THE ROYAL SOCIETY   THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS

Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Records

CONTEMPORARY SCIENTIFIC ARCHIVES CENTRE

Papers of

JOHN HAROLD CROSSLEY THOMPSON

(1909 - 1975)

Listed by   Jeannine Alton

Harriot Weiskittel

Deposited in the Archives of Wadham College, Oxford   1976

Description of the collection

The papers were received from Mrs. K. Thompson and cover the years 1927 - 1935.

The collection consists of careful notes of lectures attended by JHCT as an undergraduate and graduate at Oxford. Items 1 - 8 are notebooks and Items 9 - 28 are loose sets of notes which were kept by JHCT in 3 indexed boxfiles. All items are manuscript and in JHCT's hand with the exception of Items 7 - 8, with are 2 notebooks of lectures at Cambridge. Their provenance is not known; there is an indistinct signature on the cover.

Item 29 is a file containing a small amount of correspondence; see note on pages 3-4 of this handlist.

Titles in inverted commas are those which appear on the manuscripts.

Item 30 is a copy of the Wadham College Gazette containing tributes to J.H.C. Thompson.

Summary of career

1909	b. Yorkshire
1927	New College, Oxford
1934	Research Fellow, Merton College
1936 - 75	Mathematics Tutor and Fellow, Wadham College
1964	Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Oxford

(see Item 30 for additional biographical information)

1. Black loose-leaf notebook with first page labelled   1927
    'Lecture Notes. Michaelmas Term 1927.
    Differential Calculus   J. Hodgkinson M.A.
    Analytical Geometry   G.W. Hardy M.A.   (G.H. Hardy)
    Theory of Convergence   T.W. Chaundy M.A.
    Rigid Dynamics   J.W. Nicholson M.A.

    $$\int_0^\infty \frac{x^{p-1}}{1+x}\,dx \qquad\qquad \text{Dr. Poole }$$

    Contents as described with the exception of the notes on
    Hodgkinson's lectures which had been removed by JHCT and
    kept separately. See Item 2.

2. 'Differential Calculus. J. Hodgkinson M.A.' notes of   1927
    lectures with a 1-page index of contents.

3.-5. A series of 3 blue notebooks on a lecture course by   1935 - 36
    E.A. Milne on 'The Theory of Stellar Structure.' The
    books are labelled I, II and III.

6. Blue notebook inscribed inside the front cover 'J.H.C.   1936
    Thompson. Wadham College. October 1936' and on first
    page 'Cosmogony. Theory of Rotating Systems. by Pro-
    fessor E.A. Milne'

Items 7 and 8 are 2 notebooks (not in JHCT's hand) on lectures given
at Cambridge.

7. Light blue notebook inscribed on cover 'Hydromechanics'   1933
    and on first page 'Lent Term 1933. Hydrodynamics. Mr. Pars.'

8. Black notebook inscribed on first page 'Dynamics II. Sidney
    Sussex. Mr. Mayall.' Inside front cover is annotated in
    another hand ?perhaps JHCT

9. 'Integral Calculus. C.H. Thompson M.A. (Queen's)' 74 pp.   ?1927

10. 'Dynamics of a Particle & Rigid Dynamics. C.H. Thompson M.A.   1928
    (The Queen's). Hilary Term 1928' 75 pp.

11. 'Dynamics. J. Hodgkinson M.A. (Jesus). Hilary Term' 63 pp.   1928

12. 'Solid Geometry. H.O. Newboult M.A. (Merton). Trinity Term   1928
    1928' 82 pp.

13. 'Differential Geometry. T.W. Chaundy M.A. Christ Church'   n.d.
    35 pp.

14. 'Differential Equations. Dr. Poole' 40 pp.   n.d.

15. 'Conformal Representation. E.G.C. Poole M.A.,D.Phil.   n.d.
    (New College)' 44+ pp.

16. 'Electrostatics and Magnetism. F.B. Pidduck M.A.,D.Sc.'   n.d.
(pages are not numbered)

17. 'Electromagnetic Theory. F.B. Pidduck M.A.,D.Sc.' with note   n.d.
added later 'First 20 pages revised Jan. 6/30' 45 pp.
File includes notes taken at an advanced class in electromag-
netic theory.

18. 'Atomic Structure. F.B. Pidduck M.A.,D.Sc.' with list of   n.d.
references on first page. 18 pp.

19. 'Elements of the Theory of Functions. Waynfleet Professor   n.d.
of Pure Mathematics, A.L. Dixon M.A.' 40 pp.

20. 'Analytical Statics. I.O. Griffiths M.A. (B.N.C.) 13 pp.   n.d.

21. 'Dynamics. A.E.H. Love M.A.,DSc.' 71+ pp.   n.d.

22. 'Theory of Relativity. Professor Love' with list of   n.d.
references on first page. 13 pp.

23. 'Love's Advanced Class' (perhaps on electricity). Notes   1929 - 30
have been annotated and evaluated by JHCT at a later date.

24. 'Thermodynamics. Professor Milne' 108+ pp. (pages 72-79   n.d.
are missing, but other possibly later? material has been
inserted in their place.)

25. Notes on lectures on Statistical Mechanics by E.A. Milne,   n.d.
first page beginning 'Statistical Mechanics of system
governed by Hamilton's Eqn.' (pages are not numbered)

26. 'Spherical Harmonics. J.W. Nicholson, M.A. Balliol'   n.d.
29 pp.

27. 'Spherical Harmonics': notes on Chapters III-VI and VIII   n.d.
of book by Jeans. Notes annotated at a later date by JHCT.

28. Miscellaneous notes and working papers. Notes are entitled   n.d.
'Elliptic orbits,' 'Lagrange's Eqns. of Motion,' and
'Examples. Jeans' (Examples are numbered 1 - 66)

29. Correspondence:

2 autograph letters from E.A. Milne to JHCT dated 5 and 9 July 1934
re a visit from Dr. W.E. Tisdale of the Rockefeller Foundation who
'is full of plans of an at present undefined kind for securing men
who would bring into biology not so much the specific technique of
physics but the spirit, the discipline, the method of attack, of
theoretical physics' '...the R. Foundation might devote its
attention to providing opportunities for a wider, more theoretical
yet still practical contact of men trained in math-phys. with
biologists, with the hope of getting to a more intimate under-
standing of the problems of living matter.' Milne thinks that
JHCT 'would be a possible man for having a shot at this' and
suggests that he write to Tisdale after seeing Lennard-Jones.

29. continued

> 3 autograph letters from Moses Blackman to JHCT (one is dated
> 23/1/35, the other two are undated) re scientific matters,
> especially re 'repulsive forces'
>
> 1 autograph note from 'C.H.T.' (C.H. Thompson) dated 13.3.35
> giving method of finding the principal axis of inertia of a
> body at any point

30. Wadham College Gazette, Vo. 1, no. 2, containing tributes and
appreciations by S.N. Hampshire, Warden, A.F. Thompson and
M.B. Powell