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Brenda Davison* (bdavison@sfu.ca), Department of Mathematics, Simon Fraser University,
8888 University Drive, Burnaby, B.C. V7S1L6, Canada. *The Early Years of G.H. Hardy's career.*

G.H. Hardy entered Trinity College, Cambridge in 1896, was 4th wrangler in the Tripos examination of 1898 and was elected as a fellow of Trinity College in 1901. The first period of Hardy's career can be demarcated by his college election and by the beginning of his collaboration, in 1911, with J.E. Littlewood. During this time he wrote a textbook of enduring importance, established a reputation as an analyst with papers on series and integral convergence, wrote five papers on set theory, contributed to the educational times and wrote several book reviews. He also began to play a role in political and social issues via his membership in the Apostles and the London Mathematical Society, as well as through his work to abolish the Tripos examinations. I will discuss Hardy's mathematical work during this period, particularly the 5 set theory papers written between 1904 and 1910, and examine the correspondence between Hardy, Russell and Jourdain. In so doing, I will establish that Hardy was among the first British mathematicians to engage with the new concepts of number, point-sets and transfinite numbers recently developed on the continent. I also will argue that Hardy's social activism was an important part of what made him such a dominant figure in British mathematics. (Received September 09, 2009)