Perham Foundation Records

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2019
Descriptive Summary

Title: Perham Foundation Records
Dates: 1968-2003
Collection Number: 2003-39
Creator/Collector: Perham Foundation; Foothill Electronics Museum
Extent: Approximately 25 linear feet (36 boxes)
Online items available: https://historysanjose.pastperfectonline.com/
Repository: History San Jose Research Library
San Jose, California 95112


Language of Material: English

Access

The records are available to the public for research by appointment with the Curator of Library & Archives.

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Preferred Citation

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Acquisition Information

Received in 2003 by History San Jose as part of the Perham Collection of Early Electronics

Biography/Administrative History

The Perham Collection of Early Electronics is the legacy of radio pioneer Douglas McDonald Perham (1887-1967), an early wireless experimenter, radio broadcaster, and life-long collector. Perham’s collection was acquired in 1963 by the Perham Foundation, a non-profit group made up of local electronics pioneers. In 1969, the Foundation raised funds to construct the Foothill Electronics Museum at Foothill College in Los Altos, California. The Museum, opened in 1973, was operated by the College until 1979 and by the Foundation and its many volunteers until its closing in 1991. During that time, the Perham Foundation continued to collect objects, photographs, publications, and archival collections. After twelve years in temporary storage, the Perham Collection, including the Foundation's records, was transferred by the Foundation to History San José in 2003.

Scope and Content of Collection

The administrative files of the Perham Foundation include personnel, membership, and acquisition records; correspondence, public relations material, exhibit history, and documentation on the relationship between the Perham Foundation and Foothill College, and subsequent travels of the collection after leaving Foothill.

Indexing Terms

Museum archives
Electronics--History
Nonprofit organizations
Foothill College
Los Altos Hills (Calif.)
Santa Clara County (Calif.)

Perham Foundation Records Box Inventory