

1. CLIR Internal Project wiki (screengrab)

CLIR Grant Project Site

Search this site

Home

- Project Definition
- The Team
- To-Dos
- Project updates
- Benchmark Dates
- Files
- Time Tracker
- Sitemap

87 days since Project Due Date

My recent activity

To-Dos
item added by Cate Mills
item edited by Cate Mills

[Say goodbye to the History Files!](#)
created by Cate Mills

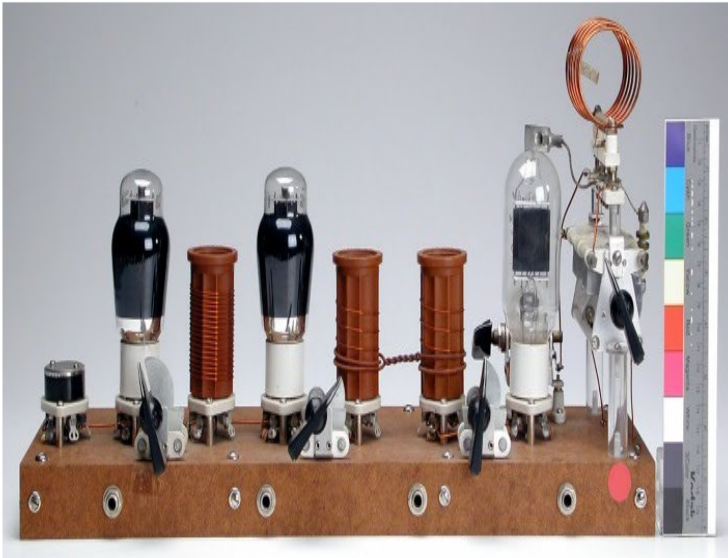
To-Dos
item edited by Cate Mills

Template tips

[Learn more about working with templates.](#)

[How to change this sidebar.](#)

Home



This project will provide access to five, currently hidden manuscript collections within the Perham Collection: 1) the Lee de Forest papers, which comprise the largest collection documenting this award-winning radio and motion-picture inventor; 2) research notes and correspondence of Jane Morgan, author of "Electronics in the West," a treasure-trove of information on early electronics pioneers on the West Coast; 3) rare

Messages

[Say goodbye to the History Files!](#) I've just cataloged my last folder in the 13 boxes of History Files!
Posted May 30, 2012, 5:12 PM by Cate Mills

[Halfway through the History Files](#) Yes, I've cataloged 7 boxes now. 7 down, 7 more to go. I've found a lot of old brochures for electric apparatus, radios, military communications, etc. and have ...

8:16 PM 3/28/2013

2. Email that went to the California Historical Radio newsletter

From: wfw@mindspring.com

Reply-to: CaliforniaHistoricalRadio@yahoogroups.com

To: CaliforniaHistoricalRadio@yahoogroups.com

Sent: 1/29/2013 2:03:38 P.M. Pacific Standard Time

Subj: [CaliforniaHistoricalRadio] History San Jose - Perham Collection now processed

Great news for California electronics history buffs. See this article and the two links from the Society of California Archivists. Perham, DeForest, Doc Herrold, Varian brothers, etc.

<http://tinyurl.com/a2egaz5>

Staff and volunteers at the History San Jose Research Library and Archives have recently completed processing five manuscript collections from the Perham Collection of Early Electronics under a 2012 grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources' Cataloging Hidden Collections and Archives program. Item-level catalog records, as well as many digital images, are now available . The project provides access to more than 100 linear feet of the largest manuscript portions of the Perham Collection, previously unprocessed, and to some extent unknown even to our Curator:

1) The Lee and Marie de Forest Papers comprise the largest collection documenting this award-winning radio and motion-picture inventor. They include not only de Forest's early Yale University, American DeForest Wireless Telegraph, and DeForest Phonofilm scrapbooks of correspondence, ephemera and news clippings, but also extensive correspondence between de Forest and his peers during the 1940s and 1950s that sheds light on the complex man behind his sometimes controversial inventions;

2) Professional and personal papers of 1916 Stanford engineering graduate Harold Elliott contain extensive materials on his work with Federal Telegraph, Galvin Manufacturing, RCA-Victor, and Hewlett-Packard, and his radio clock-tuner inventions. In addition, Elliott was a talented photographer, and his papers include more than 1000 photographs from his early days at Stanford University (1911-1916), hiking and camping trips in the Sierras and Arizona (circa 1915-1930), early automobiles, and later photographs of the Pacific Coastline and Portola Valley foothills,

many of which were displayed in photography exhibits in the 1950s and 1960s;

3) Rare materials from Federal Telegraph Company (1909-1929), one of Silicon Valley's earliest successful startups, including Douglas Perham's scrapbooks of photographs, blueprints, and technical reports documenting Federal's radio installations in San Francisco, San Diego, El Paso and Kansas City between 1909 and 1912;

4) Research notes and correspondence of Jane Morgan, author of "Electronics in the West" (1967), a treasure trove of information on early electronics pioneers on the West Coast. Although written in a popular style, Morgan's work was meticulously researched and documented, and her research files include correspondence and notes detailing interviews with many key individuals;

5) the Perham Historical Files, a collection of ephemera, notes, manuscripts, and other items pertaining to hundreds of people, companies, and technical developments.

The Perham Collection of Early Electronics preserves rare books and ephemera, trade manuals, personal papers and archives, along with some 1200 photographs, and 2500 electronics devices from some of the earliest commercial ventures in electronics in the Western U.S. and a nascent Silicon Valley, from the 1890s to 1960. Douglas M. Perham, who began this collection, spent his career with many of these firms, from Federal Telegraph in 1909 to the highly successful post-war Varian Associates. He and his colleagues avidly collected material documenting what they saw happening around them over a seven-decade period. Originally displayed at Perham's New Almaden Museum, the collection became part of the Perham Foundation's Electronics Museum at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, California, in the late 1960s. After the Museum's closure in 1991, the Collection went into storage, and was eventually donated in 2003 to History San Jose.

The Collection, received largely unprocessed, has now

been almost entirely re-housed and cataloged, thanks to the dedication of a hardcore band of semi-retired engineers who have logged thousands of hours over the past ten years identifying and researching the over 2500 objects within the collection; and thanks to this CLIR grant, without which we could not have dedicated the time and resources to process this primary source material invaluable to anyone interested in early Bay Area commercial history. The grant has also allowed us to create an in-house processing manual, available to all volunteers and staff, that fully integrates PastPerfect museum and archives software into an archival workflow process, resulting in a more consistent and efficient approach to processing collections and submitting EAD guides to the Online Archive of California.

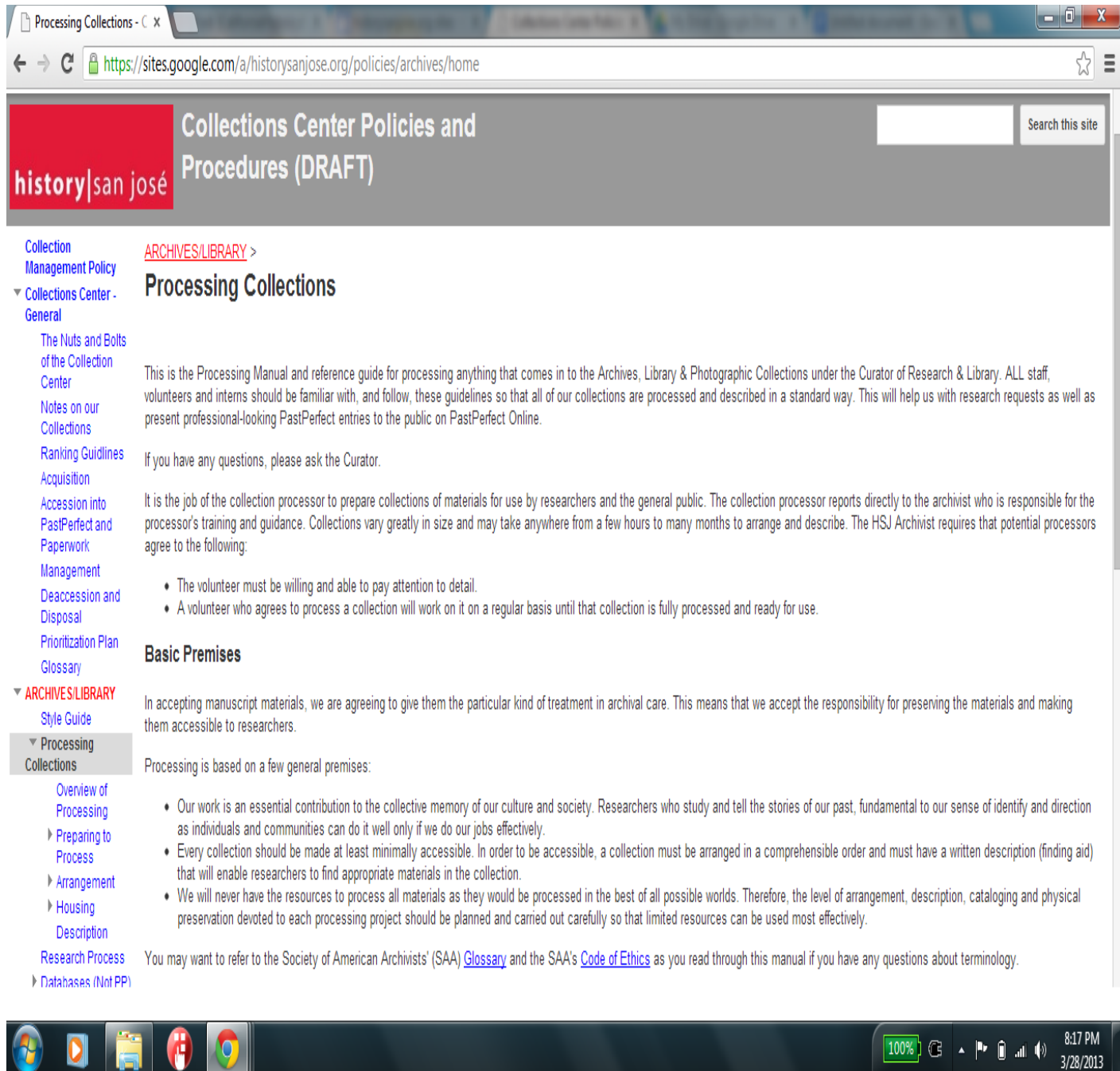
As part of this project, we have created a website to document the people, companies and products that comprise the Perham Collection at:

www.perhamcollection.org

The site will continue to grow, and highlights some of the more compelling stories found in the manuscript collections over this past year. We also anticipate researchers and collectors will benefit from the richer insight provided by these materials into the personal and professional lives of the engineers responsible for many of the inventions that are the foundation of today's telecommunications and computer industries.

History San Jose Research Library and Archives
San Jose, California

3. A screenshot from our internal policies “wiki”, created at the start of the project:




4. Screenshot of the first page of The Perham Collection website, part of historysanjose.org:

The Perham Collection - | x

history | san José

Plan Your Visit > Exhibits & Activities > Research > School Programs > Rentals > Join & Give > Calendar

The Perham Collection



The Perham Collection of Early Electronics is the legacy of radio pioneer Douglas McDonald Perham (1887-1967), an early wireless experimenter and radio broadcaster. Perham, a talented technician, was also a life-long collector. The collection parallels Perham's career and documents early electronics in the West, particularly the Santa Clara Valley, from the early 1900s to 1960. Today's collection includes more than 2,500 objects and 1,200 photographs, and more than 200 linear feet of manuscript collections. Rare books, trade manuals, ephemera and other printed material are also part of the collection.

De Forest Wireless System Responder, No. 271, ca. 1903

Doug Perham's career spanned the first 50 years of commercial electronics in the West — from his first teen-aged experiment with a Marconi coherer in 1898 to his retirement from Varian in 1953. As Federal Telegraph Company's first American employee (1909), he built the company's first four Poulsen arcs, and worked with Lee de Forest's research team (1911-12). He installed experimental



Perham Collection

- > Search the Collection
- > Behind the Scenes
 - > Behind the Scenes - Our Volunteers
 - > Perham Collection News
- > The People
- > The Technology

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5. Screenshot of one of the manuscript collection web pages:

Harold Elliott

Harold Farley Elliott was born in Durango, Colorado, on June 17, 1892, to Wilbur S. Elliott and Henrietta Farley Elliott. Elliott's only sibling, Jean Elliott, was born in 1895.

Elliott grew up in Prescott, Arizona and graduated from Prescott High School in 1911. He then attended Stanford University, where he graduated in 1916 with his A.B. in Mechanical Engineering and in 1925 with his Master's degree in Electrical Engineering.

From 1916 to 1922, Elliott worked at the Federal Telegraph Company as a Chief Draftsman, Production Manager and Engineer in Charge of the design of high power radio transmitting equipment. From 1922 to 1925, he served as the Consulting Engineer in charge of designing the transmitting equipment for the Trans-Pacific project ("the Chinese project") for the Federal Telegraph Company and its subsidiary, the Federal Telegraph Co. of Delaware. Federal Telegraph Company had planned to construct four radio transmission stations to be located at Shanghai, Peking (Peking or Beijing), Canton, and Harbin, China. However, in 1924 the Chinese project came to a standstill. According to Elliott, the instability of the Chinese government, the beginning of short wave radio and conflicts between the Federal Telegraph Company and R.C.A. caused the Chinese



Federal Telegraph's Engineering staff, Palo Alto, California, circa 1917. (L to R: Leonard F. Fuller, Chief Engineer; Harold F. Elliott, Chief Draftsman; Corwin C. Chapman, Laboratory Engineer; Kurt Bley, Shop Foreman; Ralph R. Beal, Assistant Chief Engineer; and Adrian L. Anderson, Factory Engineer).

Perham Collection

- ▶ [Search the Collection](#)
- ▶ [Behind the Scenes](#)
- ▶ [The People](#)
 - ▶ [Douglas Perham](#)
 - ▶ [Lee de Forest](#)
 - ▶ [Lloyd Espenschied](#)
 - ▶ [Harold Elliott](#)
 - ▶ [William W. Hanscom](#)
 - ▶ [Leo Jones](#)
 - ▶ [Jane Morgan](#)
 - ▶ [Seefred Brothers](#)
 - ▶ [Royden Thornberg](#)
- ▶ [The Technology](#)

...and the bottom of the webpage with links to the Online Archive of California, as well as PastPerfect Online searching, and a folder-level guide to the collection:

Harold Elliott - History Sa | X

← → ↻ historiesanjose.org/wp/research-collection/collections/the-perham-collection/the-people/harold-elliott/ ☆ ☰

activities. In his later years, he served as a part-time lecturer in the Engineering Department and on the 50th Anniversary Stanford Engineering Scholarship Fund Committee.

Holiday card from the Elliotts, featuring photography of their Portola Valley home by Elliott

Elliott married 1924 Stanford University graduate and accomplished musician Winifred Estabrook. One common interest between the couple was their love of classical music. Their personal correspondence mentions Estabrook's musical performances and their attendance at various music events. In later years, Estabrook acted as his personal secretary. In 1954, the couple moved into the custom home Elliott had designed at 800 Westridge Drive in Portola Valley, California. Elliott died at age 77 on January 24, 1970, in San Mateo, California. Estabrook died at age 82 on January 20, 1977, in Santa Clara, California.

Elliott's papers were donated to the Foothill Electronics Museum in 1971, and today are part of the Perham Collection of Early Electronics. They were processed in 2012 as part of a grant received from the [Council of Library and Information Resources](#).

[Guide to the Harold F. Elliott Papers, including folder inventory \(MS Word\)](#)
[Guide to the Harold F. Elliott Papers \(Online Archive of California\)](#)
[List of Federal Telegraph Company reports in the Elliott Papers \(Google Docs spreadsheet\)](#)

Folder- and item-level records are also searchable in our online PastPerfect catalog at [PastPerfect Online](#).

Like 3
+1 0
Tweet 0
Share
Pin it

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6. A sample of one of our blog entries; this one written by Elizabeth Atlas, one of our student assistants:

Jane Morgan Papers | Hist x

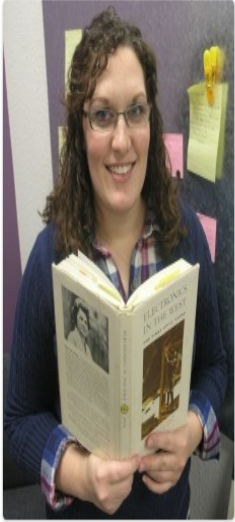
www.historysanjose.org/blog/2012/12/jane-morgan-papers/

Jane Morgan Papers


Like 0 +1 0 Tweet 0 Share Pin it

Facebook Google+ Twitter

Hi! My name is Beth Atlas. I was one of the student assistants working on processing the manuscript collections of the [Perham Collection of Early Electronics](#) in 2012 under a grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources. During my time at History San Jose, I processed the Jane Morgan Papers. [Jane Morgan](#) was the author of the book *Electronics in the West: The First Fifty Years* (Palo Alto, CA: National Press Books, 1967), the first comprehensive history of electronics in the western United States. This has been my first internship as a graduate student in Library and Information Science at San Jose State University and also my first experience processing an archival collection.



Beth Atlas, a student assistant working of the Perham Collection project, holding a copy of Jane Morgan's book, "Electronics in the West: The First Fifty Years."



I definitely had my work cut out for me with Morgan's papers. One of the concepts of archival processing that was emphasized in my academic coursework was to maintain the

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RECENT POSTS

- [CLIR Grant Work Successfully Completed at History San Jose](#)
- [Planning a Time Capsule? Things to Keep in Mind](#)
- [Caboose arrives to History Park](#)
- [Jane Morgan Papers](#)
- [1924 Olympian Clarida Hunsberger, captured on film by Harold Elliott](#)

ARCHIVES

- [February 2013](#)
- [January 2013](#)
- [December 2012](#)
- [November 2012](#)
- [October 2012](#)
- [September 2012](#)

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**7. Samples from our PastPerfect Online catalog:
a) Archive Record**

2003-33-1217 x

← → ↻ historysanjose.pastperfect-online.com/33535cgl/mweb.exe?request=record;id=96647D23-597D-42A1-A9B2-439099656591,type=301

Home Click & Search Keyword Search Advanced Search Random Images Search Results Help

Archive Record

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[Next Record](#)
[Print](#)
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Catalog Number	2003-33-1217
Accession number	2003-33
Object Name	File, Document
Collection	Perham Collection - Perham History Files
Title	Lloyd Espenschied and Lee de Forest correspondence (1954-1955) and other Espenschied material
Year Range from	1943
Year Range to	1973
Description	<p>Correspondence between Lloyd Espenschied at Bell Telephone Laboratories, and Lee de Forest, 1954-1955, in what was apparently Espenschied's last year at Bell before retiring. The personal correspondence continued after his retirement. Among their topics are radio wave propagation with respect to the earth's surface, the death of Major Edwin H. Armstrong, and de Forest's Nobel Prize campaign.</p> <p>Also included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) "Genesis of Electronic Carrier and Radio, 1912-1916 -- Case 37014," Memorandum for File, Lloyd Espenschied, Bell Telephone Laboratories, 26 March 1954; 2) "The Chronology of our Learning of E. H. Armstrong's Regenerative Vacuum Tube Circuit," Lloyd Espenschied, 19 September 1943; 3) "A Terrain Clearance Indicator," Lloyd Espenschied and R. C. Newhouse, Bell Telephone Laboratories, in Bell Telephone System Technical Publications Monograph B-1124, 1939. 4) "Lloyd Espenschied," An Interview Conducted by Julian Tebo and Frank Polkinghorn, IEEE History Center, 2 June 1973 (Transcript) 5) Copy of typewritten letter to The Editor, Scientific American, 16 March 1965, in response to Robert A. Chipman's article, "DeForest and the Triode Detector." Corrections have been made to the letter; it's unclear whether they are Espenschied's or a third-party's. Espenschied recalls attending de Forest's lecture before the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences in March 1907, where the grid triode made its first public appearance. He also reflects on his friendship with de Forest, describing him having "an egotism so naive as to be enjoyable." Espenschied provides his opinion on the debate about de Forest's infringement of the Fleming and Poulsen patents, as well as correcting a couple of Chipman's points.

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b) Photograph Record

2003-36 x


← → ↻ historysanjose.pastperfect-online.com/33535cgj/mweb.exe?request=record;id=47B45896-AA2A-4EEE-99F6-294378804331;type=102

history | san José

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Photograph Record

Print Email Page Send Feedback



Harold Elliott in automobile, Prescott (Ariz.), circa 1910-1920

Order Image

Accession number 2003-36

Collection Perham Collection - Harold F. Elliott Papers

Catalog Number 2003-36-286f

Object Name Print, Photographic

Date //

Year Range from 1910

Year Range to 1929

Title Harold Elliott behind wheel of PDO automobile

Description Harold Elliott behind the wheel of an automobile, likely taken in Prescott, Arizona. One of a series of early photographs taken by Harold Elliott of hiking and camping trips, girlfriends, friends.

Photographer Elliott, Harold F.

Subjects Automobiles -- 1900-1930 (LCSH)
Prescott (Ariz.)

People Elliott, Harold F.

Image [2003-36-286f](#)

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c) Library Record

Library Record

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Object ID	2003-34-370
Collection	Perham Collection - Lee and Marie de Forest Papers
Object Name	Catalog, Trade
Author	De Forest Radio Company, Jersey City, N. J.
Title	de Forest Custom Built Products
Title added entry	Manufactured by De Forest Radio Company Passaic-New Jersey U.S.A.
Published Date	1931//
Summary	Catalog of De Forest radio equipment for customized use in fields such as law enforcement, radio broadcasting, and theatre.
Subjects	De Forest Radio Company Law enforcement Radio -- Equipment and supplies -- Catalogs (LCSH) Radio broadcasting Theaters
People	de Forest, Lee
Year Range from	1931
Year Range to	1931

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Memorandum

To: The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

From: Amy Lucko, Program Officer, Council on Library and Information Resources

Date: 8/7/2013

Re: *Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives* program: Final financial report from History San Jose

Attached please find a revised financial report from the *Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives* recipient History San Jose. This report has been revised to include interest earned and spent over the course of the grant. The accrued interest, amounting to \$1,052.50, was credited entirely to the Fringe Benefits line item.

Program/Project Financial Report

Council on Library and Information Resources
 Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives Program
 Financial Reporting Template

To be completed and signed by the financial officer responsible for project funds, then uploaded into the Hidden Collections Annual Report Form

Organization: History San Jose

Award period: 1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012

Report period: 1/1/2012 - 12/31/2012

Income

Grant Amount	\$86,600.00
Interest credited to date	\$1,052.50
Total Income	\$87,652.50

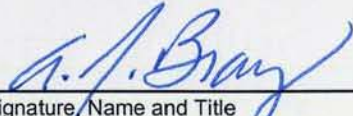
Expenditures

Categories	Current Period				Total Project		
	Budget	Actual Expenses	Variance <i>(should be explained in the annual report form)</i>		Budget	Cumulative Expenditures	Balance
Salaries and Wages	70,720.00	70,315.50	404.50		70,720.00	70,315.50	404.50
Fringe Benefits	12,022.00	10,912.00	1,110.00		12,022.00	10,912.00	1,110.00
Consultant and Training Fees	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00		1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00
Supplies and Materials	2,573.00	4,102.00	-1,529.00		2,573.00	4,102.00	-1,529.00
Services	0.00	1,123.00	-1,123.00		0.00	1,123.00	-1,123.00
Other Costs			0.00				0.00
Totals	86,515.00	87,652.50	-1,137.50		86,515.00	87,652.50	-1,137.50

Balance

Total Income	87652.50
Cumulative Expenditure	87652.50
Total Balance	0.00

I certify that to the best of my knowledge all expenditures are for appropriate purposes and in accordance with the approved budget.



 Signature, Name and Title

8/8/2013

 Date

Alida Bray, President & CEO