

CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

ARTHUR ROCK

BECKMAN HERITAGE PROJECT

Transcript of an Interview
Conducted by

David C. Brock

at

San Francisco, California

on

9 October 2002

(With Subsequent Corrections and Additions)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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ARTHUR ROCK

1926 Born in Rochester, New York on 19 August

Education

1948 B.S., finance and political science, Syracuse University
1951 M.B.A., Harvard Business School

Professional Experience

1948-1949	Vick Chemical Company Accounting Department
1951-1956	Wertheim and Company
1956-1961	Hayden, Stone, & Company
1961-1968	Davis & Rock General Partner
1961-1994	Teledyne, Inc. Director
1962-1969	Scientific Data Systems, Inc. Chairman of the Board
1968-present	Arthur Rock and Company Founder and Principal
1968-1974	Intel Corporation Chairman of the Board
1968-1999	Director
1974-1980	Vice-Chairman of the Board
1980-1993	Apple Computer, Inc. Director
1994-1999	Air Touch Communications Director

Honors

- 1987 Medal of Achievement of the American Electronics Association and the American Academy of Achievement
- 1995 California Business Hall of Fame
- 1997 Arents Pioneer Medal of Syracuse University
- 1999 Lifetime Achievement in Entrepreneurship & Innovation Award from the University of California
- 1999 Private Equity Hall of Fame
- 2001 Software Development Forum's Visionary Award
- 2002 Business Leader of the Year, Harvard Business School Association of Northern California

ABSTRACT

Arthur Rock begins the interview with a discussion of his family and educational background. In 1944, Rock joined the United States Army. After World War II, Rock attended Syracuse University, and then continued on to Harvard Business School. After his schooling, Rock began to work on Wall Street and discovered that he had an interest and affinity for business in technology. At Hayden Stone and Company he worked in the corporate department to establish technological companies such as General Transistor. In the late 1950s, Rock received a letter from Eugene Kleiner that sparked his interest. He met the “Traitorous Eight,” from Shockley Semiconductor and the wheels of venture capitalism were set in motion. Rock’s ambitions for the group were so radical that thirty-five companies declined them financial backing before Sherman Fairchild invested what was needed to start Fairchild Semiconductor. After this, Rock moved from his home in New York to San Francisco in 1961, where he formed Davis & Rock, a firm that lasted for seven years, with Thomas Davis. This pioneering venture capital firm met with great success, creating other semiconductor firms, such as Teledyne Technologies, Inc. Rock reflects on the growing connection between semiconductors and computers and then the decision of Robert N. Noyce and Gordon E. Moore to leave Fairchild in order to form Intel Corporation, of which he was the first chairman of the board of directors. Rock concludes the interview by reflecting on his own innovations.

INTERVIEWER

David C. Brock is senior research fellow at the Chemical Heritage Foundation. In 1995 he received his M.A. in the history of science from Princeton University, and in 1992 he earned an M.Sc. in the sociology of scientific knowledge from the University of Edinburgh.

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