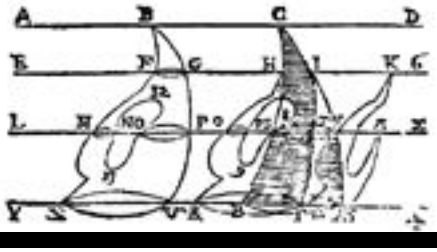
BULLETIN

CSHPM SCHPM



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Canadian Society for History
and Philosophy of Mathematics

Société canadienne d'histoire et
de philosophie des mathématiques

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ABOUT THE SOCIETY

Founded in 1974, the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Mathematics / Société canadienne d'histoire et de philosophie des mathématiques (CSHPM/SCHPM) promotes research and teaching in the history and philosophy of mathematics. Officers of the Society are:

President: **Alexander Jones**, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON M5S 2E8, CA, alexander.jones@utoronto.ca
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The Society's Web Page (www.cshpm.org) is maintained by **Michael Molinsky**, University of Maine at Farmington, Farmington, ME 04938, USA, michael.molinsky@maine.edu

The proceedings of the Annual Meeting are edited by **Antonella Cupillari**, School of Science, Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, Erie, PA 16563, USA, axc5@psu.edu

New Members are most cordially welcome; please contact the Secretary.

Announcements

The Department of Mathematics at Simon Fraser University (British Columbia, Canada) welcomes applications for MSc and PhD programs in the history of mathematics. Faculty interests range from ancient Greece to the mid-twentieth centuries. Successful applicants are expected to have a strong undergraduate background in mathematics and a demonstrated interest in the history of mathematics or the history of science. Admission is competitive and will ordinarily be made at the MSc level. Limited financial support is available combining Scholarships with Teaching and Research Assistantships. SFU's Faculty of Education likewise offers graduate programs and there is also a possibility of co-supervision of mathematics education theses with a substantial historical or philosophical component. Faculty involved in the program are Thomas Archibald; J. Lennert Berggren; Nathalie Sinclair (Faculty of Education); and Glen van Brummelen (Adjunct, Quest University). Those interested are invited to contact T. Archibald (tarchi@sfu.ca). Application deadline is February 1, 2008, for admission in September 2008, but inquiries are welcome at any time. SFU has no differential fees for international graduate students.

The Dibner History of Science Program has relocated to The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in Pasadena, CA. The Dibner program offers long- and short-term fellowships which are designed to further study in the Burndy Library and the other history of science and technology resources at The Huntington. The Burndy Library arrived in November 2006 and will be available to scholars in the summer of 2008. The Huntington's collections range chronologically from the eleventh century to the present and include a half-million rare books, nearly six million manuscripts, 600,000 photographs, and a large ephemera collection, supported by a half-million reference works. Within the general fields listed above there are many areas of special strength, including: Middle Ages, Renaissance, Eighteenth Century, Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Literature, History of Science, British Drama, Colonial America, American Civil War, Western America, and California. The application deadline for 2008-2009 fellowships is December 15, 2007. For more information, see http://www.huntington.org, under Re-

searchDiv/Fellowships.html.

Springer Verlag has published a second, revised edition of the book *Labyrinth of Thought: A History of Set Theory and Its Role in Modern Mathematics* by Jose Ferreiros (ISBN: 978-3-7643-8349-7). Originally published as volume 23 in the series *Science Networks*, this new edition is soft-bound and comes with a new epilogue and a substantially lowered price of €59,90. For a review and ordering information, visit http://www.springer.com.

The AMS and LMS have published *Episodes in the History of Modern Algebra (1800-1950)*, ed. Jeremy J. Gray and Karen Hunger Parshall. CSHPM contributors include: Sloan Evans Despeaux, "Very Full of Symbols: Duncan F. Gregory, the Calculus of Operations, and the Cambridge Mathematical Journal."

The MAA has issued *Euler at 300: An Appreciation*, ed. Robert E. Bradley, Lawrence A. D'Antonio, and C. Edward Sandifer. CSHPM contributors include: Rüdiger Thiele, "Leonhard Euler, the Decade 1750-1760" and "What is a Function?"; C. Edward Sandifer, "Euler's Fourteen Problems," "Euler's Solution of the Basel Problem–The Longer Story," and "Euler Rows the Boat"; Dominic Klyve and Lee Stemkoski, "The Euler Archive: Giving Euler to the World"; Carolyn Lathrop and Lee Stemkoski, "Parallels in the Work of Leonhard Euler and Thomas Clausen"; Christopher Baltus, "The Euler-Bernoulli Proof of the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra"; Lawrence D'Antonio, "Euler and Elliptic Integrals" and "'The fabric of the universe is most perfect': Euler's research on elastic curves"; Robert E. Bradley, "The Genoese Lottery and the Partition Function" and "Three Bodies? Why not Four? The Motion of the Lunar Apsides"; and Roger Godard, "The Euler Advection Equation."

The MAA has also published *Hands on History: A Resource for Teaching Mathematics*, ed. Amy Shell-Gellasch. CSHPM contributors include: Hugh McCague, "Learning from the Medieval Master Masons: A Geometric Journey through the Labyrinth" and "Learning from the Roman Land Surveyors: A Mathematical Field Exercise"; Joanne Peeples, "Dem Bones Ain't Dead: Napier's Bones in the Classroom"; Amy Shell-Gellasch, "The Towers of Hanoi," "Geometric String Models of Descriptive Geometry" (with Bill Acheson), and "Why is a Square Square and a Cube Cubical?"; Amy Ackerberg-Hastings, "Rectangular Protractors and the Mathematics Classroom" and "Exhibiting Mathematical Objects: Making Sense of Your Department's Material Culture" (with Peggy Kidwell); David E. Zitarelli, "Was Pythagoras Chinese?"; Robert L. Foote and Ed Sandifer, "Area Without Integration: Make Your Own Planimeter"; Len Berggren, "Sundials: An Introduction to Their History, Design, and Construction"; Katherine Lau and Kim Plofker, "The Cycloid Pendulum Clock of Christiaan Huygens"; and V. Frederick Rickey, "Build a Brachistochrone and Captivate Your Class."

Israel Kleiner reports that the Seminar in History and Philosophy of Mathematics and Mathematics Education has been running in the Mathematics Department at York University for more than 30 years. The 2006-2007 program included the following speakers: Trueman MacHenry (York), "Ancient Chinese Astronomy at a Time of Transition," on 6 October 2006; Abe Shenitzer (York), "Discovery and Reception of Various Components of the Number System," on 10 November 2006; Israel Kleiner (York), "Richard Dedekind (1831-1916): A Path-breaking Mathematician," on 24 November 2006; Som Naimpally (Lakehead), "A Brief History of 'Nearness'," 19 January 2007; Craig Fraser (U. of Toronto), "The Concept of Analysis in Eighteenth-century Mathematics," 2 February 2007; Nathalie Sinclair (Simon Fraser), "An Undefinable Trace of the Absolute: When Mathematics and Aesthetics Were/Are One," 20 April 2007; Hardy Grant (York), "The Prehistory of 'Experimental' Mathematics," 23 April 2007; George Gheverghese Joseph, "Different Ways of Knowing: Styles of Argument in the Indian Mathematical Tradition," 6 July 2007.

The 2007-2008 program of the Philadelphia Area Seminar on the History of Mathematics (PASHoM) includes the following speakers: David Zitarelli (Temple U.) and Thomas Bartlow (Villanova), "Who Was Miss Mullikin?" on 13 September 2007; Edward Hogan (E. Stroudsburg U.), "Benjamin Peirce as Head of the Coast Survey" on 18 October 2007; Marina Vulis, "Life and Work of Luca Pacioli" on 15 November 2007; Alan Gluchoff (Villanova), "Philip Schwartz, Probable Error, and the Variability of the Ballistic Trajectory" on 17 January 2008; Paul Pasles

(Villanova), "Benjamin Franklin's Numbers" on 21 February 2008; Babak Ashrafi, Executive Director of the Philadelphia Area Center for History of Science, on 10 April 2008. The speakers for 13 December 2007 and 13 March 2008 are TBA. Each evening begins with a light supper, at a cost of $8.00, at 6:00 pm, with the talk to follow at around 6:30 or 6:40. For more information or directions, please contact Tom Bartlow, thomas.bartlow@villanova.edu or at http://www66.homepage.villanova.edu, with subdirectory thomas.bartlow/PASHoM/PASHoM.htm.

The University of Western Ontario is hosting the CMS Winter Meeting, December 8-10, 2007. Speakers in the session on History of Mathematics include: Tom Archibald, John Bell, David Bellhouse, James Brown, Robert Dawson, Alexander Jones, Deborah Kent, and Glen Van Brummelen. For registration information, see http://www.cms.math.ca under Events/winter07/.

Upcoming meetings of the BSHM include: "Musical Instruments and Mathematical Instruments," organized by Benjamin Wardhaugh at the Oxford Museum of the History of Science, on 15 December 2007; "Research in Progress" at Oxford on 1 March 2008; "A History of Financial Mathematics," organized by Simon Gardiner and Gresham College in London, on 25 April 2008; "The Mechanization of Mathematics" at Rewley House in Oxford on 31 May-1 June 2008; and "Robert Recorde" at Gregynog, Wales, on 8-10 July 2008. Further information may be found at http://www.dcs.warwick.ac.uk/bshm/meetings.html.

Logique et Analyse announces an open call for papers as well as an open call for proposals for guest-edited special issues. This journal was founded in the 1950s by the Belgian National Centre for Logical Investigation and subscribes to no particular logical or philosophical doctrine. Rather, articles from all points of view are welcome, as long as they concern the designated subject matter of the journal. Papers and proposals should be submitted in duplicate to the editor, Jean Paul Van Bendegem, c/o VUB-CLWF, Pleinlaan 2, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium, or via email to jpvbende@vub.ac.be. The journal's website is http://www.vub.ac.be/CLWF/L&A/.

Cambridge University Press announces the 2008 launch of *Review of Symbolic Logic*, the third official organ of the Association of Symbolic Logic. This quarterly journal is designed to cultivate and promote new investigations in philosophical logic and its applications, history and philosophy of logic, and philosophy and methodology of mathematics. Aldo Antonelli is coordinating editor. Submissions are invited and should be sent to jphillog@uci.edu. For more information on content, guidelines, and pricing, see http://journals.cambridge.org/ifc_RSL.

The History of Mathematics Special Interest Group of the Mathematical Association of America is pleased to announce its fourth annual Student Paper Contest in the History of Mathematics. The purpose of this contest is to increase awareness and interest in the history of mathematics among undergraduates, and to encourage students to learn more about an area in the history of mathematics of their choosing; the contest is open to all undergraduate students, including 2007 graduates. Winners will receive a one year student membership to the MAA which includes a one year subscription to Math Horizons Magazine and one journal, the grand prize winner will receive a $60 dollar gift certificate to the MAA bookstore; the two second place winners will receive a $30 gift certificate. Submissions should be approximately 5000 words in length and be fully cited. Provide a cover sheet with the single author's name, the paper's title, your institution, supervising instructor if applicable, and email and permanent postal address. The deadline for submission is March 31, 2008. Papers will be judged by a panel of specialists for content, presentation and grammar. Submissions and questions can be directed to Dr. Amy Shell-Gellasch, shellgae@plu.edu.

The 18th Novembertagung on the History, Philosophy, and Didactics of Mathematics was held at the University of Bonn, November 1-4, 2007. This international meeting for PhD students and Postdocs was initiated in 1990. It is an annual meeting which offers young researchers from all over Europe a creative forum for exchanging their results and discussing work in progress. The 2007 theme was "Mathematical Practice and Development Throughout History." For information on the program and proceedings, see http://www.novembertagung.uni-bonn.de. The submission deadline for presentations by young researchers is September 1 each year.

Brown University Library Acquires Collection of David E. Pingree

The Brown University Library in Providence, R.I., has acquired the library of the late David E. Pingree, an internationally renowned historian of the exact sciences in antiquity and a member of the Brown faculty from 1971 to 2005. Pingree was Chair of Brown's Department of History of Mathematics and a University Professor. (See the obituary by Toke Knudsen in the May 2006 no. 38 of our *Bulletin*.)

Reflecting his scholarly interests, the collection focuses on the study of mathematics and exact sciences in the ancient world, especially India, and the relationship of Eastern mathematics to the development of mathematics and related disciplines in the West. The collection contains some 22,000 volumes, 700 fascicles, and a number of manuscripts. The holdings consist of both antiquarian and recent materials published in Sanskrit, Arabic, Hindi, and Western languages as well as microfilm and photocopies of manuscript material from around the world, much of which is now lost in its original format.

"David Pingree was for many years a prominent member of our Brown University faculty with worldwide respect as the absolute leader in his field," said Thomas Banchoff, Royce Family Professor in Teaching Excellence in the Department of Mathematics. "His working collection of materials on the history of mathematics is unique and unparalleled."

The recipient of many honors, Pingree was among the first group of MacArthur Fellows in 1981 and used a portion of his award to support the Library and the teaching of Sanskrit at Brown. "It is therefore only fitting that his remarkable collection should find its home at Brown's John Hay and John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Libraries," said Harriette Hemmasi, the Joukowsky Family University Librarian at Brown University.

Stephanie Birdsall

Neugebauer Microform Index of the Exact Sciences: Digital Version

The Institute for Research in Classical Philosophy and Science (Princeton) currently has under its care the 26,002 file-cards prepared over 60 years by Otto Neugebauer (1899-1990), the renowned historian of the exact sciences. On these cards are handwritten the very detailed and meticulous notes which Neugebauer used for research and publication throughout his career. These cards fall into two types. The first are subject-cards, which divide the history of the exact sciences by time period, culture (Babylonian, Egyptian, Classical Greek and Roman, Judaic, Islamic, Byzantine, European), and topic (branches of the mathematical sciences including arithmetic, geometry, trigonometry, and astronomy; scientific instruments; calendars; lexica; and so on). These subject-cards are keyed to the second type of cards, the bibliographical cards that record the literature and documents consulted by Neugebauer.

The Institute for Research in Classical Philosophy and Science has recently prepared a digital version of these cards, now available–along with a user's guide and directory–for research purposes only to scholars and institutions. The User Guide may be viewed at http://www.ircps.org/publications under /NeugebauerIndexGuide.pdf. To purchase this digital version of the Neugebauer Index, go to http://www.ircps.org/publications/ or go directly to Neugebauer.htm at the same address. For further information, please email *ircps@IRCPS.org* or contact: Neugebauer Index, IRCPS, 3 Nelson Ridge Road, Princeton, NJ 08540-7423, USA.

Alan C. Bowen

Quotations in Context

> The early study of Euclid made me a hater of geometry.
> –James Joseph Sylvester

In 1869, J. J. Sylvester was selected to serve as President of the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Section of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. Although his Presidential Address touched

on a variety of issues, the main body of the speech was a rebuttal of a sequence of characterizations of mathematics published by Thomas Huxley that same year. In an article entitled "Scientific Education: Notes of an After-Dinner Speech," published in *MacMillian's Magazine*, Huxley emphasized the importance of observation in scientific training, while, in contrast:

Mathematical training is almost purely deductive. The mathematician starts with a few simple propositions, the proof of which is so obvious that they are called self-evident, and the rest of his work consists of subtle deductions from them.

Similarly, Sylvester highlighted Huxley's statement from "The Scientific Aspects of Positivism," published in the *Fortnightly Review*, that mathematics is "that which knows nothing of observation, nothing of experiment, nothing of induction, nothing of causation!"

Sylvester argued that Huxley could not be further from the truth. He pointed out that great mathematicians such as Lagrange and Gauss had emphasized the importance of observation in mathematics. He provided a list of mathematical ideas that originated from experiment, including how the motion of compound pendulums led to Sturm's theorem regarding the number of unique real roots of a polynomial. He argued that "observation, divination, induction, experimental trial, and verification" are all important aspects of mathematical training and discovery.

Despite their different opinions on the nature of mathematics, Sylvester agreed with Huxley that experimental science should be introduced in schools and expressed a belief that mathematics could benefit from being taught in connection with science:

> I think that [natural and experimental science] and mathematical culture should go on hand in hand together, and that they would greatly influence each other for their mutual good. I should rejoice to see mathematics taught with that life and animation which the presence and example of her young and buoyant sister could not fail to impart, short roads preferred to long ones, Euclid honourably shelved or buried "deeper than did ever plummet sound" out of the schoolboy's reach. . . .

To respond to those who may have been dismayed by his dismissal of Euclid from the curriculum, he returned to the subject a second time toward the end of the address. It is in this context that the quotation at the head of this column appeared:

> The early study of Euclid made me a hater of Geometry, which I hope may plead my excuse if I have shocked the opinions of any in this room (and I know there are some who rank Euclid as second in sacredness to the Bible alone, and as one of the advanced outposts to the British Constitution) by the tone in which I have previously alluded to it as a schoolbook; and yet, in spite of this repugnance, which had become a second nature to me, whenever I went far enough into any mathematical question, I found I touched, at last, a geometrical bottom. . . .

If you are interested in reading Sylvester's address in its entirety, an annotated copy can be found in *From Kant to Hilbert: A Source Book in the Foundations of Mathematics*, volume 1, edited by William Ewald.

Mike Molinsky

HOM in East Asia

CSHPM was represented at what was arguably the highest-altitude international meeting on the history of mathematics thus far. This took place in Lhasa, Tibet, July 16-20, in conjunction with the 4th International Conference on Representation Theory. Local hosts were the University of Tibet. Organizers of the Historical Subsession were Karen Parshall and Joseph Dauben. Speakers and topics included Elena Ausejo (Zaragoza): "Commercial Arithmetic in the Spanish Renaissance"; Jose Cervera (Monterrey): "The Chou Suan by Giacomo Rho"; J. Dauben (CUNY Graduate Centre): "Zhe Shijie and the Jade Mirror of the Four Unkowns"; Qi Han (Chinese Academy of Sciences): "Antoine Thomas (1644-1709) and the First Introduction of Western Algebra into China"; Tom Archibald (Simon Fraser): "Chinese Mathematicans and the International Research Community: the case of Hu Mingfu and Integral Equations"; Da Luosang

Langjie (Tibet U., Lhasa) "Duchung Zurtsi: a Mathematics Textbook for Secular and Official Schools of Tibet"; Karen H. Parshall (Virginia): "4000 Years of Algebra: An Historical Tour from BM13901 to Moderne Algebra"; Yibao Xu (Manhattan Comm. Coll.): "Chinese Gougu theory versus Euclidean Geometry"; and David Zitarelli (Temple): "Miss Mullikin and the Internationalization of Topology." Organizers who wish to beat this record need to achieve an altitude of over 3800 meters above sea level.

Tom Archibald

Web Review: Tom Lehrer on the Web

I've been listening to Tom Lehrer all my life. As a child, I sat in front of the television watching The Electric Company and hearing such education tunes as "Silent E" and "L-Y." Thanks to the Dr. Demento radio program, I was a fan of songs such as "Poisoning Pigeons in the Park," "I Hold Your Hand In Mine," and "We Will All Go Together When We Go"– long before I knew Tom Lehrer had any connection to mathematics. It was not until I was an undergraduate that I discovered his background at Harvard, his long teaching career, and his collection of mathematical music. And it was not until the summer of 1999 that I fully realized his international appeal: during a trip to England, I was walking past an Oxford music shop when I spotted a large, handwritten sign in the window: "Tom Lehrer CDs Now In Stock!"

A few mathematical songs ("New Math," "Lobachevsky," and "That's Mathematics") can be found on Lehrer's currently available CD collection, "The Remains of Tom Lehrer." Here is a brief compilation of some additional Tom Lehrer resources that can be found on the internet. It is by no means comprehensive, and despite the clarion call to "Plagiarize / Let no one else's work evade your eyes," I've tried to limit the list to sites that clearly have permission for posting the materials.

Internet Archive: Tom Lehrer[1] This video clip, filmed in 1997 and posted with the permission of the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute, is part of a celebration of Irving Kaplansky's 80th birthday. Lehrer performs "The Derivative Song," "There's A Delta For Every Epsilon," "The Professor's Song," "Sociology," and a version of "That's Mathematics" including a verse on Fermat's Last Theorem.

The Physical Revue, by Tom Lehrer[2] This site contains audio clips from the 1952 performance in the Harvard Physics department. Most of the songs are sung by the ensemble or by individuals other than Tom Lehrer.

National Curve Bank, Deposit #10[3] This page has an audio clip of "New Math," as well as the lyrics for both "New Math" and "Lobachevsky."

A Flash Animation of Tom Lehrers "The Elements"[4] This Flash animation, created by Mike Stanfill, includes an updated list of the elements that have been discovered since the song was written.

The Tom Lehrer Discography[5] In addition to a chronological listing of all of Tom Lehrer's albums through the years, the site contains a short biography as well as lyrics and transcripts from the major albums.

Mike Molinsky

HOM and HSS

As historian of geology Martin Rudwick reminded the audience during his acceptance of a lifetime achievement award, the History of Science Society functions both as the academic and professional organization devoted to the discipline of history of science for the United States and as the body that connects international historians of science. Founded in 1924, the mission of HSS is to understand science, technology, medicine, and their interactions with society in historical context and to foster interest in the history of science and its social and cultural relations. While mathematics and the exact sciences have been

[1] http://www.archive.org/details/lehrer

[2] http://www.haverford.edu/physics-astro/songs/ and the link to Lehrer there.

[3] http://curvebank.calstatela.edu/newmath/newmath.htm

[4] http://www.privatehand.com/flash/elements.html

[5] http://php.indiana.edu/~jbmorris/FAQ/lehrer.disco.html

of interest to HSS members throughout the society's history–Rudwick's award is named for George Sarton, after all–attention to history of mathematics has been largely ad hoc in recent years even though many of us (CSHPM readers) conduct as much teaching and research in history as in mathematics.

The most recent HSS meeting, in Crystal City, VA, held 1-4 November 2007, was thus notable for the number of history of mathematics talks on the program and for the launching of a formal effort to raise the profile of our discipline within this natural sister society. Karen Parshall, Joe Dauben, and Albert Lewis organized a luncheon that brought together a number of our "usual suspects," some HSS regulars, and several scholars from the social and natural sciences who have not previously been active in either group. In keeping with efforts to maintain HSS's internationalization, Karen, Joe, and Al have proposed coordinating special sessions and panels through the International Commission for the History of Mathematics. It is also possible to form an interest group within HSS, such as the active Women's Caucus or less visible History of Astronomy group. Harry Lucas and the Educational Advancement Foundation sponsored the delicious meal that sustained this discussion.

There were at least 55 presentations relevant to the history of mathematics, including full sessions on "Interpreting Quantum Mechanics: A Century of Debate"; "Astrology at the Eve of Modernity"; "Thinking about the History of Space Science"; "Revisiting Early Modern Astronomy"; "The Peirces of Boston: Snapshots of Science in 19th-Century America"; "The Practical Sciences of Maps and Measurement: Surveying, Navigation, and Natural Resources in Britain and the United States, 1750-1860"; "Mathematics in the 17th Century"; "War, Peace and Mathematics: The Decision Sciences, 1937-1965"; "Mathematical Sciences and Natural Philosophy in Antiquity and the Middle Ages"; "Science in the Cold War"; "Drawing Boundaries: Mathematicians, Einstein and the Unification Project"; "Science of Life Insurance, Science of Society"; "Beyond Einstein: Contextualizing the Theory of Relativity"; and "Celebrating the Leonhard Euler Tercentenary." Vera Rubin (Carnegie Inst.) gave the Distinguished Scientist Lecture for the Forum for the History of Science in America, "Telescopes, Galaxies, and Women: A Life in Science." For additional information on the 2007 meeting program, please visit http://www.hssonline.org.

In his address, Rudwick also encouraged HSS members to forge stronger relationships with scientists. It is clear that this already works well in the history and philosophy of mathematics; anecdotal evidence indicates mathematicians appreciate historical methods more than scientists in other fields, and we are well aware of the considerable interest in using history to teach mathematics. Yet, while numerous speakers drew upon literary theory and other methodological tools from the humanities, this meeting also featured a wealth of technical detail. HSS is catching up to us in combining contextual studies with internalist mastery, but perhaps the historians of science can also educate us in explaining high-level ideas in terms accessible to non-specialists.

Finally, these thoughts and the demographics of the younger historians of mathematics at HSS remind us that the last significant cohort of entrants into our field arrived around 2000. As our own AGM minutes elsewhere in this issue indicate, we have work to do in identifying graduate students in mathematics and history departments, attracting them to our discipline, and–perhaps most importantly–helping them secure full-time employment that enables them to continue research in the history and philosophy of mathematics and science when their dissertations are completed.

ESU 5

The 5th European Summer University on the History and Epistemology in Mathematics Education took place July 19-24, 2007, at the Pedagogical Faculty of Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic. This summer university takes place about every 3 years. (I was surprised to find out that the only one of the five I had not attended was the 3rd meeting held in Belgium in 1999. The second and fourth meetings were held simultaneously with HPM satellite meetings of ICME 8 and 10.) There were about 180 participants at this meeting from 30 countries, only 16 of which were European. It was truly an international event with talks given in both English and French. The full program can be found at http://class.pedf.cuni.cz/

under stehlikova/esu5/.

Each day began with a plenary lecture. Topics covered included: the history of algebraic ideas, Islamic mathematics, the grammar of mathematical symbolism, the history of mathematics education in 19th- and 20th-century France and Germany, axiomatics from Hilbert to the "New Math," and Czech probability theory. I was particularly impressed by the wealth of Islamic mathematics still to be uncovered. The speaker, Rebstock Ulrich, amazed everyone with an example in which Islamic scholars debated the correct method for determining the inheritance of a hermaphrodite.

After a short break the remainder of the mornings were spent in 2-hour parallel workshops or panel sessions. The afternoons were devoted to 3-hour parallel workshops with a short break and then half-hour oral presentations. Each session was based on one of the six themes of the conference: 1) history as an interdisciplinary approach; 2) history in teaching; 3) history and epistemology in mathematics teachers' education; 4) cultures and mathematics; 5) history of European mathematics education; and 6) math in Central Europe. Sunday, July 22, was a half-day with the afternoon devoted to excursions.

I mainly attended sessions that stressed the use of primary sources, including sessions with Jan van Maanen on Euler's *Algebra*, Renaud Chorlay and Phillipe Brin on historical texts in probability and statistics, Chris Weeks on Condorcet's paradox, and Marta Menghini on Legendre's *Géométrie*. Bjorn Smestad spoke on historical material for primary teacher training. This session fit nicely with my own short presentation on a curriculum in history of mathematics for primary teachers.

The first few days of the conference were difficult due to the record-breaking temperatures in Prague. Still, we carried on and much was accomplished. The conference staff was very helpful. The availability of two computer rooms was invaluable. Discs with photos from the conference were made available at the closing session for a modest price. I was particularly impressed by the spirit of many of the younger participants at the conference. Their enthusiasm brought an added dimension to the proceedings. I look forward to seeing many of them at the ESU 6, which is tentatively scheduled for 2010 in The Netherlands.

Jim Kiernan

Sputnik and Math Education

Fifty years ago, on October 4, 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik, the first artificial satellite to orbit the earth. Though small —under two feet in diameter— and short-lived, Sputnik demonstrated revolutionary possibilities for humanity and proclaimed the prowess of Soviet science, mathematics, and technology.

Fear of Soviet domination galvanized education reform in the United States. Convinced that the nation urgently needed a select group of mathematicians, scientists, and engineers as well as a general population of mathematically and scientifically informed citizens, scientists, manufacturers, educators, and opinion-makers encouraged efforts to utilize media in the classroom, to design new laboratory apparatus, and to develop challenging curricula for American students at all levels. Consumers, prosperous as never before, bought books and toys on mathematics and science for the booming school-age population. Private foundations and government agencies provided new funds for teaching, especially in science and mathematics.

A new online exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History (NMAH) explores these developments. In 25 pages, "Mobilizing Minds: Teaching Math and Science in the Age of Sputnik" presents 76 artifacts. These objects illustrate initial space age excitement and subsequent calls for reform that spread throughout popular culture. There is also a small section on products designed for teaching mathematics and science in the home.

Much of the exhibit is devoted to attempts to adopt media technologies into classroom teaching, including overhead projectors, teaching machines, television, computers, and film. There is also a large section on the implementation of curricular projects–the "New Math" for elementary and high school students, of course, but also projects in physics, astronomy, the earth sciences, chemistry, and biology. At best, the results of all of these efforts were mixed. Numerous

references for further reading are provided at the end of the exhibit.

"Mobilizing Minds" can be found at http://american-history.si.edu under mobilizing. It was organized by Peggy Kidwell, NMAH Curator of Mathematics. The site will be up indefinitely. There are also plans for a small bricks-and-mortar exhibit after renovations at the museum are completed in fall 2008.

Joint AMS/MAA Meetings in San Diego

Once again, a number of events in history and philosophy of mathematics have been planned for the Joint Mathematics Meetings, to be held in San Diego, January 6-9, 2008. There will be an emphasis on ethnomathematics, as 2008 will be the year of "Mathematics of Indigenous Peoples." More information can be found on the MAA or AMS websites: http://www.maa.or or http://www.ams.org.

- Friday, 4 January, 8:00-17:00, and Saturday, 5 January, 9:00-17:00: MAA Short Course on "Combinatorics: Past, Present, and Future," organized by Robin Wilson. (NOTE: You must preregister for this course.)
- Sunday, 6 January, 8:00-10:55: MAA Contributed Papers Session on "Ethnomathematics and Its Uses in Teaching," organized by Dorothee J. Blum, Ximena P. Catepillan, Robert E. Jamison, Shemsi I. Alhaddad, and Amy Shell-Gellasch.
- Sunday, 6 January, 9:40-10:55 and 14:15-17:50: MAA Session on "Using Ideas from Asian Mathematics in the Classroom," organized by Victor J. Katz, Kim L. Plofker, and Frank Swetz.
- Sunday, 6 January, 14:15-16:15, and Tuesday, 8 January, 13:00-15:00: MAA Minicourse on "Teaching and the Philosophy of Mathematics," organized by Martin E. Flashman. (NOTE: You must preregister for this course.)
- Sunday, 6 January, 17:30-19:30: HOM SIGMAA Business Meeting and Guest Lecture by Ubiratan D'Ambrosio, "Ethnomathematics in a Global World."
- Monday, 7 January, 8:30-11:55: MAA Session on "Philosophy of Mathematics," organized by Kevin M. Iga and Bonnie Gold.
- Monday, 7 January, 9:00-9:50: MAA Invited Address, "4000 Years of Algebra: An Historic Tour from BM 13901 to *Moderne Algebra*," by Karen Parshall.
- Monday, 7 January, 14:00-16:00: MAA Poster Session on Projects Supported by the NSF Division of Undergraduate Education includes "History Across the Mathematics Curriculum for Preservice Teachers," by Gabriela R. Sanchis.
- Monday, 7 January, 13:00-15:00: HOM SIGMAA Panel Discussion on "The Political Dimension of Ethnomathematics," with panelists Ubiratan D'Ambrosio, Ana Lúcia Bras Dias, and Arthur B. Powell; organized by Amy Shell-Gellasch and Janet L. Beery.
- Monday, 7 January, 17:45-18:15: POM SIGMAA Business Meeting, Reception, and Guest Lecture by Penelope Maddy, "How Applied Mathematics Became Pure."
- Tuesday, 8 January, 8:00-10:50 and 13:00-17:50, and Wednesday, 9 January, 8:00-10:50 and 13:00-17:50: AMS-MAA Special Session on History of Mathematics, organized by Joseph W. Dauben, Patti Hunter, Victor J. Katz, and Karen H. Parshall.
- Tuesday, 8 January, 13:00-13:50: MAA Lecture for Students, "The Riemann Hypothesis," by J. Brian Conrey.

Amy Shell-Gellasch

Mathematical Ephemera

In searching for material to fill out this issue of the Bulletin, I remembered that I have several pamphlets that came my way via Peggy Kidwell after either the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History or the United States Naval Academy cleaned its library shelves. Therefore, welcome to the inaugural column in an occasional series devoted to materials that often escape cataloguing and thus our scholarly attention. You are invited to contribute typescripts of your own "mathematical ephemera" or historical analysis of any items reproduced here.

This first sample was written by Carl Theodore Heisel, an American circle-squarer of the early twen-

tieth century who appears in several histories of geometry and of π. The excerpt begins with the title of this 1936 pamphlet, which was self-published in Cleveland and was an addendum to the 1934 second edition of Heisel's (also self-published) *Mathematical and geometrical demonstrations . . . disproving numerous theorems, problems . . . with ratios, laws and rules hitherto unknown in mathematical and geometrical science, naturally growing out of the extraordinary and significant discoveries of a lacking link by Carl Theodore Faber. . . in the demonstration of the world renowned Pythagorean problem utterly disproving its absolute truth, although demonstrated as such for twenty-four centuries...* This book should not be confused with Heisel's best-known work, which appears under various titles, such as *Lo and behold! A Mathematical Master Key that Unlocks the Priceless Truths that Harmonize All Geometric Problems* (1935).

The prose in this 48-page pamphlet is so exuberant that it seemed fitting reading for the upcoming holiday season (or, if you prefer, because this is the time of year to remember that, while Christians always have the poor with them according to Matthew 26:11, we are blessed by the eternal presence of the mathematical cranks):

FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH: Startling, Revolutionary Geometrical Laws, Ratios and Relations Between Straight Lines and Curved Lines: The Mathematical World Defied and Challenged to Upset These New Facts, Figures and TRUTHS: For the First Time in the History of the World, Carl Theodore Heisel Has Discovered and PROVED the Startling New and Exact Geometrical Laws, Ratios and Relations That Exist Between the Exact Length of Straight Lines and Curved Lines;

The use of which enables the scientist to determine the exact length of the arc of the quadrant, the exact length of the circumference, the exact area of every circle, the exact ratio of diameter to circumference, or the one and only possible true and exact 1:3 13/81 = 256/81 ratio or value of pi, the exact length of the perimeter and exact side length and area of the inscribed square of every circle, and prove the 9:8 ratio of the length of the diameter to the length of the side of the square of equal area of every circle. . . .

The wisest mathematicians of the past have searched in vain for these exact ratios, relations and truths for the last five hundred years, and we are amazed that the professional mathematicians and geometricians do not know anything about them and cannot disprove them.

There is an eternal difference between a surd area and a square area, and yet the wisest mathematicians in the past assumed the geometrical equality of a square and a surd area, but would not allow the idea of a circle to be equal to a square area. We except Euclid from this criticism, who demonstrated the quadrature of the circle. If he lived today he would laugh his skeptics to scorn.

We are not alone in upsetting the "so-called" science as taught today, which is only about 50 % true, for all the logarithmic and trigonometric tables used in higher mathematics are only infinite approximations of so much, plus a little more, and the results obtained from the use of them are only approximations of nearness without exactness. Lambert, Legendre, Sir Isaac Newton, Berkeley, Pascal and many other renowned mathematicians have pointed out many inconsistencies and fallacies in the "so-called" science, and have proposed numerous changes, which shows that there is plenty of room for new discoveries, even at this late date in so old a science as geometry. Professor Albert Einstein has declared that Euclid was wrong and pi should be something higher than 3.14159265+. Descartes even went so far as to claim that "Mathematics have not a foot of ground to rest on which is not purely metaphysical."

Amy Ackerberg-Hastings

AGM of CSHPM/SCHPM

The Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Mathematics took place at Concordia University, Montreal, QC, on July 28, 2007. The meeting, with approximately 37 members in attendance, was called to order at 1:02 pm by Alexander Jones, President.

Agenda for the General Meeting:

- Approval of agenda

- Approval of minutes of 2006 AGM
- Treasurer's report
- Secretary's report
- *Proceedings* Editor's report
- *Bulletin* Editor's report
- Webmaster's report
- 2008 meeting
- Future meetings
- Nominating committee
- Other business

1. **Motion:** To approve the minutes of the May 2006 Annual General Meeting as printed in the November 2006 Bulletin. **Carried unanimously**.

2. The Treasurer, Nathan Sidoli, noted that we have an investment that matures on February 12, 2008. Ways to maximize interest were discussed. Nathan announced that travel funds have been received from the Federation. Forms will be available for speakers and session organizers. Because we receive a group rate on journal subscriptions, it is not reasonable to have subscription requests arrive over an extended period. March 1 will be the deadline for processing journal subscriptions.

3. The Secretary, Patricia Allaire, reported that, as of June 26, 201 members have enrolled for 2006. Included are 3 Student Associates, 43 reciprocal members from BSHM, 1 from CSHPS. Forty-nine members requested reciprocal membership in BSHM, 26 in CSHPS. Four members paid the "developing nations" rate. Eighty-six members ordered *Historia*, and 44 ordered *Philosophia*. Seventy-eight copies of the *Proceedings* were distributed. Twenty-three people made donations for a total of $529. Some retirees and students prefer to pay for their complimentary issue of the *Proceedings*. These funds have been treated as donations.

   Alex remarked on the need to increase membership among Canadians and non-retirees.

4. Patricia Allaire reported on behalf of *Proceedings* editor, Antonella Cupillari. The deadline for contributions to the 2007 *Proceedings* will be September 30, 2007. As per our ongoing discussion, it is desirable that *Proceedings* articles contain abstracts in both English and French, to reflect the bilingual nature of the Society. Members are encouraged to submit abstracts in both languages. Authors are further encouraged to find assistance with translation, if necessary. In order to maintain the high quality of the proceedings, authors will be reminded that submissions must be well written in narrative form. With the concurrence of a second anonymous reviewer, the editor may reject any submissions that are not suitable for publication. Conference speakers must be members of CSHPM or BSHM to publish in the 2007 *Proceedings*.

5. In 2005, a subcommittee was formed to look at the future of the *Proceedings*. Alexander Jones reported that the committee suggests that current publication policies be maintained: a) Copyright will remain with the author, so that publication in the *Proceedings* does not preclude publication elsewhere. b) Only members may publish in the *Proceedings*. In the case of a joint meeting, membership in either organization suffices.

6. *Bulletin* content editor, Amy Ackerberg-Hastings, thanked Eisso Atzema, Rob Bradley, and Pat Allaire for their assistance in production and distribution of the *Bulletin*, along with Mike Molinsky and David Orenstein who are frequent contributors. Amy requests photos, articles, etc. for inclusion in the *Bulletin*. Timely production of the *Bulletin* is necessary for dues collection, society elections, and timely dissemination of information for our meetings, the AMS/MAA joint winter meetings, CMS meetings, etc. Therefore, Amy should receive material by October 1 for the November issue and by April 1 for the May issue.

7. The Webmaster, Mike Molinsky, requested feedback from the membership on the web site.

8. The President reported that, in 2008, we will meet with the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (the Learneds) in Vancouver, BC. Congress dates are May 31-June 8. The Federation has suggested June 3-5. However, to avoid conflict with a meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Alex will request earlier dates.

   Trigonometry and its Applications was selected as the topic for the Special Session. Glen Van Brummelen will be invited to be the May speaker. Tom

Archibald will be the local arrangements coordinator. Adrian Rice volunteered to organize the Special Session and David Orenstein volunteered to organize the General Session.

9. The President also reported that it is most likely that the Society will be meeting with the Canadian Mathematics Society in Newfoundland during the first week of June in 2009. It has been four years since we met jointly with CMS. Our active participation in CMS encourages recognition of History of Mathematics as a serious mathematical science.

   For the same reason, it is suggested that as many as possible attend the upcoming meeting of the History of Science Society to be held in Washington, DC, November 1-4, 2007.

10. Rob Bradley, Robert Thomas, and Glen Van Brummelen volunteered to serve as a nominating committee.

11. John Earle, on behalf of BSHM, thanked the Society for the good relations between the organizations. He is eager to begin arrangements for the next joint meeting, in 2010 or 2011.

    Glen Van Brummelen noted that thanks are due to officers, Council, and organizers of this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Patricia Allaire, Secretary

Executive Council Meeting CSHPM/ SCHPM

The meeting of the Executive Council of CSHPM/ SCHPM took place at Concordia University, Montreal, QC, on July 27, 2007. The following members were present: Francine Abeles, Amy Ackerberg-Hastings, Patricia Allaire, Rob Bradley, Alexander Jones, Jean-Pierre Marquis, Duncan Melville, Mike Molinsky, Nathan Sidoli, and Sylvia Svitak. Alexander Jones, President, called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm.

Treasurer's Report: Nathan Sidoli noted several items: 1) The Society holds an investment that matures on February 12, 2008. 2) While income is heavily weighted toward Canadian funds, payments are made primarily in US funds. It is suggested that some Canadian funds be transferred into the US checking account. 3) Travel funds have been received from the Federation. Forms will be available for speakers and session organizers. 4) During the upcoming academic year, the Treasurer and President will both be out of Canada for some time. Therefore, it is desirable to have a third signer on the account. Jean-Pierre Marquis will be that third signer. 5) Because we receive a group rate on journal subscriptions, it is not reasonable to have subscription requests arrive over an extended period. After discussion, it was decided to set March 1 as the deadline for processing journal subscriptions. However, membership payments will be accepted after that date.

Secretary's Report: Patricia Allaire reported that there are 201 members as of June 26. Broken down by payment method, 52 pay in $Can, 102 pay in $US, 43 are reciprocal members from BSHM, 3 are complimentary members, and 1 is a reciprocal member from CSHPS. Forty-nine members requested reciprocal membership in BSHM, 26 in CSHPS. Broken down by status, 148 members are active, 40 are retirees, 6 are students, 4 requested the "developing nations" rate, and 3 are student associates. Eighty-six members ordered *Historia*; 44 ordered *Philosophia*. Fifty-two members paid for the Proceedings, in addition to 25 copies distributed on a complimentary basis to student and retired members and 1 copy provided to the Federation. Twenty-three people made donations for a total of $529.

Pat noted that "payment method" is a rough approximation of nationality. However, members from outside the US and Canada usually pay in $US. She also noted that some of the donations result from retirees and students preferring to pay for their complimentary issue of the *Proceedings*. These funds have been treated as a donation. She recommended that the Society work on recruiting more Canadians and young members.

Pat suggested that each officer keep track of the responsibilities of the position over the course of a year, and then submit this Job Description to the archivist for future office holders.

Representatives of Federation Canada cancelled their appointment to address the general membership.

Proceedings Editor's Report: Patricia Allaire presented this information on behalf of Antonella Cupillari. 1) The deadline for contributions to the 2007 *Proceedings* will be September 30, 2007. 2) As per our ongoing discussion, it is desirable that *Proceedings* articles contain abstracts in both English and French, to reflect the bilingual nature of the Society. Members will be encouraged to submit abstracts in both languages. Authors are further encouraged to find assistance with translation, if necessary. 3) In order to maintain the high quality of the *Proceedings*, authors will be reminded that submissions must be well written in narrative form. With the concurrence of a second anonymous reviewer, the editor may reject any submissions that are not suitable for publication.

Subcommittee on the Proceedings: In 2005, a subcommittee was formed to look at the future of the Proceedings. Alexander Jones reported that the committee suggests that current publication policies be maintained: 1) Copyright will remain with the author, so that publication in the *Proceedings* does not preclude publication elsewhere. 2) Only members may publish in the Proceedings. In the case of a joint meeting, membership in either organization suffices.

Bulletin Editor's Report: Amy Ackerberg-Hastings thanked Eisso Atzema, Rob Bradley, and Pat Allaire for their assistance in production and distribution of the Bulletin, along with Mike Molinsky and David Orenstein who are frequent contributors. Timely production of the *Bulletin* is necessary for dues collection, society elections, and timely dissemination of information for our meetings, the AMS/MAA joint winter meetings, CMS meetings, etc. Therefore, Amy should receive material by October 1 for the November issue and by April 1 for the May issue. Members are requested to suggest and submit photos, articles, and announcements for inclusion in the Bulletin.

Webmaster's Report: Mike Molinsky asked that we discuss what portions of the *Proceedings* should be accessible from the web site. After discussion, it was decided that abstracts of articles should be there, along with contact information on the authors. Rob Bradley noted that at present he maintains ownership of the website. Since there is a charge for transferring ownership, no change in ownership will be made for the present.

2008 Meeting: In 2008, we will meet with the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences (the Learneds) in Vancouver, BC. Congress dates are May 31-June 8. The Federation has suggested June 3-5. However, to avoid conflict with a meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Alex will request earlier dates. After discussion, Trigonometry and Its Applications was selected as the topic for the Special Session. Glen Van Brummelen will be invited to be the May speaker. Tom Archibald will be the local arrangements coordinator. Organizers will be solicited for the General and Special Sessions.

2009 Meeting: Most likely, we will be meeting with the Canadian Mathematics Society in Newfoundland during the first week of June.

2010 and Later Meetings: HSSFC will meet at Concordia University in Montreal in 2010. A decision will be made as to whether to meet with HSSFC or whether we should meet jointly with BSHM in 2010.

Other Business: It is suggested that as many as possible attend the upcoming meeting of the History of Science Society in Washington, DC, November 1-4.

Nominating Committee: A nominating committee is needed. Rob Bradley volunteered to serve. Two additional members will be solicited at the AGM.

The agenda for the Annual General Meeting was planned.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Patricia Allaire, Secretary

2008 Meeting Update

Since the AGM, President Alexander Jones has successfully adjusted and confirmed our meeting dates during the 2008 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver: June 1-3, 2008. This will permit us one day of overlap with CSHPS and two days of overlap with Canadian Science and Technology Historical

Association (CSTHA), so be sure to check these societies' schedules for interesting talks and opportunities to extend your stay in Vancouver. As noted elsewhere in this Bulletin, Tom Archibald is serving as our local arrangements coordinator, and Adrian Rice and David Orenstein have agreed to the duties of program chairs.

You will be receiving housing information by postal mail in the separate booklet from the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences around the end of the year. UBC is about 30 minutes outside (and above) downtown Vancouver, but it has a number of its own charms, including the Museum of Anthropology, the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, the UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research, and endless opportunities to explore forested trails in the adjoining 763-hectare Pacific Spirit Regional Park. The campus is accessible by bus; see http://www.ubc.ca/ under about/directions.html. As always, new information about the meeting will be posted on our website, http://www.csphm.org.

New Members

Congratulations to the following new members who have joined the Society since our last Bulletin. We look forward to your contributions.

Julian Cole
McAllen, TX
USA

Lawrence Deck
Montreal, QC
Canada

William Hudson
Boise, ID
USA

Andrew Irvine
Vancouver, BC
Canada

From the Editor

It was a great pleasure to see so many of you and our British colleagues at Concordia. I was perhaps especially pleased with our strong turnout of philosophers and hope that we can keep that momentum going in our future meetings. At this writing, it appears that our next joint meeting with BSHM will be at Trinity College in Dublin in 2011.

This issue contains a mix of items looking back to Montreal and looking ahead to Vancouver. There is an underlying theme of being "on the move" which is reflected in the fact that our intrepid president, Alexander Jones, is away from the University of Toronto this year and was not in one place long enough this fall to put his sage thoughts on paper for the President's Message. Alex is working on a book about Ptolemy, so we can hope that the epicycles will have circled back around by next spring to permit him an opportunity to rest and anticipate transitioning into the Past President position in CSHPM. Indeed, the brief notice in the AGM minutes that we are due for Council elections in 2008 may slip by many of us, so let me encourage you all to think of excellent candidates and propose them to the Nominating Committee.

As always, this issue would not reach your mailbox without the faithful volunteer work of Eisso Atzema, Pat Allaire, Rob Bradley, and all of the contributors whose by-lines you have just read. Please continue to send news of people, your own publications or other professional (and personal) milestones, meetings, and the like. We can also run short research articles, feature articles, and ongoing columns. It would be great to include more photos and illustrations. Materials are always welcome, but the submission deadline for the May issue will be April 1, 2008.

Amy Ackerberg-Hastings

About the Bulletin

The *Bulletin* is published each May and November, and is co-edited by Amy Ackerberg-Hastings (aackerbe@verizon.net) and Eisso Atzema (atzema@math.umaine.edu). Material without a byline or other attribution has been written by the editors. Les pages sont chaleureusement ouvertes aux textes soumis en français. Comment and suggestions are welcome, and can be directed to either of the editors; submissions should be sent to Amy Ackerberg-Hastings and Eisso Atzema at the above e-mail address, or by snail mail to Amy Ackerberg-Hastings, 5908 Halsey Road, Rockville, MD 20851.

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