

Hursley Museum Services - November 2015

Current Activities & Acquisitions

Much has happened to our AS/400s in the last few months. After fixing a disk subsystem problem on one of our AS/400es we now have four working machines. An AS/400e Model S20, two AS/400e Model 170, dating from the 1990s and an iSeries Model 270 dating from the 2000s. We have successfully attached an IBM 3570 Magstar tape library to the Model S20 and an IBM 3590 tape drive to one of the Model 170s.

On the software front, we are now running OS/400 5.2 on the two 170s and OS/400 5.4 on the 270. We have installed IBM MQSeries on one of the Model 170s and have it running successfully. We are also getting close to having CICS/400 running on the Model 270.



The AS/400s are part of our on-going drive to try to show more IBM software, especially that derived from Hursley such as CICS and MQ.

IBMImp1 - Hursley / Imperial College Space Probe

Our latest, and youngest acquisition is the IBMImp1 space probe. In June 2015, IBM and Imperial College launched the probe from Churchill College to the Edge of Space, some 20 miles above the Earth underneath a helium balloon. It is now on display in the museum.



While above the Earth, the probe transmitted telemetry such as temperature, light readings, movement, and location data back to IBM. This data controlled, in real-time, the environment of the IBM Hursley Innovation Centre, in order to represent the conditions the probe encountered in space. The probe used IBM Messaging and Bluemix technology as the software backbone, to transport and process the telemetry to control the conditions of the IBM Innovation Centre. This Proof of Concept has implications for disaster recovery and immersive education technologies. Messages and tweets sent to the probe were displayed on a small screen, at which a camera was pointing and relaying the picture of the message back to earth.

Web Site: <http://hursley.slx-online.biz/>

IBM Contact: [Hursley Communications](#)

Curator Contact: [Peter Short](#)

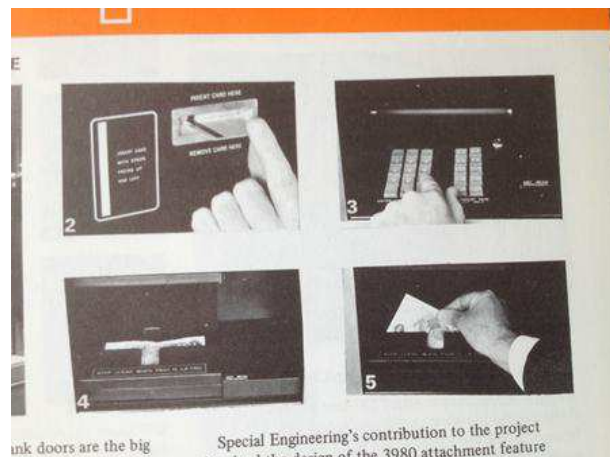
Hursley Museum Services - November 2015

The mission was successful, but not without incident, as during its 20 mile descent, the probe's parachute failed to deploy. This resulted in the probe hurtling at 20 metres per second from space, toward Cambridge. Thankfully, the parachute mechanism became caught in a tree some 3 metres above the ground. Consequently, despite falling 20 miles from space at terrific speed, the probe is still completely intact.

There is more information on this blog - <http://bit.ly/IBMimp1> and a number of photographs at <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B2BjIEmCMajifJXaThHTjF5bHlyMHZwZnJqY3Z2b2laUW-hiRII3NXRpREJ0cVpzSGJxcjg>.

2984 CashPoint Model

We have started work on building a semi-scale full size model of the 2984 Lloyds CashPoint. We seem to have exhausted the possibility of finding a real one, so this is the next best thing! We have some photos that help us to gauge the dimensions, but we don't have any detail pictures of the keyboard area, although we can identify what was on the majority of the keytops. We are also unsure of whether there was any form of display to guide users through the process, or whether they just had to follow the instructions on the metal plate. Any information would be gratefully received. Can anyone identify the young lady demonstrating the machine?



Web Site: <http://hursley.slx-online.biz/>

IBM Contact: [Hursley Communications](#)

Curator Contact: [Peter Short](#)

Hursley Museum Services - November 2015

Ada Lovelace Day

Hursley ran an event for a number of schoolgirls to celebrate Ada Lovelace day. A member of staff dressed up as Ada and the girls were given a tour of the museum in between practical hands-on sessions designed to spur an interest in IT. The event was featured in the BBC South Today news programme, [a copy of which can be found on the museum web site](#).

(Links to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yIAEgV5t53U&feature=youtu.be>)

Analogue Computer Identified

Thanks to the Computer Conservation Society Dave Key was able to identify some analogue computers used by Vickers during their time at Hursley in the 1950s.

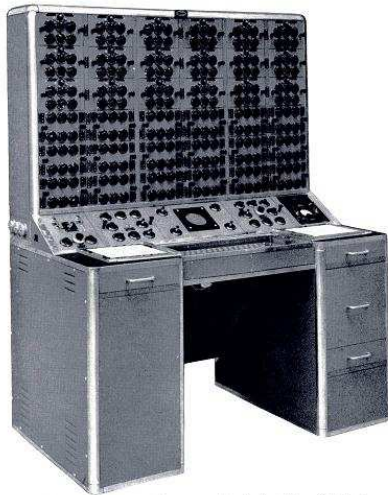


Plate 2. General-purpose analogue computer designed by Short Brothers & Harland.
The computing elements are constructed as small detachable units.

[18]



Fig. 3—Three Short computers in service with Vickers Armstrongs (Supermarine) Ltd. They are used for investigation of aircraft flutter and stability problems—Short Brothers

Web Site: <http://hursley.slx-online.biz/>

IBM Contact: [Hursley Communications](#)

Curator Contact: [Peter Short](#)