

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS

Report on the papers of
PROFESSOR EDWARD CHARLES TITCHMARSH FRS
(1899-1963)

deposited in the Archives of New College, Oxford

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Quality House, Quality Court, Chancery Lane,
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1976

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No. 76/71

CSAC 44/8/76

CONTEMPORARY SCIENTIFIC ARCHIVES CENTRE

Supported by the Royal Society and the Council of Engineering Institutions

Report on the papers of

Professor Edward Charles Titchmarsh, F.R.S.

(1899-1963)

Compiled by: Jeannine Alton
Harriot Weiskittel

Deposited in the Archives of New College, Oxford, 1976

Description of the collection

The manuscripts were received from Mrs. K. Titchmarsh, who retains some material, and the original of some of the documents (A.1, C.3).

The mathematical papers in Section B almost all reflect Titchmarsh's special interest in Eigenfunction.

Item C.1 is of interest for the autograph letters and notes by G.H. Hardy, and reminiscences of him by his sister; there are also some notes by Hardy in B.2.

Summary of the career of E.C. Titchmarsh

b.1899	Newbury.
1908-17	educated King Edward VII School, Sheffield.
1917	Balliol College, Oxford (Scholar).
1918-19	War Service, R.E. (Signals).
1919-22	Oxford University, Mathematical Moderations (Cl.I). Final Honour School of Mathematics (Cl.I).
1923	Fellow by Examination, Magdalen College, Oxford. Senior Lecturer, University College, London.
1925	married Kathleen Blomfield.
1929	Professor of Pure Mathematics, Liverpool.
1931-63	Savilian Professor of Geometry, Oxford University. Fellow, New College, Oxford.
1931	Fellow of the Royal Society.
1945-47	President, London Mathematical Society.
1953	de Morgan Medal. Hon. Sc.D., Sheffield.
1955	Sylvester Medal.
1956	Berwick Prize.

A full account of Titchmarsh's family, career and scientific work appears in the memoirs and tributes in Section A.

Contents of the handlist

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A. Biographical and Personal (A.1 - A.7)

- A.1. 'The Titchmarsh Family': an account of the history of his family, and memories of his early years, by E.C. Titchmarsh, MS. 51pp. (Xerox of the original Ms. which is in the possession of Mrs. K. Titchmarsh.)
- A.2. Letter of appointment to the Savilian Professorship of Geometry. 1931
- A.3. Award of the de Morgan Medal. Citation, and Titchmarsh's speech of acceptance. 1953
- A.4. Hon. D.Sc., Sheffield. Oration by Public Orator. 1953
- A.5. Misc. printed obituaries, tributes and memoirs. 1963-64
- A.6. 'Edward Charles Titchmarsh 1899-1963', recollections by W.N. Everitt. Typescr. and Ms. 10pp.
- A.7. Letter from A.G. Walker (President, London Mathematical Society) re 'Titchmarsh Memorial Meeting' of the Society, and typescr. of lecture, 'Titchmarsh's work on eigenfunction expressions' by Professor J.L.B. Cooper, which was delivered at meeting. 1964

B. Mathematical lectures and papers (B.1 - B.10)

- B.1. Typed list of Titchmarsh's publications.
- B.2. 'Polygons inscribed in one circle and circumscribed in another', Ms. with diagrams, 8pp; with Ms. notes by G.H. Hardy to whom the paper was submitted. (First page has note by Mrs. Titchmarsh 'First paper written by E.C. Titchmarsh on Geometry - only one on this subject he ever wrote'.) 1922
- B.3. 'Eigenfunction Problems arising from Differential Equations', Ms. notes (25pp) for paper delivered at International Congress, Amsterdam 1954, and published in the Proceedings of the Conference. 1957
- B.4. 'Recent work on Eigenfunctions.' Ms. lecture, 24pp. n.d.
- B.5. 'Lecture on Eigenfunction.' Ms. 34pp. (c) 1953

- B.6. Part of lectures on eigenfunction, '5. The nature of the spectrum', Ms. pps. numbered 15-30. n.d.
- B.7. As above, '5. Unsolved problems', Ms. pps. numbered 24-30. n.d.
- B.8. 'Lecture on eigenfunction' (Advanced Class notes), Ms.
- B.9. 'Lecture on perturbation theory' (Advanced Class notes), Ms. 23pp.
- B.10. 'Eigenfunction' (Advanced Class notes), Ms. 20pp.

C. Publications and talks (C.1 - C.5)

C.1. Obituary of Godfrey Harold Hardy

Titchmarsh wrote a Biographical Memoir of Hardy for the Royal Society and for the Journal of the London Mathematical Society. A copy of the latter, and misc. press-cuttings and tributes to Hardy are enclosed in the file. The correspondence includes: letters or postcards (one dated 1 March 1926 and one 2 May 1945) from Hardy to Titchmarsh on mathematical proofs, books and ms. for comment, and cricket. One of the letters, headed (not in Titchmarsh's hand) 'Hardy's problem' expressed a mathematical enquiry in terms of golf shots, concluding 'I should like a good graph'. None of these letters is dated; two are from New College, Oxford, where Hardy was Savilian Professor 1919-31, and 3 from Trinity College, Cambridge, where Hardy held the Sadleirian Chair 1931-42; 3 are neither headed nor dated. One of these includes some cricket scores showing it to have been written at Trent Bridge during the tea interval of the First Test of the Australian tour of 1930. Hardy mentions the sub. fielding for Larwood and forecasts a win for England by 56 runs: it was 93.

Letter from A.M. Binnie to Titchmarsh 1949, re Hardy's 'golf paper'.

Letters and postcards from Miss G. Hardy 1947-50, mainly reminiscences, 'loves and hates' and personal characteristics of her brother to help Titchmarsh in writing the memoir. One card, 26 Nov. 1947, written shortly before Hardy's death (1 Dec.) describes how she 'read him cricket and football news for hours each day'; a letter of 1950, thanking Titchmarsh for a copy of the memoir, refers to the Bertrand Russell controversy at Trinity and quotes Russell as saying to her 'It's largely due to your brother that I am back in Cambridge'.

- C.2. Speech as Sub-Warden, delivered at New College Gaudy,
23 July 1947 (3pp. perhaps incomplete). 1947
- C.3. Ms. speech delivered 23 Oct. 1957 at prizegiving, King
Edward VII School, Sheffield. 10pp. (Xerox copy of
original in possession of Mrs. K. Titchmarsh.) 1957
King Edward VII School was Titchmarsh's old school
1908-1917.
- C.4. 3 typescr. and ms. drafts of a talk on 'Mathematical
Proof' for BBC Third Programme, eventually broadcast
as 'The art of proof', and reprinted in The Listener
23 April 1959; with a letter from George MacBeth
commenting on Titchmarsh's first draft script. (One
of MacBeth's poems appears on the preceding page in
the same copy of The Listener as Titchmarsh's talk.) 1958-59
- C.5. Obituary of Ughtred Shuttleworth Haslam-Jones
Ms. draft, other printed tributes to Haslam-Jones by
Titchmarsh and others; letter about Haslam-Jones's
work from J.C. Burkill. 1962.

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