Gregory Vlastos (henceforth “GV”) had hoped to complete a sequel to his highly acclaimed book, *Socrates: Ironist and Moral Philosopher* (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1991). Realistic as he was about his life-span prospects, GV had provided in his will that Professor Myles Burnyeat of Cambridge University should serve as Literary Executor of his estate. Professor Burnyeat’s main charge in that role was to prepare for publication the unfinished sequel to *Ironist and Moral Philosopher*. Drawing on GV’s revisions of four papers GV himself had previously published and on incomplete drafts of what GV had envisaged as two additional chapters for the sequel, Professor Burnyeat accomplished his task admirably with the publication of Gregory Vlastos, *Socratic Studies*, edited by Myles Burnyeat (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994). In that same function as Literary Executor, Professor Burnyeat advised GV’s heirs, viz., son Stephen Vlastos (Professor of History at the University of Iowa) and daughter Mari Vlastos, on the disposition of the whole of GV’s quite sizeable Nachlass.

On the basis of the information and recommendations Professor Burnyeat offered, the heirs chose to place the collection at the Harry Ransom Center (henceforth “HRC,” also known as the “Humanities Research Center”) at The University of Texas at Austin. The choice was motivated in significant part by the high standing of the HRC among the world’s repositories for archival material in the humanities and the fine arts. Famously represented with substantial collections at the HRC are such twentieth-century authors as T. S. Elliot, William Faulkner, Ernest Hemingway, Norman Mailer, Arthur Miller, Eugene O’Neill, Ezra Pound, John Steinbeck, and Tennessee Williams. Holdings in philosophy—other than the GV Archive—include major manuscript collections for George Santayana (1863-1952), O. K. Bouwsma (1898-1978), Gabriel Marcel (1889-1973), as well as over one thousand letters by Bertrand Russell (1872-1970) to Lady Ottoline Morrell, in addition to some drafts and notebooks by Russell. Represented with smaller holdings in correspondence and manuscripts are Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980), Simone de Beauvoir (1908-1986), and Albert Camus (1913-1960).

**Scope and Content of the Vlastos Archive**

As received in Austin from GV’s home in Berkeley, California, the GV Nachlass measured at 100 boxes of papers (approximately 200 linear feet, or 60 meters, of shelf space), plus a relatively small volume (20 megabytes) of electronic documents. Separately received were about 300 books which Professor Stephen Vlastos had identified as bearing annotations by his father. Subsequent to the accession of these materials at the HRC, additional gifts of papers, especially of letters, were received from colleagues and friends who had substantial correspondence with GV.

The work of surveying, conservation, organizing, and initial cataloguing of the

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1 The HRC encompasses large holdings of twentieth-century literary manuscripts, also significant holdings in nineteenth century manuscripts, one million rare books, and extensive collections in photography, theater, film, and other visual arts. The well-structured Web site of the HRC is: [http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/](http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/)

2 The Web address for the HRC’s philosophy holdings is: [http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/collections/guide/philosophy/](http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/collections/guide/philosophy/)
GV Archive proceeded over a period of five years, between 1992 and 1997. The departments of Philosophy and of Classics at UT Austin, which jointly sponsor and administer an internationally well-regarded Graduate Program in Ancient Philosophy at UT Austin, were closely involved in providing assistance to the professional staff of the HRC in this process. After desirable redistribution of paper densities into archival boxes and folders, the collection was reconfigured as follows:

- Books with significant annotations by GV, have been placed in the “Books” section of the HRC.
- Those books that were found not to have annotations of potential significance in providing context (a relatively small set) have been placed in the General Libraries holdings of UT Austin, or in the Albert P. Brogan Reading Room of the Philosophy Department, in either case with an ex libris label indicating their provenance from GV’s study.
- Of papers or offprints that had been sent to GV by his correspondents, those that bore annotations by GV or provided context for notes or correspondence, have been kept together with their germane manuscript material. Those that did not meet the criteria just cited were removed to a separate series of “Offprints and Papers by Others,” or were moved to the “Books” section of the HRC.
- Manuscript materials of a highly personal nature, including confidential letters of recommendation written by or addressed to GV, have been removed and sequestered for a period that extends into the third decade of this century.
- The large main part of the GV manuscript materials has been organized in four series:
  I. Correspondence, with or without related copies or offprints of papers by others (36 boxes).
  II. Study, lecture, and teaching files (10 boxes).
  III. Final manuscripts and corresponding drafts of works by GV, published or unpublished, and related material (17 boxes).
  IV. Works by Others, published or unpublished, and related material (5 boxes).

GV’s organization and filing of material was thorough and systematic, and except as countervailing archival concerns dictated it, the scheme of the original organization has been retained. In Series I, the correspondents—philosophers, classicists, former students, other members of the academic community, or prominent political personages—number about 650. GV generally retained both the letters he received and carbon copies or photocopies of his own answers. Many of these exchanges amount to significant debates on philosophical and scholarly issues, including commentary on classical texts.

In Series II, along with GV’s lecture-notes, either for regular classes (both graduate and undergraduate) or for many of his numerous invited presentations outside his home institution, one will find GV’s general working files of study-notes. These GV had organized by topic and sub-topic inside ring binders or inside folders marking the thematic divisions, in either case, by tabs or colored flags. Topics run the gamut of GV’s career-long interests in the pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato, ethics, social philosophy, and politics. There are also ring-binders or folders on topics on which GV had done little or no publishing, e.g., Homer, Sophocles, Thucydides, Aristotle, Plotinus, Kant, Marx.

Lecture notes for classes hail from GV’s periods of teaching at Cornell and at Princeton. But a significant subset in Series II are notes and related material created in connection with the “Seminars for College Teachers” (i.e., for junior-rank faculty at smaller universities and colleges) that GV famously conducted at Berkeley over
several summers in the 1980s under auspices of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

In Series III, the largest, one will find the study notes and drafts that culminate in the publication of papers or books by GV. But as explained below (under “OTHER POSSIBILITIES OF STUDY”), there is often considerable overlap between the material in Series II and Series III. Well known to his colleagues and students as a perfectionist, GV often rethought and reworked what he had previously published. This trait of self-critical perfectionism in many cases resulted in GV’s withholding from publication drafts that many of his potential readers would be happy to receive as final. A rich trove of these is included in Series III.

Series IV collects unpublished works by others, sent to GV for his consideration or judgment. The series thus amplifies context for Series I, the correspondence files. But as one would expect, there are also comments by GV scattered throughout Series IV, either as annotations or on separate sheets. So, across all four main manuscript series of the Archive there is overlap of material that reflects GV’s thinking.

The HRC’s “Finding Aid” for the GV Archive, available in the HRC reading room, lists contents of the individual folders in the boxes; and an 80-page preliminary index provides references that range across the entirety of manuscripts in the GV Archive. But so as to give readers of this Introduction a sense of the scope, variety, and depth of material in Series I through IV, an illustrative Appendix appears at the end below. The Appendix gives, under thematic headings, sampling of descriptions of content from just a selection of those folders that are notably rich in content. The descriptions are drawn from the raw notes (136 pages) that were compiled as the material was surveyed at the HRC in the 1990s.

**RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS THAT HAVE DRAWN ON THE ARCHIVE**

Scholars outside UT Austin who have spent time conducting research at the GV Archive are (among others): George Arabatzis, Rick Benitez, Michael Ferejohn, Stefania Giombini, Daniel Graham, Charilaos Platanakis, Ravi Sharma, and Nicholas Smith.

Apart from the previously unpublished or revised papers by GV that appeared in *Socratic Studies*, one posthumous publication of a work by GV held at the HRC has already taken place, and an edition of a number of papers is in planning. The item referred to first is an important essay on a pre-Socratic topic, dating from the mid-1960s, “‘Names’ of Being in Parmenides.” It has been published in Part III of A. P. D. Mourelatos’ *The Route of Parmenides: Revised and Expanded Edition* (Parmenides Publishing, 2008), pp. 367-390.

The larger set in the second reference above is currently being put together by Dr. Charilaos Platanakis, of Koç University in Istanbul. In its first part, the edited set will include historically focused papers by GV on select topics of ancient social and political philosophy, plus one similarly focused paper on Locke’s philosophical economics. The second part will include papers by GV that address directly (not historically) major and perennial issues in the areas of social and political philosophy. The aim is to highlight and demonstrate the markedly fruitful interrelationship between GV’s historical interests and his strong philosophical engagement with conceptual-analytical issues. In order to enhance connections, a few already published papers will be reprinted in Dr. Platanakis’ edition. The unpublished papers, edited from fairly advanced drafts, are likely to be the following (titles as in the drafts held at the Archive):
(For Part I)
“Semantic Bridges to Key Concepts in Greek Moral Thought”
“The Ideology of Greek Democracy”
“Morality, Shame Culture, and Responsibility in Homer”
“Do Slaves have Rights in Plato’s Laws?”
“Religion and the State in Plato”
“The Place of Common Morality in the Conception of Justice in Plato’s Republic”
“Locke’s Theory of Property”

(For Part II)
“The Human Right to Economic Assistance”
“Is Democracy Moral?”
“The Democratic Pattern of Rights, Responsibilities and Dignity”
“What are Rights?”
“Ethical Problems of Family Relationships.”

OTHER POSSIBILITIES OF STUDY AND RESEARCH
Among the most satisfied, indeed enthusiastic, users and beneficiaries of the GV Archive since its accession have been students in the doctoral programs in Philosophy or in Classics at UT Austin. This has been especially true in those seminars, either on the pre-Socratics or on Plato, in which the instructor has encouraged students to make use of material in the Archive. Whether in preparing seminar-reports or in producing the final term paper, students have been enthralled as they find themselves tracking the stages and methods of search and discovery that had been pursued by a great Master of philosophical and philological scholarship as he dealt with a topic that also happened to interest them.

In its compass, depth, and detail, the GV Archive constitutes an extraordinary record of the progress of North American scholarship in ancient philosophy in the second half of the twentieth century. In this respect, it also offers for generations in the twenty-first century and beyond a body of hard data on how scholarship of the highest caliber was conducted before the advent of computers.

The ring-binders and folders of study notes GV amassed over decades show his careful reading of Ancient Greek and Latin texts, often with added notation of his own preferred translation, and his scrupulous recording of the information and knowledge he gleaned from his wide-ranging study not only of secondary works in English but also in French, German, Latin, Italian, Spanish, and Modern Greek. As indicated above, these notes were inserted into binders or folders GV assembled under categories that correspond to indexing of books: names of persons, key-words, passages. The notes were initially in quite legible longhand, then, progressively in later years, typed (sometimes by GV himself, sometimes typed for him by assistants from his longhand notes) with such aids and devices as alternate use of black and red ribbons of the typewriter and a clever but perspicuous system of abbreviations.

A project very much worth pursuing from material in the Archive might be called “Scholarship in Process.” After years and even decades of note-taking and of presentations in university classes, GV would produce the first draft of a paper or book chapter. The draft would then be circulated by post to a set of correspondents. When letters of comments from these correspondents came in, GV would reply separately to each with his own comments or rejoinders. In many cases, this would start rounds of correspondence that proceeded over months. GV then would insert appropriate revisions in his study notes, on the current working draft of the paper at

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1 Unpublished portion from GV’s Carus Lectures presented to the 1976 meeting of the American Philosophical Association.
2 Such abbreviations appear passim in the Appendix below.
If after these rounds he felt confident in his argument, a final draft would be submitted for publication. (And the “if” rather than “when” in the preceding sentence is important: as mentioned above, the perfectionist GV would often withhold publication for years or permanently.) When a paper came out in print, this would often start a new cycle of rounds of correspondence. And, most remarkably, in many cases GV would then write corrections or retractions on the margins of the offprint of his own published paper or book. There are many cases with respect to which a project by a user of the Archive that aims to describe and analyze these stages of “Scholarship in Process” could result in an essay or monograph or book of great value: one that provides a model of methodology to students in the relevant field, but also documentation and insight for the public into how high quality scholarship in the humanities is and ought to be conducted.

**POSSIBILITIES OF SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH AT THE VLASTOS ARCHIVE**

Available, under auspices of the HRC in an international competition across all fields, are fellowships for support of short-term residencies (ranging from one to three months) for research projects that require substantial on-site use of HRC collections. The application deadline for 2015–2016 fellowships has passed; applications for 2016–2017 fellowships will have a deadline early in 2016. Additional information is available at this site: [http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/research/fellowships/](http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/research/fellowships/)

More modest awards, primarily for transportation expenses to Austin, and specifically for researchers who seek to work at the Vlastos Archive, are available through the Joint Classics-Philosophy Graduate Program in Ancient Philosophy at UT Austin. Applications for these separately administered awards may be submitted at any time, provided the yearly allowance of funds has not been exhausted. Interested scholars should contact the Director of the Joint Program, Professor Matthew L. Evans, The University of Texas at Austin, Department of Philosophy, 2210 Speedway, Mail Code C3500, Austin, TX 78712, or via e-mail, <evansmatt@utexas.edu>

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**APPENDIX: SAMPLING OF SELECT FILES AND FOLDERS FROM THE GREGORY VLASTOS ARCHIVE**

*(BASED ON THE SURVEY NOTES. RB = RING BINDER)*

**PRE-SOCRATICS**


NOTES FOR LECTURE II, PARMENIDES: About 100 pages of lecture text, in several versions, with study notes. Order of the sheets is disturbed.

PARMENIDES: About 150 sheets of notes arranged by topic, and by Parmenides’ fragments in sequence (GV’s text and commentary, in effect).

RB: [STUDY AND LECTURE NOTES ON] PARMENIDES: About 150 sheets, including dittoed translations of the fragments and hand-outs. Outside of binder bears notation “Phil 507 [or 500? or 502?] Parm.” — The section flags are: “Parm.”; “onoma”; “subject of estin”; “predicates of Being”; “Change”; “perfection of Being”; “justice.”
RB: “ZENO I”: About 60 sheets of research notes and drafts. — Outside rings at front: letter to GV from Ed Johnson, undated. — Inside rings: notes and drafts of a manuscript on Zeno of Elea; notes are divided into headings according to passages from ancient sources that provide testimonia and/or quotations from Zeno; in general, binder contains translations of material from Plato’s Parm., Aristotle’s Phys., and Simplicius’ and Philoponus’ commentaries on the Phys. These translations are in typescript and are accompanied by footnotes on the translation and occasional commentary. There is also translation of testimonia from a variety of other sources; there are also study notes on Zeno and a 2-page description of how GV became involved in the study of Zeno.


MELISSUS: About 80 sheets of study notes, including separate stacks with flags “B3-6”; “Philosophers on Melissus”; “B2.” — Unidentified notes on someone’s [Barnes’?] paper on Melissus. — Letter to Barnes; letter to “Richard” with comments on Barnes’ paper.

RB: LEUCIPPUS AND DEMOCRITUS AS MATHEMATICAL ATOMISTS: About 150 sheets of notes.— Inside the rings: “Were Leucippus or Democritus Mathematical Atomists?” The MS is organized in parts, and the footnotes appear at the end of each part: “Introduction”; “I. The Aristotelian Evidence”; “II. The Later Evidence/Testimonia”; “III. Conclusion.” Total of about 60 single-spaced pages. — After the main portion of the MS ends, one finds “Notes on GV’s. ‘Were Leucippus, etc. . . .’” by unidentified correspondent, 5 sheets total. Then there are two letters by Friedrich Solmsen, Nov. 5, 1963 and October 25, 1963, that advert to GV’s MS on mathematical atomism. Then there is an exchange between Raphael Demos and GV, November 1963. GV writes “I trust to have a revised version of the paper in a few weeks (or months?) and will send it to you. . . .” — Then come five sheets of study notes (on evidence in Sextus, Eudemus, Proclus, and readings in Crønert). — Then, “Appendix III: The Two Arguments in Epicurus 57,” 5 pages (p. 1 in two drafts), and heavily corrected “Notes to Appendix III, nn. 1-13.” Then, there are three sheets, marked 3-5, that seem to be an earlier draft of the text of Appendix III. — Then, comes a clean, single-spaced mimeograph copy of “Appendix II: The Passages on the Minima in Lucretius,” pages 33-35, with notes on p. 36. The mimeograph copy bears corrections by GV. — Next, a single sheet of notes on akron/peras. — Then 8 sheets of continuous typescript, with corrections, and with some duplications of pagination. — Then, “Notes to Appendix II,” which here and there corresponds to the notes on page 36 of the mimeographed copy (above). — Then, “Appendix III: An Epicurean Argument Against Infinite Divisibility. [Epicurus] Epistola ad Hdt. 57 sub fin.,” 6 sheets of heavily corrected typescript. This must be an early draft of Appendix III.

SOCRATES

RB: SOCRACTIC IRONY: About 200 sheets, including some photocopies of selected readings. A sample of flags for sections: “Irony in Aristotle”; “eirôn”; “Alcibiades wants a guru”; “Irony”; “Raison d’être”; “Extravagance of Irony”; “Comic Thrusts”; “I don’t know”; plus another eighteen.

RB: “SOCRATIC FALLACY”: About 100 sheets. — Outside rings at front: 3 sheets of notes and passages on knowledge and demonstration. — Outside rings at back: 11 sheets of notes on the Socratic fallacy, some dated December 3, 1978; reprint of “Does Socrates Commit the Socratic Fallacy?” by John Beversluis (American Philosophical Quarterly [24], 1987), with a few notes by GV; one photocopied page (with annotations) of “Socrates Disavowal of Knowledge” by GV (the annotations refer only to dates of presentation given on the last page of the article); post-it note with short memo. — Inside rings: notes organized by tabs under the following headings: “S[oocratic] F[allacy],” includes copy of a letter from GV to Alan Code, September 30, 1986, and a text labeled “The Socratic Fallacy (Second Howison Lecture)”; “Definition” (Notes and passages relating to Socratic definitions); “Beversluis” [this tab is not connected with any notes inside the rings—it probably refers to the reprint of the article by Beversluis, outside the rings at the back (see above)].

RB: BRICKHOUSE AND SMITH, SOCRACTES ON TRIAL. About 120 sheets. — Outside rings at front: about 20 sheets of correspondence and published exchanges between GV and Brickhouse and Smith. — Outside rings at back: computer print-out entitled “Ch. VIII, Endnote A: Socrates’ daimonion” (from GV’s book-draft of Socrates: Ironist and Moral Philosopher). — Inside rings: annotated offprint of Brickhouse and Smith, “‘The Divine Sign Did Not Oppose Me’: A Problem in Plato’s Apology,” with annotations by GV); correspondence and published exchanges between GV and Brickhouse and Smith and correspondence between GV and Mark McPherran.

PLATO

CRATYLUS: About 300 pages of study and lecture notes on Plato’s Crat., arranged in sections marked by about 15 flags.
MYSTICISM

PLATO, MYSTICISM: About 100 sheets of typed and handwritten notes, including notes on topics (e.g., *theoria*, contemplation) on Plato and Plotinus. — Parts of lecture draft presented at Cornell University.

MYSTICAL EXPERIENCE [CE]; PLOTINUS: Study notes, handwritten and typed, collected in groups under such flags as, “Mysticism,” “Paradox,” “Unity,” “One/Many,” “The Dependence,” “Soul = One.” Half of the material seems to be on Plotinus.

CONCEPT STUDIES


RB: GREEK CONCEPTS OF JUSTICE: Under this title on the spine, in smaller Greek letters, *eranos*. All sheets, about 100, are inside the rings. — Flags/headings are as follows: “Dikaios”; “nomos”; “ta nomina”; “hauotai prattain”; “dikaios = Rights?”; “Equality (in moral sense) in Plato”; “Aristotle on justice”; “pleonexia”; “Rights in Plato?”; “spheteria vs. allotria”; “Common possession”; “Persons as equals in democracy”; “isos = equal in status”; “isos = impartial”; “isos = just”; “Identity for equality”; “archein = dominate”; “Honor”; “themis/dikê as ‘the way of things’”; “Vice in orators,” “eranos”; “Restictions of scope of polis morality.” — Near the front are excerpts from dittooed material, “Socrates’ Contribution to the Greek Sense [corrected from ‘Concept’] of Justice.”

RB: “5TH CENTURY THEORIES OF JUSTICE”: About 80 sheets. — Inside rings: cover page for a course catalog (Spring, 1987); notes divided by tabs under the following headings: “Analytical Review of Late 5th [Century Theories of] Justice,” containing notes on Socrates, Glaucon, Antiphon, Thucydides, Callicles, Prodicus, Critias, Andocides, Anonymous Iamblichus; “Antiphan;” (includes notes on Democritus and Gorgias); “Protagoras”; “Contract Theory [Glacon, Protagoras, Antiphon];” at back of binder is a reprint of David J. Furley’s “Antiphan’s Case Against Justice” (*Hermes* Einzelschrift 44) and assorted notes on Antiphon. — Outside rings at back: 1 blank sheet and 1 sheet of notes on Democritus.

MISCELLANEOUS

RB: HOMER: About 200 sheets. Most of the material is inside the rings, except for about 15 sheets at the back. The latter are study notes on particular topics (dikaios, homophrosynê, philia, Homeric justice) just draft of a paper, “Hector’s Mistake,” which is a discussion of Homer’s II. 18.243ff. GV has crossed out the following preamble: “H[ector]’s conduct in the assembly . . . deserves closer attention than it seems to have drawn in the literature. Nowhere else in the *Iliad* are we given a better chance to see the tragic flaw in a man who in every respect seems morally flawless.” Unpublished (?) — At the front of the binder, inside the rings but before the start of the flagged sections: “Passages [from Homer] to be discussed in Professor Long’s paper,” presumably a handout for a paper presented by A.A. Long; 3 sheets of typed comments by GV on unidentified paper on Homer; cover letter to Terence Irwin concerning a paper by the latter, plus two sheets of typed comments on the same or another paper on Homer. — Sections with flags/headings as follows: “aatê”; “Responsibility”; “Intentionality”; “Hector”; “Helen”; “Odysseus”; “Shame-culture”; “aretê”; “good/evil”; “kalos/aischros”; “Functional justification of timê”; “[The] good king”; “Universalization”; “Virtue pays”; “sôphrosynê”; “agathos”; “agathos in its moral connotation”; “Shame-culture/phatis”; “themis”; “nomos/anomia”; “dikê and Achilles”; “dikê — suitors”; “Suitors”; “dikê/dikaios”; “geras, timê”; “Multi-standard morality”; “Gift”; “elenchê, oneidos”; “aischos, nemosis” “Moral motivation”; “nemosan as moral criterion”; “eleos, eleairein”; “poinê”; “chrê”; “Achilles”; “moira”; “talio” [the verso of one of the sheets contains notes on the project “Minimal Parts in Epicurean Atomism”]; “bia/Might and right”; “epieiktê”; “Praiseworthy qualities”; “Blameworthy deeds or dispositions”; “Valor”; “Glory”; “The content of Homeric morality”; “Hesiod”; “dikê in Hesiod”; “Homer’s intellectual conception of morality”; “Ambiguous terms”; “Dishonesty”; “Slaves”; “Intentionality.”

CHERNISS (INDEXES): Index locorum, “Aristotelian Passages” [to Aristotle’s *Criticism of Plato and the Academy*, vol. I], master copy, typed, assembled in 2 vinyl folders. — Photocopy of the same, with 1 missing sheet and one duplicate. — Index locorum to *Riddle of the Early Academy*, in 3 parts: “Aristotle”; “Plato”; “Other Authors.” [Note by APDM: These indexes were notoriously not provided by the publisher of Cherniss’ influential books. GV hired assistants to compile the indexes for his own use.]

CHERNISS, HAROLD: Letters, offprints (several with ample annotations), study notes. Offprints as early as 1947.


RB: ALPHABETICAL NOTES: About 200 sheets of notes filed by author’s name or theme on a wide variety of topics, e.g., “anankê”; “Bowra”; “Class-struggle”; “Democracy, Athenian”; “economics [of ancient Athens, Sparta]”; “Euripides”; “Family”; “Heidel”. “Hirzel” bibliographical references, etc. Outside label on the binder must have been for GV’s class at Harvard, “Greek Political History.” Inside cover bears notation “Gregory Vlastos, 14 Gray Gardens Walk, Cambridge, Mass.” The material in the folder appears to date from the 1930s and is mostly handwritten in ink. Some later notes have been interleaved.

The University of Texas at Austin
<apdm@austin.utexas.edu>