



## Guide to the Venture Technologies Records, 1979-2009 — 124.4791

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong

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## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
Historical Note .....	3
Collection Scope and Content Note .....	4
System of Arrangement .....	5
Administrative Information .....	5
Related Materials .....	6
Controlled Access Headings .....	6
Collection Inventory .....	7
Series I: Product development and marketing .....	7
Series II: Digital .....	7

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong
<b>Creator:</b>	Venture Technologies Inc.
<b>Title:</b>	Venture Technologies records
<b>ID:</b>	124.4791
<b>ID [aspace_uri]:</b>	/repositories/3/resources/330
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1979-2009
<b>Date [bulk]:</b>	1987-1990
<b>Physical Description:</b>	0.5 Linear Feet (1 document box)
<b>Physical Description:</b>	33.6 Megabytes (12 files)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	The majority of the collection is in English with one instance of Japanese.
<b>Abstract:</b>	The records document Venture Technologies product development of Luminations, an electronic puzzle. The records include articles, reference materials, product specifications, marketing materials, and product testing documentation. The materials consist of text, printed material, photographic prints, still images, and video clips. The materials are dated from 1979 to 2009, with the bulk of the materials dated from 1987 to 1990.

### Preferred Citation

Venture Technologies records, Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Historical Note

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Venture Technologies, Inc. was founded in 1984 by Don Miffitt, Chase Sebor, Bob Halliday, and Angelo Tortora in Billerica, Massachusetts. The founders were inspired by inventors who

licensed products to Parker Brothers and formed a business developing consumer electronic products. Venture Technologies invented several successful products for the toy industry including the Luminations electronic puzzle, the Game Boy Light Plus, and the Gameboy Power Pak.

The Luminations electronic puzzle was envisioned as a puzzle toy that could compete with the Rubik's Cube. The puzzle is a tetrahedron-shaped (triangular pyramid) device with different color lights in each corner that change when rotated. The puzzle is solved by rotating the pyramid in sequence to change all the corners to red and features five levels of difficulty.

Venture Technologies developed accessories for the GameBoy, including the GameBoy Light Plus, which illuminated and magnified the screen, and the rechargeable Power Pak, which introduced innovations that made the product smaller, cooler, and less expensive than existing chargers. Both products were successful, with the Game Boy Light Plus selling over one million units.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Collection Scope and Content Note

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The records document Venture Technologies product development of Luminations, an electronic puzzle. The materials include articles, reference materials, product specifications, fliers, a press release, a photographic print, a United States patent, product testing documentation, still images, and video clips. The materials are dated from 1979 to 2009, with the bulk of the materials dated from 1987 to 1989.

Of interest in Series I, box 1 folder 1 contains a photographic print of Venture Technologies' founders posing with the Luminations electronic puzzle toy. Folder 2 contains a Japanese flier for Luminations. Folder 3 contains product specifications for Luminations and for the LM6417E microcomputer by Sanyo Electronic Co., Ltd. Folder 4 contains United States patent 4,957,29 for the electronic puzzle.

Of interest in Series II are still images and a video clip from Star Trek: The Next Generation episode 6x06, "True Q," in which the Luminations puzzle was used as a prop in the Ten Forward lounge of the U.S.S. Enterprise. Also of interest is a video clip showing a demonstration of the Mind Spin Luminations button version prototype.

The collection has been divided into two series. The physical materials are housed in one document box. See the Series Scope and Content Note for more information.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## System of Arrangement

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Series I: Product development and marketing, 1979-1990

Series II: Digital, 1989-2009

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use by staff of The Strong and users of its library and archives. Digital materials are accessible to onsite researchers only.

### Conditions Governing Use

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Venture Technologies records were donated to The Strong in October 2024 as a gift from Don Miffitt. The papers were accessioned by The Strong under object ID 124.4791. The papers were received from Don Miffitt in 3 folders.

## Processed by

Laura Boland, January 2025.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

Examples of Venture Technologies' products including Luminations, NUBY Game Light Plus, NUBY Power Pack, and more were donated to The Strong by Don Miffitt in 2024 and accessioned into the collection.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Electronic toys
- Electronic games
- Puzzles and games
- Toy industry
- Inventors -- Toys
- Inventors -- Games
- Electronics -- Patents -- United States
- Monopoly (Game)
- Luminations (Electronic game)
- Star trek, the next generation (Series)
- Marketing research
- Toys -- Marketing
- Games -- Marketing
- Miffitt, Don
- Sebor, Chase
- Halliday, Bob
- Tortora, Angelo
- Parker Brothers, Inc.

## Collection Inventory

### Series I: Product development and marketing, 1979-1990

ID [aspace uri]: /repositories/3/archival\_objects/53184

#### Series Scope and Content Note

The materials in this series pertain to the product development, testing, and marketing of the Luminations electronic puzzle game and Parker Brothers electronic toys.

The materials are arranged in the original order. The Japanese flier, product specifications, United States patent, and Monopoly fact sheet were separated into their own folders for discoverability.

Title/Description	Instances	
Luminations marketing and press, 1989 ID [aspace uri]: /repositories/3/archival_objects/53186	box 1	folder 1
Luminations flier [Japanese], 1989 ID [aspace uri]: /repositories/3/archival_objects/53187 Language of the Material: Japanese	box 1	folder 2
Product specifications, 1987 ID [aspace uri]: /repositories/3/archival_objects/53188	box 1	folder 3
United States Patent 4,957,291, 1990 September 18 ID [aspace uri]: /repositories/3/archival_objects/53189	box 1	folder 4
Product testing, 1988-1990 ID [aspace uri]: /repositories/3/archival_objects/53190	box 1	folder 5
Parker Brothers electronic toys, 1979-1983 ID [aspace uri]: /repositories/3/archival_objects/53191	box 1	folder 6
Monopoly fact sheet, 1979 May 14 ID [aspace uri]: /repositories/3/archival_objects/53192	box 1	folder 7

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Series II: Digital, 1989-2009

ID [aspace uri]: /repositories/3/archival\_objects/53185

Language of the Material: English

#### Series Scope and Content Note

This series consists of the digital materials in the collection and contains 12 files. The files include: digital surrogates for documents including United States Patent 4,957,291, a marketing sheet for Luminations, Luminations marketing study overview and user questionnaires, and Luminations

schematics; a Microsoft Word document review of Luminations' functional specifications; still images and a video clip from Star Trek: The Next Generation episode 6x06 "True Q"; and a video clip demonstration of the Mind Spin Luminations button version.

The files are arranged in the original order. The original file names were retained, with some edits for uniformity and numbered prefixes added.

Title/Description	Instances	
01_LuminationsIP.pdf, 1990 September 18 ID [aspace uri]: /repositories/3/archival_objects/53193	digital 1	item 1
02_LuminationsColorBrochure.bmp, circa 1989 ID [aspace uri]: /repositories/3/archival_objects/53194	digital 1	item 2
03_LuminationsFunctionalSpecificationRev_03.pdf, 2009 March 20 ID [aspace uri]: /repositories/3/archival_objects/53195	digital 1	item 3
04_LuminationsAppearsStarTrekScreenshot_02.jpg, 1992 ID [aspace uri]: /repositories/3/archival_objects/53196	digital 1	item 4
05_LuminationsAppearsStarTrekScreenshot_01.jpg, 1992 ID [aspace uri]: /repositories/3/archival_objects/53197	digital 1	item 5
06_LuminationsAppearsStarTrek_clip.mp4, 1992 ID [aspace uri]: /repositories/3/archival_objects/53198	digital 1	item 6
07_LuminationsMarketStudyWithExperiencedPuzzleSolvers.pdf, 1989 ID [aspace uri]: /repositories/3/archival_objects/53199	digital 1	item 7
08_LuminationsMarketingTest_01.pdf, 1989 August 1 ID [aspace uri]: /repositories/3/archival_objects/53200	digital 1	item 8
09_LuminationsMarketingTest_02.pdf, 1989 September 25 ID [aspace uri]: /repositories/3/archival_objects/53201	digital 1	item 9
10_LuminationsSchematic.jpg, circa 1989 ID [aspace uri]: /repositories/3/archival_objects/53202	digital 1	item 10
11_MindSpinLuminationsButtonVersion.mp4, circa 1990 ID [aspace uri]: /repositories/3/archival_objects/53203	digital 1	item 11
12_PCBAsemblyBOM.jpg, circa 1989 ID [aspace uri]: /repositories/3/archival_objects/53204	digital 1	item 12

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)