Historical Sketch
In 1936, Boston University alumni and former professor of engineering, Arthur Metcalf, founded the Electronics Corporation of America. Stemming from his interest in aeronautical engineering, Metcalf sought to create a company that focused on serving two basic industrial markets. The first ECA marked was focused on the continuous requirement for power, reflecting the continual occurrence of industrial expansion. The second ECA market was concerned with the expansion, modernization, and automation of production facilities on a worldwide basis. Additionally, the ECA also featured a Military and Aerospace division, one that performed research and technological development for America’s military and space programs. Although very successful throughout the 1950s and 1960s, the Military and Aerospace division of the ECA was discontinued by 1974.

While the ECA originated in Waltham, in 1955, the company establishing new research headquarters on One Memorial Drive in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in a building that had been a warehouse owned by Filene’s, an American department store.

Alongside its new headquarters in Cambridge, in the early 1950s, the ECA operated in six other locations within the Cambridge-Boston area and had additional sale offices in major cities throughout the country. Between the remainder of the 1950s through the 1980s, the ECA continued to grow as a corporation. Its Fireye burner management systems were used to monitor and supervise large-scale power stations and industrial boilers. Another product produced by the ECA that proved to be successful was its PHOTOSWITCH line of electronic and photo-electronic controls,
which provided automation for multiple industrial processes and manufacturing activities.

Somewhat of a recluse, Metcalf stayed out of the public spotlight, though he maintained an active relationship with Boston University, becoming Chairman of the Board of Trustees in 1978. In 1986 the ECA was purchased by and become a division of Rockwell International Corporation. That same year, Metcalf was honored by BU with the opening of Metcalf Center for Science and Engineering. Metcalf passed away in 1997.

Related Resources: Cambridge Historical Commission Address Folder: photographs of the building, One Memorial Drive.

Scope and Content
The collection is composed of annual reports and other documents from 1953-1986, all related to the Electronics Corporation of America. Contents include annual reports detailing a yearly overview of sales and earnings, while also featuring articles discussing the development of new technologies and ECA products. Other contents featured within the collection include photographs, financial records, newspaper clippings, a number of advertising objects, and information related to the declaration of the Metcalf Center at Boston University.

Box 1
Series One: Annual Reports 1954-1979
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Annual Report 1954
Annual Report 1955
Annual Report 1956
Annual Report 1957
Annual Report 1958
Annual Report 1959
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Annual Report 1961
Annual Report 1962
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Annual Report 1980
Annual Report 1981
Annual Report 1982
Annual Report 1983
Annual Report 1984
Annual Report 1985

Box 2
Series Two: Assorted Company Documents
Folder 1
Arthur G. B. Metcalf 1964, 1984
Folder 2
Monthly Corporate Report 1975
Folder 3
Photoswitch Products Catalog 1977
Folder 4
ECA Company notices 1972-1986
Folder 5
Group Insurance Plan Booklets 1980, 1982

Series Three: Photographs of 77 Broadway, corner of 6th Street, Cambridge MA
Folder 1
Photograph #1: Exterior, back-view 1950s, undated
Photograph #2: Exterior, front and side from the right 1950s, undated
Photograph #3: Exterior, front and side from the left 1950s, undated

Series Four: Related Materials Related to the ECA
Folder 1
Newspaper articles: ECA 1955, 1980-86
Folder 2
Metcalf Center Dedication 1986

Series Five: ECA Advertising Objects (Photograph copies)
Photograph 1: Ashtray
Photograph 2: ECA pins
Photograph 3: ECA/Photoswitch Park Avenue pocket knives (closed)
Photograph 4: ECA/Photoswitch Park Avenue pocket knives (open)
Photograph 5: ECA Sheaffer pens in cases
Photograph 6: ECA pocket knives with case
Photograph 7: Photoswitch/ECA potato peeler with box (upright)
Photograph 8: Photoswitch/ECA potato peeler with box (side view)

**Box 3**
- ECA pins
- ECA/Photoswitch Park Avenue pocket knives
- ECA/Sheaffer pens
- ECA/pocket knives with case
- Photoswitch/ECA potato peeler with box

**Box 4**
Series Five: ECA Advertising Objects
- Ashtray

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