering  
Keeper, Digital Computer Museum

GB:swh  
GB2.S5.3

Enclosure - Letter to Terd Jesse  
Museum Newsletter

Dr. Goetzeler  
March 31, 1981

1

Dr. Goetzeler  
Siemens Museum  
Postfach 103  
D-8000 Munchen 1  
WEST GERMANY

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Cordially,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President, Engineering  
Keeper, Digital Computer Museum

GB:swh  
GB2.S5.3

Enclosure - Letter to Terd Jesse  
Museum Newsletter

15 November 1982

Dr. William F. Miller, President  
Stanford Research Institute International  
333 Ravenswood Avenue  
Menlo Park, California 94025

Dear Bill:

Please accept my thanks to you and your colleagues at SRI for organizing the visit on Tuesday 9, November by the Alpha Omega site visiting group. As you might have predicted, we were most impressed by the Palo Alto area for a site. Clearly we were all impressed by the scope and quality of the SRI work and presentations.

We are progressing relatively rapidly in trying to define the work and select the site. It was really important to have these visits in order to begin to understand the scope and need for research, especially in the AI and Knowledge Engineering areas.

I was delighted to hear that Shaky still exists there, and again I would like to invite SRI to become a founder of the Computer Museum.

I sincerely hope SRI can provide its landmark computing artifacts that have been pioneered there to the museum either as a gift or on an indefinite loan basis. Nils offered to put together a committee to collect the artifacts for us. In the event you're concerned about the care of the objects, the museum is completely public and has a distinguished board. Also, I invite you or any member of SRI to visit the museum at any time.

Again, thanks for the fine hospitality. I look forward to a continued relationship.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President of Engineering  
Chairman, Alpha-Omega Steering Committee

CC:  
Nils J. Nilsson

GB3.S8.43

Mr. Stan Olsen Cynosure

Dear Stan and Betty:

Thank you for the gift to The Capital Campaign and moral support that helped open the Museum on November 12.

The physical realization has turned out to be much more exciting than any plan could have communicated. The staff made a very large "stretch" to open a range of galleries. The reviews have been positive and it is easy to spend a half day in productive learning. Knowledgeable teenagers are spending their days at the Museum. The most flattering comment to date has been that it is the first American technology museum to be at European standards. Dr. Oliver Strimpel, who did the Museum's Image Gallery has just become the Associative Director and Curator. Oliver was formerly the Curator of the Mathematics Section of The Science Museum, London. The long collecting period and five year breadboard at Digital really paid off in collecting artifacts, building exhibits, doing lectures (ranging from Amdahl to Zuse) and gaining widescale support from computer people and companies.

I want to see this phase aimed at:

- . putting a formal educational program in place,
- . continued collecting of artifacts (whether letters, films, manuals or machines) in order to record the significant, information processing events, and
- . getting broad public support from computer-knowledgeable people who want to learn more about the past and future history of computing.

If you talk to Bill Dobbelle, we would sure like to get the artificial eye artifacts.

Again, thanks for the support. Please let us know when you can come for a personal tour and dinner.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

November 25, 1984

Mr. Steve Jobs, Chairman  
Apple Computer Corporation  
10260 Bandley Drive  
Cupertino, CA 95014

Dear Steve:

Thank you for the gift of the Macs and Lisas and the moral support that helped open the Museum on November 12.

The physical realization has turned out to be much more exciting than any plan could have communicated. The staff made a very large "stretch" to open a range of galleries. The reviews have been positive and it is easy to spend a half day in productive learning. Knowledgeable teenagers are spending their days at the Museum. The most flattering comment to date has been that it is the first American technology museum to be at European standards. Dr. Oliver Strimpel, who did the Museum's Image Gallery has just become the Associative Director and Curator. Oliver was formerly the Curator of the Mathematics Section of The Science Museum, London. The long collecting period and five year breadboard at Digital really paid off in collecting artifacts, building exhibits, doing lectures (ranging from Amdahl to Zuse) and gaining widescale support from computer people and companies.

I want to see this phase aimed at:

- .putting a formal educational program in place,
- .continued collecting of artifacts (whether letters, films, manuals or machines) in order to record the significant, information processing events, and
- .getting broad public support from computer-knowledgeable people who want to learn more about the past and future history of computing.

Again, thanks for the support.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

CC: Wayne Rosing

June 18, 1984

Mr. Steve Swerling  
Vice President of Engineering  
Mentor Graphics  
8500 SW Creekside Place  
Beaverton, Oregon 97005

Dear Steve:

I was delighted that you could come to the Museum Pre-Preview party last month.

A first rate team is designing the exhibits, including Dr. Oliver Strimpel, curator of the Science Museum in London and Dr. Paul Ceruzzi, a young history of computing scholar. In addition to the exhibits with historical artifacts, two major interactive galleries are being built for PC's and on the computer and the image. Gwen is really excited about your participation with Apollo in the Computer and the Image Gallery. Predictions are that we should have attendance of over 200,000. The Museum should be a major attraction and asset for the high-tech community.

The enclosed brochure describes the Capital Campaign. Now I want to enlist your support for the opening, November 12:

1. Mentor's "core" membership in the Capital Campaign at the 4K level. Note that we still have about \$1M to raise for this opening. The Museum will be available for company functions.

2. your personal "core" membership.

I'll call you next week to discuss these needs, or if possible I hope we can meet at the Museum. If anyone else from Mentor is coming to Boston soon, they can visit it too.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosure

June 18, 1984

Dr. Steve Yau, Editor  
Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science  
Northwestern University  
Evanston, Illinois 60201

Dear Steve:

Enclosed is the latest quarterly Museum Report with two articles by Evans on IBM, and Gordon on Eckert (and to some extent, early Univac). I think they give exceptional insight on the subjects that I have never seen written.

Given the limited circulation of the Report, may I urge you to publish both articles in the November centennial issue and make what is a potentially good issue, more complete and great?

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

CC: Bob O. Evans  
Bernard Gordon

June 18, 1984

Mr. Russell Noftsker, President  
Symbolics Inc.  
4 Cambridge Center  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142

Dear Russell:

We at the Museum (Gwen, Oliver and I) enjoyed the dinner with all of you from Symbolics last Wednesday.

Your great offer of a machine will really help make the image gallery fly. The designers are excited and are planning the gallery now. The museum needs to firm up all the details (power, HVAC, space, demos and interactions) now so that it can be appropriately included in the storyline. Oliver Strimpel will contact Bob to get this started. Due to the proximity, we don't need a machine until one month before the November 12 opening.

At that time, we can also get the details on photographing the Jacquard weaving so that it can be digitized and distributed in your image library.

I would like to invite Symbolics to become a corporate founder at \$2500. I also hope you and your wife will consider becoming founders at \$250. Although the offer to become a founder closes on July 1, after a two-year period, I assure you our interest in your becoming members and supporters will not diminish.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

CC: Bob Lamkin  
Oliver Strempe

d	i	g	i	t	a	l
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i n t e r o f f i c e  
m e m o r a n d u m

SUBJ: Thank You

TO: Gladys Pannell

Date: 1/22/80

From: Gordon Bell

Dept: OOD

MS: ML12-1/A51 Ext:

223-2236

EMS: @CORE

Your Underwood Typewriter is a welcome addition to our collection. Sometime in the future we hope to have an exhibit of typewriters through the years--yours will be an important part of that exhibit.

In the short term, Mary Jane is putting together for the ML12 lobby showcase equipment the office used in the 1910 to 1930 era, and she plans to use this typewriter.

Thank you for contributing to this project.

7 April 1983

Dr. Larry D. Tice  
790 Wellington Ave., Suite #206A  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501

Dear Dr. Tice:

Enclosed is a better picture of the museum's logo, which is a core memory plane. It might be a suitable logo for a neurologist too since the function of each of the cores (donut shaped devices) is to store one bit of information. The core memory operates to store a set of bits (or a word - usually a set of 16-64 bits) by having a set of bit planes all stacked together forming a 3 dimensional structure. Before its extinction circa 1980, the state of the art was to have each plane be a square, 128 by 128 array of 16384 bits. Thus a whole memory stack contained 1/4 to 1 million bits.

Thanks for the help in Grand Junction. The medical staff at St. Anthony's was superb. I'm recovering rapidly and painlessly, and look forward to returning to work in May. I'm able to use my word processor and communicate with the office via electronic mail. For the last week, I've had office visitors for a couple of hours each day.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President of Engineering

GB5.5

June 18, 1984

Mr. Thomas Perkins  
Kleiner, Perkins, Caufield and Byers  
1 Embarcadero Place  
San Francisco, California

Dear Tom:

Enclosed is a brochure on The Computer Museum which describes the plan for opening the Museum in downtown Boston in November. We believe that the Museum will draw 200,000 people annually. Since the Museum is both international and industry wide, including everything from semiconductors to computer users, we are anxious for wide-scale participation.

I hope you will take this opportunity to lead in getting participation within the financial community by becoming a founder and "core" supporter.

Given the important roles that you as the leading venture capital company has played in the industry formation, I would like to urge you to become a Corporate Founder too. Since the founding period closes July 1, a letter of intent or phone call would suffice to meet the deadline.

When you're in Boston, I hope you'll stop by the Museum, even in its current state of being prepared to be opened so that I can give you a tour.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosure

Dear friends:

I rejoined Digital in 1972 to be more relevant to real versus academic computer engineering and to sponsor the establishment of LSI and VLSI engineering; to enhance the 11 so that it would be competitive in the 80's; and to encourage longer term, higher quality products.

Over the last 11 years, I have enjoyed working with what I believe is now one of the world's best engineering organizations- as measured by technical leaders, managers and products. Leading and helping build this organization has been the most exciting project I've ever worked on. It is this group who has built the great products to feed the company. It is also why I think Digital is number two in computing.

As a major bonus, we have also established a computing environment which I think is both impenetrable competitively, and yet flexible enough to build on for the succeeding 5th and 6th computer generations. This structure should last for at least a decade!

The only work remaining to attain the environment is significant VAX-based workstations and special function servers, both of which are well under way.

There you have it- an incredible base of engineers and an architecture that no one can touch. We are of a size that will probably require some organizational changes for better responsiveness, market coupling and easier management. Yet, there's still need for overall leadership and architecture; again, I think the engineering organization has these people. There's no reason to think that with all these assets, Digital can not continue being number two, while giving number one a real race. I'm leaving Digital in good hands.

Now, I need a change. I am going to try something entrepreneurial, at a different scale and in a different fashion.

I have enjoyed being here and want to remain friends with all of you. I hope to see you in the future... perhaps at some ecumenical place such as the Computer Museum.

Sincerely,

Gordon  
18 July 1983

Senator Paul Tsongas  
U. S. Senator, Massachusetts  
JFK Building  
Boston, MA 02203

8 June 1982

Dear Senator Tsongas:

I've written and enclosed comments on your recent Globe Editorial and a speech on protecting high technology industries.

CDC is spearheading an effort to form a research consortium to be able to produce products to compete with the Fifth Computer Generation Research Program. The Semiconductor Research Consortium (SRC), part of the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA), is aimed at regaining the lead in semiconductors. As a member of both groups, I'd like to communicate needs where I think we could use your support to influence government policy. For now, I'd like your help to get:

one, high level government person with the responsibility for seeing that we have a healthy computer industry;

a decent, continuous report on the status of our industry including the base infrastructure and imports/exports;

a continuous assessment of the Japanese industry, and;

continuous, translations of research results and an analysis of data gathered from various sources on Japan.

Most of all, we need a supportive government together with a major funding and administrative commitment to see that the Information Processing Industry thrives. Since most of us believe that computing is the basis of the Second Industrial Revolution, it is imperative that we master it. Support should take the form of a national program and include collaborative research similar to the Japanese.

I believe you are right in sensing that we can end up like Lowell in the 40's and 50's. Right now, I don't see how this can be avoided, given our system of: individuals, society, companies, industry infrastructure, government, and the detailed Japanese program to dominate the information processing industry by '90! In this regard, I've attached one page, entitled "The Japanese Advantage: Is It Real?". I urge you to carry it with you and look at it every week or so.

In two weeks I'm visiting Japan to observe what changes have taken place since my last visit four years ago. A paper on this trip is enclosed.

Please feel free to contact me at any time (work: 617-493-2236, or home: 493-3525) if you want to discuss this vital subject.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President of Engineering, Digital Equipment Corporation  
Keeper, Digital Computer Museum  
Professor, on leave, Carnegie Mellon University

GB3.S5.16

4 October 1982

Senator Paul Tsongas  
U. S. Senator, Massachusetts  
JFK Building  
Boston, MA 02203

Dear Senator Tsongas:

I enjoyed your speech at the MIT Symposium on Lifelong Education, on 2 October, and generally agree with the prescriptions, including the need for government involvement and getting an industrial policy that includes coupling with military technology, needs and constraints.

There are subtleties (paradoxes) about funding high technology:

More basic research without coupling the corresponding technology development is likely to put the U. S. in a worse position because the Japanese are better coupled to research than U. S. industry. I pointed this out in a recent letter to you. Note that I am very encouraged by the formation of MCC. Recall that MCC, Microelectronics and Computer Company, is the research consortia that Control Data has spearheaded. We are a member and I am personally driving the definition of a research program in Sixth Generation Computers. I'm talking to all levels of DARPA.

Venture Capital may not be the panacea for high technology. In the late 60's a whole cadre of companies formed to exploit integrated circuits for building minicomputers, including: American Data Systems, ASI, Bailey, BASIC, BTI, Cincinnati Milicron, Collins, Computer Automation, Comtem, Data Machine Inc., Datacraft, Data General, Digital Computer Controls, Digital Scientific, EAI, Electronic Processors, Fourphase, Foxboro, General Automation, HP, Interdata... etc. In contrast, Japan's traditional companies: Fujitsu, Hitachi, Mitsubishi, Nippon Electric, Panasonic, Toshiba had or were given monopolistic positions and moved slowly but surely to improve their technology and products. A similar picture exists for personal computers, semiconductors, and all kinds of disk manufacturers.

Note the newly formed minicomputer companies were NOT HIGH TECHNOLOGY, but were simply exploiting the available technology to make a few millionaires and a few computers. NO SIGNIFICANT IDEAS OR TECHNOLOGY CAME FROM ONE OF THESE COMPANIES, NOR DID ANY ONE OF THEM REACH A SIGNIFICANT POSITION AS A SUPPLIER! All are now defunct, part of a

larger computer company, or struggling to supply computers to its captive, but fixed, small customer base. They simply do not have the intellectual base to progress.

Senator Paul Tsongas  
Page 2  
4 October 1982

The Japanese approach to building an impenetrable position based on a foundation of science and engineering is finally paying off. Venture Capital may just be one more facet of our whole culture and why I believe the Japanese have the world's strongest engineering force. So before you have us put more money in Venture Capital, please let's understand it better... and like all good ideas, it has limits. Remember TANSTAAFL\*!

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President of Engineering  
Professor of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering,  
Carnegie-Mellon University (on leave)  
Curator, The Computer Museum

cc:  
Ken Olsen

\*There Ain't No Such Thing As A Free Lunch

July 23, 1979

Professor M.V. Wilkes  
Head of Department  
University of Cambridge  
Computer Laboratory  
Corn Exchange Street  
Cambridge CB2 3QG

Dear Maurice:

Thanks for the Independence Day letter. I am circulating your paper on the Local Area Communication Network. We too are interested in this and share your belief that these structures are going to be really important.

I hope Bill Strecker will be able to get to Cambridge in the near future.

As for suggestions as to what you might do on retirement, I think it would be desirable to talk with us about possibilities here. I have discussed this with Jim Bell, who heads our Research and Advance Development group and he would be happy to talk with you about these possibilities. He also knows about all the advanced development projects within DEC. At any rate, I think you should plan to spend a few days here when you are in the U.S. so we can explore these.

I don't know how much interest you have in the historical aspects of computing, but if you come here, you might be interested in collaborating on the DEC Museum Project I've been working on. This project includes exhibits of Whirlwind; TX-0 (which we hope to get operational); a reasonably complete set of pre-computing objects that calculate; four generations of logic and memory; the LINC based computers; each of our first computers, PDP-1; the PDP-8; and an exhibit of artifacts from each of our own computers.

In addition to this permanent part, I believe we will have special exhibits and hope to use the artifacts as a place/reason to have a set of lectures on early computing. Several series are envisioned, if possible, a series of these lectures would form a book. Of course, one such series would include your work. As soon as we have an idea of when we will have the exhibits complete, I will write you. For now, I think it is safer to ask you to visit here when convenient so as to discuss the possibilities.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell  
Vice President,  
Engineering

GB:swh  
GB0004/21

CC: Jim Bell - Digital

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July 10, 1984

Mr. V. A. Vyssotsky  
Bell Telephone Laboratories, Inc.  
Room 20563  
600 Mountain Avenue  
Murray Hill, NJ 07974

Dear Vic:

The Computer Museum is opening in downtown Boston on November 14 after operating successfully for five years within a Digital Equipment Corporation building, the last two as a non-profit, public Museum. The Museum wants AT&T to become a major supporter!

A first-rate team is designing the exhibits, including Dr. Oliver Strimpel, curator of the Science Museum in London and Dr. Paul Ceruzzi, a young history of computing scholar. In addition to the exhibits with historical artifacts, two major interactive galleries are being built for PC's and on the Computer and the Image. Predictions are that we should have attendance of over 200,000. This world-class, international Museum should be a major attraction and asset for the computing community. The enclosed brochure describes the Capital Campaign, and several reports give an idea of the Museum's activities.

The Museum has started communicating with the AT&T Foundation. Bob Everett asked Robert Lucky to help, who in turn sent the request to Ms. Esther Novack, Vice President of Cultural Programs. In talking to Ms. Novack, the Museum fits within the Foundation's frame of reference, but she needs to understand how The Computer Museum would benefit AT&T. Now I want to enlist your support to:

1. work with us to prepare an appropriate proposal to the Foundation. As AT&T becomes a significant computer supplier, it will increasingly benefit from The Computer Museum. George Stibitz was one of our first speakers and would like to contribute in a major way, but never reaped many rewards from his contributions to computing and as he said in his last letter, is facing one or two lingering illnesses. He has given many of his papers, made the Museum a model of his first relay adder, and when he can, he comes to Museum functions on the bus from Dartmouth. We show the first transistor and need to incorporate software more prominently in our exhibits.

AT&T might want to name a lecture series recording its contributions which have benefitted computing including:

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programming, UNIX, C, speech and music, graphics, semiconductor technology, communications etc. We also want critical artifacts for the collection and the possibility of assigning this important function to us. We continue to need an unlimited supply of working computers for various exhibits.

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We are looking for a complete, AT&T sponsored package that would amount to \$400,000 or \$100,000 per year. DEC gives \$600,000 per year!

2. become a personal "core" contributor (\$4K over 4 years) or foundership, (\$250); (The founding period is just closing.)

3. contribute your own important artifacts; (The Museum will act as a repository for things that would otherwise be forced to be scrapped.)

4. give a lecture at the museum.

I will call you to discuss these activities and how we can be responsive to AT&T's needs. Even though it's not open, I'd be honored to give you a tour and a meal. I hope we can do this at the August Wang Board meeting. (Note, we just got Dr. Wang on the board.)

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosures  
GB13.45

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July 10, 1984

Dr. W. O. Baker  
Spring Valley Road  
Morristown, New Jersey 07960

Dear Dr. Baker:

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I will call you to discuss these activities and how we can be responsive to AT&T's needs. Even though it's not open, I'd be honored to give you a tour and a meal on your next trip to Boston.

Sincerely,

Gordon Bell

Enclosures  
GB13.49

I wrote this letter in response to the following probe:

"If we invested money in the future rather than the past, then what?"

Each time I invest "in the past" -- it has future payoff.

When I left DEC and went to Carnegie in 1966, Allen Newell and I collected artifacts from past machines to build theories. This resulted in a book, Computer Structures, that influenced at least two generations of computer architects. I can remember inventing the concepts of the DEC Unibus and general registers by building an encompassing theory of past structures.

Some of VAX grew out of a knowledge of the past. When I returned to Digital in 1972, I knew the truth of the statement: "Those who forget history are doomed to repeat it." I now see the semicomputer companies repeating history as they build microcomputers. We pay dearly for this education.

One of my main goals at Digital was to build an engineering group who stayed at the cutting edge. This required understanding other views, including history. I started close associations with Universities (who fundamentally teach history), then put together the book, Computer Engineering, a ready-reference to Digital's computer evolution, and finally helped establish The Computer Museum right in the middle of an engineering/marketing area of DEC. Although The Computer Museum left, I hope that DEC keeps their own collection of historic machines on display.

I am not alone in this approach. After Fred Brooks led the software team on the IBM 360, he generalized his experience in The Mythical Man Month, a required book for many engineering students. It is a classic on the nature of organizations and work, especially with regard to large software developments. Neither Fred Brooks or I write books as history, but rather as fundamental understanding.

The Computer Museum is constructed to help understand the evolution of computing. Computer Generations, marking technological time, are the main organizing principle. Each generation's new technologies, startup companies, and new products are listed and displayed. At the beginning of the third generation, over 100 minicomputer startups are recorded--with at most, 7 winners. Now the fourth shows a similar pattern for micro-based companies. Analyzing winners, losers, and also-rans provides some insight on what is happening today. This is being published soon in Computer Magazine.

Often, when I visit the museum, I get insight relevant to a current problem. For example, while looking at the Honeywell 116, a very early IC machine, ideas jelled about board size, pins and function. Remember that all of the micros are repeating, for the third time, the time worn memory management evolution path that began in 1960 with Atlas, which we followed with the DECSYSTEM 10 in the 60's, and then again with minis in the early 70's. IBM travelled a similar path.

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Davies of England's National Physical Laboratory. Asked if they got anything from it; they replied that they were going to use some of the ideas on setting secure codes for the school's computer. I continue to get statements from my friends in the U. K. when we tour the galleries together about how the Science Museum turned them on to science and technology. And now I see it at The Computer Museum. Recently, four very bright kids from a New Hampshire prep school spent three hours trying to find out everything they could about computers.

Andy Van Dam, Professor of Computer Science at Brown illustrated the importance of learning from the past in a wonderful two hour lecture composed of about 20 films on computer graphics. Twice he noted how viewing these historic films had moved him and others to action. I'll even conjecture that if these films of a mouse controlled computer from the early sixties had been shown more widely, then this kind of human interface would have evolved more rapidly. One of DEC's CAD managers remarked that the modern work is better, but NOT that much better considering 20 years has gone by. But no place has existed where the objects, films and programs of the past were available. Bernard Gordon gave a recent lecture on Eckert, and Bob O. Evans presented the clearest, cogent overview of IBM and its products that I have ever seen. These were archived and included in the Museum Report. The Computer Museum provides this for the generations of engineers, programmers, artists, and hackers who will make history.

In the fall of 1970, when The Computer Museum took its first non-DEC donation, we decided it was necessary to be industry-wide and international. IBM invests a great deal and does an excellent job of preserving its artifacts. Their recent, excellent exhibit at 590 Madison Avenue claimed their SSEC was the first stored program computer, while omitting Eniac, used as a stored program interpreter, and the English efforts to whom the international community usually give the credit. SSEC had many "firsts" and is usually overlooked by the historians. The episode demonstrates the need for a very broad view because there were several "first computers." The Computer Museum provides the story of all the companies and all nationalities, not just the big ones, but the wide range of people, ideas and companies that made the world's most exciting industrial adventure.

Museum's are the ultimate in the future: they provide immortality of all kinds. Look at baseball club owners supporting the Hall of Fame as well as training camps, or the Corning Glass Museum next to the Steuben factory which millions have visited. The PDP-1 playing Spacewar in Museum elevates it to its appropriate fame as the first interactive computer game. Lawyers come there and prove that all the war game ideas existed in 1961-2: this keeps many games in the public domain--and you with more companies to venture in. Just last month, the LINC demonstrated prior art on a Digital Oscilloscope patent. At The Computer Museum: the Apollo computer that went to the moon, the Altair (an early home computer with a company now hardly in existence), MIT's Whirlwind, and the display of the Noyce patent for the integrated circuit, all pay homage to seminal efforts. The Computer Museum provides stature to a 100 billion dollar industry, surely we can afford it?

The Museum in Boston is being made more contemporary to address a wider audience. For example, a major exhibition on The Computer And The Image is being built by the computer section curator of The (British) Science Museum. It will let the public and specialized or non-technical computer professionals into some of the "secrets" of computer graphics in the big machines behind animation, landsat analysis and real time simulation. The Museum will bring to the public a view inside the industry to help de-mystify it and improve what is called computer literacy.

It's not an either/or choice between supporting the past and future. Tradeoffs between supporting, understanding, and preservation at the Museum versus many other lines on a corporate P&L including engineering, marketing, PR, sales, the library, personnel, corporate relations or the hidden lines that buy all the memorabilia to make everyone feel good for an instant. (It may be fitting that the four battery operated clocks given to me while at DEC have now stopped.) Or on a personal level between investments, tax shelters, luxury consumer items, or other giving.

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With proper support, the Computer Museum will be added to the life list of great science and technology museums that every scientist and engineer must visit... along with the non-technical public.

The Computer Museum is a pleasant club; friends meet there -- including machines and people -- and enjoy companionship while learning. Mitch Kapor, the young founder of Lotus is on our board and supports it along with about 1500 others from Gene Amdahl to Konrad Zuse. You may have different tastes but its a club to me and a number of others where we meet sociably and unlike other clubs, the "dues" are totally tax deductible. The Museum can do right in the long run, doesn't really have to make deadlines. But right now, I hope that you will agree with me, that we must reopen on November 12!

Can I have your support to make this world class museum even better?

Gordon Bell  
5/17/84

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