

Simon Fraser University Archives and Records Management Department

Finding Aid - Ronald Harrop fonds (F-216)

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Ronald Harrop fonds

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Summary information

Repository:	Simon Fraser University Archives and Records Management Department
Title:	Ronald Harrop fonds
Reference code:	F-216
Date:	1965 - 1985 (creation)
Physical description:	7 cm of textual records
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Finding aid prepared by Michelle S. Curran (May 2012).

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Ronald Harrop is Professor Emeritus of Computing Science and Mathematics at Simon Fraser University (SFU). He holds a B.A. (1946), M.A. (1950), and Ph.D. (1953) in Mathematics from the University of Cambridge. He is also Honorary Professor in the Department of Radiology at the University of British Columbia (UBC). In addition, he is affiliated with SFU/TRIUMF Medical Computing Group, and he is an emeritus member of the Medical Imaging Research Group at Vancouver General Hospital.

Harrop was born in Manchester, England on May 3, 1926. He is married and has two children.

Harrop was a senior lecturer at the University of Newcastle-Upon Tyne before he was appointed as the first Head of SFU's Department of Mathematics in 1965. In 1969, Harrop along with many of the original heads of departments had resigned, accepting the demands of their colleagues for a system of elected chairs that worked within a committee system.

In 1973, the university created the Department of Computing Science during a time when computing science was beginning to emerge as a new discipline. The department's first Chair, Theodor Sterling, chose not to adopt the pre-existing courses that were associated with traditional mathematics. He, along with Harrop, believed that mathematics for interdisciplinary computing science students had to be taught differently, and he persuaded Harrop to teach these new courses.

In the spirit of interdisciplinary work, Harrop continued to do research, investigation, and cooperative work in the areas of biomedical computing and medical informatics after retiring in 1991 from his regular, joint appointment in the Departments of Mathematics and Computing Science. He held a post-retirement contract at SFU from 1991-1992.

As of 2002, Harrop's latest research focused on medical informatics, single photon emission computed tomography including medical applications of such tomography, and dosimetry in radiotherapy.

Over the years, Harrop has received many awards, citations, and honors. In Wikipedia, he is credited with introducing the Harrop formulae in 1956. The Harrop formulae is a class of statements used in intuitionistic logic. According to Wikipedia, "variations of the fundamental concept are used in different branches of constructive mathematics and logic programming."

Other honors bestowed upon Harrop include recognition as a founding member of the Institute for Health Research and Education at SFU in 2000 and recognition as a "Pioneer of Computing in Canada" by IBM Centers for Advanced Studies in October 2005.

Scope and content

Fonds consists of records relating to the academic and professional life of Ronald Harrop as well as materials documenting the opening of the university and its early history. Record types include brochures, bulletins, calendars, correspondence, reports, and newspaper clippings.

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title is based on the name of of the fonds creator.

Immediate source of acquisition

The records were donated to the Simon Fraser University Archives by Ronald Harrop in 1992.

Arrangement

The material was arranged by the archivist into series based on the academic and professional activities of Ronald Harrop.

Restrictions on access

The records are open with no restrictions.

Finding aids

File lists are available for each series.

Related material

For photographs of Ronald Harrop, see F-247, SFU Archives Reference and Display Materials collection. For other material relating to Ronald Harrop, see the finding aids to F-14, Department of Mathematics fonds and F-93, School of Computing Science fonds.

Accruals

As of May 2012, all accessions have been processed. No further accruals are expected.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
- **Level of detail:** Minimal

Access points

- Department of Mathematics
- School of Computing Science
- Science and technology (subject)

Series descriptions

Series F-216-1: SFU history records

Date: 1965 - 1969 (creation)

Scope and content: Series consists of materials collected by Ronald Harrop in the course of his academic career as Head of the Department of Mathematics (1965-1969). As one of the original department heads, Harrop collected materials that documented early SFU history such as the opening ceremonies, department descriptions, and faculty requirements.

Materials include department brochures, university stationery, outline of faculty benefits, cost study analysis for a teaching semester, official opening invitation, blank application for admission, local newspaper clippings, bulletins, and variant editions of early academic calendars.

Physical description: 5 cm of textual records

Arrangement: The arrangement was provided by the archivist.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F-216-1-0-0-1	File - Department of Mathematics <i>Physical storage:</i> Archival box - small: 216-1 <i>Restrictions on access:</i> Open	1965 - 1969	
F-216-1-0-0-2	File - [Memorabilia] <i>Physical storage:</i> Archival box - small: 216-1 <i>Restrictions on access:</i> Open	1965	
F-216-1-0-0-3	File - [Academic calendars] <i>Physical storage:</i> Archival box - small: 216-1	1965 - 1969	

	<i>Restrictions on access:</i> Open		
Series F-216-2: Professional papers			
<u>Date:</u> 1969 - 1985 (creation)			
<u>Scope and content:</u> Series includes materials relating to academic conference attendance, school visits, and research activities of Ronald Harrop. Topics and activities documented include his attendance at the meetings of Canadian Mathematical Congress, Computing Society of Canada, Canadian Learned Societies, American Mathematical Society, Logic Colloquium; participation in the UBC/TRIUMF program on Positron Emission Tomography (PET), and various visits to secondary schools in Burnaby and universities throughout North America in connection with recruiting and computing. This series includes invitations, lists, itineraries, and journal articles.			
<u>Physical description:</u> 2 cm of textual records			
<u>Access points:</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Mathematical Congress • Computing Society of Canada • Canadian Learned Societies • American Mathematical Society • Logic Colloquium • TRIUMF 			
<u>Arrangement:</u> The arrangement was provided by the archivist.			
<u>Publication status:</u> published			
File / item list			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
F-216-2-0-0-1	File - [Professional meeting, conference, and activity records] <i>Physical storage:</i> Archival box - small: 216-1 <i>Restrictions on access:</i> Open	1969 - 1985	