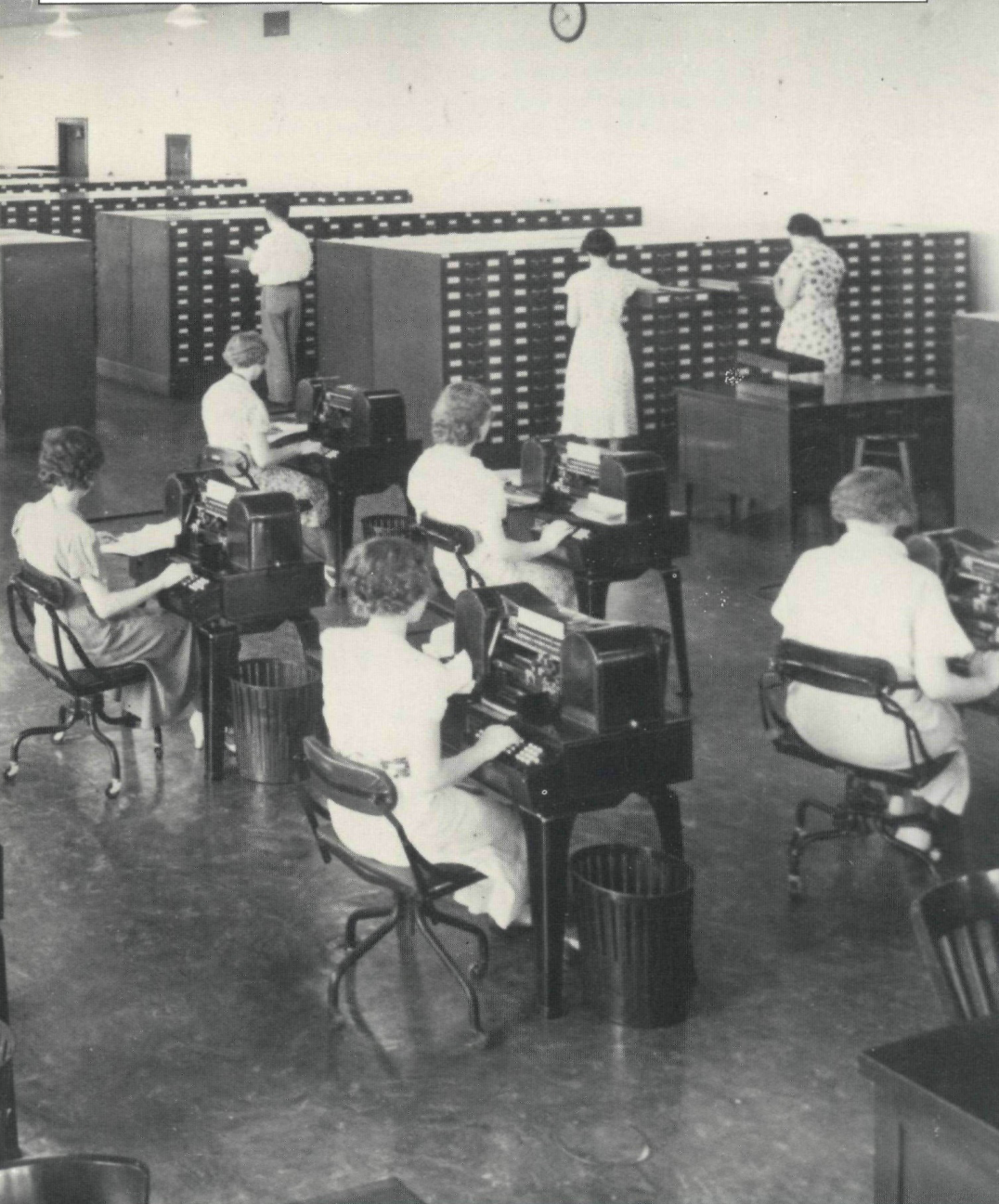


Business History Review

S P R I N G 1 9 9 3



Cover: A Life Insurance Company's Use of
Tabulating Equipment, c. 1940

Well before the age of electronic computers, businesses developed information-processing needs beyond letterbooks and pigeon-holes. Shown on our front and back covers are office workers at the Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company working on Remington Rand tabulating equipment shortly before the Second World War. In the development of systems to control information and make it retrievable, insurance companies were important users of technology, because they were among the earliest to amass large quantities of data. One can see in their experience how the specific needs of an important user can set, at least to some extent, the parameters of technological innovation. (Photograph reproduced courtesy of the Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, Delaware.)

For an article examining the development of the tabulating industry and its interaction with the life insurance industry, see pp. 1–51.

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ISSN 0007–6805

Second-class postage paid at Boston, Mass.

Business History Review

Published Quarterly by the Harvard Business School
Volume 67 Number 1 Spring 1993

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The *Business History Review* is published in the spring, summer, autumn, and winter by the Harvard Business School Publishing Corporation and is printed at the Office of the University Publisher.

- Manuscripts, books for review, and all editorial correspondence should be sent to

Business History Review Editorial Office
Harvard Business School
Soldiers Field
Boston, MA 02163
Telephone: 617-495-6154
Fax: 617-496-8066

- Queries regarding advertising and subscriptions, as well as all changes of address, should be sent to the business manager, Ann Chaney, at the same address.
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Permissions Editor
HBSPC
Harvard Business School
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• *Annual Subscription Rates*

| | |
|---|---------|
| Individuals | \$35.00 |
| Institutions | \$75.00 |
| Students (U.S. & Canada, with valid ID) | \$20.00 |
| All subscriptions outside the U.S. and Canada | \$75.00 |

- Many issues of volumes 59-66 (1985-92) are available from our office for \$15.00 per issue or \$60.00 per volume. Please write for details.

• *Business History Review* articles are listed in *Business Methods Index*, *Book Review Index*, the *Journal of Economic Literature*, *Historical Abstracts*, *America—History and Life*, and ABI/INFORM.

- Notice of failure to receive issues must reach the office no later than six months after the date of mailing. Postmaster: Send address changes to *Business History Review*, Harvard Business School, Boston, MA 02163.

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**Statement of Ownership,
Management and
Circulation**
(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1A. Title of Publication Business History Review | 1B. PUBLICATION NO. 0 0 0 7 6 8 0 5 | 2. Date of Filing 9/29/93 |
| 3. Frequency of Issue Quarterly | 3A. No. of Issues Published Annually 4 | 3B. Annual Subscription Price \$50.00 1992 \$75.00 1993 |
| 4. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Street, City, County, State and ZIP+4 Code) (Not printers) Business History Review, Harvard Business School Publishing, Soldiers Field, Boston, MA 02163 | | |
| 5. Complete Mailing Address of the Headquarters of General Business Offices of the Publisher (Not printer) Same as item 4 | | |
| 6. Full Names and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (This item MUST NOT be blank) | | |
| Publisher (Name and Complete Mailing Address) President and Fellows of Harvard College, Cambridge, MA 02138 | | |
| Editor (Name and Complete Mailing Address) (Acting Editor) Jack High, Morgan Hall 277, Harvard Business School, Soldiers Field, Boston, MA 02163 | | |
| Managing Editor (Name and Complete Mailing Address) (Associate Editor) Patricia Benault, Business History Review, Harvard Business School Publishing, Soldiers Field, Boston, MA 02163 | | |
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| 8. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgagees or Other Securities (If there are none, so state) | | |
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| 9. For Completion by Nonprofit Organizations Authorized to Mail at Special Rates (IDM Section 424.12 only) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes (Check one) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (1) Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months | | <input type="checkbox"/> (2) Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months <i>(If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.)</i> |
| 10. Extent and Nature of Circulation <i>(See instructions on reverse side)</i> | Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months | Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date |
| A. Total No. Copies (Net Press Run) | 2,375 | 2,400 |
| B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation | | |
| 1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales | 0 | 0 |
| 2. Mail Subscription <i>(Paid and/or requested)</i> | 1,825 | 1,827 |
| C. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation <i>(Sum of 10B1 and 10B2)</i> | 1,825 | 1,827 |
| D. Free Distribution by Mail, Carrier or Other Means <i>Samples, Complimentary, and Other Free Copies</i> | 303 | 301 |
| E. Total Distribution <i>(Sum of C and D)</i> | 2,128 | 2,128 |
| F. Copies Not Distributed | | |
| 1. Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing | 247 | 272 |
| 2. Return from News Agents | 0 | 0 |
| G. TOTAL <i>(Sum of E, F1 and 2—should equal net press run shown in A)</i> | 2,375 | 2,400 |
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