E.J.G. PITMAN : MATHEMATICS

Papers, notes and correspondence relating to mathematics, especially mathematical statistics, of Professor Edwin James George Pitman (1897-1993) BSc., MA(Melb.), FAA., Professor of Mathematics at the University of Tasmania 1926 - 1962.

Professor Pitman was educated at South Melbourne College and Ormond College, University of Melbourne. He was Acting Professor of Mathematics at Canterbury College of the University of New Zealand 1922 - 1923, Tutor in Mathematics and Physics Trinity and Ormond Colleges University of Melbourne 1924 - 1925, and, as “a young man of remarkable promise”, was appointed Professor of Mathematics at the University of Tasmania from January 1926 by a decision of the University Council of June 1925. Professor Pitman’s speciality was mathematical probability and statistics and he was a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and was Visiting Professor of Mathematical Statistics at the Universities of Columbia, North Carolina and Princeton 1948 - 1949 and Visiting Professor of Statistics at Stanford University, California 1958. He was President of the Australian Mathematical Society in 1958.

The papers include research and study notes (some dating back to Ormond College days) and correspondence with other mathematicians, drafts and published papers, miscellaneous notes and correspondence in an alphabetical filing system and correspondence relating to appointments and honours.

Professor Pitman’s papers are stored in 11 archives boxes (2 shelf metres) and include:

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box 1 Correspondence on honours and appointments; correspondence on publications; publications and drafts for publication (including some unpublished).

box 2 Publications and drafts contd. (inc. “History of Mathematics” unpublished draft); Notes (inc. early notebooks and Ormond College notes)

box 3 Notes, including AMP. research, addresses (to WA Uni.), calculus, inversion of power.

box 4 Notes, including linear estimation, compound interest, gamma variables, Statistics I.

box 5 Notes N. - R., including power series, random probabilities, problems.

box 6 Notes: statistics

boxes 7-8 Miscellaneous Correspondence and Notes in alphabetical sequence with orange file dividers:

7 A - L
8 M - Z

box 9 Student lecture notes, University of Melbourne pre 1921
   Notes taken by E.J.P. while a student. (Some notebooks have other notes at back) (15 quarto notebooks, 1 file)

box 10 Professional correspondence
   Correspondence with other mathematicians etc.

box 11 University correspondence & teaching and research notes
   a) University of Tasmania; Ormond College centenary
   b) Teaching and research notes.
Box 12  Student (Alan Burn, later Prof of Engineering) note book relating to 3rd year maths in dynamics in 1908.

Notes on the Mathematics syllabus of the Schools Board published for the University of Melbourne, 1925.

Student note book relating to statistics lectures given in University during 1937.

Student note book relating to statistics lectures given in University during 1932

Pitman's copy of Christ College Act 1926. Prof. Pitman served on Christ College Trust.

Attendance register for classes taught by Pitman 1926-42 detailing his teaching commitments in first and second year courses.

Lecture notes by Pure Mathematics II student (Waters), 1940.


Examination papers Applied Mathematics I, Nov 1926-Nov 1945.


Lecture notes for a series of lectures given at Chapel Hill, 1948

Student notes on measure and integration, about 1954.

Lecture notes on probability problems given at Chapel Hill (Uni of North Carolina), 1948.

Title pages of 2 booklets from Pitman's library
' The design and analysis of factorial experiments'
'Some methods of testing potato yields'

and related paper (Embrechts & Goldie)
'On closure and factorization properties of
subexponential and related distributions'.

Typed notes on Theory of linear estimation, 1950s?

Lecture notes in Applied Maths.

Typed notes of course on Statistics, 1946, for Division of Forest Products.

Typed notes for students on topics in Analysis at various levels.

Some problems on probability, measure, etc., statistics used in teaching

Notes on Riemann-Stieltjes integral 1952 and notes on Extension and paper by Henstock ('A Riemann-type Integral of Lebesgue power'.

Hand-written notes giving full treatment of Riemann Integral - probably used as basis for lectures, but may go further - Mathematics I treatment in 1950 was based on this approach..

Vacation School programme for Mathematics Teachers 1961