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Ludgate, Percy | Dictionary of Irish Biography



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Ludgate's Work

His Lifetime

...novator, designed the world's second general-purpose computer-his "analytical machine"-in 1909, ... Babbage's earlier work ² ⁴ ⁶ ⁸ . However, ... many decades after, Ludgate's work attracted little attention. Largely forgotten by the scientific and engineering community, his 1909 paper did not inspire any known developments in computing, and his machine remained largely unknown.

Historical Significance

...covered in the latter half of the 20th century, ... such as Brian Randell and Brian Coghlan, who recognized the originality and technical sophistication of his work. This led to a re-evaluation of his place in the history of computing. He is now recognized as a pioneer whose ideas anticipated several key concepts, such as program control and innovative use of electromechanical relays.



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