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## Guide to the Victor W. D. Hale Papers

### Collection number: X3115.2005

Computer History Museum

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Guide to the Victor W. D. Hale Papers

**Dates:** 1948-1949

**Collection number:** X3115.2005

**Creator:** Hale, Victor W. D.

**Collection Size:** .25 linear feet 15 folders

**Repository:** Computer History Museum

Mountain View, CA 94043

**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.

**Languages:** Languages represented in the collection: English

### Access

Collection is open for research.

### Publication Rights

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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.

### Biography / Administrative History

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.

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### 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 of Collection

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.

- Series 1. Conference Papers
- Series 2. EDSAC Papers

### Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

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.

Box 1

**Conference Papers 1949**

**Creator:** Hale, Victor W. D.

**Physical Description:** 9 folders

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

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.

102683935 **Cambridge computer conference attendee information packet June 1949**

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 June 1949**

102683936 **List of the Cambridge computer conference attendees June 1949**

102683937 **Personal invitation to a reception during the Cambridge computer conference June 1949**

102683934 **Preliminary letter and program from the Cambridge computer conference 1949**

102683930 **References on recent advances in calculating machines June 1949**

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**

Box 1

**EDSAC Papers 1948-1949**

**Creator:** Hale, Victor W. D.

**Physical Description:** 6 folders

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

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.

102683938 **EDSAC Order Code edition 4 July 1948 July 1948**

102683940 **EDSAC coding sheets for Victor Hale's routine for calculating square roots 1948 ca.**

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 November 26, 1949**

102683942 **Letter from Eric Mutch with detailed order interpretation information December 8, 1949**

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