

MS-373

National Cash Register (NCR) Collection

**Special Collections and Archives
Wright State University Libraries**

**Processed by:
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March 2008**

Introduction

The National Cash Register Collection was given to Wright State University Special Collections and Archives by Professor Carl Becker in 1990s. The collection was donated to the archives because of the strong connection between NCR and Wright State University. Two former NCR CEO's, Stanley C. Allyn and Robert S. Oelman, contributed to the founding of Wright State University and are the men for whom Allyn Hall and Oelman Hall are named.

The collection includes annual reports, product literature, photographs, and lantern slides. The collection also contains a 1984 centennial history of the company and a 1944 tribute to founder John H. Patterson.

The National Cash Register collection dates between 1897 and 1984.

There are no restrictions on the use of the National Cash Register Collection.

The National Cash Register Collection is organized into 3 series:

- Series I: NCR Publications
- Series II: NCR Product Literature
- Series III: NCR Photographs & Slides

Organizational Sketch

In 1884 John H. Patterson and his brother Frank J. Patterson founded the National Cash Register Company (NCR) when they purchased the National Manufacturing Company of Dayton, Ohio, which produced the first mechanical cash registers invented by James Ritty in 1879. Under the leadership of John H. Patterson, NCR became one of the first modern American companies, introducing new, aggressive sales methods and business techniques, and a comprehensive social welfare program for its factory workers.

Significant events in NCR's first century include: the establishment of the first sales training school in 1893; the creation of the first electric powered cash register invented by Charles Kettering in 1906; being found guilty of violating the Sherman Antitrust Act in 1912 and acquitted in 1915; becoming a publically owned company in 1926; the acquisition of Computer Research Corporation in 1953; the introduction of their first transistor-based computer in 1957; and the introduction of MICR (Magnetic Ink Character Recognition) in the 1950s.

During its first century NCR was also concerned with the welfare of its employees, the city of Dayton, and the nation. In the 1890s company benefits for employees included hot lunches, a glass factory to improve lighting and ventilation, baths, showers, exercise programs, and social and professional clubs. During the 1913 Dayton flood the company built flat-bottomed boats, erected a tent city for the homeless, and dispensed food and medical care to the city's residents. During World War I the company built shell fuses and aircraft instrumentation and during World War II it built aero-engines, bomb sights, and code-breaking machines including the American Bombe designed by Dayton's Joseph Desch. NCR was also a strong supporter of the "Beautiful City" program.

Since 1984 NCR has become a technology company specializing in point-of-sale terminals, automatic teller machines, check processing systems, and barcode scanners. The company is also one of the largest providers of IT maintenance support services. NCR was acquired by AT&T in 1991, but became an independent company again in 1997. Today NCR is still an important Dayton company with over 25,000 employees worldwide generating over \$6 trillion in revenue.

Scope and Content Note

The National Cash Register Collection documents the history of an important manufacturing firm in Dayton, Ohio from its beginnings in 1884 up to its centennial in 1984. Through this collection, researchers can follow the financial evolution of the company, view many of the products it produced in the first hundred years, and gain insight into the effect the company had on its neighborhood.

Series I: NCR Publications

The NCR publications include the Annual Reports of the National Cash Register Company from 1931 to 1982. Series I also contains a Centennial History (1884-1984) published in 1984 and a tribute to founder John H. Patterson delivered on the hundredth anniversary of his birth, December 13, 1944.

Series II: NCR Product Literature

The product literature includes sales brochures for various models of cash registers, accounting files, and switchboard machines produced by the National Cash Register Company between 1884 and 1984.

Series III: NCR Photographs & Slides

Photographs (3) of the interior of the National Cash Register buildings in Dayton, Ohio and Lantern slides (12) of the neighborhood surrounding the National Cash Register Company in Dayton, Ohio.

Container Listing

Series: I NCR Publications

Box	File	Item	Date
1	1	Annual Reports	1931-1939
	2	Annual Reports	1940-1949
	3	Annual Reports	1950-1954
	4	Annual Reports	1955-1959
	5	Annual Reports	1960-1964
	6	Annual Reports	1965-1969
	7	Annual Reports	1970-1974
	8	Annual Reports	1975-1979
	9	Annual Reports	1980-1982
2	1	Centennial History	1884-1984
	2	John H Patterson Centennial Tribute	1944

Series II: NCR Product Literature

2	3	Cash Register Models 81 thru 942	Undated
	4	Cash Register Models 1090 thru 5366	Undated
	5	Cash Register Models 6024 thru 7230	Undated
	6	Cash Register Models 21 thru 61	Undated
	7	Telephone Switchboard, Account Files, Misc	Undated
	8	Cash Register Picture Cards	Undated

Series III: NCR Photographs & Slides

2	9	Photographs (3) – NCR Buildings	1899-1900
3	1	Lantern Slide - School Garden near NCR	Undated
	2	Lantern Slide - School Garden near NCR	Undated
	3	Lantern Slide - The “City Beautiful” Idea	Undated
	4	Lantern Slide - A boulevard near NCR	Undated
	5	Lantern Slide - Beautiful streets near NCR	Undated
	6	Lantern Slide - Along railroad entering Dayton	Undated
	7	Lantern Slide - An artistic porch	Undated
	8	Lantern Slide - Hills & Dales	Undated
	9	Lantern Slide - Along railroad entering Dayton	Undated
	10	Lantern Slide - NCR employee home garden	Undated
	11	Lantern Slide - Hills & Dales	Undated
	12	Lantern Slide - “Round Camp” in Hills & Dales	Undated