

Old Time Computing

Lyrics ©1984 Stephen Savitzky. Some Rights Reserved¹.

To the tune of “Old Time Religion” (traditional)

<p>C Give me that Old Time Computing</p> <p>G C Give me that Old Time Computing</p> <p>C F Give me that Old Time Computing,</p> <p>C G7 C It's good enough for me.</p> <p>C Oh the slide-rule's age is hoary</p> <p>G C It has passed its hour of glory</p> <p>C F But lives on in song and story</p> <p>C G7 C And it's good enough for me.</p> <p>Oh the decimal system lingers Used for counting on your fingers Good for children and filk singers And it's good enough for me.</p> <p>Charles Babbage got things started But he's long dead and departed Left poor Ada brokenhearted But he's good enough for me.</p> <p>The machine designed by Turing Has a history quite stirring And it slowly keeps on whirring And it's good enough for me.</p> <p>Oh we all adore Grace Hopper After COBOL you can't stop her There is no-one who can top her And she's good enough for me.</p> <p>Herman Hollerith is cursed de- signed the punch card and what's worst he's Buried face down nine edge first he's Buried deep enough for me.</p>	<p>Dear old FORTRAN's still among us Just keeps spreading like a fungus But for crunching jobs humungus It's still good enough for me.</p> <p>Algol 60 had recursion And though some say it's subversion We've rejected the new version 60's good enough for me</p> <p>LISP has deeply-nested EXPR's CONSES CADDAR's and FEXPR's So it's only used by experts But it's good enough for me.</p> <p>Old computers dwarfed their makers With their tubes and circuit breakers And they sprawled about for acres But they're good enough for me.</p> <p>Oh the IBM six-fifty Had a memory quite nifty On a drum revolving swiftly It was good enough for me.</p> <p>Oh the sixteen-twenty's famous Couldn't add so who could blame us When we called it ignoramus It was good enough for me.</p> <p>Well the B Fifty-Five Hundred Thought in Polish and we wondered Whether Burroughs might have blundered But it's good enough for me.</p> <p>Though computers seem like magic We can think of other adjec- tives that border on the tragic And that's quite enough for me.</p>
--	--

¹This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 US License.