Guide to the Victor W. D. Hale Papers

Dates: 1948-1949
Extent: .25 linear feet, 15 folders
Collection number: X3115.2005
Accession number: 102680906
Processed by: Elizabeth Borchardt

Abstract

The Victor W. D. Hale papers consist of two series – one devoted to the Conference on high-speed automatic calculating machines held at the Cambridge University Mathematical Laboratory June 22-25, 1949, and one consisting of papers relating to EDSAC from both before and after the conference.

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of Item], [Date], Victor W. D. Hale papers, Lot X3115.2005, Box [#], Folder [#], Computer History Museum

Provenance

The Victor W. D. Hale papers were purchased by the Computer History Museum at the *Origins of Cyberspace* held by Christie's auction house in 2005.

Repository

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Biographical Note
Victor W. D. Hale worked as a code breaker at Bletchley Park, England during World War II. After the war, he was associated with Trinity College, but it is not certain in what capacity (student or professor). In the fall of 1949, he joined the Department of Mathematics at the University of Hull. In the early 1960s, he moved to York University where he was a Senior Lecturer and was head of the department from 1966 to 1967. He retired in 1987 and died in 2004.

Historical Note
The "Conference on high-speed automatic calculating machines" took place at the Cambridge University Mathematical Laboratory June 22-25, 1949. The conference was hosted by the laboratory's director, Maurice V. Wilkes. Approximately 100 scholars attended the four day conference. The following are some of the session presented during the conference:

- Survey of the present position of work on automatic digital computers
- The EDSAC
- Demonstration of the EDSAC
- The Automatic Relay Computer
- Cathode Ray Tube Storage
- Discussion on programming and coding
- French computing machine projects
- Some routines involving large integers
- Checking processes for large routines
- Discussion of permanent and semi-permanent storage facilities
- Discussion on checking procedure and circuits
- Computing machines: plans, projects and general ideas

Scope and Content Note
The Victor W. D. Hale papers are grouped into two series. The *Conference papers* series contains papers relating to the Conference on high-speed automatic calculating machines held at the Cambridge University Mathematical Laboratory June 22-25, 1949. Of note is the information given to attendees such as a list of those attending, printouts from EDSAC, copies of papers presented in some of the sessions, and handwritten notes by Victor Hale.

The *EDSAC papers* series contains papers relating to EDSAC itself from both before and after the conference. Of note are handwritten notes of a routine to calculate square roots and the accompanying EDSAC coding sheets by Victor Hale, which may be the earliest coding notes and sheets for EDSAC extant, as well as blueprint diagrams of EDSAC's order interpretation sent to Hale by Eric Mutch.

Indexing Terms
Cambridge University Mathematical Laboratory
Cambridge computer conference
Computers
Conference on high-speed automatic calculating machines

EDSAC (Computer)
Electronic Digital Computers
Hale, Victor W. D.
Wilkes, Maurice V.

Folder Number	Title	Date
	Folder List	

Conference papers

Box Small Lots 1

102683935	Cambridge computer conference attendee information packet	1949-06
102683932	EDSAC printouts of tables of square and prime numbers from Cambridge computer conference	1949
102683929	Handwritten notes from Cambridge computer conference sessions taken by Victor W. D. Hale	1949-06
102683936	List of the Cambridge computer conference attendees	1949-06
102683937	Personal invitation to a reception during the Cambridge conmputer conference	1949-06
102683934	Preliminary letter and program from the Cambridge computer conference	1949
102683930	References on recent advances in calculating machines	1949-06
102683933	Short paper titled "The Co-ordinating Orders" indicating the need for sub-routines	1949
102683931	Three papers from session of the Cambridge computer conference	1949

EDSAC papers

Box Blueprint box 1

102683943	Blueprint diagrams of EDSAC's half minor cycles, stage 1, stage 2, and and untitled flow chart	

Box Small Lots 1

102683940	EDSAC coding sheets for Victor Hale's routine for calculating square roots	1948 ca.
102683938	EDSAC Order Code edition 4 July 1948	1948-07
102683939	Handwritten notes on a routine for calculating square roots on the EDSAC	1948 ca.
102683941	Letter from Eric Mutch concerning EDSAC order interpretation including EDSAC order code specifications	1949-11-26
102683942	Letter from Eric Mutch with detailed order interpretation information	1949-12-08