

AccessionIndex: TCD-SCSS-X.20191203.001

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Object name: History of Department of Mathematics computing, Trinity College Dublin

Vintage: c.196x

Synopsis: The evolution of electronic computing in the Dept.Maths up to c.2000.

Description:

The Department of Mathematics, Trinity College Dublin [1], has a long and honoured history [2].

Beginning in 1592?

Natural philosophy.

Hamilton, MacCullagh, Lloyd, Salmon.

MacCullagh and Lloyd were friends of Babbage. From [3].

When visiting Dublin for the 1835 meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Charles Babbage stayed in Trinity College Dublin, in rooms reserved for him by the Provost of Trinity, Bartholomew Lloyd (they were both on the Mathematical and Physical Sciences committee of the association, of which Lloyd was President, the future Earl of Rosse was Vice-President and Babbage was a Trustee, and both were members of the Royal Irish Academy and the Royal Society). Colby and Hamilton also attended.

Also from [3]:

Prof.James MacCullagh, professor of mathematics at TCD, a valued friend, was very much interested in the Analytical Engine. In 1840 he was persuaded by Charles Babbage to join him at a meeting of the Italian Physical Society in Turin.

The Turin meeting was also attended by Count Luigi Federico Menabrea. From [3]:

It is of course Menabrea's description of Babbage's Analytical Engine that Ada Lovelace later translated and extended in her famous monograph. James MacCullagh had in Feb-1842 urged Babbage to have it published (see Figures 22-23); the paper appeared in the *Bibliothèque Universelle de Genève* in Oct-1842.

Ada had become an enthusiastic supporter of Babbage's Analytical Engine after Mary Somerville, one of the rare contemporary female mathematicians and scientists, took 17-year-old Ada Lovelace, daughter of Lord Byron, to meet Charles Babbage, who showed Ada his working model of the Difference Engine. In 1843 she published a very much extended translation from the French of the paper written by the Italian engineer (and later Prime Minister) Count Luigi Federico Menabrea about Babbage's Analytical Engine.

Theoretical computing in the Maths Dept before and after electronic computing.

The Maths Dept. was an early user of electronic computing in Trinity College Dublin.

The efforts of Tim Murphy, Richard Timoney, David Malone, Alan Judge, Michael Purser, etc ?

Computers ?

Porting of UNIX ?

Excerpts from other documents

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Some of the items below may be more properly part of other categories of this catalog, but are listed here for convenience.

Accession Index	Object with Identification
TCD-SCSS-X.20191203.001	History of Department of Mathematics computing, Trinity College Dublin. The evolution of electronic computing in the Dept.Maths up to c.2000, c.196x.
TCD-SCSS-X.20121208.004	History of the Department of Computer Science, Trinity College Dublin. The evolution of computer science as reflected in the long line of machines used by the department since its inception, c.1969.
TCD-SCSS-X.20121208.006	History of the Department of Statistics, Trinity College Dublin. The evolution of the Dept.Statistics as reflected in the machines used since its inception. c.1968.
TCD-SCSS-X.20121208.005	History of the Computer Laboratory, Trinity College Dublin. The evolution of Trinity College Dublin computing services as reflected in the long line of machines used by the Computer Lab since its inception. c.1968.
TCD-SCSS-X.20180907.001	History of TCD Library computing, Trinity College Dublin. The evolution of TCD Library computing. c.1968.

References:

1. Trinity College Dublin Library, *School of Mathematics*, see: <https://www.maths.tcd.ie/>
Last browsed to on 3-Dec-2019.
2. Trinity College Dublin, *Mathematics at TCD 1592-1992*, see: <https://www.maths.tcd.ie/about/400Hist/1.php>
Last browsed to on 3-Dec-2019.
3. Trinity College Dublin, *Charles Babbage's Engines*, see: <https://www.scss.tcd.ie/SCSSTreasuresCatalog/miscellany/TCD-SCSS-X.20121208.001/TCD-SCSS-X.20121208.001.pdf>
Last browsed to on 3-Dec-2019.

See the associated documents in the related folder in this catalog.

Figure 1: xxx

Figure 2: xxx

Figure 3: xxx

Figure 4: xxx

Figure 5: xxx

Figure 6: xxx

Figure 7: xxx