

Reference Number: **2014.0137**

Collection/Series Title: **MINUTES OF THE MELBOURNE
UNIVERSITY MATHEMATICAL
SOCIETY (MUMS)**

Creator	University Of Melbourne. Department Of Mathematics
Creator's Activity/Occupation	

Creator's Historical Note

Previous Control Number: UA28 In 1855, Professor William Parkinson Wilson, inaugural Professor of Mathematics, was one of the four foundation professors at the University of Melbourne and had been the best mathematician of his year at Cambridge. Wilson arrived in Melbourne on 31 January 1855 and gave the university's first lecture on 13 April. Courses covered Euclid, trigonometry, algebra, analytical geometry and calculus, and Wilson also taught natural philosophy. In 1858 he devised the first engineering course at an Australian university and the three-year course leading to a certificate of civil engineering was begun in 1861. Two of his students were William Kernot and Henry Andrew. The earliest Mathematics professors were all Cambridge University graduates and Mathematics was initially part of an Arts degree, with course specialisation only occurring later (further research required to find out when). Wilson died in December 1874 and was succeeded in June 1875 by 25 year old Edward John Nanson, another Cambridge graduate. Nanson retired in 1922 and was succeeded as Professor by John Henry Michell (1923-8) and then Thomas Cherry, another fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, who was Professor of Mathematics (pure, mixed and applied) from 1929 until his retirement in 1963. Eric Russell Love held several roles at the University of Melbourne including; Professor of Pure Mathematics (1952-1977); Dean of the Faculty of Arts (1960-1962); Head of the Department of Mathematics (1963-1977); Professor Emeritus (1977-1999); and Honorary Professorial Fellow, Department of Mathematics (1977-1999). Previous and Subsequent Entities: 1948 - 1995 Department of Statistics; 1966 - 1995 Department of Mathematics; 1996 - Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Previous Control Number: UA28

Date Range of Collection/Series	1930-1974
Size/Extent	1 box (0.12 m)
Access Conditions	Access: Restricted

Scope and Content of Collection/Series

MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY (MUMS)

Previous Control Number: UM 754. The Melbourne University Mathematical Society (MUMS) was founded in 1930 primarily for the benefit of tertiary students, mainly undergraduates. The founder and president for the first four years was Sir Thomas Cherry, the Head of the Department of Mathematics from 1929-1963. During his term as president, he aimed to make the society as autonomous as possible, run by students for the benefit of students and mathematics. The first meeting was held on the 13th of May 1930. Speakers from within the Department of Mathematics and professionals who worked with mathematics in their work, such as the Government Astronomer and engineers were invited to address the meetings. Students were also encouraged to speak on a variety of topics. The society was subsidised by a grant from the Student Representative Council. There are references to talks given on such topics as the calculation of pi, fractions, the trisection of angles, non-differentiable functions, research in mathematics, spherical trigonometry and space travel. The minutes also contain details of attendance, treasurers' reports and notes for the next meeting. There is also "A Brief History of the Melbourne University Mathematical Society (MUMS)", which in terms of logic, has been placed within this series.

Collection Category

University, official

This document dated

29/05/2015

To request access to records on the list below via the University of Melbourne Archives Reading Room, quote the Unit/Box reference in full.

Unit/Box	Item Number	Title	Date Range	Description
2014.0137 Unit 1	2014.0137.0001	Melbourne University Mathematical Society Minutes	13 May 1930-10 May 1934	
2014.0137 Unit 1	2014.0137.0002	Melbourne University Mathematical Society Minutes	10 May 1934-11 April 1938	
2014.0137 Unit 1	2014.0137.0003	Melbourne University Mathematical Society Minutes	15 March 1938-18 October 1948	Includes summary of office bearers and issues discussed in meetings for 1930-1938 (see front of the minute book). Includes copy of constitution at the front of the book.
2014.0137 Unit 1	2014.0137.0004	Melbourne University Mathematical Society Minutes	30 March 1948-30 April 1958	Includes SRC Ruling on the conduct of student meetings stapled at the front of the book and dated 14 May, 1948. Includes copy of constitution at the front of the book and amendment of 12 September 1956.
2014.0137 Unit 1	2014.0137.0005	Melbourne University Mathematical Society Minutes	30 April 1958-5 October 1965	Includes list of Presidents from 1930-1965. Includes summary of matters discussed in 1958 meetings near front of book. Some 1959-1962 minutes are out of chronological sequence, at the rear of the book.
2014.0137 Unit 1	2014.0137.0006	Melbourne University Mathematical Society Minutes	13 October 1964-13 June 1974	
2014.0137 Unit 1	2014.0137.0007	A Brief History of the Melbourne University Mathematical Society MUMS: A Talk to the Society by E.R. Love, 11 October, 1978	1978	Loose in box. Discusses role of Sir Thomas Cherry

End of List