

AccessionIndex: TCD-SCSS-V.20170221.001

Accession Date: 21-Feb-2017

Accession By: Dr.Chris Horn

Object name: Napier Tercentenary Celebration Handbook that includes article by Percy Ludgate

Vintage: c.1914

Synopsis: Handbook of the Napier tercentenary celebration or modern instruments and methods of calculation, Ed: E.M.Horsburgh, including: Percy E.Ludgate, 'Automatic Calculating Machines'.

Description:

In 1909, working entirely on his own in his spare time, unaware of Babbage's work, Dublin clerk to a corn merchant (and later an accountant) Percy Edwin Ludgate (1883-1922) designed an analytical engine, the next after Charles Babbage. There are only three sources on Ludgate's machine: his Apr-1909 paper in the Scientific Proceedings of the Royal Dublin Society [1], the Jul-1909 review of Ludgate's article by Charles Vernon Boys in Volume 81 of Nature [2], and his 1914 article in the Napier Tercentenary Celebration handbook [3]. For more detail on Percy Ludgate's Analytical Engine see elsewhere in the Hardware category of this catalog.

This item is the 1914 Napier Tercentenary Celebration Handbook that includes the article 'Automatic Calculating Machines' by Percy Ludgate, who must have been well known and respected by this time as there were relatively few articles and those were by invitation only. This is a rare softcover original edition as distributed at the Napier Exhibition, few of which survive, most surviving examples being the hardcover edition printed after the exhibition or later reprints such the one in the Trinity College Library.

Many thanks to Dr.Chris Horn who very generously purchased and donated this item.

The homepage for this catalog is at: <https://www.scss.tcd.ie/SCSSTreasuresCatalog/>
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Some of the items below are more properly part of the Hardware category of this catalog, but are listed here for convenience.

| Accession Index | Object with Identification |
|---|---|
| TCD-SCSS-V.20170221.001 | Napier Tercentenary Celebration Handbook that includes article by Percy Ludgate, Handbook of the Napier tercentenary celebration or modern instruments and methods of calculation, Ed: E.M.Horsburgh, including: Percy E.Ludgate, 'Automatic Calculating Machines', 1914. |
| TCD-SCSS-V.20121208.873 | On a Proposed Analytical Machine, Percy E.Ludgate, offprint of article in Scientific Proceedings of the Royal Dublin Society, 1909. |
| TCD-SCSS-V.20170217.001 | Reprint of 1909 RDS Proceedings that includes article on Percy Ludgate's analytical engine, Scientific Proceedings of the Royal Dublin Society, Vol.12, No.9, including: Percy E.Ludgate, 'On a Proposed Analytical Machine', pp.77-91, 28-Apr-1909, reprinted 2016. |
| TCD-SCSS-V.20170124.001 | Nature volume that includes review of article on Percy Ludgate's analytical engine, Nature, Vol.81, including: C.V.Boys, 'A new analytical engine', pp.14-15, Jul-1909. |
| TCD-SCSS-X.20121208.002 | Percy E. Ludgate Prize in Computer Science, Prize in memory of Percy Ludgate's novel 1909 design for an Analytical Engine, the next after Babbage's, c.1909. |
| TCD-SCSS-X.20121208.001 | Charles Babbage's Engines, Irish interactions with Charles Babbage regarding his Difference Engines and Analytical Engine, c.1843. |
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References:

1. Percy E.Ludgate, *On a Proposed Analytical Machine*, Scientific Proceedings of the Royal Dublin Society, Vol.12, No.9, pp.77–91, 28-Apr-1909, see: <http://www.fano.co.uk/ludgate/paper.html>
Last viewed 5-Jan-2017.
2. C.V.Boys, *A New Analytical Engine*, Nature Vol.81, pp. 14-15, Jul-1909.
3. Percy E.Ludgate, *Automatic Calculating Machines*, In “Handbook of the Napier tercentenary celebration or modern instruments and methods of calculation”, Ed: E.M.Horsburgh, 1914, see (in Trinity College Library): http://stella.catalogue.tcd.ie/iii/encore/plus/C__SNapier%20tercentenary%20celebration_Orightrresult_U?lang=eng&suite=cobalt
Last viewed 24-Jan-2017.