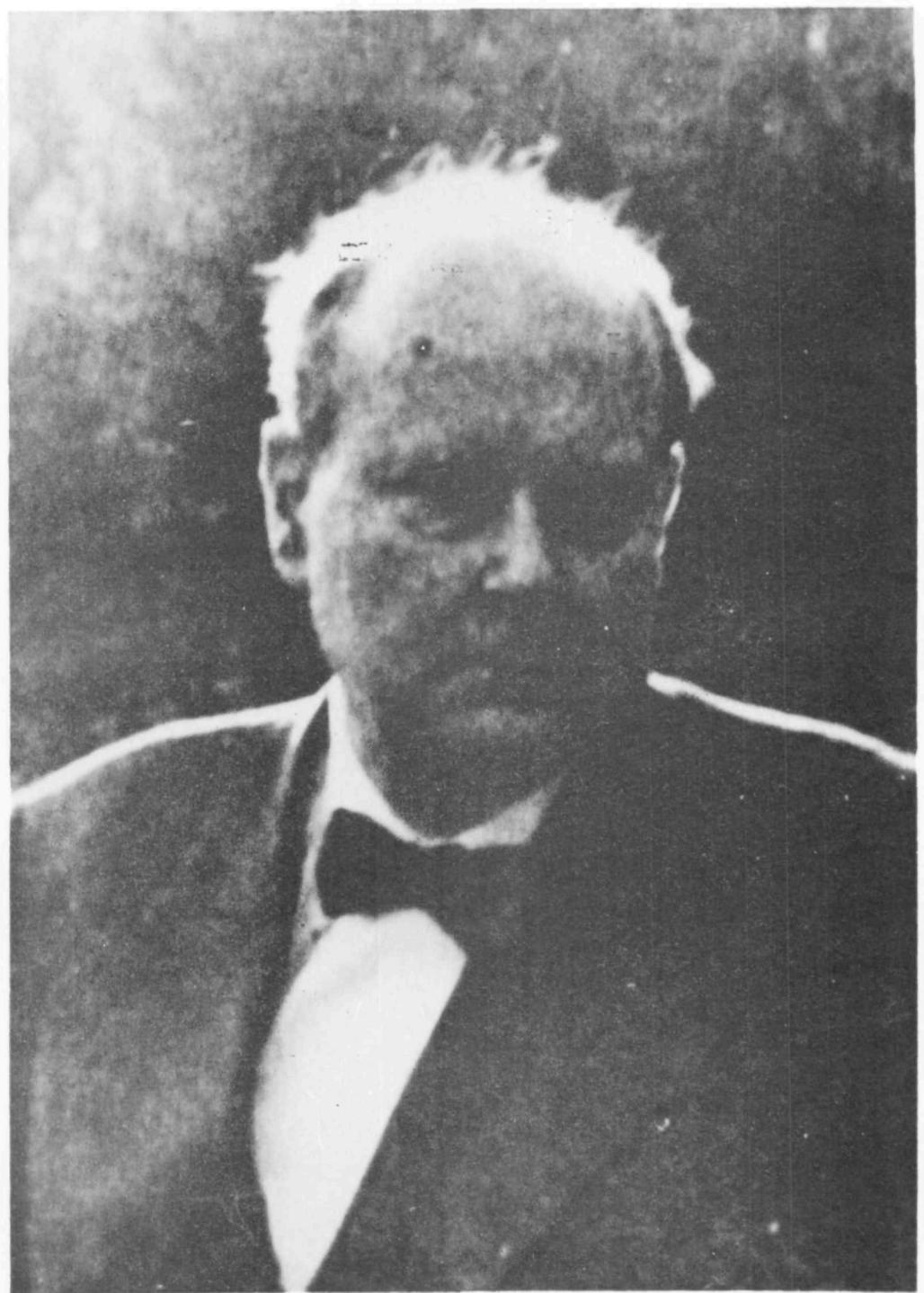# CECIL JOHN ALVIN EVELYN

J. A. TYRRELL

Cecil John Alvin Evelyn was born in London on August 25th 1904, the son of John Harcourt Chichester Evelyn of Wotton and a collateral descendant of the seventeenth century diarist and author, John Evelyn. He was educated at Eton, where he developed strong interests in number theory and geometry, and went on to read mathematics at Christ Church, joining the London Mathematical Society in 1926. His fortune was such that he could eschew a professional career so that, after graduating from Oxford, he was able to spend his life pursuing his mathematical and other interests with some degree of leisure.

Jack Evelyn—as such he was known to all his friends—had many and varied interests outside mathematics. He loved to travel (and did so regularly for the greater part of his life), and he loved to write; he produced many books of poetry, written in a lyrical style very reminiscent of Swinburne, and a number of prose works that reveal, among other things, his great curiosity about matters supernatural. He also had a consuming passion for music, and was never happier than when entertaining his friends at the opera or ballet; I know that I share, with many members of the London Mathematical Society, the most delightful memories of evenings that he organised at the Royal Opera House. His generosity, however, was not only enjoyed by individual members; the Society as a whole was always close to his heart, and he demonstrated this by the many gifts of books and journals that he presented to the Library over the years; no one who uses the Library at all regularly can have failed to notice the extent of these donations.

His own mathematical production consisted of eleven papers and a book, nearly all joint works. The earliest, and best known, are the six papers he wrote with E. H. Linfoot. These were concerned with the problem of finding, for given s and N, the number of ways of representing a large number as the sum of s numbers, each of which is N-th-power-free. The basic formula, obtained in [1], is successively refined and extended in the other papers of the series [2–6]. Of his later papers, three [7, 8, 11] are technical exercises on arithmetical functions and inversion formulae, while [9] concerns the derivation of certain inequalities from the properties of convex functions, and [10] gives an interesting extension of Hölder's inequality. His last publication was the book [12], which was written more to indulge the tastes of its authors—and to provide an opportunity for publishing some interesting geometrical drawings—than for any good mathematical reason. Though advised that it would probably not be a successful commercial venture, he went ahead with its publication and was rewarded by seeing it sold out within the year. A French translation followed quickly and further developments are still in hand.

In his mathematics, as in everything else, Jack Evelyn was not a man to follow fashions. He did what he did because he enjoyed doing it. His mathematical interests were fairly closely circumscribed and, perhaps for that reason, one did not get to know him very easily; but his friendship, once given, was a lasting one and its loss, to those of us who knew it, will not easily be forgotten.

He died, after a long and painful illness, on May 24th 1976.

CECIL JOHN ALVIN EVELYN 1904–1976

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