

**Finding Aid to the
Salvatore T. Abate Collection, 1982-1991**

Summary Information

Title: Salvatore T. Abate collection

Creator: Salvatore T. Abate (primary)

ID: 113.2339

Date: 1982-1991

Extent: 1 linear foot

Language: The materials in this collection are in English.

Abstract: The Salvatore T. Abate collection includes photocopied and original computer manuals for software related to the Commodore 64 computer, computer catalogs, news articles, and handwritten notes. The materials are from between 1982 and 1991.

Repository:

Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong
One Manhattan Square
Rochester, New York 14607
585.263.2700
library@museumofplay.org

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 Salvatore T. Abate collection was donated to The Strong in April 2012 as a gift from Eric Abate, in memory of Salvatore T. Abate. The papers were accessioned by The Strong under Object ID 113.2339. The papers were received from Eric Abate in one box.

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Controlled Access Terms

Personal Names

- Abate, Salvatore ("Sam") T., 1932-2009

Corporate Names

- CBM (Computer)
- Commodore Business Machines

Subjects

- Commodore 64 (Computer)
- Commodore 64 (Computer)--Catalogs.
- Commodore 64 (Computer)--Programming.
- Commodore computers

Biographical Note

Salvatore (“Sam”) T. Abate (1932-2009) was born in Rochester, New York. He attended East High School and joined the United States Air Force after graduation. After his service in the Air Force, Abate was employed by General Electric and given the opportunity to travel worldwide during his tenure. He decided to return to Rochester and commenced a 35-year-long career with Xerox Corporation, where he worked as a configuration planner.

Fascinated by the latest technologies and gadgets, Abate referred to them as his “toys.” He was drawn to the Commodore 64 computer in the mid-1980s by its ability to create spreadsheets and maintain finances. Abate soon acquired additional Commodore hardware and accessories, along with various programming manuals and software. Abate also enjoyed riding his motorcycle, sailing, dancing, and working with CB and HAM radios.

He meticulously maintained his “toys,” ensuring they were well-preserved for future use. Eric Abate, son of Salvatore (and donor of this collection), adds, “He would always say things like ‘leave it like you found it’ and ‘put everything back in its place.’ Finding the Commodore 64 in the great condition it [was] in reminded me of these lessons and shows that this ‘toy’ was one of his favorites.”

Collection Scope and Content Note

The Salvatore T. Abate collection is a compilation of computer programming manuals, software instructions, computer catalogs, news articles, game reviews, notes, and other papers pertaining to the Commodore 64 computer, related software, and accessories. These archival materials supported Abate’s interest in one of the most successful home computers of the 1980s. Additional scope and content information can be found within the contents list of this finding aid.

This collection is arranged into four series. The materials are housed in two archival document boxes.

Related Materials

Original Commodore 64 hardware, software, and accessories belonging to Salvatore T. Abate have been donated to the International Center for the History of Electronic Games at The Strong.

System of Arrangement

Series I: Computer manuals and instructions, 1982-1989

Series II: Catalogs, 1989-1990

Series III: Articles, 1984-1991

Series IV: Notes, 1989

Contents List

Series I: Computer manuals and instructions, 1982-1989

Scope and Content Note: This series contains various photocopied computer programming manuals and software instructions utilized by Salvatore T. Abate. These materials pertain to the Commodore 64 computer and related products, such as the GEOS operating system and desktop publishing program “geoCalc.”

Box 1

- Folder 1 “The Business Pack” user’s guide, Powerbyte Software and Superbyte Software, © 1982
- Folder 2 “Commodore 64 - 1764 RAM Expansion Module User’s Guide,” Commodore Electronics, Ltd., © 1986
- Folder 3 “Commodore 64 User’s Guide,” Commodore Business Machines, Inc., © 1982
- Folder 4 “Desk Pack Plus User’s Manual,” Berkeley Softworks, © 1988
- Folder 5 “geoCalc User’s Manual,” Berkeley Softworks, © 1986
- Folder 6 “geoCalc User’s Manual,” Berkeley Softworks, © 1986
- Folder 7 “GEOS 2.0 User’s Manual,” Berkeley Softworks, © 1988
- Folder 8 “GEOS 2.0 User’s Manual,” Berkeley Softworks, © 1988
- Folder 9 “Multi-Font NX-1000 II User’s Manual,” Star Electronics, © 1989
- Folder 10 “Writer’s Workshop User’s Manual,” Berkeley Softworks, © 1986
- Folder 11 “Xetec Super Graphix Instruction Manual,” Xetec, Inc., © 1986
- Folder 12 Unidentified Commodore 64 user’s guide (partial), undated

Box 2

- Folder 1 “The Anatomy of the Commodore 64,” Michael Angerhausen et al., © 1983
- Folder 2 “The Anatomy of the 1541 Disk Drive,” Lothar Englisch and Norbert Szczepanowski, © 1984
- Folder 3 “The Complete Commodore Inner Space Anthology,” Karl J. H. Hildon, © 1985
- Folder 4 “Mapping the Commodore 64,” Sheldon Leemon, © 1984
- Folder 5 “Ardy the Aardvark” instructions, Datamost, Inc., © 1984
- Folder 6 “Color Me: The Computer Coloring Kit” manual, Mindscape, Inc., © 1985
- Folder 7 “Create A Calendar” manual, Epyx, Inc., © 1987
- Folder 8 “Easy Finance I” user’s guide, Commodore Electronics, Ltd., © 1983
- Folder 9 “Easy Finance II” user’s guide, Commodore Electronics, Ltd., © 1983
- Folder 10 “Easy Finance III” user’s guide, Commodore Electronics, Ltd., © 1983
- Folder 11 “Ghostbusters” instructions, Activision, Inc., © 1984
- Folder 12 “Impossible Mission” instructions, Epyx, Inc., © 1983
- Folder 13 “Jumpman” instructions, Epyx, Inc., © 1983
- Folder 14 “Print Shop” add-ons, instructions, BCI Software, undated
- Folder 15 “Snokie” instructions, Funsoft, Inc., © 1983
- Folder 16 “Trains” instructions, Spinnaker Software, Inc., © 1983

Series II: Catalogs, 1989-1990

Scope and Content Note: This series includes five catalogs featuring products specifically for the Commodore line of computers from Tenex Computer Express.

Box 2

Folder 17 "The Everything Book for Commodore & Amiga Computers," 1989-1990

Series III: Articles, 1984-1991

Scope and Content Note: This subseries houses newspaper and magazine articles relating to Commodore 64 computers and associated software programs. (For additional information, please see the library holdings for topical magazines on the Commodore computer system.)

Box 2

Folder 18 Newspaper and magazine articles, 1984-1991

Series IV: Notes, 1989

Scope and Content Note: Within this subseries are handwritten notes by Salvatore T. Abate, as well as a dated warranty for his own Commodore computer.

Box 2

Folder 19 Commodore programming notes, undated

Folder 20 Commodore warranty and notes, 1989

Revision Note

"Extent" under Summary Information section was updated to reflect revision to "linear feet."