

ARTICLES, REVIEWS and other PAPERS

Aeberhard, J., (2011), **From Tea Shops to Computer Company: The Improbable Story of LEO (Lyons Electronic Office)**, published as background story for 60th anniversary of roll-out of first LEO job. See

[http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/pdfview/web/viewer.html?file=/downloads/56323 - magazineMode=true](http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/pdfview/web/viewer.html?file=/downloads/56323-magazineMode=true)

Dropbox <https://www.dropbox.com/s/gmoxhwycv79jg2l/LEO%2060th%20editorial%20backgroundrounder.doc?dl=0>

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- ❖ Aeberhard, J., (2019), **From Tea Shops to Computer Company: the Improbable Story of LEO**, Resurrection, Number 88, Winter/Spring, 2019/2020, online at and <http://www.computerconservationsociety.org/resurrection/res88.htm>
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- ❖ Aeberhard, J (2022) LEO Remembered published 28thSeptember 2022 – **Press Release**.

❖ **IN AT THE START OF BUSINESS COMPUTING**



- ❖ What was it really like to be in at the start of business computing, to attempt what no-one had done before, to develop totally new ways of processing and managing data that would eventually completely change the way business operates across the world?
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- ❖ A flavour of what it felt like can be had from the reminiscences of over 80 people who variously worked on LEO (Lyons Electronic Office), the world's first computer to run business applications, and its successor machines, now being published as a book this month (28 September). Coming out strongly through the book, "LEO remembered," is the shared excitement from those involved - designers, engineers, programmers, operators and sales people alike - in knowing that they were onto something big.
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- ❖ Noting this, the book's joint editors, Hilary Caminer and Lisa McGerty, comment: "First hand testimony takes us to the heart of the day-to-day routine, the frustrating task of locating and mending hardware and software faults, the camaraderie built from working together on never-before-tackled systems and programming problems, the ethos that LEO instilled and that stayed with its people in their later, often very distinguished careers."



- ❖ **LEO story**



- ❖ The LEO story began in 1947 when the board of the large J. Lyons & Co catering group, then under the threat of being swamped by paperwork, stumped up the princely sum of £3000 (£83,000 in today's money) to help fund the completion of Cambridge University's large scientific computer known as EDSAC. Once it was working, Lyons adapted EDSAC to become LEO for the very different needs of business where relatively straightforward calculations, but in much larger volumes, were involved.
- ❖ This was in no way a straightforward task. Frank Land, one of the ground-floor LEO pioneers, commented: "What is not generally appreciated, and is part of the remarkable story that unfolded, is that Lyons, famed for baking bread and feeding people, actually built the computer using their own resources on site at their Cadby Hall headquarters".



- ❖ The bold decision by the Lyons board bore fruit when, in November 1951, just over 70 years ago, the resulting LEO ran its first live business application, a bakeries valuation job, the first in the world to do so. Lyons retained this lead through most of the 1950s and early 1960s, setting up a company, LEO Computers Ltd, to develop and sell computers at home and overseas before eventually merging with International Computers and Tabulators (ICT) in a final fling for the British computer industry.



- ❖ The LEO story ended in 1981 when the last of the LEO computers, a LEO 326, one of a large number operated by the Post Office for telephone billing, was finally turned off, the same year coincidentally when the last of the Joe Lyons famous teashops closed its doors.



- ❖ 'LEO remembered' is published, with financial support from the AIT Trust, by the charities LEO Computers Society and the Centre for Computing History, based in Cambridge. It has a foreword by Dame Stephanie Shirley CH and an introduction by Professor Frank Land OBE.



- ❖ The book is available, priced £8 plus postage, from LEOremembered@leo-computers.org.uk



❖ - ends -

- ❖ **Photo caption:**



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- ❖ Frank Land, now in his nineties, an early LEO programmer, with the new book, “LEO remembered.” He led the LEO company’s early sales and systems consultancy team for 15 years and then took his experience in another direction into academic research and education.
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- ❖ 1. The LEO Computers Society is committed to promoting and protecting LEO's history. Membership of the Society is open to all ex-employees of LEO Computers and its succeeding companies, anyone who worked with a LEO computer and anyone with a specific interest in the history of LEO Computers. Among its members are pioneers from the very early days of computing and membership is currently free of charge. Visit www.leo-computers.org.uk. Follow [@leocomputers51](https://twitter.com/leocomputers51).
- ❖ 2.. Established in 2006, the Centre for Computing History is a charitable heritage organisation with a strong focus on learning. Since opening in Cambridge in August 2013, the Centre has helped people understand how tech has shaped the modern world and revolutionised the way we live, work and play through interactive displays and exhibitions, our schools programme, learning events and

workshops, and an astonishing collection of computers old and new. Visit www.computinghistory.org.uk. Follow [@computermuseum](#)



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Intended for the Lyons' Management only a small number were printed. The original version was about 75 pages, though later versions were much longer. Copies are held in the John Simmons Archive at Warwick University Modern Records Centre Showcase: Pioneers: Innovators in Science and Technology, and can be downloaded from: <http://contentdm.warwick.ac.uk/cdm/ref/collection/leo/id/263>
<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/explore/further/images/pioneers/> files as item [MSS.363/S4/12](#) and at the University of Manchester John Rylands Library, <http://archives.li.man.ac.uk/ead/html/gb133nahc-leo-p1.shtml>, filed as item C130. Appendix 13 in Peter Bird's book LEO: The First Business Computer is extracted from the guide.
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road here at EDSAC they didn't appreciate the troubles they'd get with the cathode failures on lots of their double diodes” [https://ethw.org/Oral-History:Arnold Beck](https://ethw.org/Oral-History:Arnold_Beck)

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[//www.dropbox.com/s/08ap89c8n26oxjs/J%20Caldwell%20Report%20Automatic%20Programming%20Conference%201962.docx?dl=0](http://www.dropbox.com/s/08ap89c8n26oxjs/J%20Caldwell%20Report%20Automatic%20Programming%20Conference%201962.docx?dl=0)



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Secondly the contents list in the document will take you directly to the article if you click on an item. There is also an external contents list which will take you to the page of each article. (However due to a small technical issue it only takes you to the page so you should scroll down if you don't see the article you expect)
If you don't want to leave any comment you can see all the material without logging in, simply click on the document front page or contents item . If you do wish to make a comment without logging in please just reply to this email. as we would really like any feedback , ideas for topics for upcoming issues or ,indeed, any views that you may have on LEO coverage. [To go to the Post Click Here](#)

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David has commented:
“...it looks a lot like a real Leo, or so I am told by people who knew the real thing. What is more important than the replica is the software that we have, namely the Intercode Translator, the Master Routine and its accompanying generator programme. All three run successfully on our replica. There may be the odd malfunction, but that was common in computing in the 1960s.”
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- ❖ Holdsworth, D., (2019), **Software Leo III: I have been co-operating with Leo Society members in updating their LEOPEDIA**, and it now contains links to our stuff both on sw.ccs.bcs.org and Resurrection. I am looking for information on early assembly language programming, in an attempt to comprehend the state-of-the-art at the time that Intercode was designed. My amazement at Intercode is documented in Blow By Blow. It may be that I was not properly aware of the programming conventions of an era that slightly pre-dates my own entry into the world of computing, Resurrection,

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✿ **1984** (Siemens – Data Processing, the history of the domain of Data Processing from 1954 to 1984), Siemens Aktiengesellschaft, Munich. The paper, in German, refers to the role played by LEO.

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[LEO III/32 at Colvilles Ltd, Ravenscraig Works \(Later part of BSC Strip Mills Division\)](#)

Date 1965 – 1974

Principal Uses

- Production Tracking and Control
- Payroll

Background

In 1963, a decision was taken by ColvillesLtd, the Scottish steel manufacturer, to acquire a LEO III computer and the machine was installed in a custom-built facility at their Ravenscraig works in 1965. The first two projects were to be computerisation of production planning and control and the works payroll system.

Staff to man the facility were recruited from within the company, their suitability for a new career in computing being assessed using the LEO 'Aptitude test'. The newly formed team was sent off to Hartree House in early 1965 for training in CLEO programming. On their return two groups were formed – one for the Production Control project, the other for the Payroll project. The two development teams numbered around a dozen personnel in total.

Production Tracking and Control System

In the nineteen fifties / sixties, Colvilles Ltd., iron and steel manufacturers in the West of Scotland, had built a fully integrated steel strip mill on a green-field site in Motherwell. The product was coils of steel or cut sheet which were of many grades, sizes and weights.

Iron ore and coal was fed into blast furnaces which produced iron. This was passed in bulk form to a steel-making plant where the steel output was transformed into ingots of varying sizes and steel qualities. These were then processed in a slab mill which reduced the ingots to long slabs which were then sub-divided. From this point, where many slabs were produced from each ingot, product tracking became complex.

Each slab was allocated a unique identity together with its dimensions, weight, steel grade and whether it had been allocated to a customer order or to stock. Slabs were then scheduled for the next process where they were reheated and processed through the strip mill, the output being coils of steel.

Further processing was then carried out, as necessary, to meet customer requirements. This could involve processes such as pickling, tandem rolling, annealing, slitting and cutting coils into individual bundles of sheets. Cold finishing processes were carried out at Gartcosh Works some 15 miles away from Ravenscraig.

Tracking of individual pieces of material was vital. Most orders were comprised of many coils or bundles of sheet. For scheduling reasons it was not possible to keep the material for any one order together through all the processes. In the early sixties production had been monitored by Hollerith card systems and wall-mounted adjustable displays of customer orders giving details of their progress through the plant. Periodic stock-checks of material ahead of each process disclosed significant discrepancies and it was decided that a better production management system was required.

Given the complex movement of material and orders through the many processes along with constant transfers into and out of inter-process stocks it was vital that the production controllers had up-to-date information to keep abreast of a rapidly moving and ever-changing situation. Thus it was a prime target for the LEO system to deliver to the Production Control Department information which was as current as possible. This was defined as having the production status as at 6am available to the production control staff when they arrived to start work at 8.30am.

We were confronted with a major problem. We had just over 2 hours to collect the production information from the shop floor operatives, prepare it for input to the computer and produce the reports. Data preparation at that time was considered to be a task for women and the personnel rules dictated that females could not work outside dayshift hours. In any case the time required to prepare the data for input to the LEO using conventional data prep. methods was too long to meet our targets. So we turned our attention to Lector and optical mark sensing.

A body of opinion held that filling forms with marks was too complex for shop-floor operatives. However, the Ravenscraig development team felt that this was unjustified, and so it proved. With the elimination of data preparation delays we were able to meet our system performance targets. Clerks could now start their work at 8.30am and have on their desks the complete production details as at 6am that same morning. This allowed them to achieve much tighter control. Inter-process stocks were reduced and delivery performance improved.

Appendix 1 gives some further information on how and why Lector OMR documents were used

Payroll System

In 1965 Ravenscraig and Gartcosh steel works employed around 5,500 personnel, a number which eventually rose to around 7,500. The pay structure was complex with around 900 differing pay rates and many local adjustments. Employees could be engaged in several different activities in any week, each attracting different pay rates. The majority of the employees were paid weekly, in cash.

It was considered that to be of real value the computer system should undertake not just the gross to net pay calculation but the considerably more complex calculation of gross pay from the pay rates and time worked for each individual. The main time-sheet information was input weekly using **Lector**. Again it was considered that getting the pay clerks used to completing Lector documents would be a 'hard sell' but with training it was successfully achieved.

At start up, employee payroll data, previously stored on a Hollerith Punch card system was input via a LEO installation in Birmingham which was equipped with a card reader. The system successfully went live in October 1965 - some 8 months after the implementation team had returned from their first programming course!

Some reflections

A principal feature of the Ravenscraig LEO III installation was the extensive use made of **Lector**. The somewhat contrived method of creating digits from a series of marks was easily mastered by plant and administrative personnel, contrary to general opinion. As noted above the benefit of directly inputting the collected data to the computer without the delays imposed by data preparation was key to the success of the system. We were greatly assisted by the printing industry in Edinburgh who had a reputation for high quality printing and rose to the challenge of producing Lector documents to the tight tolerances required. During the lifetime of the installation at least two dozen

different document formats were employed. Sadly no copies of these have been kept for the archives.

In hindsight, the speed with which the systems were implemented by an inexperienced team is astonishing. We were a young, enthusiastic and highly motivated team eager to prove ourselves in this new field of technology. Perhaps we were too naïve to appreciate the implications of trying to deliver large complex systems using somewhat experimental technologies in such a short timescale.

Finally a word of homage to CLEO. In the course of a long career in computing and exposure to many programming languages my admiration for the CLEO programming language has not diminished. Its blend of the best features of Cobol and Fortran rendered it a powerful, flexible and easy to master tool. I take my hat off to the pioneers who were responsible for creating such superb technology so far ahead of its time!.

Appendix 1 – Use of Lector OMR documents in the Production Planning & Control system (PPC)

The PPC system would require to be fed with all information as regards material movement and change of status from the slab mill output to despatch. Once updated, its output reports would provide schedulers with an accurate picture of what material was available for them to schedule to the next process. The system could only provide these reports once it had been run and it would be designed to present the updated information as at 6am – the end of the night shift. However, the data processing team was all female and females were not permitted to work outside the daytime working hours. When they started each morning, they would have to input at least half of the previous day's back shift (2 to 10) and the night shift (10 to 6) before the computer system could be updated. For the remainder of their day, they would input that day's day shift (6 to 2) and as much of that day's back shift as possible. This meant that it was unlikely that the system could be updated and output records produced before 2pm – a full 8 hours beyond the system updating point of 6am. It was felt that this was an unacceptable position.

This was in the days before the advent of on-line terminals but effective OMR machines were now becoming available. LEO Computers had recently merged with the English Electric company and the combined firm was now offering an OMR reader called Lector. Adoption of this technique could solve the delays caused by data preparation.

Trial OMR documents were printed and tested out on shop-floor production recorders. Most of the data to be collected was numeric; items such as material identity, any changes to dimensions, weight, grade or anything else that could change at any specific production unit. The test documents had the particular processing unit identity pre-printed on them. As most of the data to be collected was numeric, each character of a particular parameter to be input was represented by four, what we called, soup-bowls labelled 1, 2, 3 and 6. Thus, by filling in no more than 2 of these soup-bowls by pencil, any digit from 0 to 9 could be represented. Thus recording a material identity of 5 numeric characters would be represented on the pre-printed form by 5 groups of these 4 soup-bowls. We were advised that shop-floor personnel would not understand this. We argued that anyone who knew how to fill in a pool coupon would soon master it. Trials showed that we were right. Subsequently, once the system was implemented, we only had one failure – a person who was dyslexic.

When first implemented, we only had one machine and it was installed in the computer room at Ravenscraig Works. However, the daily operational run was still held up because there was no similar OMR facility at Gartcosh Works. Its data had to be collected by car after 6am and transported to Ravenscraig to go through data preparation from 8.30am. Nevertheless, the system provided its output mid morning. A second Lector reader was acquired for Gartcosh Works and a paper-tape to paper-tape link provided between the two Works. The system now produced all the output reports as at 6am ready for the schedulers when they started at 8.30am.

Instead of the predicted 8 hour delay in providing up to date information, this had reduced to two and a half hours. Routine stock-checks confirmed that the new system was extremely accurate compared to the old manual one. Any corrective updates to the computer stock database were minimal compared to the old system. Additionally, stock checks were completed considerably faster as checkers were provided with lists of material to check against the material in the various stock areas.

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techniques and methods are now obsolete and hence are probably not understood by those who did not experience computing in the 1960s. See <http://sw.ccs.bcs.org/leo/KenK.htm> This document is part of the project to emulate and run programs written for LEO III. Original reference manuals are available and should be consulted for technical information on the hardware and software. They came in 5 volumes:- See Volumes I, III, IV and part of V are available in digital form at <http://sw.ccs.bcs.org/leo/Manuals.htm>

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Colvilles Ltd., Ravenscraig Steelworks - Use of Lector OMR in LEO III systems

Introduction

Colvilles Ltd. Steelmakers installed a LEO III (No.32) in its Ravenscraig Works in Motherwell in 1965. In 2021, Dr. William (Bill) Jack, leader of the systems development team described in a paper to the LEO Computers Society the systems developed and run on this computer. I was one of the lead analysts and was asked by the Society if I could provide further detail on how Lector OMR techniques were used. This request was made nearly 60 years after we had acquired the LEO and all documentation had long since been destroyed. We clearly did not have the foresight to realise that what we were developing could be regarded as pioneering. Appendix 1 is a timeline of significant events.

The development team

The team, with the help of the LEO aptitude test, was selected from existing Works staff. It was built up to about a dozen in 1964 and started work on system design. It received training in the CLEO high-level language in early 1965. Thereafter, it was split into two sections; one for the Production Planning and Control system and the other for the Payroll one.

Production Planning & control system

Perhaps a word is in order as to how I managed to get a little more detail. In 1967 I had just got married and was working on draft drawings of a house I planned to build. By pure chance, I recently found (in 2021) that one of these drawings had, on its reverse, most of a flow chart of the Production Planning & Control system that we had implemented. I think it is probably just missing 1 or 2 operations down one edge so it gives a good picture of the scope of the system. It is unfortunately very faded and not really suitable for adding to the LEO archives in its present state. However, I traced a copy of a Colvilles Ltd. Technical Offices progress report on the use of the LEO at Ravenscraig Works. It is undated but I estimate that it was probably produced in Spring 1967. It is held in the Peter Bird material at the Manchester University archives. The pages were poorly scanned with data missing or very difficult to read. However, I have managed to retype almost all of it. I was able to pick up additional detail of the use of Lector documents from it and it does contain Xerox copies of some of the Lector documents..

The primary requirement of the system was to provide information on orders and the location and present state of every piece of material across the works whether or not it was allocated to an order. This information allowed clerical staff to create production schedules for further processing. This information was required as at 6am by staff who started work at 8.30am and for production meetings at 9am. This was not possible to achieve using conventional data preparation staff who also started work at 8.30 and on-line terminals had yet to appear. English Electric LEO Computers had recently introduced its Lector Optical Mark Reading device. It was determined that this was the only feasible way of collecting the large amount of feedback in the short time available each morning .

Lector documents were used to collect data on new orders, order amendments, order cancellations and order completions. These documents were completed by sales personnel in an office environment in normal

office hours. This information was input to the system run shortly after 6am daily thus providing an updated order file.

As Dr. Jack explained in his paper, for process scheduling reasons, it was not possible, unless an order was very small, to move all of the material for it through the plant together. However, by tracking the movement of every piece of material, whether or not allocated to an order, the system could provide the requirements of every order and the present progress towards order completion including whether there was a shortfall of material for it. Unlike order processing, material movement was a 24 hour, 7 days a week, operation. There was, therefore, a constant flow of Lector documents being collected from the shop-floor and processed to paper-tape by a Lector machine. This meant that, at the end of the night-shift at 6am, there was very little material still to be processed before the system could be run. Trials showed that there would be a delay whilst the final documents from Gartcosh Works, 15 miles away, were conveyed to Ravenscraig and processed. It proved necessary to install a second Lector reader at Gartcosh together with a paper-tape reader to paper-tape punch link to Ravenscraig.

Lector documents collected information on the creation of each steel slab, including dimensions, weight, grade or quality and allocation to an order. Thereafter, Lector documents were used to record every movement and change of status of the coils produced from the slabs. In later processing, a coil could be cut along its length into two or more narrower ones. Coils could also be cut into bundles of sheets and further processed. Lector documents were also used to track material through these processes. Where a coil was despatched by train to Gartcosh Works finishing processes, the tracking continued until despatch from there as either coils or bundles of sheets. The data recorded on each coil or bundle as it passed through the processes included a code for the process, any change to dimensions, weight or grade (which resulted in it being removed from its allocated order). A lector document was also used to collect information on surplus stock being allocated to suitable orders. The tracking of coil and sheet bundles movement thus covered all processes until the material was despatched. The Lector documents were completed by recorders on the shop floor (see Appendix 2). The data was collected through a 24 hour period and input to the Lector machines at Ravenscraig and Gartcosh.

The system produced production reports for morning progress and planning meetings at 9am. Additionally, order file reports were produced showing the present status of each order so that remedial action could be taken if it

was running late or short of material. Lists were produced of the stock ahead of each production unit to assist schedulers with their work and to greatly simplify periodic stock checks. Subsequent stock-checks showed the system to be highly accurate.

Analysis of the recovered flow chart indicates that there were 52 CLEO routines providing vetting and files updating together with about 50 printed reports. There were upwards of 30 sort routines. I do not have actual figures but there must have been many hundreds of order and stock changes every 24 hours.

Payroll System

The payroll system required much alpha information such as names and addresses. As the payroll was only run once a week there was plenty of time to collect this type of data using conventional data preparation. However, there was limited time between the end of the working week and the running of the payroll system. This would have required a large team of data preparation staff for a limited period each week. As it had already been decided to use Lector for the production system, this same facility was selected to collect the clock-card data. The complex nature of the payroll system would be handled by the system leaving the pay-clerks to fill in Lector documents from the clock-cards.

Further development

After the steel industry was nationalised, Ravenscraig and Gartcosh Works became part of the Strip Products Group of British Steel. The predominant computer supplier to this Group was IBM. The Group decided to adopt a policy of standard computer system as far as possible and it was decreed that the LEO III at Ravenscraig be replaced by an IBM360/40. It indicates how highly the LEO systems were regarded that both were rewritten almost unchanged in PL1 to run on the IBM machine. The rewritten systems which were implemented in 1973 still used Lector documents for several years until replaced by on-line terminals. The LEO III was decommissioned in 1974.

Acknowledgements

It was fortunate that 6 senior members of the original team were still available and the detail in this report would not have been possible without the help of Eric Halkett, Bill Jack, Stewart Logan, Bill Service, Allan

Watson and John Wolseley. I very much appreciate the encouragement of Frank Land to add to the LEO history.

Stewart Logan

June 2022

Appendix 1 – Ravenscraig LEO3/32 and Lector Timeline

Colvilles Ltd. selects a LEO3 computer

1963

Development team selected & system design started

1964

LEO3 computer delivered and commissioned

1965

Development team trained in CLEO

Feb. 1965

Production Planning & Control system implemented at Gartcosh Oct. 1965

Payroll system implemented

Oct. 1965

Production Planning & Control system implemented at Ravenscraig

Apr. 1967

Ravenscraig/Gartcosh moved to British Steel Strip Products Group

July 1967

IBM360/40 delivered

c1969

PP&C system operational in PL/1 on IBM360/40 using Lector Docs.

c1973

Payroll system operational in PL/1 on IBM360/40 using Lector Docs.

c1973

LEO3/32 decommissioned

Sept. 1974

IBM360/40 systems inputs moved from Lector to on-line terminals

c1975

Lector readers decommissioned

c1975

Over 50 years after the IBM360/40 was brought in to replace the LEO3/32, we could not trace anyone who could be definite about the dates in the latter period when systems were converted to run on the IBM machine. However, these converted systems continued to use Lector documents for some years until replaced by on-line terminals..

Appendix 2 – Design of Lector forms

Trial OMR documents were printed and tested out on shop-floor production recorders. Most of the data to be collected was numeric; items such as material identity, any changes to dimensions, weight, grade or anything else that could change at any specific production unit. Alpha data was very limited and normally restricted to one of a small range of characters. The test documents had the particular processing unit identity pre-printed on them. As most of the data to be collected was numeric, each character of a particular parameter to be input was represented by four, what we called, soup-bowls labelled 1, 2, 3 and 6. By filling in no more than 2 of these soup-bowls by pencil, any digit from 0 to 9 could be represented. Thus recording a material identity of 6 numeric characters would be represented on the pre-printed form by 6 groups of these 4 soup-bowls. The choices of the limited acceptable alpha characters were all represented by individual soup-bowls. We were advised that shop-floor personnel would not understand this. We argued that anyone who knew how to fill in a pools coupon would soon master it. Trials showed that we were right. Subsequently, once the system was implemented, we only had one failure – a person who was dyslexic!

 Logan R.S 1967 Colvilles Technical Office Report on Systems development on the LEO III/32

Ravenscraig Reports

Items in red are inferred from historic documents but not actually readable

Ito

This is the transcript of a Colvilles Ltd Technical Offices report on the development of systems on the LEO3/32 computer installed at Ravenscraig Works in Motherwell. The original copy is held in Peter Bird's material in the Manchester University Archives. It is undated but, based on the contents, must have been produced round about March 1967. It is a very poor copy of an original document with the bottom line missing on some pages and examples of print-outs being distorted and very faint. I have managed to retype the complete document with the exception of those lines that were missing from Peter Bird's copy. I have inserted in red the likely content of those missing lines. Despite the missing flow-chart, this report gives much detail of the computer's actual and planned workload. Due to the subsequent nationalisation of the steel industry, which resulted in the LEO computer being replaced by an IBM 360/40, much of the future plans to enhance the LEO systems were not implemented on that machine.

Stewart Logan (Chief Systems Analyst at that time)

June 2022

LEO III COMPUTER SYSTEMS
PRESENT DEVELOPMENT

Technical Offices
Motherwell
Mach 1967 (estimated)

1. INTRODUCTION

This report briefly outlines the projects at present being undertaken by the LEO III Computer. It indicates how far these systems have been developed and the form the ultimate systems will take. Wherever possible the savings and advantages of the computer systems are enumerated. Appendix 1 shows the information flow in the computer production control system and includes samples of the main reports.

The flow-chart is not in Peter Bird's material and cannot be traced.

2. PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

The Production System is being undertaken in three stages.

Phase 1 Production Recording

This involves the establishment of an effective recording and feedback system.

Phase 2 Computer assisted production control system

At this stage the Computer produces reports which enable the manual system to operate more effectively and with much reduced manpower.

Phase 3 Computer controlled production control system

At this stage the computer will automatically control all aspects of production with manual interventions permitted for exceptions and emergencies.

Phases 1 and 2 are complete at Gartcosh and are in an advanced stage of implementation at Ravenscraig.

2.1. PRODUCTION RECORDING

Present

The object of this part of this project was to set up an effective method of recording the status of orders and coils as material moves through the Mills and the Finishing Units.

Accurate and speedy retrieval of data is the foundation of any computer system and most computer projects which have failed, (and there are many of these), have done so because this problem had not been adequately solved. Data retrieval is a special problem in steelworks where the area covered is large, conditions do not always favour clerical work and the quality of recording personnel is often poor. It was, therefore, thought that production recording should be tackled first as a project in its own right. The solution adopted was:

1. Use of Lector documents for direct retrieval of data from source.

2. Use of data links to transmit data rapidly between Ravenscraig and Gartcosh.
3. Adoption of 'exception' principle to limit the volume of recording.

The system has been in operation at Gartcosh for eighteen months and an effective recording system has been established there. The quality of recording by the Gartcosh Production Personnel is acceptable for the degree of control being sought. Data is collected at 2pm and 10pm and processing commences on the Computer within half an hour of **the final collection of data at 6am.**

Future

The recording system is being extended to the Ravenscraig Hot Strip Mill and Hot Sheet Finishing Department.

Because of the ease with which Production Personnel are coping with Lector recording, the 'exception' principle is being relaxed and the document is being extended to handle more information. All recording on production units will be done on Lector and the Computer will produce all relevant reports. The Lector documents have been redesigned and have been presented to the Production Management for approval.

2.2 SCHEDULING

Present

The Computer produces, daily, lists of material ready for processing ahead of each production unit at Gartcosh. These lists are in the schedule order dictated by the requirements of each unit (eg light, medium and heavy gauge rounds, in descending width order at Tandem Mill etc.). Most of the difficulties have now been overcome and all major production units at Gartcosh are scheduled from these listings.

Advantages

1. Clerical functions are simplified and the work load reduced.
2. When the correct criteria are established, the scheduling is more accurate and more efficient.
3. Delays between processes are reduced.

Future

The computer will produce schedules for direct use on the production units. These schedules will be manually scrutinised, minor adjustments made

and then issued directly to the units. The schedules could be in the form of Lector documents pre-printed by the computer. The unit personnel will record on these documents and return them to the Computer for further processing. Sufficient information will also be supplied so that emergency schedules can be prepared manually in the event of a breakdown or an occurrence outwith the scope of the Computer System, (eg roll breaking). An attempt will be made to move away from **scheduling the next manufacturing unit** to several production units. The Computer would reschedule continually as actual performance fell short of this plan,

2.3. PROGRESSING Present

The Computer produces a summarised statement of the progress of each order, listing the tonnages ahead of each unit and the balance still to be despatched. It also indicates when an order is falling behind schedule and when insufficient material is in process to give a reasonable likelihood of completing the order. A further set of listings is produced giving details of the individual coils being processed against each order.

The progress report is available to Sales Department and to the Progressing and Expediting Departments.

Advantages

1. Considerable reduction in clerical effort.
2. Potential backlogs and shortfalls are highlighted much earlier, giving more time to take corrective action.
3. Sales Department can give customers accurate and up to date information on the status of their orders without reference to Production Departments.

Future

When confidence in the computer controlled system has developed it is anticipated that the Computer will Report only on those orders that are not running to plan. This should have the effect of focussing the attention of the Progress Department on those orders where manual expediting is necessary

A statistics file will be set up on the Computer **and development will be** done into a method of accurately determining production overages and lead times. These Investigations will be continued and more sophisticated techniques developed for planning and evaluating progress.

Advantages

1. Reduction in clerical effort.
2. Better control of backlogs and shortfalls.
3. More accurate production plans and progress reports.

2.4. STOCK CONTROLPresent

The Computer produces daily lists of unallocated material with all relevant parameters and, where applicable, the reason why the material was put to stock. This material appears in gauge/width order and is grouped according to the stock areas. This report is used in conjunction with a daily list of orders requiring tonnage to be allocated to them. It is a simple task to match the two listings and reapply stock to orders.

Advantages

1. Reduced clerical effort.
2. More effective reallocation of stock to orders leading to reduced stock levels and the utilisation of a larger percentage of stock for prime orders.

Future

A system has been specified for automatic reapplication of stock to orders by the Computer.

Advantages

1. No clerical effort.
2. Reduced stocks.
3. More economic use made of stocks by considering the costs involved.

2.5. ORDER HANDLING SYSTEMPresent

The Sales Department return to the Computer selected information about each order received. This is stored on an order file in the Computer and used to progress the orders through the plant. The computer order book can be listed in any form required, giving details of order parameters and balance of tonnages

to be met. The amount of data recorded is not sufficient to set up an effective computer control in this area at present.

Future

Phase 1 – A Lector document has been designed to record additional information for each order. This information will permit the Computer to carry out the analysis required by the Market Research Department and produce all the B.I.S.F. statistics. The additional information will also enable the Computer to perform all the calculations at present done by the Figuring Section.

Advantages

1. Considerable reduction in clerical effort.
2. Better and more extensive market research analysis.
3. Reduction in the loading of the De La Rue Bull Punch Card installation.

Phase 2 – This involves the complete computer control of the order handling system through Sales, Quality Control to Scheduling and Planning. A detailed feasibility study has been carried out and the findings passed to Sales, Quality Control and Production Planning. (unable to suggest next missing words) and Quality Control details are typed on these machines and the paper tape produced is fed to the Computer.

As 70% of all orders handled are completely or in some part standard, the Computer will add this standard information, figure the order, produce the master order form, calculate the plant loading and produce the Melting Shop Schedules completely automatically.

Advantages

1. Greatly reduced clerical effort.
2. More accurate and speedy handling of the order.
3. More legible Mill documentation would be produced, thus reducing the chance of mistakes in processing.

2.6. MANAGEMENT REPORTING

Present

The computer produces daily, reports of plant performance and stock tonnages, weekly summaries of performance and monthly tabulations of stock values. Plant loading summaries are produced on the basis of the order book.

Future

As the Computer extends its control into the various aspects of the production system the reports produced for Management will increase in scope. The setting up of a statistics file will enable Management to have statistical information about the production system in any form they request.

A major extension envisaged will be the Incorporation of costing information into the system. This would mean that Management would be supplied with costing reports as a by-product of the computer production control system and thus the effects of policy decisions could more easily be evaluated in terms of these costs.

3. PAYROLL SYSTEMPresent

Each week the Computer processes the pay- roll of weekly paid employees at Ravenscraig and Gartcosh. From the input data of gross hours and jobs worked for each employee it produces the following information:-

- Payroll
- Pay Envelopes
- Schedules of Deductions
- Cash Dissections
- B.I.S.F. Statistical Returns
- National Insurance Schedules.

Advantages

1. The payroll is produced 24 hours earlier.
2. Much less manual preparation of input data is required.
3. Many of the clerical functions of the Pay Department have been taken over.

Future

A Collectadata time and attendance record- Ing system is being introduced to record directly to the Computer, the clocking in and out times of each employee at Ravenscraig and Gartcosh.

Used in conjunction with Lector documents for recording the various jobs worked on by each

employee. This will permit the preparation of the payroll to be completely automatic.

Advantages

1. Greatly reduced manpower.
2. A very closely controlled payroll system.

Possibly another advantage missed at bottom of page

4. INVENTORY CONTROL SYSTEMPresent

The Computer produces a monthly statement of all issues from the Ravenscraig and Gartcosh Stores. These are tabulated against bin numbers, account numbers and job numbers for the Cost Department and Plant Maintenance Department.

Advantages

1. Gartcosh Hollerith equipment abolished.
2. Operating staff for this equipment freed.

Future

A Collectadata recording system is being introduced into the Ravenscraig and Gartcosh Stores. This system will record all stores receipts and issue quantities.

The Computer will eventually:-

- Produce cost reports
- Maintain stock records
- Control perpetual inventory system
- Control stock levels
- Prepare purchase requisitions
- Produce order progress reports
- Produce financial returns

Advantages

1. Considerable saving in clerical effort.
2. Reduction in levels of consumable stocks.
3. More accurate control of stores system.
4. Prompt financial returns.

5. OTHER SYSTEMS

In addition to the main systems discussed, the Computer is also used for work of a scientific and statistical nature. The computer has also been used to analyse the

performance of coils through the production processes to set up more accurate tables of production overages and lead times.

Scientific

The Computer is being used to assist research into heat transfer in the slab reheat furnaces and in the evaluation of titration values for the Central Research Laboratories.

Critical Path Methods

Computer time has been sold to local building firms to do critical path analysis of large building projects. The Computer Department has liaised closely with the planning engineers of these companies in order to gain a working familiarity with this technique as it has some very definite applications in the steel industry, eg building and development projects, implementation of computer systems, shutdown maintenance projects, roll changing etc.

Process Control

—A set of programs has been written for the LEO Computer to handle directly, data logged by the KDF7 which is linked on-line to the Hot Strip Mill. From this data mathematical models are being constructed in preparation for computer control of the Hot Strip Mill.

Budgetary Control

Linear programming techniques are being used on the Computer to develop an accurate economic model for the Ravenscraig and Gartcosh Works.

Appendix 1

This appendix contains samples of the major items of documentation in the production system. These documents should be studied in conjunction with the diagrammatic illustration of the production system.

Diagrammatic illustration not included and could not be traced.

BALANCE OF ORDERS TO DESPATCH – COLD REDUCED

MOTOR TRADE	GEN. HOME	EXPORT	PICKLE & OIL	GALVANISED	TOTAL
862	386	335	185	11	1779
197	711	280	114	14	1316
377	97	219	184	26	903
126	55	841	122	31	1175
125	103	8	22	4	262
187	47	91	12	3	340
15	676	163	182	381	1417
1889	2075	1937	821	470	7192

TONNAGE AHEAD OF DESPATCH

MOTOR TRADE	827 TONS
GENERAL HOME	1307 TONS
EXPORT	3458 TONS
PICKLE & OIL	336 TONS
GALV. – HOME	55 TONS
EXPORT	6 TONS
TOTAL	5983 TONS

GARTCOSH SHIFT PRODUCTION REPORT FOR 24 HOURS ENDING AT 10PM ON FRIDAY 17/03/67

PROCESS	10 - 6			6 - 2			2 - 10				
	TONNAGE IN	YIELD OUT		TONNAGE IN	YIELD OUT		TONNAGE IN	YIELD OUT			
STRIP MILL	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%		
PICKLE TRIM & OIL	14.11	11.72	78.57%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%		
PICKLE LINE	228.75	208.57	91.23%	357.59	336.16	94.12%	475.33	442.23	93.05%		
TANDEM MILL	733.10	732.88	99.86%	905.25	904.42	99.89%	612.86	621.65	101.47%		
ANNEALERS	0.00	0.00	0.00%	343.37	485.40	141.40%	370.20	180.56	48.65%		
NO 1 TEMPER MILL	307.88	302.23	98.37%	452.68	452.05	100.00%	321.50	311.31	96.88%		
NO 2 TEMPER MILL	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%		
SLITTER LINE	0.00	0.00	0.00%	94.59	79.28	84.04%	211.96	195.83	92.42%		
NO 1 SHEAR LINE		0.00	0.00	0.00%	100.89	98.14	98.00%	164.78	161.67	95.17%	
NO 2 SHEAR LINE		0.00	0.00	0.00%	76.47	63.00	82.89%	64.72	62.29	96.88%	
RESHEAR		0.00	0.00	0.00%	4.71	4.71	100.00%	5.36	5.36	100.00%	
ROLLER LEVELLER	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%		
HAND INSPECTION	0.00	0.00	0.00%	11.10	11.10	100.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%		
SHEET PACKING		33.98	33.98	100.00%	76.82	76.82	100.00%		9.19	9.19	0.00%
COIL PACKING		119.75	120.20	100.84%	216.42	225.00	104.17%		332.05	334.13	100.60%
DESPATCH	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	350.83	0.00%	0.00	303.83	0.00%		

ANNEAL 17
DESPATCH 27

TEMPER 158
SHEAR 401 175 428

No. 1 Order Card Details Lector document

No. 1 Order Card Details

Document G.W.A.S. 8/85 P.A.

NEW AMEND	
Works Order Number	Code Order No. Item No.
Customer Code No.	
Trade Code	
Width (Ins)	
Length (Ins)	
Gauge (Ins)	
Total Weight of Item	Tons Cwts
Delivery Week/Year	YEAR 1980 1981 1982 1983
Grade	
Routing	
Elongation %	
% Cold Reduction	
Anneal Cycle	
Surface Roughness	
Surface Finish	
Oiled/Dry	
Thickness	+
Tolerance (Ins)	-
Length	+
Tolerance (Ins)	-
Width	+
Tolerance (Ins)	-

	ORDDBAL VAUX TONS	TEMPR OTHER	ROLLD	NON T	ROLD		PRESS	FISH	FORD
COIL ORDERS	721	26 26 721 578	26 26 0 143	0		STEEL 646	LUD 0	HALL 0	0

	ORDDBAL VAUX TONS	UNDER OTHER	OVER	FLAT R&R	DOILED		PRESS	FISH	FORD
SHEET ORDERS	314	020 020 314 11	303 0	1	254	STEEL 215	LUD 0	HALL 0	0

	ORDDBAL VAUX TONS	PLATE OTHER	MPLTE	SHEET		PRESS	FISH	FORD
PICKLE & OIL ORDERS	32	32 0	17 15		STEEL 0	LUD 0	HALL 0	0

TOTALS FOR DELIVERY WEEK 602

	ORDDBAL VAUX TONS	TEMPR OTHER	ROLLD	NON T	ROLD		PRESS	FISH	FORD
COIL ORDERS	2800	26 26 2800 1550	26 26 420 830	0		STEEL 689	LUD 823	HALL 0	20

	ORDDBAL VAUX TONS	UNDER OTHER	OVER	FLAT R&R	DOILED		PRESS	FISH	FORD
SHEET ORDERS	2926	020 020 2926 119	2807 13	43	2374	STEEL 265	LUD 0	HALL 205	691

	ORDDBAL	PLATE	MPLTE	SHEET		PRESS	FISH	FORD	
	VAUX	OTHER							
	TONS				STEEL	LUD		HALL	
PICKLE & OIL ORDERS	515	515	100	202	2 13	42	0	0	50

PICKLE LINE SCHEDULE ROUND CLASSIFICATION

PICKLE LINE SCHEDULE - ROUND CLASSIFICATION

151

///// 41045C1101

ARE THESE
SPACES
FILLED?

PICKLE WEEK	ROUNDS REQUIRED	INIT	SURNAME (CAPITALS)
W	R	NAME	

PRIORITY \ MATERIAL TYPE	HEAVY	MEDIUM HEAVY	MEDIUM	MEDIUM LIGHT	LIGHT	PICKLE AND OIL	CHEMCOAT
BACKLOG - HOME							
BACKLOG - EXPORT							
CURRENT 1 - HOME							
CURRENT 1 - EXPORT							
CURRENT 2 - HOME						X	X
RESERVE STOCK						X	X
CURRENT 2 - EXPORT						X	X
CURRENT 3 - EXPORT						X	X
ADVANCE						X	X
UNALLOCATED						X	X

///// 41045C1300

- NOTES:**
1. Rounds must be classified numerically.
 2. Up to six rounds may be classified.
 3. Only Round classification amendments need be inserted after initial set up of classifications.

FOR COMPUTER PERSONNEL USE ONLY		
RECEIVED BY	TIME	DATE

PICKLE LINE

COLD REDUCED MATERIAL SCHEDULE

HEAVY ROUND

9/12/66

WEEK NO 50

ORDER NO	HOT BAND WEIGHT	BAND LOCAT	TRIM WIDTH	WE TOL	ORDERED LD GAUGE	ROUT WIDTH	GRADE	FIN	A	ELONG	DEL	WK
2/34280/1	1590	40.60	+0.250	0620	39.750	846 041	026 GP6	2	0.25%	652	26400	b/l
ROOTES PRE			-0.000						0.50%			
2/34042/3	1590	39.00	+0.250	0600	36.024	545 048	036 GP6	2	1.50%	701	9700	
DRUM TRADE			-0.000						1.50%			
2/34207/1	1590	39.40	+0.250	0780	38.500	526 011	011 GP6	5	0.25%	701	24700	
VAUXHALL			-0.000						0.50%			
2/34207/1	1590	39.40	+0.250	0780	38.500	526 011	011 GP6	5	0.25%	701	26000	
VAUXHALL			-0.000						0.50%			
2/34207/1	1590	39.40	+0.250	0780	38.500	526 011	011 GP6	5	0.25%	701	25200	
VAUXHALL			-0.000						0.50%			
2/34207/1	1590	39.40	+0.250	0780	38.500	526 011	011 GP6	5	0.25%	701	26950	
VAUXHALL			-0.000						0.50%			
2/34207/1	1590	39.40	+0.250	0780	38.500	526 011	011 GP6	5	0.25%	701	26250	
VAUXHALL			-0.000						0.50%			
2/34042/3	1590	38.50	+0.250	0600	36.024	545 048	048 GP6	2	1.50%	701	9500	
DRUM TRADE			-0.000						1.50%			
2/34042/3	1590	38.00	+0.250	0600	36.024	545 048	028 GP6	2	1.50%	701	23500	
DRUM TRADE			-0.000						1.50%			
2/34042/3	1590	38.00	+0.250	0600	36.024	545 048	001 GP6	2	1.50%	701	13300	
DRUM TRADE			-0.000						1.50%			
2/34042/3	1590	38.00	+0.250	0600	36.024	545 048	001 GP6	2	1.50%	701	12400	

DRUM TRADE			-0.000								1.50%		
2/34042/3 1590	38.00		+0.250	0600	36.024	545	048	053	GP6	2	1.50%	701	24900
DRUM TRADE			-0.000								1.5		

PICKLE LINE LECTOR DOCUMENT

No. 6 Standard Feedback — PICKLE LINE

Day		Su				M				Tu				W				Th				F				Sa				SHIFT		104		62		2/10	
Coil Number	Coil	6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				SLIT COIL		6 3 2 1																	
	Part	A B C D E F				A B C D E F				A B C D E F				A B C D E F				SLIT COIL		A B C D E F																	
Leading Coil		YES NO				YES NO				YES NO				YES NO				SLIT COIL		YES NO																	
Weight — LBS × 10		6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				SLIT COIL		6 3 2 1																	
Next Process		PL TAND ANN TEMP				SLIT CUL PACK DISP				PL TAND ANN TEMP				SLIT CUL PACK DISP				SLIT COIL		PL TAND ANN TEMP																	
Coil Number	Coil	6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				SLIT COIL		6 3 2 1																	
	Part	A B C D E F				A B C D E F				A B C D E F				A B C D E F				SLIT COIL		A B C D E F																	
Leading Coil		YES NO				YES NO				YES NO				YES NO				SLIT COIL		YES NO																	
Weight — LBS × 10		6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				SLIT COIL		6 3 2 1																	
Next Process		PL TAND ANN TEMP				SLIT CUL PACK DISP				PL TAND ANN TEMP				SLIT CUL PACK DISP				SLIT COIL		PL TAND ANN TEMP																	
Coil Number	Coil	6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				SLIT COIL		6 3 2 1																	
	Part	A B C D E F				A B C D E F				A B C D E F				A B C D E F				SLIT COIL		A B C D E F																	
Leading Coil		YES NO				YES NO				YES NO				YES NO				SLIT COIL		YES NO																	
Weight — LBS × 10		6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				SLIT COIL		6 3 2 1																	
Next Process		PL TAND ANN TEMP				SLIT CUL PACK DISP				PL TAND ANN TEMP				SLIT CUL PACK DISP				SLIT COIL		PL TAND ANN TEMP																	
Coil Number	Coil	6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				SLIT COIL		6 3 2 1																	
	Part	A B C D E F				A B C D E F				A B C D E F				A B C D E F				SLIT COIL		A B C D E F																	
Leading Coil		YES NO				YES NO				YES NO				YES NO				SLIT COIL		YES NO																	
Weight — LBS × 10		6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				SLIT COIL		6 3 2 1																	
Next Process		PL TAND ANN TEMP				SLIT CUL PACK DISP				PL TAND ANN TEMP				SLIT CUL PACK DISP				SLIT COIL		PL TAND ANN TEMP																	
Coil Number	Coil	6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				SLIT COIL		6 3 2 1																	
	Part	A B C D E F				A B C D E F				A B C D E F				A B C D E F				SLIT COIL		A B C D E F																	
Leading Coil		YES NO				YES NO				YES NO				YES NO				SLIT COIL		YES NO																	
Weight — LBS × 10		6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				6 3 2 1				SLIT COIL		6 3 2 1																	
Next Process		PL TAND ANN TEMP				SLIT CUL PACK DISP				PL TAND ANN TEMP				SLIT CUL PACK DISP				SLIT COIL		PL TAND ANN TEMP																	

Document No. 6 G.W.&S 4/66 P.A.

RUN 286		PROGRESS REPORTS IN ORDER NUMBER ORDER																4/ 5/67			
DEL	ORDER	GAUGE	A/H	A/H	A/H	A/H	AN &	DATE	A/H	COIL	A/H	A/H	A/H	A/H	A/H	A/H	A/H	A/H	IN		
WEEK	NO	G/C	PCLE	TAND	ANEL	COOL	COOL	TEMP	PACK	SLIT	CUL	RLV	R&CS	INSP	SPAK	DESP	PROC	DESP	TONS	BAL	
720	2/38237/1	0490	0	0	0	0	12	10/05	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	10	10
								L<-													
720	2/38237/2	0360		9	0	0	22	28	7/05	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	25
	25							L<-													
720	2/38237/3	0360	0	0	34	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	0	30	30
								L<-													
720	2/38237/4	0390	0	0	0	24	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	35	35
								L<-													
720	2/35238/1	0395		0	0	0	0	15	10/05	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	0	10
	10							L<-													
720	2/35238/2	0360	0	0	0	18	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	10	10
								L<-													
720	2/35239/1	0360	0	0	0	0	38	30/05	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	0	31	31
								L<-													
720	2/38210/1	0360	0	0	0	0	0		31	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	0	25	25
								L<-													
720	2/38210/2	0360	0	0	0	0	56	10/05	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	0	56	56
								L<-													
720	2/38211/1	0360	0	0	0	54	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	0	50	50
								L<-													
720	2/38212/1	0360	0	0	0	10	5	6/05	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	25	25
								L<-													
721	2/38213/1	0360	0	1	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	14	14
								L<-													
721	2/28214/1	0390	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10
								L<-													
721	2/38214/2	0360	0	0	0	0	13	09/05	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	59	0	25	25

STOCK LIST (COILS AGAINST EACH ORDER)														SHEET 93			RUN 185		6/01/66	
ORDER NO	T/C	DEL	GAUGE		WIDTH	LENGTH	GRADE	BALANCE		ROUT	SUR	O %	A S	TOLERANCES						
GAUGE	WIDTH	WK	GAUGE	WIDTH	LENGTH	LENGTH	GRADE	TONS	CW	TONS	CW	ING	FIN	D	CR	C	R			
2/34356/2 GNRL-LONDON	8	652	.0625	27.250	67.500	048	5 5	2 12	540	GP5 *	45 2 3	+0020	0.125	0.500						
49943/-/ 54588/-/			.0625	27.230		048	3860	364		SHEET DESP		MOVED 32/12	65 6	-0080	0.000	0.000				
2/34356/3 GNRL-LONDON	8	652	.0625	46.025	76.000	048	10 0	6 0	540	GP5 *	45 2 3	+0020	0.250	0.500						
36847/A/ 54186/A/			.0000	00.000		008	15100 (1)			TEMPER		MOVED 29/12	65 6	-0080	0.000	0.000				
2/34356/4 GNRL-LONDON	8	652	.0247	28.250	90.750	048	6 5	6 5	540	GP5 *	45 2 3	+0020	0.125	0.500						
37931/-/ 55100/-/			.0780	29.529		048	16700 (1)			TANDEM		MOVED 8/12	68 6	-0080	0.000	0.000				
2/34356/5 GNRL-LONDON	8	652	.0313	36.750	72.500	048	42 0	1 14	540	GP5 *	45 2 3	+0010	0.250	0.500						
55299/-/			.0313	36.750		041	250 8531	-1 400		SPEC PACK SHEET DESP		MOVED 6/01	65 6	-0080	0.000	0.000				
2/34357/1 EXPORT ORDER	17	705	.0394	32.290	0.000	111	22 13		816	GP6 *	45 6 3	+0030	0.125	0.000						
58630/-/ 58632/-/ 58638/-/			.0394	32.290		111	29050 (1) 27900 (1) 28400 (1)			A/H ANNEAL A/H ANNEAL A/H ANNEAL		MOVED 5/01 MOVED 5/01 MOVED 5/01	55 6	-0030	0.000	0.000				
2/34357/2 EXPORT ORDER	17	705	.0394	33.560	0.000	111	66 3		816	GP6 *	45 6 3	+0030	0.125	0.000						
58630/-/ 58632/-/			.0394	33.560		111	28100 (1) 28950 (1)			A/H ANNEAL A/H ANNEAL		MOVED 4/01 MOVED 4/01	55 6	-0030	0.000	0.000				

58641/-/ .0394 33.560 111 21200 (1) A/H ANNEAL MOVED 4/01

CUT UP LINE LECTOR DOCUMENT

Document No. 12 G.W.S 4/66 P.A.

Coil Number	Coil/Bundle	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
	Part/Sheet	A B C D	E F S	SLIT/APPLIC	
	No. of Sheets	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
Downgraded/Released		D R P	NEXT PROCESS	HI RS CS RL	SP DP
Coil Number	Coil/Bundle	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
	Part/Sheet	A B C D	E F S	SLIT/APPLIC	
	No. of Sheets	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
Downgraded/Released		D R P	NEXT PROCESS	HI RS CS RL	SP DP
Coil Number	Coil/Bundle	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
	Part/Sheet	A B C D	E F S	SLIT/APPLIC	
	No. of Sheets	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
Downgraded/Released		D R P	NEXT PROCESS	HI RS CS RL	SP DP
Coil Number	Coil/Bundle	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
	Part/Sheet	A B C D	E F S	SLIT/APPLIC	
	No. of Sheets	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
Downgraded/Released		D R P	NEXT PROCESS	HI RS CS RL	SP DP
Coil Number	Coil/Bundle	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
	Part/Sheet	A B C D	E F S	SLIT/APPLIC	
	No. of Sheets	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
Downgraded/Released		D R P	NEXT PROCESS	HI RS CS RL	SP DP
Coil Number	Coil/Bundle	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
	Part/Sheet	A B C D	E F S	SLIT/APPLIC	
	No. of Sheets	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
Downgraded/Released		D R P	NEXT PROCESS	HI RS CS RL	SP DP

UNALLOCATED STOCK LISTS

RUN 135

A/H CUT UP LINES

IDENTITY	LOCN	GAUGE	WIDTH		LENGTH	FIN GRADE	DRY	ANN ISH	OIL	NO OF CYC	ELONGATION WEIGHT	SHTS	MIN	MAX	P/NP
HELD															
B	37728/-/	0 74	0490	36.250	Coil	048	GP6	OIL	2	22900	0.00	0.00			
A	35177/-/	0 74	0480	31.890	Coil	048	GP6	OIL	2	17000	1.50	1.50			
A	39659/-/	0 74	0480	47.187	Coil	028	GP6	OIL	3	10360	0.00	0.00			
B	29682/-/	0 74	0490	48.000	Coil	048	GP5	OIL	2	28140	1.50	1.50		M4742	SKD
B	42642/-/	0 74	0490	30.000	Coil	028	GP6	OIL	3	10000	0.00	0.00			
S	40157/B/	0 74	0490	48.000	Coil	048	GP6	OIL	2	19780	1.50	1.50			
B	34271/-/	0 74	0495	36.000	Coil	048	GP6	OIL	2	20160	1.50	1.50			
A	39007/-/	1 74	0567	56.600	Coil	115	FF4	OIL	6	6300	0.25	0.50			
A	40673/-/	0 74	0520	33.000	Coil	038	GP6	OIL	2	7100	1.50	1.50			
A	37979/-/	0 74	0620	31.625	Coil	038	GP6	OIL	6	12750	0.75	0.75			
B	41418/B/	0 74	0625	48.000	Coil	048	GP6	OIL	2	12300	1.50	1.50			
A	88764/-/	0 74	0440	30.250	Coil	000		DRY	0	17920	0.00	0.00			
A	14618/-/	0 74	0600	48.000	Coil	000		DRY	0	15456	0.00	0.00			
B	37882/B/	0 74	0600	48.000	Coil	031	FF2	OIL	2	13000	1.50	1.50			
AN	662/-/	0 74	1040	37.500	Coil	048	GP6	OIL	0	9000	0.00	0.00	NP		
	2587/-/	0 74	2500	55.000	Coil	048	H6	OIL	0	12320	0.00	0.00			

WIDTH	LENGTH	GUAGE	SUR O RT	ELONA S	-----TOLERANCES-----				ORDERED	BALANCE DEL	DEL				
TONS CWTS WK	TONS CWTS WK	WORKS O/NO	GRADE	FIN D ING	%	C	R	GAUGE	LENGTH	WIDTH	TONS CWTS				
19.095	126.000	.0590	048 0	GP5 * 546	1.50 2 1.50 3`	2 2	+0050 -0050	+0.625 -0.000	+0.030 -0.000	5 0	0	5	0	646	2/32920/1
19.095	126.000	.0590	048 0	GP5 * 546	1.00 2 1.00 3`	2 2	+0050 -0050	+0.625 -0.000	+0.030 -0.000	8 0	0	8	0	702	2/32920/2
19.095	126.000	.0590	048 0	GP5 546	1.50 2 1.50 3`	2 2	+0050 -0050	+0.625 -0.000	+0.030 -0.000	8 0	0	8	0	710	2/32920/3
20.500	44.500	.0170	048 0	GP6 545	1.00 2 1.00 3`	2 2	+0020 -0020	+0.500 -0.000	+0.125 -0.000	5 0	0	5	0	649	2/33370/4
20.750	89.000	0185	048 0	GP6 545	1.00 2 1.00 3`	2 2	+0020 -0020	+0.500 -0.000	+0.125 -0.000	10 0	0	10	0	649	2/33187/2
20.699	117.008	.0196	048 0	GP6 545	1.00 2 1.00 3`	2 2	+0020 -0020	+0.530 -0.000	+0.125 -0.000	0 0	12	6	4	702	2/17130/2
20.669	103.543	.0197	048 0	GP6 545	1.00 2 1.00 3`	2 2	+0020 -0020	+0.530 -0.000	+0.125 -0.000	6 0	0	6	0	702	2/17130/4
20.669	103.543	.0197	048 0	GP6 545	1.00 2 1.00 3`	2 2	+0020 -0020	+0.565 -0.000	+0.125 -0.000	0 0	6	0	6	714	2/17131/4
20.669	103.543	.0197	048 0	GP6 545	1.00 2 1.00 3`	2 2	+0020 -0020	+0.535 -0.000	+0.125 -0.000	0 0	6	0	6	702	2/17132/4
20.669	103.543	.0197	048 0	GP6 545	1.00 2 1.00 3`	2 2	+0020 -0020	+0.535 -0.000	+0.125 -0.000	0 0	6	0	6	714	2/17133/4
20.669	108.976	.0197	048 0	GP6 545	1.00 2 1.00 3`	2 2	+0020 -0020	+0.535 -0.000	+0.125 -0.000	8 0	17	85	17	714	2/1713131

**LECTOR TO ALLOCATE SHEET MATERIAL TO
AN ORDER**

Document No. 14 G.WAS 5/65 P

Coil/Bundle		6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
Coil Number	Part/Sheet	A B C D	E F S	SLIT/APPLIC	
Number of Sheets		6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
Code Order No.		6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
Works Order Number	Item	60 30 20 10	6 3 2 1		
Coil/Bundle		6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
Coil Number	Part/Sheet	A B C D	E F S	SLIT/APPLIC	
Number of Sheets		6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
Code Order No.		6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
Works Order Number	Item	60 30 20 10	6 3 2 1		
Coil/Bundle		6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
Coil Number	Part/Sheet	A B C D	E F S	SLIT/APPLIC	
Number of Sheets		6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
Code Order No.		6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
Works Order Number	Item	60 30 20 10	6 3 2 1		
Coil/Bundle		6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
Coil Number	Part/Sheet	A B C D	E F S	SLIT/APPLIC	
Number of Sheets		6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
Code Order No.		6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1	6 3 2 1
Works Order Number	Item	60 30 20 10	6 3 2 1		

**LECTOR TO ALLOCATE SHEET BUNDLES TO
AN ORDER**

Document No. 9 S.W.S 566 P.A.

Day		Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	F	Sat	SHIFTS	10	8	3	2	1	
Coil/Bundle No.														
Part/Sheet Number		A B C D				E F S 10				6 3 2 1					SLIT NUMBER
Weight		TONS 20 10				QRTS 2				LBS 20 10					6 3 2 1
Number of Sheets		6 3 2 1													
Works Order Number	Code													
	Order No.													
	Item	60 30 20 10				6 3 2 1								CANCEL RECORD
Coil/Bundle No.														
Part/Sheet Number		A B C D				E F S 10				6 3 2 1					SLIT NUMBER
Weight		TONS 20 10				QRTS 2				LBS 20 10					6 3 2 1
Number of Sheets		6 3 2 1													
Works Order Number	Code													
	Order No.													
	Item	60 30 20 10				6 3 2 1								CANCEL RECORD
Coil/Bundle No.														
Part/Sheet Number		A B C D				E F S 10				6 3 2 1					SLIT NUMBER
Weight		TONS 20 10				QRTS 2				LBS 20 10					6 3 2 1
Number of Sheets		6 3 2 1													
Works Order Number	Code													
	Order No.													
	Item	60 30 20 10				6 3 2 1								CANCEL RECORD

COMPOSITE COILS AND BUNDLES

Leading record of a coil or bundle should contain all details including, if a bundle, the number of sheets from the leading coil.

Sub records of a coil need only contain sub coil number.

Sub records of a bundle need only contain sub coil number and the number of sheets from the sub coil.

- ✦ Lyons, N. (2015) LEO: The Lyons Electronic Office. The story of the First Business Computer, *Journal of the Royal Signals Institution*, Vol. 33, Issue 1, pp. 32-37. An abridged version was published in Kai Kai Baluch Jouryonsnal September 17th 2017, pp. 29-32.
- ✦ Lyons, N. (2016) LEO, the First Business Computer, *Resurrection*, No. 75, Autumn, pp. 19 - 30 <http://www.computerconservationsociety.org/resurrection/res75.htm#top>
- ✦ Lyons, N. (2006-2018) Correspondence, Research items gifted to London Metropolitan Archives, City of London: Accession reference: Lyons Neville The material includes history of J Lyons and Company Limited and its achievements (presentations includes images mainly sourced from Peter Bird, historian) and media interview recordings. Details here <https://www.leo-computers.org.uk/london-metropolitan-archives-lyons-neville-lma-4803/>
- ✦ Lyons, N. (2017), Sir Joseph Lyons: A double anniversary, an article commemorating Joe Lyons, chairman of J.& Co from its inception to his death in 1917, by his nephew and member of LEO Computers Society.. <https://leo-computers.org.uk/images/JosephLyons.pdf>
- ✦ Lyons, N. (2018), The Joe Lyons Story –Food for Thought, Computer Conservation Society, talk presented at meeting of CCS in May 2017 tells the story of the company which produced the World’s First “electronic office”. Available at You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrwGDC8Bdow>
- ✦ Lyons, N., (2019), LEO: the World’s first Business Computer, letter in Shell-Mex and BP’s pensioners association magazine, *Brigs, Paddy*, editor 44Club News, pp 13-14. file:///C:/Users/Dell/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/Temporary%20Internet%20Files/Content.IE5/PSKR5ALW/165.pdf
- ✦ Lyons, N., (2019), LEO: Publicising and preserving the World’s first business computer, *Probus Magazine*, page 36, Winter edition. <https://probus83.org.uk/neville-lyons-probus-magazine-article> and <https://www.dropbox.com/s/varqdycgsghexpi/Neville%20Lyons%20PROBUS%20Article.docx?dl=0>
- ✦ Lyons, N., (2020), **Byting the Biscuit** in the U3A Third Age Matters journal, Feb, pages 159-161, U3A member Neville Lyons tells how LEO, the first ever business computer, was developed by cakes company J Lyons &Co.
- ✦ Lyons, N., (2021), LEO the worlds first business computer presentation to Hawker Association on July 14th 2021 at the invitation of Colin Wilson, President There were 33 attendees including John Tritton invited by Neville Lyons. John Tritton subsequently writes “Dear Neville, Your presentation was most interesting and informative, and so well researched. I'm glad that it was recorded so that I can watch it again, or recommend to friends. The same applies to your talk on LEO itself. I bought a copy of Peter Bird's book from the man himself when he gave a talk some thirty years ago. I must read it again. Once again, thank you.” The edited recording, including questions/comments at the end: https://youtu.be/Xh_eWjsh3sw

✦ Margolis, J, (2018) **Review: ‘Electronic Dreams’ by Tom Lean**, *Financial Times*, March 12th, 2018, <https://www.ft.com/content/e1afa168-ef79-11e5-9f20-c3a047354386>

“Another remarkable fact from *Electronic Dreams*: which UK company would you imagine was, by 1951, the world’s first to use a computer for business, and started making computers for other companies? It was J. Lyons and Co, the teashop chain. Its computer business, LEO, kept going until 1963. Lyons’ role as a computer manufacturing pioneer is the more astonishing — at least to anyone old enough to remember the ostensibly low-tech J. Lyons cafés — in that there was stiff competition from within the UK; companies such as Ferranti, Elliott Brothers, English Electric and British Tabulating Machinery were all selling British boffin-made computers globally.”

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Diagram - LEOPEDIA
and THE LEO ARCHIVE/
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- ✦ Middlesex University, (2019), **OBE for Frank Land**, History and Philosophy of Computing, <http://ta.mdx.ac.uk/leo/?s=>
- ✦ Mills, G., (1937), **Clerical Research** Paper presented to OMA Conference and refers to his work for J. Lyons in its systematic approach to improving efficiency.
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- ✦ Mori, E. (2016) **LEO Plaque Unveiling in London**, Blog <http://ta.mdx.ac.uk/leo/leo-plaque-unveiling-in-london/>
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- ✦ 2017

✿ **October 3rd-7th:** paper presented at 4th Conference on the History and Philosophy of Computing in Brno, Czech Republic.
<http://ta.mdx.ac.uk/leo/coping-with-the-american-giants/>

✿ **October 11th:** presentation about Validity and Correctness in LEO I and II at the Alan Turing Institute.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/history-and-philosophy-of-programming-meeting-tickets-37255156175?>

✿ **October 20th,** presentation of paper about LEO at PROGRAMme: roundtable CNAM - Conservatoire national des arts et métiers, Paris
<http://ta.mdx.ac.uk/leo/validity-and-correctness-in-leo-i-and-ii/>

✿ 2018

✿ **May 16th, 2018:** Seminaire HEPI: University of Lille, on the history and philosophy of computing.

I presented a talk “From Academia to Business: LEO computers and Olivetti.^[1] Two case studies in the early European Computer Industry”. The other lecturer of the seminar was Pierre Mounier-Kuhn.

<https://calcul.hypotheses.org/435#more-435>

✿ 2019

✿ **21 February, 2019 Computer Conservation Society seminar**

✿ *Olivetti and the early Italian computers*

✿ <http://www.computerconservationsociety.org/lectures/2018-19/20190221.htm>

✿ ??EM is going to Lille tomorrow for a seminar. Her paper may be seen here: <https://programme.hypotheses.org/spring-workshop-i-machines> . It is part of a 4 year planned programme and will be published in 2022.

✿

2021

4 February 2021 Talk on LEO at the Conservatoire Nationale des Arts et Materiels (CNAM) in Paris. 2.5 hour workshop conducted with a French historian. ‘Les Debuts de l’Informatique de gestion en Italie et Angleterre.’

Mori, E., (2022), **My LEO history PhD**, presentation with discussion, via Zoom, of Dr Mori’s PhD – both its main content and aspects of her journey to completion, highlighting publications, conference presentations and related work such as taking Oral Histories for LEO Computer Society. The presentation was followed by a lively discussion on her work and what it suggested for future work and projects. A recording of the presentation and discussion can be found at:

[Elisabetta Mori PhD](#)

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- ✦ Page, C.A. (2010) **LEO Computer Reunion 2010**, Anna C Page's Blog, WordPress.com weblog. An account of the 2010 reunion by the daughter of a LEO programmer, including photos of LEO artefacts. [https://annacpage.wordpress.com/2010/04/18/leo-computer-re 60, Springunion-2010/](https://annacpage.wordpress.com/2010/04/18/leo-computer-re-60, Springunion-2010/)
- ✦ Paine, R.M., (1965), **The gradual acceptance of a variety of commercial English languages**, The Computer Journal, Volume 8, Pages 208- 215. The paper provides a comprehensive review of UK high-level languages and includes an analysis of CLEO. See <https://academic.oup.com/comjnl/article-pdf/8/3/208/961522/080208.pdf>
- ✦ Parry, W.E.J., (2018), **How information was stored and processed in the LEOII computer**, presented at **Living Legends Hidden Histories Exhibition**, Corby, May 3rd 2018. Copy of presentation can be obtained from Frank Land (f.land@lse.ac.uk) and Wej Parry, (wej@theparrys.co.uk).
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- ✦ Pasquali, V.. (2019) **The Formation of ICL and the New Range**, an interesting account of the merger forming ICL and the discussions involving ex Leo managers, including John Pinkerton, David Caminer and John Aris in defining the New Range to succeed the ICT 1900 range and EELM System 4 range, written by one of the key members of the New Range team. Resurrection, Spring 2019, Number 87, pages 23 – 25. <http://computerconservationsociety.org/resurrection/res87.htm#b>
- ✦ Pearson, I., (ed) (2017) **ICL AllStars Magazine**, Issue 50, Autumn. The newsletter of ICL Australian veterans includes a number of references to the history of LEO. Pages 14 and 15 refer to the collaboration between John Pinkerton and Conway Berners-Lee, ex Ferranti.
- ✦ Pearson, I., (ed) (2019), **ICL AllStars Magazine**, Issue 61, Summer, the Newsletter of ICL Australian veterans, includes a number of references with a LEO theme: Report on Heritage Lottery Fund to LEO Computers Society and CCCH, page 4-5; an article entitled 'Two Faces of note' by Neil Lamming providing a sketch of the roles played by David Caminer and John Pinkerton in the LEO story, pages 16-17; and a personal history of David Llewellyn Jones, who joined LEO in Australia in 1964, page 18.
- ✦ Pearson, I., (ed) (2019), **ICL AllStars Magazine**, Issue 62, Autumn, the Newsletter of ICL Australian veterans, includes a number of references and photographs with a LEO theme, including on pages 6 – 9 a report on the visits to Australia of Peter Byford and Hilary Caminer in the very hot summer of 2019, and includes a photo on page 27 of the Shell Data Centre LEO III with Alan Sercombe, Peter Gyngell, Wallace Weaving and Gary Driver.
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theme: a very full report on the LEO Reunion, 2019, pages 11-12, and a report on Frank Land's OBE awarded June 2019.


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- ✦ Pearcey, T. (1948), Australian Journal of Science, February
- ✦ Pearcey wrote;
 - ✦ In the non-mathematical field there is wide scope for the use of the techniques in such things as filing systems. It is not inconceivable that an automatic encyclopaedic service operated through the national teleprinter or telephone system, will one day exist."
 - ✦ The article by Pearcey who may be honoured as father of Australian computing may be considered prescient much as the LEO project at that time.
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https://www.dropbox.com/s/hr062jv7rnabnh1/John%20Pinkerton%20EDSAC%20payroll%20paper_1949.docx?dl=0
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- ✦ Pinkerton, J.M.M. (1951) **Automatic Frequency Control**, Electronic Engineering, Vol. 23., pp. 147-148.
- ✦ Pinkerton, J.M.M., (1951), **A Short Description of the EDSAC Type Calculator Circuits used in LEO**, Copy No 1' of a 63 page report on the LEO computer for J Lyons & Company Ltd. including text and 'small block schematic diagrams' for submission to the Patent Office. The report has the handwritten and stamped mark '88147 Presented 27 July 1951' as well as being stamped 'Patent Office Library, 27 July 1951'. Listed in the report and included with it are 65 larger diagrams all stamped 'Patent Office Library, 27 July 1951'. BL Explore Archives and Manuscripts catalogue. The catalogue number is **Add MS 89294**
http://searcharchives.bl.uk/IAMS_VU2:IAMS032-003391654
- ✦ Pinkerton, J.M.M. (1952) **Patent Application**: GB000000767192A 29.05.1952 30.01.1957 JOHN MAURICE MCLEAN PINKERTON; LYONS & CO LTD J
Improvements in and relating to data transfer apparatus. Complete Specification published January 1957. See
https://worldwide.espacenet.com/publicationDetails/originalDocument?CC=GB&NR=767192A&KC=A&FT=D&ND=4&date=19570130&DB=EPODOC&locale=en_EP#

- ✦ Pinkerton, J.M.M. (1954) **Operating and Engineering Experience Gained with LEO**, in **Automatic Digital Computing**, Proceedings of a Symposium held at National Physical Laboratory, March 1953, pp. 21-30, published by HMSO. Key points from the article include:
 - in building the "calculator" (i.e. LEO) Lyons' intention was to get it into operation as quickly as possible because they felt that until it had actually been in use over a period of time for clerical purposes, "the optimum form of such equipment could not be decided".
 - **Pinkerton states that modifications and "additional features" were required to the EDSAC design that the LEO is based on "to make the installation effective on clerical work"** and that this included a "larger store, means for introducing data into and extracting results from the calculator much faster than was possible with the EDSAC, and a foolproof method of checking data recorded to the machine".
 - Pinkerton suggests that although LEO has been in use for over 18 months, it is "not yet as reliable as would be necessary for carrying out a regular and intensive programme of clerical work". http://www.chilton-computing.org.uk/acl/pdfs/Automatic_Digital_Computation_Symposium_Mar53_text.pdf
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- ✦ Pinkerton, J.M.M., (1990), Designing a computer for data processing, Resurrection, Vol. 1 Number 2. <https://www.computerconservationsociety.org/resurrection/res02.htm#d>
- ✦ Pinkerton, J.M.M (1991) **Taming LEO – Overcoming the Inherent Unreliability of LEO I**, IEE Review, Vol. 37, pp. 13-17.
- ✦ Pinkerton, J.M.M., Hemy, D., Lenaerts, E.H., (1992), **The Influence of the Cambridge Mathematical Laboratory on the LEO Project**, IEEE Annals of the History of Computing, Vol. 14, No. 4, pp. 41-48.
- ✦ Pinkerton, J.M.M., (1997), '**Evolution of Constructional Methods from Radios to Computers**'. This is a 25 page illustrated booklet containing a reprint of a talk by John Pinkerton 'read at a joint meeting with the Computer Conservation Society at the Science Museum on 8 -9 April, including references to and photos of LEO. Published in Transactions of the Newcomen Society for the study of Engineering and Technology, Volume 68, 1996-9
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- ✦ Richardson, M. (1964), **User's experience of CLEO**. An analysis carried out by Richardson of the Board of Trade, Central Office, Lime Grove, Eastcote, Ruislip, Middlesex, of the use of CLEO. The analysis refers to an article in Volume 5, Issue 3, November 1962 of the Computer

Journal by T.R. Thompson entitled **Fundamental Principles for expressing a procedure for a computer application.**

User's experience of CLEO - By M. Richardson*

 The Board of Trade Census Office has used CLEO for preparing Annual Inquiry registers, and issuing and processing the 1963 returns. We have also used CLEO for a register of new companies and are now in course of applying it to all new jobs. Comments made here relate to the first seven programs written, which were analysed in some detail.
The first CLEO compiler did not become available until the end of 1963 and is still not on general release

1. General comments

(a) Adequacy

So far CLEO has covered all our programming requirements since these needed only integer arithmetic. It has not been found necessary to enter the lower language, i.e. Intercode.

The major extension of facilities to floating-point values, etc., will cover all future requirements; there will be no need to know Intercode.

Facilities are to be extended to cover function calls and floating-point working within the next three months. In general, most of the features mentioned in T. R. Thompson's paper in this Journal have been included in the system or will be included very shortly. At present the major limitation is on editing values for printing; this has been covered by a CLEO subroutine.

(b) Ease of learning, etc.

The CLEO conversion course provided for the first team of Intercode programmers occupied one and half days. There is no doubt that CLEO is easy to learn and with the compiler checks provided it is easy to use correctly.

(c) Debugging

Amendments are very simple to make in CLEO. The trials data system now being provided is even simpler than the Intercode system. It was difficult to locate logical errors in Intercode, but it is easy to do this in CLEO. Desk checking becomes more effective.

(d) Compiler problems

Only one minor imperfection appeared in the first version; this is now being put right.

2. Satisfactory features

The following table gives some idea of the reduction in programming time made possible by CLEO.

RELATIVE PROGRAMMING EFFORT (TIME UNITS)	
INTERCODE	CLEO

low charting	10	0
Coding time	55	10
Data description	10	2
Checking	10	2
Proving	15	2

Board of Trade, Census Office, Lime Grove, Eastcote, Ruislip, Middlesex

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- ✦ Sumner, J. (2015), **Defiance to Compliance: Vision of the computer in post-war Britain**, History and Technology, an International Open Access Journal, Volume 30, 2014, Issue 4, pages 309-333 | Published online: 24 Feb 2015. An interesting analysis of Britain's changing role from apparent leadership in innovation and scholarship to a diminished role dominated by USA technology. The place of Lyons and LEO is outlined on page 311 amongst other notable technological achievements unmatched by American technology. See also in extract from the paper in the section.
- ✦ In 1947, J. Lyons and Company, Britain's leading catering firm, sent two senior managers to the USA to investigate American systems of office management. Their bald conclusion was that established practice could teach them nothing: 'We did not find any firm which has developed on so broad a front as Lyons, most offices only having tackled a limited number of office problems without having surveyed the whole field'. Physical layouts – notably including that of the

Pentagon – were poor, and development plans conservative, tending blindly to ignore the potential of rapid electronic processing. Far more exciting was the extensive American work on digital computing, but this was still largely uncommercialised.¹¹ Learning that there were British efforts in the same direction, the Lyons managers fostered a partnership with researchers at the University of Cambridge to develop the Lyons Electronic Office (LEO), which automated the bulk of the firm's payroll, stock control and valuation tasks across 1951–54, placing it at the forefront of international developments in this field. Lyons then formed a subsidiary to market LEO equipment to other businesses, stressing its business context as a unique guarantee of user-focused design.¹²

✦ A similar story played out in parallel at Ferranti, the commercial electrical and defence contracting group, which in 1948 sent a representative, Dietrich Prinz, to the USA to assess the state of the art in digital computing. Prinz's American hosts, according to company legend, wondered 'why he had come there, since the most advanced work was being done on Ferranti's doorstep at Manchester University', where the cathode ray tube storage system had become the basis for a prototype computer.



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