
Guide to the John R. Pierce Papers

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Stanford University. Libraries. Department of Special Collections and University Archives

Stanford, California

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Overview

Call Number: SC0749

Creator: Pierce, John R. (John Robinson), 1910-2002

Creator: Pierce, John Robinson, 1910-2002

Title: John R. Pierce papers

Dates: 1933-2002

Bulk Dates: 1960-2002

Physical Description: 9 Linear feet

Summary: Papers include journals, 1986-1995; biographical and bibliographic materials; correspondence; typescripts of scholarly work, fiction and poetry; music manuscripts; published articles and books; research files; photographs; and other materials. The focus is primarily on his interest in computers and music and his authorship of science fiction stories, with a few published articles and photographs pertaining to the Echo satellite. Other items of note include the report on a visit to British electronics laboratories by J. R. Pierce and H. D. Hagstrum, 1944, and a transcript of a visit with H. G. Wells, 1944.

Language(s): The materials are in English.

Repository: Department of Special Collections and University Archives

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Cite As

John R. Pierce Papers (SC0749). Department of Special Collections and University Archives, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, Calif.

Biographical/Historical Sketch

John R. Pierce earned all three of his degrees at the California Institute of Technology: B.S. in 1933, M.S. in 1934, and Ph.D. in 1936. He worked at Bell Telephone Laboratories from 1936 to 1971, where his work included electronic tubes, microwave communications, and psychoacoustics. After leaving Bell, he joined the faculty at the California Institute of Technology where he taught until 1980 and was a chief technologist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory from 1979 to 1982. In 1983 he became a visiting professor of music, emeritus, at the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics at Stanford University. In addition to his scholarly work, Pierce wrote science fiction under the name of J. J. Coupling, as well as his own.

Description of the Collection

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Access Terms

Borroff, Marie.

Pierce, John R. (John Robinson), 1910-2002

Wells, H. G. (Herbert George), 1866-1946.

Music --Acoustics and physics.

Science fiction, American.

Accession ARCH-1999-306 **Original Accession**

Box 1, Folder 1	Journal 1986 - 88
Box 1, Folder 2	Journal 1988 - 92
Box 1, Folder 3	Journal 1992 - 95
Box 1, Folder 4	Poems
Box 1, Folder 5	Music MSS c. 1936 - 37
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence: Borroff, Marie
Box 1, Folder 7	Correspondence: re. Current Directions in Computer Music Research
Box 1, Folder 8	Correspondence: re. "Periodicity and Pitch Perception"
Box 1, Folder 9	Correspondence: re. "Computing Education"
Box 1, Folder 10	Correspondence: Noll, A. Michael
Box 1, Folder 11	Honorary degrees
Box 2, Folder 1	Telephone book
Box 2, Folder 2	Photos
Box 2, Folder 3	Computer invoice
Box 2, Folder 4	Patent for Passive Non-Linear Filter, 1996-97
Box 2, Folder 5	Pamphlets
Box 2, Folder 6	Computers in Higher Education - Report, 1967
Box 2, Folder 7	Gilbert, Steven - "Academic Software - Vision and Perspective; working paper March 15, 1985"
Box 2, Folder 8	Computer / Human Conversation
Box 2, Folder 9	Pathological Science - articles
Box 2, Folder 10	Pierce, "Technology and Music in the 20th Century"
Box 2, Folder 11	Research: artists on "Edwardian Gents and the Arabs"
Box 2, Folder 12	Reprint: Pierce, "Ears and Hearing" 1994
Box 2, Folder 13	Reprint: Pierce, "Periodicity and Pitch Perception" 1991
Box 2, Folder 14	Studies [assorted articles]
Box 2, Folder 15	Essays and a story

Accession ARCH-2004-259 **Additional material**

Box 1, Folder 1	Cal Tech visit to Soviet Union 1973
Box 1, Folder 2	NASA Space Committee Research and Development 1987
Box 1, Folder 3	Vienna conference (Pierce, "The Contribution of Psychophysics to Music and of Music to Psychophysics") 1990
Box 1, Folder 4	Biographical information
Box 1, Folder 5	Biographical information
Box 1, Folder 6	Biographical information ("Miscellaneous, personal, trips and what not" - includes notes from Soviet Union trip of 1973)
Box 1, Folder 7	Pierce, My Career as an Engineer; An Autobiographical Sketch, 1988
Box 1, Folder 8	Papers by Pierce
Box 1, Folder 9	Papers by Pierce
Box 2, Folder 1	Publications 1981 - 1990
Box 2, Folder 2	Publications 1991
Box 2, Folder 3	Publications 1994-97
Box 2, Folder 4	Publications 1998 - 2003
Box 2, Folder 5	Publications on J.R. Pierce
Box 3, Folder 1	Publications - Fiction
Box 3, Folder 2	Publications - Fiction
Box 3, Folder 3	Publications - Fiction
Box 3, Folder 4	Publications - miscellaneous

Box 3, Folder 5	Amazing Stories, October 1934 [does not include anything by Pierce]
Box 3, Folder 6	Stories, typescript
Box 3, Folder 7	Stories, typescript, "The Blues"
Box 3, Folder 8	Stories, typescript, "Tales of the Twelve Teddies"
Box 3, Folder 9	Stories, manuscript and typescript
Box 3, Folder 10	Stories and verse
Box 4, Folder 1	Verse
Box 4, Folder 2	Posthumous papers
Box 4, Folder 3	J.R. Pierce bibliography
Box 4, Folder 4	"J.R. Pierce Bibliography and much much more, March 26, 1995"
Box 4, Folder 5	Pierce, bibliography
Box 4, Folder 6	C.I.T. oral history with J. R. Pierce, 1982
Box 4, Folder 7	Photographs, 1963-1995
Box 4, Folder 8	Draper Prize, 1995
Box 4, Folder 9	Miscellaneous materials
Box 5, Folder 1	Awards
Box 5, Folder 2	Cal Tech alumni
Box 5, Folder 3	Correspondence - W. H. Freeman (publisher) 1983-1997
Box 5, Folder 4	Correspondence - publishers 1981-1994
Box 5, Folder 5	Correspondence - Arthur C. Clarke 1988
Box 5, Folder 6	Correspondence - Andrew Goldstein 1991-92
Box 5, Folder 7	Correspondence - University of Wyoming (American Heritage Center), 1983-1991
Box 5, Folder 8	Correspondence, general, 1964, 1981-90
Box 5, Folder 9	Correspondence, general, 1992-2002
Box 5, Folder 10	First phone call off echo
Box 5, Folder 11	Echo - photographs 1960-68
Box 5, Folder 12	Marconi International Fellowship 1996-97
Box 5, Folder 13	Personal correspondence and papers
Box 6, Folder 1	Index to Technical Memoranda
Box 6, Folder 2	Report on Visit to British electronics laboratories by J. R. Pierce and H. D. Hagstrum, 1944
Box 6, Folder 3	Transcript of visit with H. G. Wells 1944
Box 6, Folder 4	System Development Foundation, Annual Report, 1988
Box 6, Folder 5	International Symposium on Music and Information Science (Japan) 1989
Box 6, Folder 6	Northwestern University concert in honor of Pierce 1990 (includes correspondence with Amnon Wolman 1990-91)
Box 6, Folder 7	Bolinger, Richard, "I Know of No Geometry" (a solo work in five movements written in the Pierce Scale) 1990
Box 6, Folder 8	Bauman, Marcia, "Early Computer Sound and Music Synthesis at Bell Telephone Laboratories," Ph.D. thesis, U. of Rochester, 1995
Box 6, Folder 9	Tribute to Barney Oliver [Bernard M. Oliver] 1995
Box 7, Folder 1	Music From Mathematics produced by Bell Telephone Laboratories (LP record with text) 1960
Box 7, Folder 2	Manuscript musical scores
Box 7	FLOPPY DISK: Opera
Box 7	Japan '89
	Physical Description: 1 audiocassette(s)
Box 7	J.C. Risset / Echo
	Physical Description: 1 audiocassette(s)
	Books:
Box 8	The Bell System Technical Journal, 1972.
Box 8	California Institute of Technology. Yearbook, 1933.
Box 8	Friis, Harald T. Seventy-five Years in an Exciting World.
Box 8	IEEE Press. A Century of Honors.
Box 8	IEEE Press. Compendium of Communication and Broadcast Satellites, 1958 to 1980.

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- Box 8 **IRCAM (J.R. Pierce contributor). Passage du XX siecle.**
 - Box 8 **National Academy of Engineering (J. R. Pierce contributor). Technology and International Trade.**
 - Box 8 **Pierce, John R. Proceedings of the IRE.**
 - Box 8 **Pierce, John R. Radio-Electronics.**
 - Box 8 **Pierce, John R. and Edward E. David, Jr. Man's World of Sound.**
 - Box 8 **Pierce, John R. and Hiroshi Inose. Information Technology and Civilization. (2 copies)**
 - Box 8 **Pierce, J. Almost All About Waves (in Russian).**
 - Box 8 **Pierce, John R. An Introduction to Information Theory. (2 copies).**
 - Box 8 **Pierce, John R. Quantum Electronics and Waves and Messages.**
 - Box 8 **Pierce, John R. and Edward C. Posner. Introduction to Communication Science and Systems. (2 copies).**
 - Box 8 **Pierce, John R. and Arthur G. Tressler. The Research State: A History of Science in New Jersey.**
 - Books:**
 - Box 9 **Pierce, John R. The Science of Musical Sound. (3 copies).**
 - Box 9 **Pierce, John R. Telecommunicatie.**
 - Box 9 **Pierce, John R. Klank en Muziek. (4 copies).**
 - Box 9 **Pierce, John R. and Michael Noll. Signals (2 copies).**
 - Box 9 **Pierce, John R. and Michael Noll. Signals (in Spanish, 2 copies).**
 - Box 9 **Pierce, John R. Le Son Musical.**
 - Box 9 **Pierce, John R. The Science of Musical Sound (in Japanese).**
 - Box 9 **Pierce, John R. My Career as an Engineer.**
 - Box 9 **Pierce, John R. The Beginnings of a Satellite Communications.**
 - Box 9 **Pierce, John R. Science, Art and Communication.**
 - Box 10 **Certificates, mounted photographs, and Saturday Evening Post articles (Jan. 14, 1961 on Echo satellite and Nov. 4, 1961 article by Pierce on computers)**