

U DCK Records of the Committee of Inquiry into the 1978-1982
Teaching of Mathematics in Schools (The Cockcroft Report) (1982)

Accession number: 1983/04

Historical Background:

The Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools was set up in 1978, with Wilfred Halliday Cockcroft as its chairman, to report back to the Department of Education and Science on the adequacy and functionality of mathematics teaching in schools. Wilfred Cockcroft was born 7 June 1923 and was educated at Keighley Boys' Grammar School and Balliol College, Oxford. During the Second World War he was a signals' officer in the Royal Air Force and, after being demobbed, in 1949 was appointed assistant lecturer at the University of Aberdeen. In the same year he married Barbara Rhona Huggan and they went on to have two sons. In 1957 he moved from his lectureship at Aberdeen to one at the University of Southampton, and he was quickly promoted to reader there, in 1960. In 1961 he was appointed G. F. Grant Professor of Pure Mathematics at Hull University and held that position until 1976 when he became vice chancellor of New University of Ulster for six years, until 1982. During that time he chaired the Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools, a job for which he was eminently suitable as he had been a member of the Mathematics and Sciences Sub-committee 1967 to 1973 (chair 1973-1976) of the University Grants Committee and chaired the Nuffield Maths Project Consultative Committee from 1963 to 1971. In 1982 he remarried, Vivien Lloyd.

In 1982 the Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools published its report ('Mathematics counts'), often known as the Cockcroft Report. Wilfred Cockcroft was knighted a year later and retained his interest in schools, sitting as chairman and chief executive of the secondary exams council between 1983 and 1988 and continuing to write and edit mathematics textbooks. Through the late 1980s and early 1990s he continued to be very active, being a member of the National Foundation for Educational Research and sitting on the Royal Society Maths Curriculum Sub-committee. From 1991 he was president of the British Accreditation Council for Independent Further and Higher Education. Sir Cockcroft died in 1999.

Custodial history:

Donated by Sir Wilfred Cockcroft, 1982

Description:

This archive represents a full set of records for the Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics as collected by its chairman, Sir Wilfred Halliday Cockcroft, between 1978 and 1982. Correspondence relating to the committee covers the dates March 1978 to November 1982. There are records of the meetings held for consultation, including a meeting with Baroness Young in February 1980. The papers also include all the evidence from teachers, schools and related associations as well as the records of working parties on primary school teaching and secondary school teaching of mathematics. The papers of the working party on mathematics for employment (from which came the Department of Education and Science's 1983 publication Blueprint for numeracy: an employers' guide to the Cockcroft report) are also held as well as various files of press cuttings, publicity, expense claims and so on. All drafts, including the corrected page-proofs, of the report are held along with all Professor Cockcroft's lectures given about the report.

Hull History Centre: Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools

Arrangement:

- U DCK/1 Correspondence, 1978-1982
- U DCK/2 Meetings, 1978-1980
- U DCK/3 Evidence, 1978-1982
- U DCK/4 Working Groups, 1979-1981
- U DCK/5 Miscellaneous files, 1978-1982
- U DCK/6 Drafts and comments, 1981-1982
- U DCK/7 Lectures on the Report given by Professor Cockcroft, 1981-1982

Extent: 3 linear metres

Access conditions: Access will be granted to any accredited reader

Language: English

U DCK/1	Correspondence Relating to the Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools. 6 bundles	1978-1982
U DCK/1/1	Correspondence. Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools 1 bundle	Mar 1978- Jun 1979
U DCK/1/2	Correspondence. Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools 1 bundle	Jul 1979- Dec 1980
U DCK/1/3	Correspondence. Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools 1 bundle	Jan 1981- Jan 1982
U DCK/1/4	Correspondence. Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools 1 bundle	Jan 1981- Jun 1982

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U DCK/1/5	Correspondence. Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools 1 bundle	May-Nov 1982
U DCK/1/6	Correspondence. Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools Relating to the production of ties and scarves for the Committee. 1 bundle	Dec 1981- Aug 1982
U DCK/2	Meetings Relating to the Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools. 7 bundles & 18 files	1978-1980
U DCK/2/1	Main Committee. Agenda and minutes Includes chairman's papers (11 files, marked A-K). 11 files	Sep 1978- May 1981
U DCK/2/2	Advisory Council. Adult and Continuing for Adult and Continuing Education 1 bundle	1979-1980
U DCK/2/3A	Meetings at Loughborough Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools. 1 bundle	3-6 Jan 1979
U DCK/2/3B	Meetings at Loughborough Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools. 1 bundle	13-15 Sep 1979
U DCK/2/4	Teachers' meetings Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools. 1 bundle	Jan-May 1980
U DCK/2/5	Meetings. Professor Cockcroft and Baroness Young 1 bundle	19 Feb 1980
U DCK/2/6	Meeting at Nottingham Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools. 1 bundle	25 Apr 1980
U DCK/2/7	Meeting at Bath Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools. 1 bundle	10 Oct 1980

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U DCK/2/8	Meeting at Newark Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools. 7 files	27-28 Nov 1980
U DCK/3	Evidence Relating to the Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools. 11 bundles	1978-1982
U DCK/3/1	Evidence submitted [A-D] Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools. 1 bundle	1979
U DCK/3/2A	Evidence submitted [E] Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools. 1 bundle	1979
U DCK/3/2B	Evidence submitted [E] Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools. 1 bundle	1979
U DCK/3/3	Evidence submitted [F-I] Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools. 1 bundle	1978-1979
U DCK/3/4A	Evidence submitted [J] Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools. 1 bundle	1979
U DCK/3/4B	Evidence submitted [J] Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools. 1 bundle	1979
U DCK/3/4C	Evidence submitted [J] Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools. 1 bundle	1979
U DCK/3/5	Evidence submitted [K, L, M, P, S] Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools. 1 bundle	1978-1980

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U DCK/3/6	Oral evidence Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools. 1 bundle	1979-1981
U DCK/3/7A	Reports and papers considered Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools. 1 bundle	1978-1982
U DCK/3/7B	Reports and papers considered Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools. 1 bundle	1978-1982
U DCK/4	Working Groups Relating to the Committee of Inquiry into the Teaching of Mathematics in Schools. 12 files	1979-1981
U DCK/4/1	Files. Working Group on Primary Mathematics 2 files	1979-1981
U DCK/4/2	Files. Working Group on Secondary Mathematics 2 files	1979-1981
U DCK/4/3	Files. Working Group on Examinations 2 files	1979-1980
U DCK/4/4	Files. Working Group on Initial Training 2 files	1979-1981
U DCK/4/5	Files. Working Group on In-service Training and other Support Services 2 files	1979-1981
U DCK/4/6	Files. Working Group on Mathematics for Employment 2 files	1979-1981
U DCK/5	Miscellaneous files 12 files	1978-1982
U DCK/5/1	File. Mathematics examination papers 1 file	1978-1979
U DCK/5/2	File. Papers Varia (M1) 1 file	1978-1981

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U DCK/5/3	File. Papers Varia 1 file	1979-1981
U DCK/5/4	File. Visits (EV) 1 file	1978-1981
U DCK/5/5	File. Visits (W) 1 file	1980
U DCK/5/6	File. Expenses claims 1 file	1978-1982
U DCK/5/7	File. Statistical Bulletins 1 file	1979-1980
U DCK/5/8	File. Press cuttings 1 file	1979-1980
U DCK/5/9	File. Press cuttings 1 file	1982
U DCK/5/10	File. Chairman's notes 1 file	1980-1981
U DCK/5/11	File. Publicity 1 file	1981-1982
U DCK/5/12	File. Miscellaneous Including drafts of comments and articles on the report by Professor Cockcroft. 1 file	1981-1982
U DCK/6	Drafts and comments Relating to the Cockcroft Report. 3 bundles & 3 items	1981-1982
U DCK/6/1	Working drafts Relating to the Cockcroft Report. 2 bundles	1981-1982
U DCK/6/2	Final draft Relating to the Cockcroft Report. 1 item	1982
U DCK/6/3	Draft set up for printers Relating to the Cockcroft Report. 1 item	1982

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U DCK/6/4	Corrected page proof Relating to the Cockcroft Report. 1 item	1982
U DCK/6/5	Comments. Cockcroft Report Other comments are among the working drafts. 1 bundle	1981
U DCK/7	Lectures on the report given by Professor Cockcroft 6 bundles	1981-1982
U DCK/7/1	Lectures given and cancelled Relating to the Cockcroft Report. 1 bundle	Oct 1981- Apr 1982
U DCK/7/2	Lectures given and cancelled Relating to the Cockcroft Report. 1 bundle	May-Sep 1982
U DCK/7/3	Lecture given in Pontypridd Relating to the Cockcroft Report. 1 bundle	14 Jun 1982
U DCK/7/4	Lecture given at Whitelands College, London Relating to the Cockcroft Report. 1 bundle	6 Sep 1982
U DCK/7/5	Lecture given in Stafford Relating to the Cockcroft Report. 1 bundle	8 Oct 1982
U DCK/7/6	Lecture given in Reading Relating to the Cockcroft Report. 1 bundle	9 Oct 1982