



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to Chuck Hoberman Innovative Lives Presentation

NMAH.AC.0604

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Chuck Hoberman Innovative Lives Presentation
Date:	1996-05-08
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0604
Creator:	Jerome and Dorothy Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation. Hoberman, Chuck
Extent:	0.25 Cubic feet (3 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection contains original videos documenting Chuck Hoberman, inventor the Hoberman Sphere.

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was created by the Innovative Lives Program of The Jerome and Dorothy Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation on May 8, 1996. The Innovative Lives series brings young people and American inventors together to discuss inventions and the creative process and to experiment and play with hands-on activities related to each inventor's product.

Provenance

The collection was transferred to the Archives Center on July 8, 1997.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Alison Oswald, July 16, 1997.

Preferred Citation

Chuck Hoberman Innovative Lives Presentation, 1996, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research but the original videos are stored off-site and special arrangements must be made to work with it. Contact the Archives Center for information at archivescenter@si.edu or 202-633-3270.

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Biographical Note

Chuck Hoberman was born in 1956 and attended Brown University and holds a B.F.A. from Cooper Union and a M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Columbia University. He also holds four patents on ways to pleat sheets (of metal, plastic, or paper), and two patents on truss structures (structures that are based on series of triangles joined together). Hoberman has built expandable geodesic domes and spheres, including a motorized geodesic sphere that expands from 4.5 feet in diameter to 18 feet in diameter. Another dome, the "Iris Dome," could be used for emergency shelters and portable exhibition spaces. He named the dome after the iris of an eye, which also expands and contracts proportionally. Besides the Iris Sphere and a small toy called the Hoberman Sphere, Chuck Hoberman has invented a collapsible frisbee, a collapsible tent, and a collapsible briefcase. Hoberman combines aesthetics (the art of making things look pleasing to the eye) with engineering with problem-solving. His intriguing creations, based on both basic geometry and complex mathematics, solve problems or offer opportunities in the real world. In 1990, he founded his own company, called Hoberman Associates, Inc.

Scope and Contents

Original videotapes documenting Chuck Hoberman, inventor of expandable geodesic domes and spheres. Hoberman invented the Hoberman Sphere, Iris Dome, and a collapsible frisbee, tent and briefcase.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into three series.

Series 1: Original Videos

Series 2: Reference Videos

Series 3: Photographs and Slides

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Architectural design
- Architecture
- Domes
- Flying discs (Game)
- Frisbees
- Geodesics (Mathematics)
- Geometry -- Descriptive
- Geometry -- Modern
- Inventions -- 1990-2000
- Inventors -- 1990-2000
- Photographs
- Slides
- Sphere

Types of Materials:

Interviews -- 1980-2000
Oral history -- 1990-2000
Videotapes -- 1990-2000

Names:

Hoberman Associates, Inc.

Container Listing

Series 1: Original Videos (OV 604.1-19), 1996-05-08

Box 1 (moving images [174751144])

Box 2 (moving images [174751145])

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Series 2: Reference Videos (RV 604.1-7), 1996-05-08

7 Videocassettes (VHS)

Box 3

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Series 3: Photographs and Slides, 1996-05-08

Box 3, Folder 1
[Image\(s\)](#)

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