

**THE MATHEMATICAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF
W.T. TUTTE**

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ABSTRACT. “If a theorem about graphs can be expressed in terms of edges and circuits only it probably exemplifies a more general theorem about matroids.” Bill Tutte wrote these words in a commentary on his 1966 paper *Connectivity in matroids*. Indeed, he went on to write that a “belief in this general principle” led him to seek a matroid generalization of his 1961 theorem that distinguishes the special role that wheels play among 3-connected graphs. This year marks the centenary of Tutte’s birth, and this talk will discuss some of his many mathematical contributions. Because the breadth of these contributions make it impossible to do justice to all of them in a single colloquium, this talk will concentrate on those that lie on the interface between graph theory and matroid theory.

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