

JOHN TODD

California Institute of Technology



will deliver the

CHARLES R. DePRIMA

MEMORIAL UNDERGRADUATE LECTURE

Charlie DePrima and Us

Tuesday, December 2, 1997, 4:15 p.m.

151 Sloan

California Institute of Technology

JOHN TODD

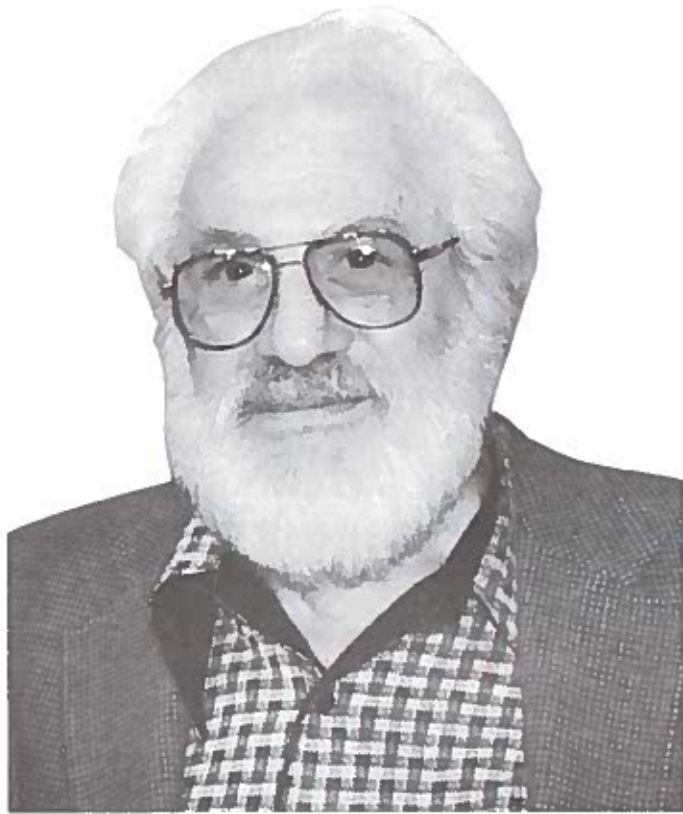
John Todd was born in Northern Ireland, though most probably conceived in what is now the Republic of Ireland. Both his parents were PESTs (i.e. Public Elementary School Teachers) trained in Dublin; his father was, additionally, a chess expert.

John attended Methodist College, Belfast (where he did his first creative work [in engineering]), completed his undergraduate studies and Queen's University, Belfast, and did his graduate work at St. John's College, Cambridge, with J. E. Littlewood as Supervisor.

After 4 years teaching at Queen's University, Belfast, he was appointed to a position in King's College, University of London, after stating that he was not a bottle-throwing Orangeman. His stay in London lasted 12 years but this included leave for military service and to UCLA INA. His position as the youngest in the Department meant that he got all the chores to do; a fortunate one led to his meeting Olga Taussky whom he married in 1938.

One result of his war service was a transfer of his interests from modern real variable theory to numerical mathematics, table making and computers. He was one of the group who attempted to organize a National Mathematical Laboratory in the U.K. The Todds were invited by John Curtiss to the National Bureau of Standards to help set up National Applied Mathematics Laboratories at UCLA and NBS Washington, D.C. After 10 years apprenticeship they were happy to come to Caltech in 1957 for teaching was in his blood.

John Todd has continued to serve the mathematical community in the usual way with research papers, books, services to the various societies, e.g. MAA, SIAM. He also played on the Caltech Cricket Team for several years. His niece, Jennifer Todd and her husband, Joseph Ruane have written a book to be published by Cambridge University Press in 1998, *The Dynamics of Conflict in Northern Ireland: Power, Conflict and Emancipation*. Both teach at the National University of Ireland, she at Dublin, he at Cork.



CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

**CHARLES R. DEPRIMA MEMORIAL
UNDERGRADUATE MATHEMATICS**

LECTURE

~~1998~~
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The Charles R. DePrima Memorial Undergraduate Mathematics Lecture was established by a gift from Charles R. DePrima and Margaret Thurmond DePrima. The Institute is privileged to honor the memory of Professor DePrima and his distinguished contribution to mathematics and Caltech, where he served as a faculty member for over forty years, with a lecture each year by an outstanding mathematician.

