

## Finding Aid to the Jeffrey Mattox Papers, 1963-2016

### Summary Information

**Title:** Jeffrey Mattox papers

**Creator:** Jeffrey Mattox (primary)

**ID:** 116.2826

**Date:** 1963-2016 (inclusive); 1963-1964, 2016 (bulk)

**Extent:** 1.75 linear feet (physical); 101 MB (digital)

**Language:** The materials in this collection are in English.

**Abstract:** The Jeffrey Mattox papers document the creation of Mattox's Tic-Tac-Toe Machine in 1964. The bulk of the collection is dated 1963-1964 and also 2016.

**Repository:**

Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong

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### Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Use:** This collection is open for research use by staff of The Strong and by users of its library and archives. Though the donor has not transferred intellectual property rights (including, but not limited to any copyright, trademark, and associated rights therein) to The Strong, he has given permission for The Strong to make copies in all media for museum, educational, and research purposes.

**Custodial History:** The Jeffrey Mattox papers were donated to The Strong in October 2016 as a gift of Jeffrey Mattox. The papers were accessioned by The Strong under Object ID 116.2826 and were received from Mattox in one envelope.

**Preferred citation for publication:** Jeffrey Mattox papers, Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong

**Processed by:** Julia Novakovic, September 2018

### Controlled Access Terms

#### Personal Names

- Mattox, Jeffrey

#### Subjects

- Electromechanical devices
- Electronic games
- Teenagers
- Tic-tac-toe

**Biographical Note**

Inspired by his childhood visits to an exhibit featuring a Tic-Tac-Toe machine at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, Wisconsin high school student Jeffrey Mattox designed and built this electromechanical Tic-Tac-Toe machine in the summer of 1963. Mattox entered the game in a science fair in Milwaukee where it proved popular among guests and earned him a special certificate from the U.S. Army. Players used an attached rotary-style telephone dial play against the machine. By entering a number from one to nine, players marked in white a corresponding square on the Tic-Tac-Toe board.

After high school, Mattox graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1969-1974. He co-owned Heurikon Corporation from 1974 until 2001, also earning his MBA from University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1985. Though formally retired since 2001, Mattox continues to work as an independent computer software professional.

**Collection Scope and Content Note**

The Jeffrey Mattox papers contain documentation on Mattox's 1964 Tic-Tac-Toe Machine. Included in this collection are notes, charts, schematics, reference, correspondence, and narratives, as well as digital images of the machine's interior and exterior. Additional scope and content information can be found in the "Contents List" section of this finding aid.

The Jeffrey Mattox papers have been arranged into three series. The physical collection is housed in one flat document box, and digital materials are accessible on-site at The Strong.

**Related Materials**

Mattox's original Tic-Tac-Toe Machine (Object ID 116.3670) is housed at The Strong.

**System of Arrangement**

Series I: Tic-Tac-Toe Machine development, 1963-1964

Series II: Tic-Tac-Toe Machine correspondence and narrative, 2011, 2016

Series III: Tic-Tac-Toe Machine digital files, 2016

## Contents List

### Series I: Tic-Tac-Toe Machine development, 1963-1964

**Scope and Content Note:** This series houses notes, circuit schematics, and charts created by Mattox during the development of his Tic-Tac-Toe Machine in 1964. Also within this series are an article in the *Wisconsin State Journal* about Mattox's machine ("Machine Plays Tic-Tac-Toe") and the Wisconsin High School Daily Bulletin mentioning Mattox's project.

#### Box 1

- Folder 1 Tic-Tac-Toe Machine notes, circuit schematics, and charts, 1963-1964
- Folder 2 Tic-Tac-Toe Machine folder, January 1964 [empty]
- Folder 3 "Machine Plays Tic-Tac-Toe" article, February 23, 1964 [with reprint of article photograph]
- Folder 4 Wisconsin High School Daily Bulletin, April 23, 1964

### Series II: Tic-Tac-Toe Machine correspondence and narrative, 2011, 2016

**Scope and Content Note:** In this series are writings by Mattox, including correspondence with the Museum of Science and Industry and two documents detailing the history, components, game play, strategies, and other information on the Tic-Tac-Toe Machine.

#### Box 1

- Folder 5 Correspondence with Museum of Science and Industry, 2011
- Folder 6 "Tic-Tac-Toe Machine," Jeffrey Mattox, May 17, 2016
- Folder 7 "Tic-Tac-Toe Machine Details," Jeffrey Mattox, June 23, 2016

### Series III: Tic-Tac-Toe Machine digital files, 2016

**Scope and Content Note:** This series holds digital photographs of the interior and exterior of the Tic-Tac-Toe Machine, as well as a 20-second video of the machine's interior, a scan of the 1964 newspaper article, and the digital version of the "Tic-Tac-Toe Machine Details" narrative in Folder 7.

#### Box 1

- Folder 8 Contact sheet for digital photos, 2016

#### Digital - III

- Folder 1 Machine photos, 2016 [25 files]
- Folder 2 Machine video, 2016 [1 file]
- Folder 3 Article and narrative scans, 2016 [2 files]