

July 1997
M. Gamble

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO ARCHIVES

FINDING AID

Thomas. E Hull Personal Records

B1997-0019

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Thomas Hull, a native of Winnipeg, first came to the University of Toronto as a student from which he graduated with his B.A. in applied mathematics in 1944, an M.A. in Physics and Meteorology in 1946 and a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics in 1949. Upon graduation he took a teaching position at the University of British Columbia where he taught for 15 years and is accredited with having established Computer Science as a discipline. He returned to the University of Toronto in 1964 and held a cross appointment to the new Computer Science Department and the Department of Mathematics. From 1968-1974 he served as chair of the former department and was instrumental in attracting a number of leading scholars, with the result that by the mid 1970s the University of Toronto Computer Science Department was widely acknowledged as one of the top ten in North America.

His research interests included mainly numerical analysis and, in his late career, issues of numerical software and programming language. He was a member of various professional associations and was a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He died on August 15 1996.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

1949-1996 1.4 m

Records in this accession document mainly Hull's publishing activities and research in the latter part of his career. Notably missing are significant records relating to his role as a key administrator in the Department of Computer Science, his career as an influential educator and any records documenting his time at the University of British Columbia and at the University of Toronto as a student in the 1940s.

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SERIES LIST:

SERIES 1	General Correspondence
SERIES 2	Personal Files
SERIES 3	E-Mail
SERIES 4	Articles and Papers
SERIES 5	Talks
SERIES 6	Professional Association
SERIES 7	Research Notes
SERIES 8	Teaching
SERIES 9	Reviews and Recommendations
SERIES 10	Graphic

ACCESS: All series open except SERIES 9, Reviews and Recommendations, which are closed for 20 years from the latest date of file activity.

RELATED RECORDS: Gotlieb, Calvin Carl (Kelly), B1988-0069 and B1994-0022.

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SERIES DESCRIPTION

SERIES 1

General Correspondence

1968-1997 0.1 m

General incoming and outgoing correspondence with mathematical colleagues throughout the world but mainly in Canada and the United States discussing mathematical theories, progression of research as well as talks, visits and informal meetings.

Correspondence is loosely arranged chronologically with one file devoted solely to correspondence between Hull and Dr. Edsger W. Dijkstra of the Technological University of Eindhoven (Netherlands) and one devoted to the discussion of computer arithmetic.

See Box /001 (01) - (05)

SERIES 2

Personal Files

1949 - 1996 0.05 m

Mainly correspondence documenting Hull's career at the University of Toronto and his relationship with Trinity College as a College Fellow. There are also two files on Leopold Infeld including copies of correspondence in 1949-1950 while Hull was his graduate student.

See Box /001 (06) - (09)

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SERIES DESCRIPTION

SERIES 3

E-Mail

1991-1996 0.15 m

This series complements Series 2 since many of the same type of discussions on mathematical theory ensued via the Electronic Mail especially for the years after 1991. Areas of research for which there are ongoing discussion include: "Exceptions Handling", "ENABLE Proposal", "Multiprecision Computation" and "TURING language". More so than the correspondence, most of the interchange on E-Mail is highly technical and often relates directly to collaborations on publications.

Loose E-Mail has been grouped by year and arranged chronologically. Wherever there were obvious groupings and/or identification as to the content of the E-Mail, this was kept together. E-mail on specific topics is also accompanied by notes and these have been filed at the end of the chronological files.

See Box /002 (01) - (12)

SERIES 4

Articles and Papers

1962 - 1996 0.3 m

This series documents Hull's extensive publishing activity in the field of applied mathematics and computer arithmetic. Included are files on refereed and non-refereed articles as well as papers presented at meetings and symposiums. This series is by no means complete but it does represent a good sample of his work. Files contain manuscripts, typescripts, notes, correspondence and e-mail with co-author(s), editors and publishers as well as referee comments and revisions.

Arranged chronologically.

See Box /003 and /004 (01) - (06)

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SERIES DESCRIPTION

SERIES 5

Talks

1956 - 1994 0.1 m

Included in this series are informal talks and lectures given by Hull through out his career. Most files contain notes and transparencies used for the talks and differ from academic papers contained in Series 6 in that there does not appear to have been any formal manuscripts.

Arranged chronologically.

See Box /004 (07) - (15)

SERIES 6

Professional Association

1976-1995 0.02

Consists mainly of correspondence relating to the professional associations to which Hull belonged including the Association of Computing Machinery and its newsletter SIGNUM, the Canadian Mathematical Society and ARITH II.

See Box 001 (10) - (15)

SERIES 7

Research Notes

196- - 199- 0.03

Research notes on various mathematical topics complement discussion on such topics found both in Hull's E-mail (Series 3) as well as in his articles and papers (Series 4).

See Box 001 (16) - (23)

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SERIES DESCRIPTION

SERIES 8

Teaching

1994-1996 0.05

This series contains files relating to the teaching of a course at Trinity College - INX 199Y Science and Social Choice and includes choices of course material and assignments which were published in a handbook for the course edited by Hull. No other records relating to Hull's teaching either at Trinity or within the Department of Computer Science are known to exist.

See Box /002 (13) - (15).

SERIES 9

Reviews and Recommendations

1976-1996 0.2

Includes referee reviews done by Hull for scholarly articles as well as letters of recommendation for colleagues and former students. Reviews are filed at the beginning of this series and letters of recommendation have been sorted alphabetically and filed after the reviews.

Access Restrictions: Closed for 20 years from the latest date of file activity.

See Box /005.

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SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series 10

Graphic

ca. 1981-1996 0.4

Photography was a hobby of Hull's and consequently this accession contains some of his work as it pertains to the University community, the Department of Computer Science, his career and his involvement in the Arts and Letters Club. Includes colour 4x6 prints and corresponding negatives.

See list below:

- | | | |
|----------------|--|-----------|
| /001 (01)-(02) | Dept. of Computer Science, Party
and Show | ca. 1981 |
| (03) | Portrait, Chancellor of Trinity College | 1981? |
| (03b) | Hull's retirement dinner | May 1987 |
| (04)-(05) | University of Toronto Women's Ass.
Art Show, | Oct. 1987 |
| (06)-(07) | UTWA, Art Show | Nov. 1989 |
| (08) | Visit of Eric Infeld | 1995 |
| (09)-(67) | Photos of staff of the Department of
Computer Science taken for DCS brochure
(identified) | 1996 |
| /002 (01) | Photograph of Hull receiving an Honourary
Degree from Dalhousie University | 1987 |
| (02) - (16) | Negatives to prints found in Box /001 | |
| /003 | Photographs and negatives documenting events of the Arts
and Letters Club especially the annual Spring Show and the
Boar's Head Dinner, 1987-1993. (unprocessed) | |