

AccessionIndex: TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.006

Accession Date: 8-Dec-2012

Accession By: Brian Flanagan

Object name: R.C.Allen Model 8s Calculator

Vintage: c.193x

Synopsis: 8-digit mechanical £-s-d (Sterling) adder/subtractor.

**Description:**

An 8-digit mechanical £-s-d (Sterling) adder/subtractor, made by R.C.Allen Business Machines, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA. Given c.1977 to Dr.Dan McCarthy by Brian Flanagan, who dealt in second-hand furniture (much of it from RAF bases in Scotland and England) around Donegal and Derry. Dr.McCarthy was buying furniture at that time and took an interest in the machine on Prof.J.G.Byrne's behalf, so it was donated to Dr.McCarthy who passed it on to Prof.Byrne. Given the circumstances of its acquisition, it is possible the machine has a UK origin.

Ralph C. Allen was a former employee of Burroughs. Allen Corporation was manufacturing mechanical calculators at least as early as 1927 in Philadelphia, USA. R.C.Allen Inc. was incorporated in 1932 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, becoming R.C.Allen Business Machines Inc. in 1949. It was a very successful supplier of mechanical cash registers, calculators and typewriters. During World War II it began manufacturing aviation instruments, and by the 1970s was the largest supplier of these worldwide. In 1977 it became the R.C.Allen Division of Aircraft Instrument and Development, then in 1996 was taken over by Kelly Manufacturing Company.

R.C.Allen made a family of Model 8 mechanical calculators in the 1930s. Presumably the 'Model 8s' designation of the calculator in this collection denotes 'Sterling'. Looking at contemporary R.C.Allen calculators it is likely that the two upper-right missing keytops should be the darker color, whereas the lower-right missing keytop should be red. The likely colour of the lower-left missing keytop is not known.

The homepage for this catalog is at: <https://www.scss.tcd.ie/SCSSTreasuresCatalog/>  
Click '*Accession Index*' (1st column listed) for related folder, or '*About*' for further guidance. Some of the items below may be more properly part of other categories of this catalog, but are listed here for convenience.

Accession Index	Object and Identification
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.006</a>	R.C.Allen Model 8s Sterling Calculator, 8-digit mechanical £-s-d (Sterling) adder/subtractor, c.193x. S/N: 1265418, Markings: 'R.C.Allen Business Machines, incorporated, Grand Rapids, Michigan, USA'. Also: 'Name – McCarthy'.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.001</a>	Lightning Calculator, 7-digit decimal mechanical adding machine with rotary input dials, c.1908.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.002</a>	Brunsviga Adding Machine, Decimal pin-wheel mechanical adder/subtractor (pincalculator), c.1913. S/N: 6214, Markings: <i>AGS No.50</i>
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.003</a>	Master Adding Machine, 9-digit decimal mechanical adding machine, c.192x.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.004</a>	Brunsviga 13RK Adding Machine, Decimal pin-wheel mechanical adding machine (pincalculator) , c.195x.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.005</a>	ADDO Model 9 Sterling Calculator, 8-digit mechanical £-s-d (Sterling) adder/subtractor, c.1927.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.007</a>	Burroughs T890-9 Protectograph, Bank cheque embosser, c.195x.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.008</a>	Facit TK Calculator, Hand-cranked 13-digit decimal mechanical calculator. S/N: 202895, c.1936.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.009</a>	Facit NEA Calculator, Electrical motor-driven 13-digit decimal mechanical calculator. S/N: 273356, c.1943.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.010</a>	Plus 509 Adder, Quinary mechanical adding machine with 'half keyboard', c.195x.
<a href="#">TCD-SCSS-T.20121208.012</a>	MADAS Portable Calculator, Model 20BTZG 10-digit fully-automatic decimal mechanical calculator. S/N: 96236, c.196x.

## References:

1. *History of R.C.Allen Instruments*, see:  
<http://www.kellymfg.com/history.html>  
Visited 8-Jul-2015.
2. *R.C.Allen Material*, see:  
[http://www.rechnerlexikon.de/artikle/RC\\_Allen\\_Material](http://www.rechnerlexikon.de/artikle/RC_Allen_Material)  
Visited 8-Jul-2015.





*Figure 1: R.C.Allen Model 8s Calculator three-quarter view*





*Figure 2: R.C.Allen Model 8s top view*





*Figure 3: R.C.Allen Model 8s closeup of additional label  
'Name - McCarthy'*



*Figure 4: R.C.Allen Model 8s front view  
'R.C.Allen  
Business Machines'*





*Figure 5: R.C.Allen Model 8s rear view  
'R.C.Allen  
Business Machines  
incorporated  
Grand Rapids, Michigan, U.S.A'*



*Figure 6: R.C.Allen Model 8s manufacturing label  
'1265418  
Model 8s'*