LEO Computers Society: Oral History Project

The LEO Computers Society has initiated an Oral History Project assisted by funding from the Association for Information Technology (AIT) Trust. *Recordings and edited transcripts are held in LEO Google Drive archives and published on the website* **The list of Oral Histories taken to-date includes:**

❖ **Interviewee: <u>Alan Sercombe</u>**   **DOB:** 1934
Interviewer: John Hoey
Date of Interview: 23/07/2014
Role in LEO: Programmer
Joined LEO: 1959

Abstract: Alan received degree in mathematics and after National Service joined Armstrong Siddeley as a programmer on a Ferranti Mark I. The company's merger with another aircraft manufacturer led to his leaving and joining LEO. He worked on the LEO II at Standard Motors, but in 1963 joined Peter Gyngell in Australia working with a number of LEO computers sold in Australia and later with EELM and then ICL; finishing his career in 1996 as a very senior member of the successor companies working in an administrative and legal capacity.
Repository: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/50623/Alan-Sercombe-Interview-23-July-2014-50623/
Copyright: LEO Computers Society

Interviewee: **Betty Cooper (nee Newman)** DOB: 1930
Interviewer: Janet Abbate
Date of Interview: September 2001
Role in LEO: Programmer on LEO I and LEO II/I
Joined LEO: 1953
Abstract: Betty joined Lyons as a labour cost clerk in the Statistical Office in September 1949. In 1953 she was selected for a LEO appreciation course, and as a result was offered a job as a programmer on LEO I. Despite scepticism about what LEO would be able to do she accepted the offer. She worked on a number of applications – payroll under Mary Blood (Coombs) and Tea Blending under Frank Land. She gained a reputation as a sound and reliable programmer. She left LEO to work as a programmer with EverReady before leaving to start a family.
Copyright: IEEE
A transcript of this interview is available on the ETHW website.
Please Note: This item is not in the LEO Computers Oral History and this is a pointer to it.
Date : September 2001

❖ **Interviewee: <u>John Daines</u>**   **DOB:** 28th July 1943
Interviewer: Ray Hennessy
Date of Interview: 26/04/2012
Role in LEO: Computer Operator
Joined LEO: October 1961

Abstract: John was an operator in the LEO II bureau and then did acceptance trials for LEO III systems in the Minerva Road factory before moving onto System 4 trials and software development. His oral history covers the role of operators in the early

days. He progressed through ICL until retirement as a senior consultant in 2002. Active member of LEO Computers Society

Repository: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53366/John-Daines-Interview-26-April-2012-53366/

❖ **Interviewee: <u>Simon Benedictus</u>**   **DOB:** 1933

Interviewer: David Phillips
Date of Interview: 17.04.2012
Role in LEO: Statistician
Joined LEO:

Abstract: Mathematics degree from Imperial College, followed after National Service by Masters in Statistics from LSE. Joined Lyons Maid (Ice Cream division of J. Lyons) working on weather based Ice Cream forecasting. Helped define LEO Ice Cream sales job, later working on bakery sales. Remained an employee of J. Lyons.

Repository: Partially edited Transcript: Dropbox: https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Simon+Benedictus+Unedited.doc&qsid=28924991798288976813310853533124&query=simon+benedictus&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVlUbNhfSkQ%3D

Recording: *Part 1*: https://www.dropbox.com/home/LEO%20Oral%20History%20project/LEO%20Oral%20History%20Recordings/Simon%20Benidictus%20interview?preview=BENIDICTUS+PT1.m4a

     Part 2: https://www.dropbox.com/home/LEO%20Oral%20History%20project/LEO%20Oral%20History%20Recordings/Simon%20Benidictus%20interview?preview=BENIDICTUS+PT2.m4a

Recording: MP3/4
Text: Dropbox Unedited Transcripts Part 1
&2 https://www.dropbox.com/search/personal?path=%2F&preview=Simon+Benedictus+Unedited.doc&qsid=28523817330004498807401206891638&query=simon&search_token=maaZCi5EZfs9ghMHde3MaOmE5gIkeIs7mVlUbNhfSkQ%3D
Link: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53367/Simon-Benedictus-Interview/

❖ **Interviewee: <u>Roger Coleman</u>**   **DOB:** 1932

Interviewer: Tim-Greening Jackson
Date of Interview: 22.05.2008
Role in LEO: Computer Programmer, Systems Analyst
Joined LEO: December 1954

Abstract: Roger left Mill Hill school in 1950 to self-study to become an actuary but in 1954 responded to an advertisement for a programmer job at Cadby Hall. Joined LEO aged 22, the then youngest programmer. Rapid progress led to him being given the British Rail station to station distancing job working with John Gosden under David Caminer. The oral history is confined to his early career and the details of the BR job. A text-only Part 1 to the composite oral history provides a summary of his career to retirement. His career after leaving LEO in 1957 included managing the LEO 2/9 at Ilford Limited, working for Ford Motor Company and rising to head much of their European Computer organisation, and finishing his career as a private consultant.

Interviewee: Gloria Guy
Interviewer: Elizabetta Mori
Date: 13 Nov 2018
http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/55627/Gloria-Guy-Interview-13th-November-2018-55627/

Interviewee: **Chris Date**
Interviewer: Thomas Haigh
Date of Interview: 13/06/2007
Role in LEO: Mathematical Programmer
Joined LEO: 1962

Abstract: Chris Date, well known for his work on Database theory and practice started his career with LEO in 1962 – 1967, and provides a description of his experience on pages 7 - 9 of the transcript of the interview. Very complimentary about LEO.

Repository: Computer History Museum, California
Copyright: Computer History Museum, CHM Reference number: X4090.2007

To view this transcript, click on the following link :
External Link
: https://archive.computerhistory.org/resources/access/text/2013/05/102658166-05-01-acc.pdf" target="_blank">Click Here >>>

Please Note: This item is not in the LEO Computers Oral history collection but is signposted.
Date : 13th June 2007

❖ **Interviewee: Alan King**   **DOB:** August 1936
Interviewer: Tony Morgan   Died 2017
Date of Interview: 16.08.2011
Role in Lyons: Systems Research Office, then Lyons Computer Services
Joined Lyons: Autumn 1959
Abstract: Alan studied Classics at Oxford and on graduating was taken on by Lyons in their Systems Research Office. A career working on a number of the Lyons LEO application followed by a senior role in Lyons Systems Services, formed to develop

and service computer applications first on LEO machines and later when Lyons replaced LEO with IBM computers. Acting Chief Executive Institute of Administrative Management.

Repository:
Text:
https://www.dropbox.com/home/LEO%20Oral%20History%20project/Leo%20Interviews?preview=Alan+King+edited+P2.doc –
Edited Text:
Repository:http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53369/Alan-King-Interview/
Copyright: Leo Computers Society.
Restrictions: None known

❖ **Interviewee: <u>Ray Hennessy</u>**   **DOB:** December 1934
   Interviewer: John Daines   Died November 2016
   Date of Interview: 27.04.2012
   Role in Lyons: Programmer
   Joined Lyons: 1959
      Abstract: Joined as trainee programmer after being offered jobs by Elliott computing and English Electric.. Worked on many projects including British Oxygen. Despite temptation to join other companies remained with LEO and its successor companies working in a senior capacity on a number of Government projects and after retirement working as a consultant to ICL and its associated companies. Active in LEO Computers Society until his death.
   Repository: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53371/Ray-Hennessy-Interview-27th-April-2012-53371/
   Copyright: Leo Computers Society.
   Restrictions: None known

❖ **Interviewee: <u>Tony Morgan</u>**   **DOB:** June 1937
   Interviewer: Ray Hennessy
   Date of Interview: 08.11.2011
   Role in Lyons: Commissioning Engineer
   Joined Lyons: December 1947
      Abstract: Joined LEO as engineer. Spent most of his career as commissioning engineer on LEO IIs and IIIs, finishing as senior commissioning engineer. In retirement LEO Computer Society's expert on all matters relating to LEO hardware. Active Member of LEO Computers Society
   Text Repository: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53373/Tony-Morgan-Interview/
   Text: Transcript being currently edited by Tony Morgan
   Recording:
   Copyright: Leo Computers Society.
   Restrictions: None known

❖ **Interviewee: <u>Bob Gibson</u>**   **DOB:** 18th May 1927
   Interviewer: Martin Garthwaite   **Died:** August 2016
   Date of Interview:
   Role in LEO: Manager training and customer support
   Joined LEO: February 1956**:**

Abstract: Trained as electronic engineer as part of National Service. After working as an electronic research engineer in Civil Service, recruited by LEO as trainee maintenance engineer. Took responsibility for training customer engineers and rose to oversee all LEO training as well as managing engineering maintenance services/ Briefly left LEO to become management consultant but returned to become head of customer services for EELM. Retired 1988.
Repository: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53374/Bob-Gibson-Interview/

❖ **Interviewee: Doug Comish**   **DOB:** 1926
Interviewer: Martin Garthwaite
Date of Interview: 6th December 2011
Joined Lyons: December 1949
Role in Lyons: Management Trainee to management accountant
Joined LEO: April 1956
Role in LEO: Programming, and education to head of marketing
Abstract: Born in Liverpool, educated at grammar school, took Mathematics at Kings College, Cambridge. Then National Service finishing with rank of Captain. Joined Lyons as a Management Trainee in 1949, rose to management rank in the Lyons Work Office as cost accountant. Selected to join LEO in 1956. Long and distinguished career with many roles including education, staff selection, sales and marketing finishing as head of marketing before retirement. Active sportsman, including playing soccer for Cambridge University.
Repository: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53375/Doug-Comish-Interview/

❖ **Interviewee: Steve Farrow**   **DOB:**
Interviewer: Martin Garthwaite
Date of Interview:
Role in LEO: Commissioning and Design Engineer
Joined LEO: Spring 1957
Abstract: Took Science degree at Imperial College after national service in RAF. Joined LEO after seeing an advertisement. Steve worked as a commissioning engineer first on LEO II machines including commissioning the Bull Printer on LEO II/3 and subsequently on LEO II machines. Achieved rank of Chief Engineer for LEO III. Involved in design of the abandoned LEO IV after merger with English Electric. Subsequent career from 1965 with Medical Research Council working as a design engineer.
Repository: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53376/Steve-Farrow-Interview/

❖ **Interviewee: Ray Shaw**   **DOB: 17**[th] April 1924
❖ Interviewer: Martin Garthwaite
Date of Interview: 2013

Role in LEO: Design Engineer, Project Manager
Joined LEO: 1949

❖ To view more information on this interview, click on the following link :

❖ External Link : Click Here >>>

❖ Please Note: This item is not in LEO Computers collection and is included here for signposting purposes only.

❖ **Date :** 2013

Link:http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/61078/Ray-Shaw-Interview/

❖ **Interviewee: Ray Shaw**   **DOB: 17th April 1924**
   Interviewer-John Daines
   Date of Interview: 27th September 2016
   Role in LEO: Design Engineer, Project Manager
   Joined LEO: 1949
      Abstract: Joined Pinkerton as a design engineer, rising to senior design engineer for LEO I and II. Left LEO in 1956 to work with John Bennet in Australia at Sydney University. A distinguished career as project manager and design engineer with ICL followed including work on communication Systems. Retired in 1981 but carried on working as private consultant.
   Repository: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53377/Ray-Shaw-Interview-27th-September-2016-53377/
   Copyright: Leo Computers Society.
   Restrictions: None known

   Interviewee: Rodney Hornstein
   Interviewer: Vince Bodsworth
   Date of interview: 3 December 2018
   Length of recording: 1h19m59s
   Format: 1 original .mp3 recording 45.83MB (transferred to .mov video for presentation on YouTube 307MB)
   Copyright in recording content: Roger Hornstein and LEO Computers Society
   Transcript editor: unknown
   Abstract: Joined LEO Computers as a programmer after being interviewed by Frank Land following summer jobs at IBM, staying on as a consultant into the merger with English Electric and then ICL.
   Date : 3rd December 2018
   Repository: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/70218/Rodney-Hornstein-Interview-3rd-December-2018-70218/

❖ **Interviewee: Neil Lamming**   **DOB:** 1938
   Interviewer: Martin Garthwaite
   Date of Interview: 31.01.2012
Role in LEO: Programmer, Consultant, Manager
   Joined LEO : 1960
      Abstract: As a mathematics graduate Neil chose LEO when offered jobs in the computing industry. Started work at Hartree House working on Army Payroll, joined team at Renold Chains and subsequently recruited to join Peter Gyngell in

Australia. Rapid rise post merger to become Managing Director of ICL Australia at age 37. Left company to work on executive recruitment and retired at age 50.

Repository: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53378/Neil-Lamming-Interview/

❖   **Interviewee: <u>Margaret Baty</u>**   **DOB:**

Interviewer: Peter Byford

Date of Interview: October, 2015

Role Lyons:

Joined Lyons:

     Abstract:

Repository: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/62997/Margaret-Baty-Interview/

·   **Interviewee: <u>Ernest Roberts</u>**   **DOB: 1931**

Interviewer: Ray Hennessy

Date of Interview: April 2016

Joined LEO: 1954

     Abstract: Joined LEO following Mathematics degree at Oxford University and National Service. Started as programmer under Leo Fantl working on mainly mathematical applications on LEO I. Spend whole career with LEO and successor companies as a senior application and software programmer retiring aged 60.

Repository:http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53379/Ernest-Roberts-Interview/

Recording:

·   **Interviewee: <u>Derek Jolly</u>**   **DOB: 1930**

Interviewer: Cyril Platman   Died June 2018

Date of Interview: 11th April 2016

Joined LEO: Circa 1953-55

     Abstract: After grammar school started training as an accountant, but decided to try something else and was interviewed by David Caminer, and Tony Barnes and offered a job with LEO I as an operator. Worked on LEO I, LEO II and LEO III. Became shift leader and then Chief Operator. Left LEO in 1974 to join Access at Southend. Retired aged 60.

Repository: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53380/Derek-Jolly-Interview/

·   **Interviewee: <u>Peter Bird</u>**   **DOB:** 1934

Interviewer: Tony Morgan   **Died:** September 2017

Date of Interview: 6th September 2016

Joined Lyons: 1964

Abstract: After a career in the Merchant Navy achieving his Masters certificate 'discovered' computing, studied programming and applied for Jobs in computing. Interviewed by Lyons for an operator job and joined Lyons 1964 as an operator on the LEO III. Promoted rapidly to Operations Manager, then overall Systems Manager. After retirement became interested in the history of Lyons and in the LEO story resulting in the publication of his books on LEO and subsequently on Lyons the Food Empire.

Repository: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53381/Peter-Bird-Interview/

Recording:

Copyright: LEO Computers Society

Restrictions: None known

·   **Interviewee: <u>Peter Wharton</u>**   **DOB: 1941**

Interviewer: John Daines

Date of Interview: November 2nd 2016

Joined LEO: 1962

Abstract: Joined as a mathematical working on linear programming transportation applications. Long career with LEO and its successor companies working at various locations including Hartree House and subsequently Kidsgrove. His work involved hardware and software design as well as applications and he finished with the title of Chief Engineer. Appointed visiting Professor at Southampton University. Regarded his early learning of CLEO as a key step in his understanding of design in his later career.

Repository: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53382/Peter-Wharton-Interview-2nd-November-2016-53382/

Copyright: LEO Computers Society

Restrictions: None known

·   **Interviewee: <u>Paul Dixon</u>** 1928   **DOB:** September 29th

Interviewer: Mike Storey

Date of Interview: 4th April 2016, Transcribed 2nd February 2017

Joined LEO 1955

Role in LEO: Programmer, Consultant

Abstract: Paul Dixon, a refugee from Czechoslovakia (Prague) in 1947, graduated from Manchester University with an honours degree in Economics and Politics. Intrigued by an advertisement for programmers, applied, was interviewed by Peter Hermon and joined LEO Computers as a programmer. Although only with LEO for two years had a rapid rise ranging over a range of applications. Joined Roger Coleman at LEO II customer Ilford's. Emigrated to Canada and later the USA for a career in computing, including very senior, and prominent positions with major companies.

Repository: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53383/Paul-Dixon-Interview/

Copyright: LEO Computers Society

Restrictions: None Known

·   **Interviewee: <u>Michael Mills</u>**   **DOB: 1935**

Interviewer: David Phillips
Date of Interview: 7ᵗʰ February 2017
Joined LEO: 1958
Role in LEO: Maintenance Engineer LEO II

Abstract: A lively, chatty interview full of personal anecdotes relating to his life and work experiences. Concentrated on Maths at School and awarded scholarship to Cambridge. But opted to do National Service in Royal Signals, for two years, rising to rank of Lance Corporal. Opted for a degree in Physics at University of Birmingham, graduating with II/1. Saw LEO advert for engineers, taken on at Minerva Road and after training school became maintenance engineer on a range of LEO/IIs. Spent 3 years with LEO, then joined Honeywell as manager of software development. Subsequent career with Rank Xerox in marketing, as consultant with CACI, then working with James Martin and after a spell in Australia (1997), set up as independent consultant before retirement.

Transcribed: February 2017
Edited March 2017

· **Interviewee: <u>Patrick Blakes</u>**   **DOB: 1938**

Interviewer: Cyril Platman
Date of Interview: 27ᵗʰ July 2016
Joined LEO: 1958
Role in LEO: Commissioning and Maintenance Engineer LEO I and LEO III

Abstract: Received background training in Electronics doing his National Service in the Royal Air Force. Decided on career in that field after seeing an advert for trainee engineers from LEO. After training worked first as commissioning engineer on LEO II/7 than became site maintenance enginner on LEO II and LEO III sites including acting as chief engineer on Ilford's LEO III.. Retired from ICL in 1969 to join an independent computer maintenance company working on LEO machines.

· **Interviewee: <u>Ian White</u>**   **DOB: 19ᵗʰ November 1930**

Interviewer: Mike Hally
Date of Interview: 6ᵗʰ December 2016
Transcribed: 27ᵗʰ December 2016
Editor: Bob Marsh received copy for editing 5ᵗʰ January 2017
Joined LEO: Summer 1955
Role in LEO: Design Engineer on LEO II

Abstract: Studies Natural Sciences at St Andrews, specially interested in Electronics. Commissioned in REME and posted to teach at Shrivenham, On discharge interviewed by Pinkerton and joined LEO engineering team in Olaf

Street. Left LEO for a career in electronic control devices, but retained an interest in LEO. Joined LEO Computers Society and started collecting LEO memorabilia

· **Interviewee: <u>Tony Earnshaw</u>**   **DOB: 8th November 1935**

Interviewer: David Phillips
Joined LEO: Not clear. Worked on LEO III/6 Shell-Mex and BP in 1965 as part of site engineering team
Role in LEO: Maintenance Engineer
Date of Interview: 16th February 2017
Transcribed: 19th February 2017
Editor: David Phillips is undertaking a first edit of the transcript of a very confusing and chronologically muddled interview. Tony Earnshaw will be asked to re-edit the revised script.

Abstract: Worked as untrained TV repair man in 1950s, Spotted by passing LEO engineer, invited to apply to LEO. Started work as assistant to site engineers on the Shell-Mex and BP LEO III in Hemel Hampstead. Prides himself on his successful career as an engineer without having acquired any qualifications. Rose to be chief site engineer at Minerva Road responsible for seven sites. Left ICL to become independent engineer,

Transcript:
Link: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53387/Tony-Earnshaw-Interview/

· **Interviewee: <u>Peter Hermon</u>**   **DOB: November 1928**

Interviewer: Neville Lyons
Joined LEO: September 1955
Role in LEO: Programmer, Consultant
Date of Interview: 15th June 2017
Transcribed: 28th June 2017
Editor: Bob Marsh. Edited version to Dropbox 7th July 2017

Abstract: Peter Hermon joined LEO after he obtained first class honours from St. John's Oxford, and seeing an advertisement for a mathematician from J. Lyons. He was one of the most brilliant LEO recruits and quickly made his mark as a programmer and consultant. He was involved in a number of LEO sales, working first with Wills Tobacco and later with Dunlop Rubber. He joined Dunlop to first run their LEO installation, but subsequently rose to head Dunlop Management Services world-wide. He moved to BOAC where he was responsible for the development of BOADICEA the airline reservation system which became a major UK success story and later became a Director of British Airways. After retirement in 1989 he became an active member of the LEO Foundation, acting as its treasurer.   Peter's other

interests were walking in North Wales and he has published a number of guides for walking in Wales.

Interviewee: <u>Peter Byford</u>   **DOB:** 1944
Editor: Frank Land, May 2018
Abstract: Peter had a long career in computing starting when he left Grammar School aged just 17 and following an advertisement applied to LEO Computers Limited. Passing the aptitude test as the sole non-graduate applicant at that time, he was trained as a programmer to work on the LEOIII/1 Hartree Service Bureau. He worked on a number of applications, rising in seniority, but left LEO in 1965 to join the AA as a programmer and data analyst. His subsequent career, primarily in Data Management included a 27 year stint at Eastern Gas, followed by the software contractor and consultant John Hoskins, and later as an independent contractor/consultant. Despite his relatively short stint at LEO at the beginning of his career, it is to his LEO roots he returned on retirement. After attending an early LEO reunion he took over the chair of the LEO Computers Society, and oversaw its growth to over 800 members (May 2018), and continues to fill that role with undiminished enthusiasm.

Interviewee: <u>Geoff Pye</u>   **DOB:** 1932
Interviewer: Paul Bygrave
Date of Interview: 3rd August, 2017
Editor: Frank Land
Joined LEO: 1956
<u>**Abstract**</u> Geoff Pye was brought up in near Ilford, East London, took a degree in Geography at Kings College, University of London, and after 2 years National Service, looked to start a career as a Management Trainee. Applying to Lyons amongst other companies he was diverted to the fledgling LEO organisation, Interviewed by Ted Rowley and David Caminer he was impressed took the aptitude test and was offered a job as a programming trainee under the tutelage of Leo Fantl. After a period rising in the programming/system ranks, including secondment to the MPNI LEO II/6 in Newcastle changed tack to running computer operations taking charge of first of the London LEO service bureaux and subsequently the EELM and ICL bureau operations. Following a brief interlude working for consultants John Hoskyns returned to ICL as a[1] senior manager for BARIC the joint service bureau company set up by ICL and Barclays Bank. As batch services were sold off to be replaced by INS - the ICL network services company Geoff took up the reigns. More senior jobs in operations followed before retirement age 60.

Interviewee: <u>Mike Gifford</u>   **DOB:** 1936
Interviewer: Dag Spicer
Date of Interview: 30th September 2017
Editors: Bob Marsh (P1) and Frank Land (p2) Nov 2017
Joined LEO: 1959 or 1960
Role in LEO: Started as temporary assistant at Minerva Road, then trained as consultant at Hartree House and rose rapidly working as consultant in a variety of locations including the Midlands, North West London ICL region. Finishing work with ICL as Chief Executive of ICL Australia for two and a half years, before leaving computer industry.
Left LEO/ICL: 1975

<u>Abstract:</u> After Grammar School education opted for National Service in Royal Navy before taking his place at University. Seconded to work in Aircraft Carriers and specialised in meteorology. Following two years National Service went to London School of Economics for a B.Sc. in Economics. Greatly influenced by Karl Popper's ideas on Scientific Methods. His father suggested looking for a job up in a rising industry – either computing or microbiology. Selected computing and following an advertisement started a temporary job with LEO at Minerva Road. See above for role in LEO which included working as the LEO consultant with customers such as Cerebos Salt. Tote Investors, Eveready Batteries and Heinz and abroad the Czech steelworks. Identified early as potential high flyer by David Caminer. Following the merger with ICL he took charge of one of the major marketing regions. Following a number of senior appointments was Appointed Managing Director ICL Australia (1974). After a successful two and a half years left the Computer Industry on appointment as Managing Director of the newly merged Cadbury Schweppes Australia Company. More senior management positions followed back in the UK culminating in being appointed Chief Executive of the Rank Organisation, an enterprise he transformed from an ailing enterprise to be highly successful.

Interviewee: Mike Thompson,

Interviewer: Elisabetta Mori
Date of interview: 6 December 2017
Length of recording: 1h3m56s
Format: original .m4a recording 141.85MB (transferred to .mov video for presentation on YouTube 233.94MB)
Copyright in recording content: Mike Thompson and LEO Computers Society

Transcript editor: unknown

   Abstract: Joined LEO Computers in 1962 as an operator on LEO III/1 and later trained other operators, staying through the various mergers until moving to work for Diebold

Corporation. After spending 3 years in Zambia, returned to working on LEO III/4 for London Boroughs as a manager in Systems and Programming.

Date : 6th December 2017

Interviewee: <u>Jean Elliott (Cox)</u>   **DOB:**

Interviewer: Elisabetta Mori

Joined LEO: Probably 1948/49 having been a Lyons clerk

Role in LEO: Clerical assistant to John Pinkerton

Abstract: One of the earliest to join the LEO team as a clerical assistant involved in a variety of tasks such as filing and note taking for the design team comprising John Pinkerton, Ray Shaw Ernest Kaye and Ernest Lenaerts. Even permitted to do some soldering. Always remembers with great fondness working with LEO

Interviewee: Alan Hooker   **DOB: 23rd May 1934**

Interviewer: Paul Bygrave

Date of Interview: 21st November 2018

Editors: David Phillips (P1) and Mike Jackson (P2)

Joined LEO: May/June 1958

Role in LEO: Programmer on LEO I, LEO II and LEO III rising to Programming Manager.

Left LEO: 1965

Abstract: After failing to take a Physics degree at Bristol University followed by National Service in Royal Engineers as commissioned officer, a chance meeting with a fellow Bristol student Brian Mills who had been recruited by Lyons for LEO, took the LEO aptitude test and after interview by David Caminer joined LEO as a maintenance programmer on LEO I. Worked in Betty Cooper's team whom he describes as one of the best managers he ever worked for. Converted LEO I programmes to run on LEO II, then involved in programming a number of service bureau applications and the Standard Motor LEO II/8. Involved at a more senior level with the LEO III to demonstration to prove to the Post Office LEO IIIs multiprogramming capability. Became Programming Manager leading team of 25 charged with producing standard business routines. Left LEO after merger with <u>English</u> Electric, Moved to DataSolve as Technical Director. Returned to ICL after grand merger as Project Manager at Data Skill.

Interviewee: Alan Jacobs   **D.O.B.** 16.06.1931
Interviewer: David Phillips
Date of Interview: 17.10.2018
Editor: Frank Land
Joined LEO: 1957

Abstract: Alan, born in Stoke, took a degree in History at St John's, Oxford, commencing in 1950, after National Service in the RAF and tried a number of jobs as management trainee, but was not inspired by them. Tempted by LEO advert and after interview was invited to join as programmer. Involved with a succession of service jobs rising in seniority. Despite his admiration and like of working at LEO decided to further his career by leaving LEO, first for BEA and then other organisations none of which had the sense of knowing what they were doing he had found at LEO. When the opportunity came in 1962 he re-joined BAOC to join the team being built by Peter Hermon to develop a comprehensive Airline Reservation System. Alan headed a team developing ground-breaking Airline Departure system. Alan left British Airways and was recruited by Sainsbury's as their Director of IT helping to transform the business. After Sainsbury's Alan retired
Restrictions: None known
Repository: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/56451/Alan-Jacobs-Interview-17-October-2018-56541/
Interviewee: **Frank Land** DOB: 24.10.1928
Interviewer: Paul Jagger, Director Archive IT
Date of Interview: 22.05.2018
Editor: Helen Carter, ArchiveIT
Role in LEO: Programmer, Systems Analyst, Marketing, Consultant
Joined LEO: 1953

Abstract: Archives IT are conducting and archiving interviews of UK individuals who have contributed to the development and evolution of IT. Frank Land has been added to the archive with a whole life interview. Ninian Eady is also in the archive.

To view this interview, click on the following link :
External Link : Click Here >>>

Please Note: This item is not in the LEO Computers and is included here for signposting purposes only.
Date : 22nd May 2018
Interviewee: **Frank Land** DOB: 24.10.1928
Interviewer: Google
Date of Interview: 21.11.2011Role in LEO: Programmer, Systems Analyst, Marketing, Consultant
Joined LEO: 1953
Abstract: Google interviewed and filmed a number of old LEO employees including Frank Land as part of the celebration at the Science Museum of the 60th anniversary of the roll out of the first business application on the LEO I computer. Narrated by Georgina Ferry.
Please Note: This item is not in our collection and is included here for signposting purposes only.
Date : 21st November 2011

Repository:

http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/62996/Frank-Land-Interview-by-Google/

Interviewee: **Frank Land** DOB: 24.10.1928

Interviewer: Thomas Lean, British Library

Date of Interview: 2010

Reference: C1379/17

Role in LEO: Programmer, Systems Analyst, Marketing, Consultant

Joined LEO: 1953

Abstract: This is a full oral history of the life of Frank Land as part of the British Libraries Oral History series on the life of selected British Computer scientists.

Repository: British Library, National Life Stories, an Oral History of British Science

Type of recorder: Marantz PMD661 on secure digital

Recording format: WAV 24 bit 48 kHz

Total no. of tracks 18 Stereo

Total Duration: 15 hours:06 minutes:31 seconds

To view the transcript of this interview, click on the following link :

External Link : Click Here >>>

Please Note: This item is not in the LEO Society collection and is included here for signposting purposes only.

Date : 2010

Interviewee: Brian Mills   **DOB: 1933**

Interviewer: David Phillips

Date of Interview:

Editor: Frank Land, September 2018

Joined LEO: July 8th 1957

Abstract After completing Grammar School from a primarily languages stream, Brian completed his National Service of two years in the Royal Corps of Signals with the rank of 2nd lieutenant. A degree in Economics from Bristol University followed, completed in 1956. A number of jobs, followed, some in marketing, one teaching Hungarians English for the Coal Board, but none of them wholly satisfactory. Tempted by advert to try for a job with LEO and following interviews by Alan Jacobs and Doug Comish accepted a job offer a trainee programmer joined LEO in July 1957. His programming career started with a number of payroll systems under the tutored by LEO Fantl. Later he joined Leo Fantl in South Africa as systems manager on the LEO III in November 1960. Returned to England after two years to join the consultants' marketing LEO IIIs, and included Freeman's Mail Order amongst his successes. Shortly after the return from South Africa LEO became EELM, a move Brian did not enjoy, deciding to join consultants Coopers

and Lybrand. This was the beginning of a long and successful career outside LEO embracing a number of companies, culminating with head of management services for British Oxygen. After leaving British Oxygen Brian set up his own venture capital business

Interviewee: **John Gardner** , FBCS CITP   **D.O.B: 1937**
Interviewer: Graham Briscoe

Date of Interview: Unusually, because of the Covid-19 lockdown, the oral history consists of answers to questions sent by the interviewer in March 2020.

Editor: Frank Land

Abstract: Trained as an apprentice engineer and spent 7 years working with EMI. Saw advert from LEO for engineer but wanted to leave engineering and applied to join LEO as a bureau programmer at Hartree House. Joined LEO in 1962 just as LEO ii/5 wasw being pkased out for LEO III/1. Worked, using first Intercode, then CLEO on a number of bureau applications including Heinz production control, and on the transfer of the Heinz bureau jobs from LEO II to their own LEO III. Progressed rapidly becoming responsible for payroll and share registration applications. With the long-term future of LEO dubious enticed to Honeywell (UK) by a job offer that could not be refused, to work on their H200 operating system. After 7 months I moved on to be a consultant for Hoskyns System Management which was being set up as a subsidiary to Hoskyns Consultancy and where the LEO experience was much more relevant. Worked for them for seven years, but then found that the nomadic life that was required of consultants to advance was not compatible with having a young family so joined London Transport IT where and worked for them for 20 years until retirement.

Restrictions: Non known

Interviewee: Barry Fox   **DOB 1935**
Interviewer: John Daines

Date of Interview: 19th July 2017
Editors: David Phillips (P1) and Frank Land (P2)
Joined LEO installation: 1958
Role at LEO: Programmer
Left LEO: 1966

Abstract: Graduated from Birmingham University with a Maths degree before National Service in where he learned programming on an Elliott 402 machine. Enjoying programming he applied for a programming job with LEO. His prior programming experience allowed him to pass the LEO aptitude test with ease and after surviving an interview with David Caminer was immediately taken on as a programmer. His programming career started with working on LEO II applications including the Glynn Mills Officers payroll under John Lewis and then progressed toto systems software working at Minerva Road. After working on the Intercode translator took a key role in the design and programming of the CLEO compiler for LEO III. After the formation of EELM worked on System 4. Moved to Kidsgrove, keeping up his interest in the design of computer languages and as as a result of his expertise was assigned as an EELM representative under John Pinkerton on ECMA. Continued working in this field until in the mid 80s interest in language and compiler design faded and as a result took early retirement at age 55. Whilst at LEO married

fellow programmer Margaret James, started family life and had 3 children. In retirement he joined Congleton Sustainability Group and runs a Green Living course for Congleton U3A, and has acted on his life-long interest in cycling as secretary of the local cycling club.

Repository:http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/64032/Barry-Fox-Interview-19-July-2017-64032/

Interviewee: John Durham   **DOB: 31st August 1939**

Interviewer: David Phillips
Date of Interview: 22.02.2019
Editors: Michael and Helen Jackson
Joined LEO: 1963
Role in LEO: Programmer then sales and marketing
Left LEO:
Abstract: After a degree in Industrial Economics at Nottingham University University joined LEO, having been impressed by the drive of the team from LEO interviewing him as part of the milk-round recruiting new graduates. By the time he joined as a as a programmer LEO had merged with English Electric. Worked as part of the team programming the Premium Bond application for the Post Office, but finding himself a not very good programmer acted as informal PA to David Caminer and moved successfully into Sales & Marketing covering Eastern European countries. Later joined Software Sciences as European Marketing Manager. Then formed his own company. The oral history includes fascinating anecdotes of his career with LEO and its successor companies.

Repository: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/62993/John-Durham-Interview/

Interviewee: Helen Jackson (Nee Clark)``   **DOB**: June 1936

Status of Interview: The Interview is part of LBS Oral History Project but was not a recorded interview, the transcript compiled by interviewer Helen Jackson's husband Michael.
Interviewer: Michael Jackson
Date of Interview: March 2021
Editor: Michael Jackson
Joined LEO: September 1957
Role in LEO: Application Programmer
Abstract: Born in Wigan. After A levels in 1954 went to Manchester University, and graduated in Maths in 1957. Went for job interviews to English Electric, Vickers Aircraft and LEO.   I liked LEO best, particularly the job Appreciation Course, which in those days was a one day elementary programming course and tests on it, with the interview coming after the test results were known, Placed in programming section managed by Jim Smith, which had about 15 programmers working mainly in technical and insurance applications followed in 1961 by being given responsibility for all service bureau application After

writing a major programme for husband Mike took part time job as bookkeeper and as such became early user of PC, later concentrated on voluntary work.

Repository:
Copyright: LEO Computers Society
Restrictions: none known

Interviewee: <u>John Page</u>   **DOB:** 1944
Interviewer: Dag Spicer, Computer History Museum, CA.
Date of Interview: April 11th 2017
Joined LEO: 1958?
Role in LEO: Commissioning Engineer
Abstract: Scholarship boy at St Clements Danes, public School. Interested in radio and electronics as a hobby. Chance encounter with friend working at Lyons led to application to LEO. Did well in LEO aptitude test and offered job as engineering apprentice in Minerva Road. As such worked on various engineering jobs before joining Tony Morgan's commissioning team. Provides fascinating account of way LEO operations worked to ensure to make working computers and working systems. Rose to become chief commissioning engineer on a number of LEO IIIs including Post Office and Czech machines. Left LEO after merger created ICL, but continued his career in computing, but changing from engineering to software management including a spell working for Hewlett Packard and moving to live in US.
Left LEO: Made redundant after formation of ICL
Repository:
Copyright: Computer History Museum, CA.
Restrictions: None known

Interviewee: **John M.M. Pinkerton** 1919-1997
Interviewer: Chris Evans
Date of Interview: 1975
Role in LEO: Chief Engineer
Joined LEO: 1948

Abstract: John Pinkerton joined Lyons as chief engineer at the very beginning of the LEO initiative and led the engineering side until the merger with English Electric. He held senior engineering appointments within the merged companies until his retirement. Much of the success of the LEO enterprise lay in his genius for bringing innovative ideas to practical fruition – one of the true heroes of the information age.

Repository: London Science Museum
Audio Recording: Tape 6 in Christopher Evans's 'Pioneers of Computing'
Transcript: Evans, Chris, (1983) Pioneers of Computing, IEEE Annals of the History of Computing,
Vol. 5, No 1, pp 64-72, January-March.
Copyright: Audio, London Science Museum, Transcript, IEEE

Please Note: This item is not in the LEO Computers collection and is included here for signposting purposes only.

Repository:http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53242/John-Pinkerton-Interview/
Date : 1975

Interviewee: **John M.M. Pinkerton** (1919 - 1997)
Interviewer: John Pinkerton, self interview
Date of Interview: 23.08.1988
Role in LEO: Chief Engineer
Joined LEO: 1948

Abstract: Pinkerton begins by discussing his education and wartime work in radar technology in England. He then describes his movement into the computer industry after World War II and his work on the LEO I and LEO II computers. In this context he discusses the British computer firms J. Lyons and Company, LEO Computers, English Electric Co., and International Computers Ltd.

Repository: Charles Babbage Institute, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Transcript: 54 pages
Copyright: Charles Babbage Institute

To view this a transcript of this interview, click on the following link :
External Link : Click Here >>>

Please Note: This item is not in our collection and is included here for signposting purposes only.
Date : 23rd August 1988
Repository: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53241/John-Pinkerton-Self-Interview/

Interviewee: **John Simmons**
Interviewer: Chris Evans
Date of Interview: 1970s
Edited Transcript: Science Museum
Copyright: Science Museum

Reprinted as Interview between J.R.M. Simmons, Director and Chief Comptroller of J. Lyons & Co., and the Science Museum, London. Appendix B, in Caminer, D.T., Aris, J.B., Hermon, P.M., Land, F.F. (editors and contributors) LEO The Incredible Story of the World's first Business Computer, McGraw Hill, New York, pages 360-374

Please Note: This item is not in the LEO Computers collection and is included here for signposting purposes only.
Repository:http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53240/John-Simmons-Interview/

Interviewees: **Mary Coombs (née Blood), Frank Land, Ralph Land, Ernest Kaye**
Interviewer: Google
Date of Interview: 21.11.2011

Abstract: Google interviewed and filmed a number of ex-LEO employees as part of the celebration at the Science Museum of the 60th anniversary of the roll out of the first business application on the LEO I computer.

Narrated by Georgina Ferry.

To view this video, click on the following link :
External Link : Click Here >>>

Please Note: This item is not in the LEO Computers collection and is included here for signposting purposes only.
Date : 21st November 2011
Link: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53244/LEO-Celebrating-the-Pioneers/

Interviewee: **Ralph Land**
nterviewer: Martin Garthwaite as part of LEO Computer Society's Oral History Project
Date of Interview: 31st October 2011
Role in LEO: Bureau Manager, Export Manager
Joined LEO: 1954

Abstract: Ralph joined the Lyons Teashop Division in 1953 as management accountant for the Teashops and transferred to LEO in 1954. He rose to manager of the LEO City Office followed by spells in promoting LEO exports in Paris and Dusseldorf before heading the LEO/English Electric team working in Eastern Europe including Soviet Russia. His subsequent career until retirement was with Rank-Xerox and Rolls Royce working on exports to Eastern Europe.
Link: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53363/Ralph-Land-Interview/
Text: Edited by Ralph Land and Hilary Caminer
Recording: MP3 (recording and transcript to be added).
Copyright: LEO Computers Society
Date : 31st October 2011

Interviewee: **Mary Coombs (née Blood)** DOB: 1929
Interviewer: Thomas Lean, British Library
Date of Interview: 2010
Reference: C1379/16
Role in LEO: Programmer
Joined LEO: 1953

Abstract: This is a full oral history of the life of Mary Coombs as part of the British Library Oral History series on the life of selected British Computer scientists.

Repository: British Library, National Life Stories, An Oral History of British Science

Type of recorder: Marantz PMD661 on secure digital (Sessions 1-4) Marantz PMD660 on compact flash (Sessions 5-9).

Recording format: Wav 24 bit 48 kHz (sessions 1-4) WAV 16 bit 48 kHz (sessions 5-9) Total no. of tracks 9 Stereo Total Duration 07 hours:14 minutes:40 second

A transcript of this interview is available online.

(Copyright/Clearance: Open except for 00:56:57 – 00:59:15 of track 7 and 00:21:51 - 00:22:49 of track 9; these sections are closed for 30 years until June 2041.)

Please Note: This item is not in the LEO Computers collection and is included here for signposting purposes only.

Link:http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53243/Mary-Blood-(Mary-Coombs)-Interview/

Date : 2010

Interviewee: **Mary Coombs** (née Blood) DOB: 1929
Interviewer: Google
Date of Interview: 21.11.2011
Role in LEO: Programmer
Joined LEO: 1953
Abstract: Google interviewed and filmed a number of old LEO employees including Mary Coombs as part of the celebration at the Science Museum of the 60th anniversary of the roll out of the first business application on the LEO I computer. Narrated by Georgina Ferry.

Please Note: This item is not in the LEO Computers collection and is included here for signposting purposes only.

Other references to Mary Coombs include:

- Douglas, Ian (2013-09-11) - "Bletchley Park celebrates women in computing"
- Google Arts & Culture, Google Cultural Institute - "Women in Computing: a British Perspective"
- Diversity in HPC - "Mary Coombs"
- BBC News - "Museum celebrates women in computing"
- British Library Voices of Science - "Mary Coombs"

Date : Unknown
Link: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/56445/Mary-Coombs-shares-her-story/

Interviewee: Brian Grimshaw   DOB 24December 1948
Interviewer: Mike Hally
        Date of Interview: 9th February 2021
        Editors: Mike Tyzack (P1) and Mike Jackson (P2) Mar 2021
        Joined LEO installation Shell Mex & BP Wythenshaw: 1967
        Role on LEO: Computer Operator starting with offline work, progressing through tape loading to full control of the computer.
        Left LEO/Shell:1968
        Abstract: After Grammar School joined Shell Mex & BP's LEO III as a computer operator. Moved within Shell onto an ICT machine operating, then plug-board programming. Programmed a UNIVAC machine then an IBM 360. Was transferred to documentation. Self employed in Holland then contract programmer. Specialised in security installation and implementation.
        Repository :http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/62994/Brian-Grimshaw-Interview/
        Copyright: Leo Computers Society.
        Restrictions: None known

Interviewee: Ken Kemp   DOB during the war
Interviewer: SELF see memoirs and reminiscences below
Date of Interview: September 2020
Joined LEO: September 1964
Role in LEO: Trainee programmer progressing to Head of Systems & Programming
Left LEO: Transferred to BARIC leaving in 1984

Abstract: Following graduation joined as trainee programmer on LEO III at LEO's Bristol bureau. Progressed to Head of Systems & Programming. Migrated to System 4, finishing working for Baric which he left in 1984.. On leaving LEO worked as a project manager or software manger with several national companies until retirement. Then joined the project to emulate LEO programming on a PC. Provided comprehensive review of LEOSoftware and Utilities. See http://sw.ccs.bcs.org/leo/KenK.htm

Repository memoir:: https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/ri0d9gfi1swo2b38ny26y/Ken-Kemp-memo.doc?dl=0&rlkey=cxln05lvvjr35gfe4kj0wak0r

Interviewee: Margaret Fox   DOB pre war
Interviewer: John Daines
Date of Interview: 19th July 2017
Editors: Hilary Caminer (P1) and Frank Land (P2)
Joined LEO: not known
Role on LEO: Programmer
Left LEO/customer: 1962

Abstract: After leaving University she joined LEO as a programmer working on payroll. After giving birth she did some home working. Then she moved into teaching followed by clerical work then data input.

Repository: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/63001/Margaret-Fox-(Margaret-James)-Interview-19th-July-2017-63001/

Interviewee: Mike Jackson   DOB 1931
Interviewer: Elisabetta Mori
Date of Interview: 25th July 2018
Editors: Mike Jackson (P1) and Frank Land (P3)
Joined LEO 1957
Role at LEO: Programmer, lecturer, project manager, senior consultant (sales)
Left LEO   1964

Abstract: After University joined LEO as trainee programmer on LEO II. Later lectured on a course. Project leader for Eagle Star pension fund on LEO II/1. Project Manager for British Oxygen on LEO II/7.Wrote specification for Perkins Engines service job on LEO II/5. Rose to Senior Consultant (sales) writing proposals for sale of LEO III to many customers. Oversaw installation of LEO III to some of them. Moved to Freemans Mail Order as Computer Manager on LEO 326. Became Administration

Manager, helping to transform the company with groundbreaking applications. Moved to Perkins Engines as Group Director Management Services. In 1980 moved to a company providing bespoke applications using micro-computers. Outside interests included dinghy sailing to international standards and designing what became an Olymbic class dinghy. Also enjoyed flying and owned his own small aircraft. Married Helen Clark a LEO programming manager.

Interviewee: <u>Ian Bruce</u>   **DOB: 11 November** 1947
Interviewer: Mike Hally
Editor: Tony Morgan and Frank Land
Role in LEO: Site engineer
Joined LEO (EELM): circa 1967
Date of Interview: 5th July 2017

Abstract: Left school in Edinburgh aged 15 to be apprenticed to his father's Radio and TV supply and repair shop. After 4 years, expecting to take over the business, his father sold the business leaving Ian to find a job. On seeing an advert by EELM for computer engineers applied, sat the aptitude test and was offered job of trainee Data Prep engineer, Assigned to work at CAV LEO III site in Acton. Subsequently took on computer maintenance with special skills in maintenance of magnetic tape. Worked on a number of sites including Post Office LEO 326 in Edinburgh and later on a range of ICL computers. Became team leader but retired when offered early retirement Fujitsu after 35 years service. Keen on sports and still active as a swimmer.

Interviewee: <u>Peter Wharton</u>
Interviewer: John Daines
Date of Interview: 2nd November 2016
Editors: David Phillips (P1) and Bob Marsh (P2)
Additional Editing: Frank Land (FL)
Joined LEO: 1962
Role in LEO: Programmer

Abstract<u>:</u> After West Bromwich Grammar School and graduating with a maths degree from Leicester University. Following the advice of a friend who had become a computer programmer, responded to a LEO job advert, was called for an aptitude test at Hartree House. Offered job as trainee programmer using CLEO, and with his background in maths was assigned to John Caldwell's Mathematical Programming Group at Minerva Road. Worked on production of linear programming package for solving the transport problem principally for Shell. Notes that unlike the programming groups at Hartree House the Minerva Road group had not adopted a setoff programming, testing and implementation procedures. Moved to join programming teams in Hartree House, and in 1964 after merger with EE selected as member of EELM team to work on RCA Spectra

70 and in particular the design of multiprogramming software for what was to become System 4. Married fellow LEO programmer Sheila Milne. On return to UK moved to Kidsgrove. With formation of ICL advanced rapidly at Company level rising to Chief Engineer working under Technical Director. Became involved in collaborating with Universities including appointment as Visiting Professor at Southampton University and research collaborating with Durham University.

Repository : http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/53382/Peter-Wharton-Interview-2nd-November-2016-53382/

LEO Interviewee: Ninian Eadie   DOB 15th March 1937
Interviewer: Two Interviews, by ArchivesUK, and for LEO Oral History Project by John Ferguson plus a third memoir by Edie himself.
Date of Interview: LE) interview 6th July 2017

Joined 1960

Role in LEO: Joined LEO as a trainee programmer, rose rapidly in a variety of roles including teaching, defining CLEO, sales management in South Africa, managing the important Post Office project and taking senior management roles in EELM and subsequently ICL and Fujitsu.

Left LEO, on 1967 merger to take senior roles in ICL

Abstract:

Education, prep school, Winchester, Balliol College, Oxford (PPE). After National Service in the Navy joined LEO as trainee programmer. His LEO career included teaching on training courses, joining LEO teams assisting customers like Cerbos, defining LEO III software, acting as sales manager for LEO's joint venture with Rand Mines in South Africa, and culminating in the role of Project Manager for the LEO III and System 4 Post Office project, the largest and most technically and politically project in LEO history. Following the merger which created ICL in 1967, he took on a series of increasingly senior roles for ICL and its successor companies, including managing ICL's international sales organisation, acting as assistant to ICL's chief executive and under Fujitsu became (1993 -1996) Group Executive Director for Technology before retirement. Amongst his outside interests he became an internationally recognised Dinghy racer.

Repository ArchiveIT: Ninian Eadie - Archives of IT (archivesit.org.uk)
Repository recording and edited transcript by John Ferguson:
http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/63000/Ninian-Eadie-Interview-6th-October-2017-63000/

Interviewee: <u>Neville Lyons</u>　　　　　　　　　**DOB:** 16th April 1928

　　Interviewer: Phillips
　　Date of Interview: 19/04/2022
　　Role in LEO: Trustee LEO Computers Society
　　Joined LEO: Joined LEO Computers Society as 'friend' in 2014

　　Abstract: After a career as a Professional soldier, serving as adjutant while a junior officer and rising to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel,
found his metier in acting as a communicator. Discovering his distant relationship to Joe Lyons and the Lyons food empire started compiling presentations to interested bodies like U3A, and Probus making 166 presentations in a period of a few years. In the course of compiling the story of Lyons he discovered LEO, met LEO Computer Society people and started about 2014 telling the LEO story, and applied to join the LEO Computers Society as a friend. Subsequently became more and more involved compiling and making numerous presentations. Active member of LEO Computers Society.

　　Repository: http://www.computinghistory.org.uk/det/69137/Neville-Lyons-Interview/
　　Copyright: LEO Computers Society

<u>Georgina Ferry Transcripts</u>:

Georgina Ferry has donated the unedited transcripts of the people she interviewed for her book <u>A Computer called LEO</u> to the Heritage Project of the LEO Computers Society. The following interviewees are included:

Anthony Salmon, Maurice Wilkes, David Wheeler, Murray Laver, David Caminer, John Pinkerton, Ernest Kaye, Ray Shaw, Derek Hemy, Peter Hermon, John Aris, Mary Coombs, Ralph Land, Frank Land (incomplete first half of transcript lost)