

\$14⁹⁵

A Collector's Guide To
**PERSONAL
COMPUTERS**
And Pocket Calculators

by

Dr. Thomas F. Haddock

ISBN 0-89689-098-8



Copyright ©1993 by Dr. Thomas Haddock, exclusive publishing and marketing rights by Books Americana, Inc., P.O. Box 2326, Florence, Alabama 35630. All rights reserved. No part of the book may be used or reproduced in any manner whatsoever, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles or reviews.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Introductory Coments	iii
	A Brief History of Microcomputers	iv
	A Description of this Work	viii
I.	Hand Calculators	1
II-1.	Hobbyist Home Computers	19
II-2.	Consumer or "Appliance" Machines	101
II-3.	IBM PC, XT, and Clones	152
II-4.	IBM AT and Clones	171
II-5.	Machines with Graphic User-Interface	176
II-6.	Portables	178
II-6.1.	Luggables	179
II-6.2.	Laptops	192
II-6.3.	Notebooks	198
II-6.4.	Handhelds	204
III.	Accessories and Peripherals	208
III-1.	Paper Tape Storage	209
III-2.	Magnetic Storage	212
III-2-1.	Magnetic Tape Storage	212
III-2-2.	Floppy Disk Storage	221
III-2-3.	Hard-Disk Storage	242
III-3.	Printers	252
III-3-1.	Adapted-Typewriter Printers	252
III-3-2.	Thermal and Electrosensitive Printers	258
III-3-3.	Daisywheel Printers	265
III-3-4.	Dot-Matrix Printers	270
III-3-5.	Ink-Jet Printers	285
III-3-6.	Plotters	286
III-4.	Displays and Terminals	287
III-5.	Memory	290
III-6.	Communications	295
III-7.	Applications (Software)	307
III-8.	Miscellaneous	311
Appendix A.	Microprocessors	320
Appendix B.	Acronyms and Terminology	324
Appendix C.	Chronology of the Personal Computer Development	329
Appendix D.	Recommendations to the Beginning Collector	334
Appendix E.	The Computer Collector's Register	336
Appendix F.	References	336
Appendix G.	Alphabetical Listing of Machines	339

Introductory Comments

This history of the personal computer has been treated many times, in magazine articles, audio-visual works, individual chapters of computer-history books, and in books devoted specifically to the subject. The motivating forces of the evolution of the personal computer, as well as how the early market responded, have been well documented. However, there as yet has been no in-depth examination of the individual machines that were the object of this history. This book reviews the developmental history of the personal computer, but only to provide a general context for the main body of work: a chronological listing of over 600 personal computers and calculators, reaching back to their earliest years. Containing over 300 illustrations, this is the first work to portray the developmental history of the personal computer in a detailed and specific way.

In addition to chronicling evolutionary history, this catalog is the first collector's guide to personal computers and calculators. As such, collector values are given for each machine. In many cases a discussion of the historical significance of a machine, and other factors influencing its collectibility, are given. This new approach to treating personal computers and calculators reflects their emerging status as historical and collector's items.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

A book such as this could not have been completed without the help of many people. I would like to thank the many historians and archivists at the numerous companies who were contacted during the writing of this book, the numerous Hobbyists who discussed their early machines and allowed them to be photographed, and Kirstin Fredrickson, who helped in the preliminary gathering of information.

TRADEMARKS:

We recognize that some words, model names and designations, for example, mentioned herein are the property of the trademark holder. We use them for identification purposes only. This is not an official publication.