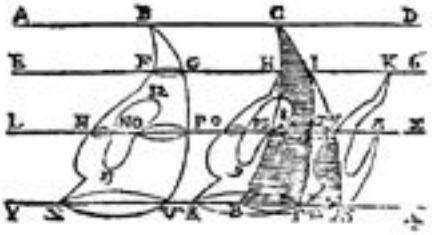
BULLETIN

CSHPM SCHPM



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Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Mathematics

Société canadienne d'histoire et de philosophie des mathématiques

ISSN 0835-5924

ABOUT THE SOCIETY

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

Society Officers

President: **Maria Zack**, Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, CA 92106, USA, MariaZack@pointloma.edu
Vice-President: **Jemma Lorenat**, Pitzer College, Claremont, CA 91711, USA, Jemma_Lorenat@pitzer.edu
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Volunteer Positions

The Society's Web Page (www.cshpm.org) is maintained by **Eisso Atzema**, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469, USA, eisso.atzema@maine.edu; Eisso also manages the Society's Archives. CSHPM *Annals* volumes are edited by **Maria Zack** (see above) and **Zoe Ashton**, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599, zoe.ashton@unc.edu. The *Bulletin* is prepared by Content Editor **Amy Ackerberg-Hastings**, Rockville, MD 20851, USA, aackerbe@verizon.net, Layout Editor **Eisso Atzema** (see above), and Production Editor **Maria Zack** (see above). The CSHPM Notes column published in *Notes* of the Canadian Mathematical Society is edited by **Amy Ackerberg-Hastings** (see above) and **Nicolas Fillion**, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC CV5A 1S6, CAN, nfillion@sfu.ca. **Nic Fillion** is also serving as CMS Liaison.

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

President's Message

I hope that your fall/autumn term is well underway and you are settling into the familiar routines of teaching, research, and spending time with colleagues. (I won't comment on grading!) As I went to write this letter, I looked at my letters from when I was last president. This is part of the letter from Fall 2018 (the parallel was a bit startling):

> It is hard to believe that it was five months ago that we were together in Montreal. I am thankful for all of those in our society and in CPA who arranged for such an interesting and stimulating meeting. Each time we gather I learn something new. I hope that you have marked your calendars for our 2019 meeting in Vancouver.

Today, I am thankful to the CPA and those in our society who made the 2026 meeting in Halifax such a pleasure, and I hope that you are planning to join us in Vancouver in 2027.

A word about the plans for Vancouver. As you are aware, the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences has been in the process of reimagining the structure of the annual Congress meetings because they had become financially unsustainable and universities were no longer interested in serving as hosts. Federation staff assembled a team of representatives from member organizations to provide feedback on a variety of models (thanks to Amy Ackerberg-Hastings who served on that team). This process has led to a reimagined Congress. The new model will be debuting in the summer of 2027 with Congress at Simon Fraser University. After significant deliberation, the CSHPM Council has opted to join Congress for 2027 to discover if this new model will serve our organization in the coming years.

Here are the relevant features of the new model:



Figure 1: Maria Zack at the 2026 AGM

- Congress staff will handle all of the logistics such as room allocation, AV provisions, registration, name badges, etc. This will look very similar to our past experiences except that we won't need a local logistics person to handle many small details.
- Congress will arrange for lunch and coffee breaks every day of Congress. This cost will be included in the registration fee.
- Congress staff will manage graduate student bursaries directly rather than us having to handle the paperwork for those funded by the Federation (we fund some ourselves as well).
- For those of you who attend the meeting of more than one society, you will pay a single fee for Congress as opposed to paying to attend individual meetings. For some of you that will be a savings. While it won't be a savings for me, it has encouraged me to consider extending my stay to explore the offerings of some other societies.
- We will still have access to lower cost housing in dormitories.

The dates for 2027 are later in the year than is typical. Hopefully this will be a benefit to those whose terms end in June or who teach summer school. The dates for our meeting are July 7–9, 2027, at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. Please check out the call for papers and submit a talk.

Maria Zack

2025 AGM Group Photo

Most of the participants in the 2026 Annual Meeting at Dalhousie University in Halifax gathered for a group photo.

Kneeling: Manshooreh (Sophia) Kimiagari, Irina Lyubchenko.

Standing: Susan Vineberg, Wendy Alexander, Stephen Perry, Gregg De Young, Albert Lewis [mostly hidden], Andrew Perry, Bud Boman, Stela Segev, Larry D'Antonio, Pat Allaire, Duncan Melville, Craig Fraser, Jackie Feke, Cynthia Huffman, Tom Drucker, Rob Bradley, Koray Akçagüner, Zoe Ashton, Nic Fillion, Maria Zack, Douglas Marshall, Roger Petry, Raymond Grinnell, Thomas Donaldson, Yuqi Sun, Linyuan Li, S. Blake Allan.

2027 May Lecture

The organizers are pleased to announce that Jed Buchwald has accepted their invitation to deliver the Kenneth O. May Lecture at CSHPM's 2027 meeting in Vancouver. He has many connections to the Society, having been May's colleague at the University of Toronto for several years in the 1970s before May's death in 1977. Buchwald then took over supervision of Craig Fraser's doctorate; he later served as Tom Archibald's major professor, and he was a faculty instructor of Tom Drucker. It thus seems appropriate for the special session to recognize the 50th anniversary of May's passing as well as Newton and his influence on contemporaneous and subsequent exact sciences.

Buchwald earned a BA from Princeton University in 1971, an MA from Harvard in 1973, and a PhD from Harvard in 1974. He spent two decades at the University of Toronto, then directed the Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology and served as Bern Dibner Professor of the History of Science at MIT. He has been at Caltech since 2001 and currently is the Doris and Henry Dreyfuss Professor of History. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and has received a Killam Fellowship (1990–1991), a MacArthur Fellow-



Figure 2: Most of the participants in the 2026 Annual General Meeting at Dalhousie University.

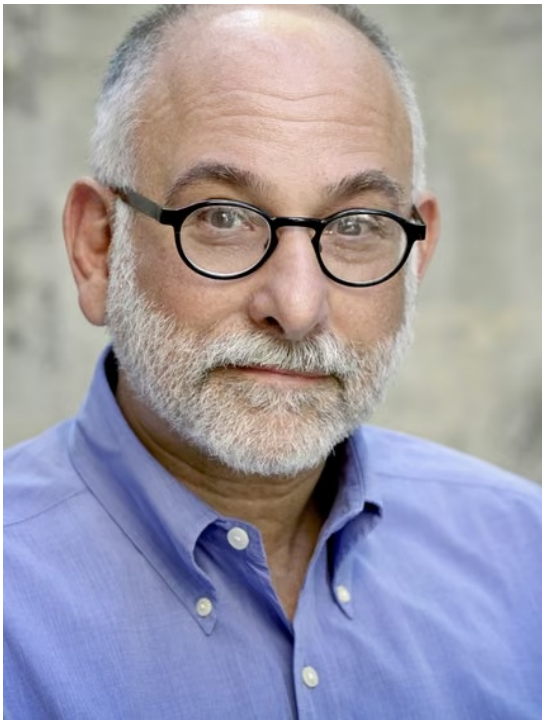


Figure 3: Jed Buchwald

ship (1995), and the International Academy of the History of Science's Alexandre Koyré Medal (2023). With Caltech colleague Mordecai Feingold, he has recently authored two monographs on Newton: *Newton and the Origin of Civilization* (Princeton, 2012) and *The Winding Trail to Newton's Principia Mathematica* (Princeton, 2026).

Similarly, Buchwald's talk will be titled "Newton's Winding Trail to the *Principia*." The abstract is as follows: Throughout the years between his first engagement with mathematics under Isaac Barrow and the production of the manuscript that evolved into Book I of the *Principia*, Newton was only sporadically engaged by issues of motion, whether earthly or astronomical. His first concerted interest involved collisions, which he modeled on the material circumstances of a springlike mechanism. In doing so, and in a subsequent turn to circular motion, the young Newton presumed without comment what would later be formalized as the *Principia*'s three laws of motion. He was hardly the only one, at least in England, to make such presumptions. We will discuss this early work in order to unpack what transpired when, in 1679, Newton responded to a letter from Robert Hooke, his former critic in optics. We'll then consider what in consequence took place following the famous visit to Newton by Edmond Halley in 1684. We'll briefly examine as well the interesting reaction of the mathematician John Wallis to Newton's manuscript account of fall under resistance, sent to Wallis for comment by Halley two years before the *Principia*. Finally, in the light of the material concerning measurement and experiment prevalent both in these manuscripts concerning motion as well as in his optical work, we'll consider the two stipulations that any experiment had to satisfy in order to produce what Newton considered to be certain results.

CSHPM/SCHPM Executive Council Meeting

The meeting of the CSHPM/SCPHM Executive Council was held virtually via Zoom on May 2, 2026. The following members were present: Amy Ackerberg-Hastings, Patricia Allaire, Marion (Wendy) Alexander, Eisso Atzema, Robert Bradley, Nicolas Fillion, Craig Fraser, Cynthia Huffman, Jemma Lorenat, and Maria Zack. Rob Bradley, President, called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm EDT.

The agenda for the meeting was approved, and minutes from the 2025 Executive Council Meeting were accepted as printed in the November 2025 *Bulletin*.

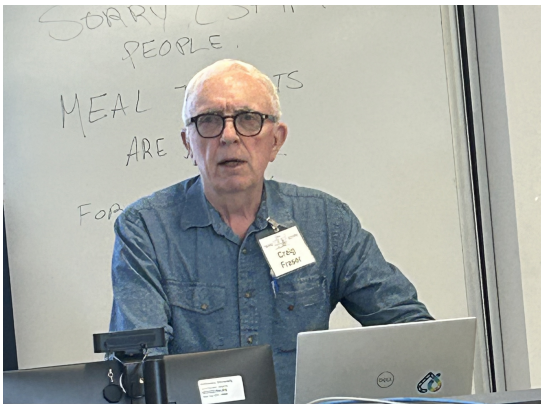


Figure 4: Craig Fraser

Treasurer's Report: Craig Fraser reminded the Council that the 2025 financial report appeared in the May 2026 *Bulletin*. He noted that registration fees would most likely cover expenses for the 2026 meeting. Amy Ackerberg-Hastings asked if CSHPM had joined the Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science and Technology (DLMPST, within the International Union of History and Philosophy

of Science and Technology) so members would receive their newsletter. The Council voted to do so. Amy distributed the invitation letter and membership form.

Secretary's Report: Patricia Allaire presented comparative membership data for 2025 and 2026 (please note that the 2025 data was updated from last year's report to include members who joined after the 2025 Executive Council Meeting):

	2025	**2026**
Total Members	120	125
Members By Address or Organization		
Can	28	34
US	66	69
BSHM	21	18
CSHPS	5	7
Members By Status		
Active	51	49
Retiree	32	43
Student	7	4
Developing Nation	3	2
Unemployed	1	2
Student Associate	0	0
Unknown	24	24
Members by Pay Method		
Online	89	95
Postal Mail	6	5
Reciprocal Members	35	25
Complimentary	0	0
New Members	11	7
Reciprocal Memberships		
To BSHM	31	39
To CSHPS	3	19
Journal Subscriptions		
Historia (paper)	21	22
Historia (electronic)	3	5
Philosophia	3	6
SCIAMVS	4	3
Annals Requests		
Federation	1	1
Printed	13	12
Electronic	6	10
Bulletin		
Federation	0	1
Paper	9	17

Donations		
No. Donors	14	14
Amount	\$CAD833.00 \$USD3.00	\$CAD830.00 \$USD17.00

Pat pointed out that there is some overlap of members in the "by address or organization category" and that the status of reciprocal members from BSHM and CSHPS is not known. She further noted that we have retained our membership numbers, although of the 11 new members in 2025, only 4 had renewed for 2026. In response to a question about the large increase in the number of requests for paper copies of the *Bulletin*, Pat agreed to check. (There was indeed a large increase.)

Nominating Committee Report: Rob Bradley announced that the slate was sent to members a few weeks ago. One member self-nominated for Council before the deadline for nominations. Rob will confirm with that person that they want to serve as a Councilmember and not in one of the offices. Once that is set, the ballot can be set up and sent out.

***Bulletin* Editors' Report:** Amy presented the following written report: Operations for our semiannual newsletter ran smoothly over the past year. Thanks to Layout Editor Eisso Atzema, Production Editor Maria Zack, and Secretary Pat Allaire for setting up and disseminating the *Bulletin* in a timely fashion. CSHPM continues to provide electronic distribution to all members and postal mail distribution to those members who request it when they renew their memberships. In Fall 2025, the Content Editor attempted to work with a graduate student who expressed interest in taking over that role, but our schedules proved incompatible for effecting a transition. I am still willing to train the next Content Editor should a volunteer materialize, but my time available for that task will be extremely limited through at least 2026, as the transition of *MAA Convergence*'s articles and Mathematical Treasures (MTs) from the MAA website to Taylor & Francis is a substantial commitment.

Members can best support the *Bulletin* by contributing content such as meeting reports, updates on initiatives in the history and philosophy of mathematics, and short articles related to their research and teaching interests. Perhaps someone might volunteer to resume the interviews begun during Sylvia Nickerson's tenure as Content Editor. The issue each spring tends to be especially thin, since most of the Council

reports and the items promised at an AGM appear in the fall. The next deadline for *Bulletin* submissions is **1 October 2026**; please send contributions to *aackerbe@verizon.net*.

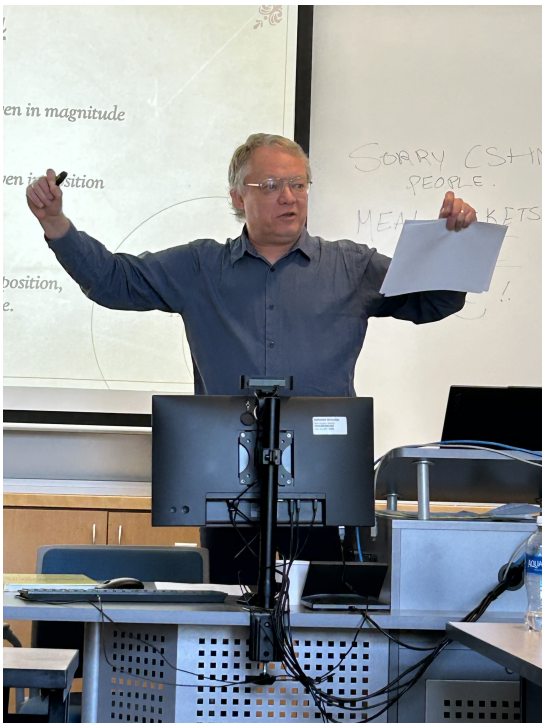


Figure 5: Glen Van Brummelen

CSHPM Notes Editors' Report: Amy then shared a written report for the column in *CMS Notes*: Nic Fillion and I continue to work steadily at recruiting authors and editing submissions. However, CMS's publication timeline has slipped significantly; at this writing we have not yet seen proofs for the March/April 2026 issue. Timing when to lean on authors and complete columns has thus become something of an art, and we are no longer able to predict when an author's contribution will be published. Nonetheless, we are ready to hear from members who are interested in submitting to CSHPM Notes at any time. The guidelines appear in most of our announcements and are posted on the CSHPM website. While I continue to think the book proposal suggested by Glen Van Brummelen several years ago has merit, I do not anticipate having time to work on moving it forward until my term as *MAA Convergence* co-editor ends in December 2028, unless another volunteer emerges before then.

Through the March/April 2026 issue, we have published 71 columns. Part of the purpose of CSHPM Notes is to showcase the depth and diversity of expertise in the Society, and I think the statistics continue to illustrate our success in that regard. Fifty-two authors have contributed, 21 of whom are women and approximately 11 of whom were students at the time of their first submission. Nine installments were co-authored. Roughly 15 columns have addressed philosophical topics, comprising about 21% of the total. This proportion has held steady since the column launched in 2014. One author has written six columns; two members have authored or co-authored five installments; one author composed four pieces; three members have written three columns; and seven members have authored two columns as single and/or joint authors. I have assembled two posthumous columns.

Amy further noted that a leadership change at CMS has probably contributed to the ongoing pattern of delayed production. The March/April issue can be seen at the CMS website, but it is not yet suitable for distribution. All articles are now translated into French. Amy and Nic were working with an author for the column to appear in the June issue.

***Annals* Editors' Report:** On behalf of co-editor David Waszek, Maria Zack reported that the 2024 *Annals* would be mailed in the next week. The electronic copies were distributed as soon as they were available.

The 2025 *Annals* will be going to the printer by late May/early June. Maria and David were in the midst of editing each paper for typesetting and typographical errors to ensure a smooth process with the typesetters in India. This edition will have the first two papers from the past. Maria will be continuing with the project of looking for papers from before 2014 that can be published in the Birkhäuser volumes.

David Waszek is stepping down from the role of co-editor to devote more time to academic pursuits. Zoe Ashton, who has recently obtained a permanent faculty position, will be taking David's place. For the 2025 edition of the *Annals*, Zoe is shadowing the process so that she can learn the multiple steps of the process. Many thanks to David for his years of hard work, and welcome to Zoe!

Maria noted that both she and David check both LaTeX and Word before sending manuscripts to India. Doing so minimizes errors in typesetting.

Webmaster's Report: Eisso Atzema reported that

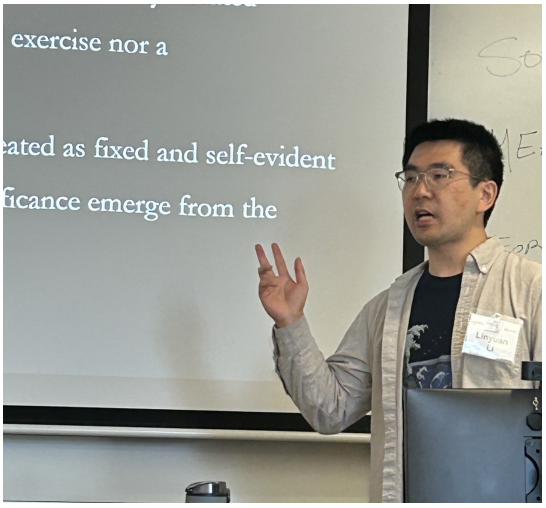


Figure 6: Linyuan Li



Figure 7: Jackie Feke

during the past year he fixed some glitches, and he updated all software. Gaggle email is now running properly. He is considering changing to WordPress for the website if the storage requirements are not excessive.

Maria asked that he update the thumbnail image of the *Annals* on the webpage.

Phil Math Preprint Archive: A report from Elaine Landry was received after the meeting and is printed elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

Online Colloquium Report: Rob reported that there have been no colloquia this year and asked the Council if they thought these were still of interest. Amy replied that PASHoM and HOM SIGMAA are still doing them. Jemma Lorenat said that MAA does not seem open to coordination. She noted that at her school there are in-person screenings of virtual events.

There will be an ad in the May *Bulletin* seeking potential speakers in future colloquia.

Rob asked if anyone else is interested in becoming coordinator; Nic volunteered.

Future Meetings: The 2026 meeting is being organized in Halifax by CPA and will include CSHPS and several other philosophical societies. There will be a reception on June 7. CPA will be providing coffee for the coffee breaks and will have snacks available. Maria spoke of purchasing food for the AGM at a nearby deli.

Nic reported that in 2027, the Federation will hold Congress in person at Simon Fraser University for one week in July. Virtual sessions will take place the week before. There will be no hybrid sessions. The in-person Congress will have about 5000 participants, versus the previous 10,000 attendees. One priority is that there will be no rooms with just a few attendees. This is not a problem for us, as we customarily fill the room.

CPA has not yet determined a location for a possible independent conference on the model of this year's meeting. That location will be a factor in our decision as to whether to join them or to meet with Congress.

Student Bursaries: Maria reported that 8 graduate students will receive travel funds. Donations of over $CAD800 will help cover the cost ($750 per student).

Other Business: Rob asked that we begin thinking of a topic for next year's special session.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm EDT.

Patricia Allaire, Secretary

2027 AGM Information

As you will see in this issue's President's Message, and informed by the straw poll taken at the 2026 AGM, the Council has accepted FedCan's invitation to take part in its 2027 Congress to be held at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. Congress runs from July 5 to 9, and CSHPM's dates are **July 7–9**. Member associations are still making decisions about participation, but the Council can confirm that CSHPS will also be at SFU. See CSHPM's call for papers elsewhere in this issue, and watch your inbox in the

winter and early spring for registration and housing information. A single registration fee will admit attendees to the sessions and events for all participating societies, as well as provide coffee breaks and lunches throughout Congress. Attendees will have the option of staying in campus dormitories. As of press time, the Council and organizers do not intend to offer programming during FedCan's dates for the virtual component of Congress (May 18–21).

CSHPM's own Dr. Nicolas Fillion (Associate Professor, Philosophy), has agreed to serve as SFU's Academic Convenor for Congress 2027. Nic's research spans the philosophy of science, applied mathematics, logic, critical thinking, and epistemology. He is also active in philosophy education and outreach, including as Director of the SFU Ethics Bowl project and Chair of Ethics Bowl Canada. CSHPM's special session theme deals with Newton's career and influence. Congress 2027 also has its own overall theme, *Confluences*. Attendees are invited to explore the myriad of ways humans come together through histories, languages, cultures, places, communities, beliefs, knowledge, and more—reflecting, too, on the confluences of mountains and waters in which SFU is located. For more information about FedCan's efforts to "reimagine" Congress and for meeting updates, please visit the Congress website.[1]

AGM of CSHPM/SCHPM

The Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Mathematics took place at Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, on June 6, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 12:27 pm ADT by Robert Bradley, President, with 24 members present.

AGM Agenda

1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of minutes of 2025 AGM
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Secretary's report
6. Nominating Committee report
7. *Bulletin* Editors' report
8. CSHPM Notes Editors' report
9. *Annals* Editors' report
10. Webmaster's and Archivist's reports
11. PhilMath Preprint Archive report
12. Online colloquium report
13. Future meetings
14. Other business
15. Adjournment

1. The agenda for the general meeting was approved.

2. Minutes from the 2025 AGM were accepted as printed in the November 2025 *Bulletin*.

3. Rob Bradley thanked those, especially Maria Zack, who have done so much to encourage graduate student participation. He then initiated a discussion about next year's meeting, as the Society needs to decide whether to meet with Congress or with CPA *et al.*

Maria reported on the information she had from the Federation:

- The arrangements of Congress are still in a state of flux.
- Congress will meet at Simon Fraser University, July 5–9.
- There will be no hybrid sessions. There will be virtual sessions for 2 weeks in June, before the in-person Congress.
- We will have to present our requirements and wait to see what we are offered. Our preference would be for 1 room for 3 days.
- The registration price is still to be determined, but it will be greater than in previous years. However, there will be no association fees; participants may attend events for as many organizations as they wish.
- The Federation plans to reduce the number of forms required from each association.
- Breaks and catering will be centralized.
- There will still be money for graduate student assistance.

A lively discussion followed.

Nic Fillion said that he is on the organizing committee for Congress, but he had no additional information at this time. He said that CSHPS will most likely meet with Congress and CPA will most likely have a stand-alone meeting.

The dates and cost will be major factors in our decision.

Maria noted that there is much work involved in planning a stand-alone meeting.

Roger Petry suggested an on-line vote by the membership. He also noted that there is a value in supporting the humanities, *i.e.*, participating in Congress.

[1] See `www.federationhss.ca/en/congress/congress-2027`

A poll was taken of those present asking which option they favored:

Meeting with Congress: 14
Meeting with CPA *et al.*: 1
Let the Executive Council decide: 3

4. See the minutes of the Executive Council for Treasurer Craig Fraser's report. Craig noted that CSHPM has sufficient funds for our support of graduate students and early career members. Nic confirmed that he is the second signer on CSHPM's account at TD Bank.

5. See the minutes of the Executive Council for comparative membership data for 2025 and 2026. Secretary Pat Allaire noted that of the 11 new members in 2026, only 4 renewed for 2026. Rob pointed out that comparing the number of retirees indicates that we are an "aging" organization.

6. On behalf of the Nominating Committee (Zoe Ashton, Rob Bradley, and Dan Curtin), Rob announced that the following positions were uncontested:

President: Maria Zack
Vice President: Jemma Lorenat
Secretary: Patricia Allaire
Treasurer: Craig Fraser

This year, one person self-nominated, so there were 5 candidates for the 4 Councillor positions. The results of the election were:

Janet Heine Barnett 37 votes
Elaine Landry 34
Ximena Catepillán 32
Cynthia Huffman 32
Madeline Muntersbjorn 24

The first 4 were elected to the Council.

7. Rob presented the *Bulletin* editors' report, which can be seen in written form in the minutes of the Executive Council.

8. Rob presented the CSHPM Notes editors' report, which can be seen in written form in the minutes of the Executive Council.

9. See the minutes of the Executive Council for the written report by the *Annals* editors. Zoe Ashton will be joining Maria as co-editor. Maria thanked retiring co-editor David Waszek for his work.

10. See the minutes of the Executive Council for a written report from Webmaster and Archivist Eisso Atzema.

11. The PhilMath Preprint Archive was not received in time for the meeting. See it printed elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

12. Rob reported that there were no online colloquia this year, and he requested assistance in securing speakers for next year. Nic volunteered to help with securing speakers in philosophy.

13. Craig noted that 2027 marks the 300th anniversary of the death of Isaac Newton. For this reason, it was decided that the topic of the Special Session will be "Newton and His Influence." Craig will be the organizer. A co-organizer is needed. (Craig pointed out that there will also be conferences and events in Europe to mark the occasion.) Larry D'Antonio and Rob will organize the General Session.

14. Tom Drucker thanked all who planned for and spoke at this meeting. Rob thanked Pat for serving as Secretary for 26 years, half the lifetime of CSHPM.

15. The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 pm ADT.

Patricia Allaire, Secretary

Bibliography of Mathematics and Religion

The *Bibliography of Religious Faith and the Mathematical Sciences*[2] is a public online Zotero library that catalogues and annotates items relating a range of religious faiths and ethical standpoints to the mathematical sciences, broadly conceived. It is a revised, second edition of *Christianity and Mathematics: 1910 – 1983*, a booklet first published in 1983 and made available online[3] a bit later by the American Scientific Affiliation. That edition, compiled by Gene Chase and me, originated as a project to extend a list of nine items made available to participants in the 1977 conference held at Wheaton College on "A Christian Perspective on the Foundations of Mathematics," the first of a series of biennial conferences sponsored by the Association of Christians in the Mathematical Sciences (ACMS).

Over the years Gene and I continued collecting references toward a second edition, refining our criteria for inclusion in the *Bibliography*. We initially decided that it should deal substantively with how mathe-

[2] See `www.zotero.org/groups/4991506/bibliography_of_religious_faith_and_the_mathematical_sciences/library`

[3] See `www . asa3 . org / ASA / topics / Mathematics / 1983Bibliography.html`.

matics connects to the Christian faith, theology, or worldview, in either direction, and that it should not be limited to the time period covered by the first edition, especially since a number of items by ACMS members had been produced in the meantime. We began to think more seriously about the new edition several years ago as retirees, but Gene's death from COVID in 2020 precluded his collaboration on the final product.

Connecting religious faith and ethics to some aspect of the mathematical sciences has burgeoned since the publication of the first printed edition. Writers have begun reflecting on how Jewish, Islamic, and Hindu faiths, as well as Christianity, have interacted with mathematics over time. And in the last few decades professional mathematicians and especially philosophers of mathematical practice have pondered the broader ethical context and moral implications of the discipline, especially now that artificial intelligence has entered the picture. All of this led me to expand the focus of the *Bibliography* further. Items are now included that treat a broader range of fields and topics (*mathematical sciences*) and from a broader range of perspectives (*religious faith* and *ethics*, both *Christian* and *non-Christian*). Entries go beyond published, peer-reviewed documents to include blog posts, interviews, and video recordings, though some web-based items will undoubtedly disappear over time. At present, I've catalogued and annotated over 1925 items, far more than the 300-some items contained in the first edition.

I've attempted to make the new edition of the *Bibliography* as accessible as possible. In addition to giving standard bibliographic information for each item, I've included an abstract generated either from the item itself or based on my reading of it. Numerous key words ("tags") are provided for each item, and items are linked to anything else in the database they explicitly connect to. I've also introduced a folder structure to link items with obvious connections, such as appearing in the same conference proceedings/journal or dealing with a common topic. Links to items' locations are provided, and where permitted, a copy is attached to the item's listing.

The *Bibliography* should be useful for exploring global foundational issues, relating mathematics to philosophy or theology, or for focusing on a particular topic—beauty, ethics, prophecy, apologetics, intelligent design, infinity, chance and divine sovereignty, artificial intelligence, mathematization, mathematics education, etc. I have tried to be comprehensive, but new items appear continuously. If you are aware of an item that should be in the *Bibliography* but isn't yet, you can contact me at *calvin.jongsma@dordt.edu*.



Figure 8: Blake's *Ancient of Days*

The image accompanying this article shows William Blake's hand-colored print, *The Ancient of Days*, which appeared as the frontispiece of copy K of his 1794 book, *Europe a Prophecy*. It is owned by the William Blake Archive, in the public domain, and available on *Wikimedia Commons*. The etching's subject matter, a Godlike figure kneeling in a circle amongst the clouds and holding measuring compasses over the void, illustrates the *Bibliography*'s focus quite well.

Calvin Jongsma

2026 CSHPM Election Results

At the business meeting of the annual general meeting (AGM) of the CSHPM on 5 June 2026, the results of the 2026 elections to the executive council were announced. The new officers will serve a period of approximately two years, from the conclusion of the

2026 AGM to the conclusion of the 2028 AGM.

President: Maria Zack, Point Loma Nazarene University

Vice-President: Jemma Lorenat, Pitzer College

Secretary: Patricia Allaire, Queensborough Community College, CUNY

Treasurer: Craig Fraser, University of Toronto

Council:

Janet Heine Barnett, Colorado State University Pueblo (1st term)

Ximena Catepillán, Millersville University of Pennsylvania (1st term)

Cynthia Huffman, Pittsburg State University (2nd term)

Elaine Landry, UC Davis (1st term)

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Bradley, Past President

New Books

Emily Hamilton (UMass Amherst) has published *The Math Mafia: How a Persistent Group of Reformers Standardized American Education.* The book deals with the role of mathematics reformers in shaping US education policy in the second half of the 20th century. See `www.uapress.ua.edu/9780817362645/the-math-mafia/` for more information.

Roman Duda's 2019 *Historia matematyki w Polsce na tle dziejów nauki i kultury* has been translated into English by Daniel R. M. Davies and published by Peter Lang as *A History of Polish Mathematics: A Cultural Perspective from Origins to Modernity.* Karolina Karpińska and Małgorzata Stawiska-Friedland served as editors and assisted with updating the text. This wide-ranging history traces developments from the 10th century CE to the present. See `www.peterlang.com/document/1661757` for more information.

Editors' Note: The Bulletin does not actively seek book reviews, but the Content Editor will consider requests for reviews as well as offers from volunteer reviewers. Members are welcome to let the editors know about their own recent publications and new books and articles of interest to historians and philosophers of mathematics for brief announcements such as those given above.

Off the Shelf: Bicentennial Mathematics

Tarwater, Dalton, ed. *The Bicentennial Tribute to American Mathematics, 1776–1976.* The Mathematical Association of America, 1977.

Although commemorations often got lost amid the actions of the current presidential administration, the year 2026 has marked the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. I thought it was an appropriate time to revisit one of the collected volumes that led me into concentrating on the history of American mathematics and mathematics education, although the appearance of this column in the November issue of the *Bulletin* is an accurate indication of my failure to complete a rereading in time for July 4.

During the 59th annual meeting of the MAA in San Antonio, TX, 24–26 January 1976, eight invited speakers and four panels reflected on the history of American mathematics and weighed the current status and potential future directions for undergraduate mathematics education in the United States. Participants comprised a "who's who" of leading historians, mathematicians, and educators, including: Dirk Struik, Judy Grabiner, Mark Kac, Paul Halmos, Garrett Birkhoff, Mina Rees, Morris Kline, John Ewing, Peter Lax, Don Albers, and at least 17 others. Although there were business meetings, showings of mathematical films (such as Charles Eames's *Powers of Ten*), and a piano/cello concert by Leonard Gillman and Louis Rowen, these lectures and panels provided the main programming for the conference [Roselle 1976]. The AMS held its annual meeting on the overlapping dates of 22–25 January; AWM met in conjunction with the other two societies as well. In all, 2840 registrants were recorded across the three conferences.

The panels dealt with the teaching of mathematics in two-year colleges, the teaching of undergraduate mathematics more broadly, applications in the teaching of undergraduate mathematics, and "Mathematics in Our Culture." The versions published in this volume contained the brief presentations given by each panelist, but none of the back-and-forth between presenters and audiences that presumably occurred. Fifty years later, the chapters seemed to me to be of most interest to today's educators as a review of what

has—and has not—changed over the decades. For example, Albers led off the two-year college panel with an analysis of enrollments in remedial courses. Morris Kline griped about the inability of mathematicians to teach compelling liberal arts mathematics courses through the choice of real world, culturally-informed topics. Several panelists discussed the training of preservice teachers.

As a historian of 18th- and 19th-century mathematics, the chapters based on the invited lectures were more relevant to me 30 years ago and remained so now. Kac's address, "Probability Theory: Reflections on the Past and Speculations on the Future," was not available for publication. On this reading, I realized the others were arranged so that Halmos's, for which he had picked up five co-authors including Ewing, formed a sort of hinge. Struik started with the colonial period, particularly the mid-to-late 18th century and figures such as John Winthrop and David Rittenhouse. Grabiner covered the hundred years after 1776 by asking what conditions finally allowed research mathematics to flourish at the end of the 19th century. She focused on Nathaniel Bowditch and Benjamin Peirce but also looked more broadly at college curricula. Birkhoff then gave mini-biographies for a staggering number of mathematicians and institutions from the period between 1891 and 1941. The Halmos group completed the chronology by tracing ten areas of American mathematical achievement since the 1940s.

This paper simultaneously established a time frame for the remaining essays, which explored various aspects of the period between roughly 1946 and 1976. Rees concentrated on the various ways in which the federal government had taken up academic funding and made itself indispensable to research mathematicians. R. W. Hamming gave an account of the history of computing in the United States as he had lived through it, noting that he and H. H. Goldstine had differing points of view on which events were most significant. (As an Iowa State alumna, I am contractually required to point out that both ignored the Atanasoff-Berry Computer.) Finally, Lax listed contributions from refugee and immigrant mathematicians, especially in the development of the atomic bomb and in the buildup of university research. He ended with a reminder of the McCarthy era and Lax's belief that most universities and mathematicians responded honorably.

Professional historiography on the history of American mathematics was not new in 1976, but rather dated to at least the late 19th century (i.e., Florian Cajori's 1890 *The Teaching and History of Mathematics in the United States*, which I wrote about in the March/April 2016 *CMS Notes* and May 2016 *Bulletin*). Nevertheless, I suspect most of the speakers and panelists identified primarily as mathematicians, not as historians of mathematics. I was struck, for instance, by the general paucity of primary sources in the references, even taking into account that the lecturers had presumably been tasked with offering broad surveys. Additionally, on the whole and although universities were mentioned frequently, little attention was paid to classroom practices, philosophies of education, and other aspects of the actual experience of teaching and learning in the history of mathematics education—as one example, I wrote in my notes that Birkhoff's chapter was "superlong" and yet, when he discussed the expansion of American mathematics in the 1920s, he omitted the founding of NCTM. I still think the 1976 MAA meeting was a landmark event in the history of American mathematics, but I also think our community owes tremendous gratitude to Grabiner, Karen Hunger Parshall, and far too many other scholars to attempt to list for everything they have done since then to develop the history of American mathematics—and the history of American mathematics education—into fully-fledged academic disciplines.

Reference

Roselle, David P. "The Fifty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the Association." *The American Mathematical Monthly* 83, no. 5 (May 1976): 400–406.

Amy Ackerberg-Hastings

PhilMath Archive 2026 Report

The PhilMath-Archive section of PhilSci-Archive has been active for 8 of the larger Archive's 26 years. The section is dedicated to philosophy of mathematics and is curated by philosophers of mathematics. In the July 2026 report on the full archive, Archive Editor-in-Waiting David Wallace commented, "Downloads are growing sharply and the three-year average is now over 1 million downloads per year. The Archive now mirrors Open Access books and has been recognized as a 'trusted repository' by the European Research Commission."

Coordination and moderation of the PhilMath section is carried out by Elaine Landry, who initially proposed creation of the section. Sponsors of the mathematics section are:

- International Association for the Philosophy of Mathematics (PMA)
- Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Mathematics (CSHPM)
- British Society for the History of Mathematics (BSHM)
- Association for the Philosophy of Mathematical Practice (APMP)
- Philosophy of Mathematics Special Interest Group Mathematical Association of America (POM SIGMAA)

The use of the section is healthy. The growth of the philosophy of mathematics section is shown by its total size at the following checkpoints:

- May 2017 – 234
- May 2018 – 299 (archive increased by 65 entries from the previous year)
- May 2019 – 383 (increase by 84 entries)
- May 2020 – 449 (increase by 66 entries)
- May 2021 – 536 (increase by 87 entries)
- May 2022 – 619 (increase by 83 entries)
- May 2023 – 671 (increase by 52 entries)
- May 2024 – 719 (increase by 48 entries)
- May 2025 – 795 (increase by 76 entries)
- May 2026 – 890 (increase by 95 entries)

Coordinating with the moderation in the PhilSci-Archive has continued smoothly. A danger is a fringe author posting to both Archives. Currently, coordination between the two Archives is done through email, with the two moderators 'manually' checking with one another when a possible fringe case arises. Although this is somewhat cumbersome, the number of cases is sufficiently low that implementing an automated system is currently unnecessary.

Elaine Landry

PDF *Methods of Geometry*

Years ago, I wrote a textbook for an upper-division geometry course: *Methods of Geometry*, published by Wiley in 2000. It featured:

- a quick but rigorous development of 3D elementary Euclidean geometry from a Birkhoff-style axiom system (assuming the real-number system)
- some 19th-century applications to triangles and circles
- a very modern classification of isometries, the most efficient I've ever seen
- application of those methods to classify symmetries of figures
- many examples drawn from various cultures, especially Southwestern American
- a huge selection of exercises

From these emphases you might guess that my 1960s doctoral research had to do with foundations of transformational geometry. I used this text a couple of times in SFSU's geometry course, but it never became popular. Other areas of geometry were more fashionable. Some details of any rigorous foundation are tedious, as are those of most any classification. The book presents the complete classification of the polygonal symmetry groups (easy), the seven frieze groups (the most detail I could ever present in a lecture), and the seventeen wallpaper groups (the most I could ever read in a day). It concludes with a discussion of the finite polyhedral symmetry groups. One complaint about the book was its cost. For years I was frustrated by my inability to easily provide access to it for teachers and researchers. That just changed. Prompted by an inquiry, I searched my archive DVDs and found copies of the original *PostScript* *.ps files that I had sent Wiley. Then I discovered that *Acrobat* would easily convert them to *.pdf format. Those, I have posted on my website: `smith-at-sfsu.net`. If you are interested, email me (*smith@sfsu.edu*) for the password.

James T Smith

Quotations in Context

> "I mean the word proof not in the sense of the lawyers, who set two half proofs equal to a whole one, but in the sense of a mathematician, where $\frac{1}{2}$ proof $= 0$, and it is demanded for proof that every doubt becomes impossible."

The story behind this famous quotation from Carl Friedrich Gauss (1777–1855) begins in 1784, when the Chevalier Jean Auguste D'Angos (1744–1833) announced that he had observed a new comet. Nearly

CALL FOR PAPERS / APPEL À COMMUNICATIONS

Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Mathematics
Société canadienne d'histoire et de philosophie des mathématiques

Annual Meeting / Colloque annuel
Simon Fraser University / Université Simon Fraser
7-9 July 2027 / 7-9 juillet 2027 / Vancouver, British Columbia

Special Session / Séance Spéciale
Isaac Newton / Isaac Newton
Kenneth May Lecturer / Conférencière Kenneth May
Jed Buchwald, California Institute of Technology

The CSHPM will hold its 2027 Annual Meeting in Vancouver at Simon Fraser University in conjunction with the 2027 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Wednesday–Friday, July 7–9, 2027.

Special Session – Isaac Newton: His Career, Sources for His Work, and Consequences for the Mathematical Sciences: Papers are welcome on the any aspect of Isaac Newton's life and mathematical career, the exact sciences during Newton's lifetime, and Newton's influence on subsequent developments in the history or philosophy of mathematics. Talks may be given in either English or French.

General Session: Papers are welcome on any subject relating to the history of mathematics, its use in the teaching of mathematics, the philosophy of mathematics, or a related topic. Talks may be given in either English or French.

Proposals for special events such as stand-alone paper sessions, panels, or symposia are welcome; please direct your proposal to all four organizers.

Travel stipends of $750 CA are available for up to six papers given by graduate students and early career scholars (post-2024 PhD) at this meeting.

*Please send your title and abstract (200 words or less) in Word or in the body of an email **to all four organizers**, specifying the session in which you wish to speak, by **March 1, 2027**, to:*

GENERAL SESSION / SÉANCE GÉNÉRALE:
Larry D'Antonio, ldant@ramapo.edu
Robert E. Bradley, bradley@adelphi.edu

SPECIAL SESSION / SÉANCE SPÉCIALE:
Craig Fraser, craig.fraser@utoronto.ca
Tom Drucker, druckert@uww.edu

La SCHPM tiendra l'édition 2027 de son colloque annuel à l'Université Simon Fraser à Vancouver, dans le cadre du Congrès des sciences humaines et sociales 2027, du mercredi 7 juillet au vendredi 9 juillet 2027.

Session spéciale – Isaac Newton : sa carrière, les sources de son œuvre et ses conséquences pour les sciences mathématiques : Les communications portant sur tous les aspects de la vie et de la carrière mathématique d'Isaac Newton, les sciences exactes à son époque et son influence sur les développements ultérieurs de l'histoire ou de la philosophie des mathématiques sont les bienvenues. Les présentations peuvent être en français ou en anglais.

Séance générale : Les articles portant sur tout sujet lié à l'histoire des mathématiques, à son utilisation dans l'enseignement des mathématiques, à la philosophie des mathématiques, ou tout autre sujet connexe sont bienvenus. Les présentations peuvent être en anglais ou en français, et peuvent porter sur des travaux en cours.

Les propositions d'événements spéciaux tels que des sessions sur un ouvrage, des séances ou des colloques sont aussi bienvenues ; veuillez adresser votre proposition aux quatre organisateurs.

Des bourses de voyage de 750 $ CA sont disponibles pour un maximum de six communications d'étudiants gradués et de chercheurs en début de carrière (doctorat post-2024).

*Veuillez envoyer le titre de votre communication, ainsi qu'un bref résumé de 200 mots ou moins en format Word ou dans le corps d'un courriel **aux quatre organisateurs**, en précisant la session à laquelle vous souhaitez participer, avant le **1 mars 2027** à (voir à gauche):*

forty years later, Wilhelm Olbers (1758–1840) wrote a letter to his fellow astronomer, Johann Encke (1791–1865), suggesting that the claimed discovery by D'Angos be examined with a critical eye.

The result of Encke's investigations was published in 1820, with the quite blunt title, "Imposture Astronomique Grossière du Chevalier D'Angos (The Gross Astronomical Fraud of the Chevalier D'Angos)." Before laying out all of his accumulated arguments, Encke summarized his conclusion in the opening paragraphs, accusing D'Angos of completely fabricating the discovery and all his data in a search for public acclaim:

> Il ne s'agit de rien moins ici, que de prouver jusqu'à la dernière évidence que le chevalier *D'Angos*, ci-devant astronome de Malte, a eu l'audace de *forger* des observations, qu'il n'a jamais faites; d'une comète qu'il n'a jamais vue; d'après des élémens d'une orbite qu'il a gratuitement imaginée, et sur lesquels il a frauduleusement établi toutes ses observations et théories; le tout pour se donner la gloriole d'avoir découvert une comète.
>
> Cette accusation, la plus grave qu'on puisse faire à un astronome doit paraître d'autant plus dure, que le chevalier est mort depuis quelque tems, et que par conséquent il ne peut plus se défendre, s'il en avait eu la possibilité [Encke, p. 456].

As shown in the quotation above, Encke stated that D'Angos was already long dead in 1820. Curiously, while published biographical information on D'Angos is very sparse, what little I've found in other sources seems to suggest that he actually lived until 1833.

A few years later, Encke's publication was mentioned in correspondence between Olbers and Gauss. In a letter dated April 2, 1826, Gauss briefly discussed the differing opinions among astronomers about whether certain comets were distinct, or only repeated sightings of the same body. Gauss admitted that he was reluctant to participate in such public debates, even when he felt very strongly that a particular answer was the most probable, and he was generally content with satisfying himself privately which answer seemed most correct. Gauss noted that he felt no such reluctance in the field of mathematics, and it was only in scientific realms where questions were answered based on probability, rather than solid proof, that he hesitated to openly contradict the conclusions of others:

> In rein mathematischen Dingen, wo sich strenge Beweise führen lassen, spreche ich mich ohne Scheu frei und klar aus; wo es aber auf das individuelle Abschätzen von Wahrscheinlichkeit ankommt, so lange solches noch nicht nach mathematischen Principien durch Zahlen geschehen kann, bin ich immer schüchtern; das absprechend ausgedrückte Urtheil eines Mannes, den ich hochachte, macht mich, wenn es meiner eigenen Ansicht widerspricht, stutzig, und wenn ich auch nach wiederholter vielseitiger Ueberlegung auf jene zurückkomme, mag ich doch ungern meine eigene Ansicht jener schroff entgegenstellen [Olbers, p. 445].

As an example of such reluctance, Gauss admitted to Olbers that, while he found it highly likely that D'Angos really did invent his discovery of the 1784 comet, he did not consider the calculations and other evidence that Encke presented as proof of fraud. In a reply letter dated April 25, Olbers noted that he had always considered Encke's report to be conclusive, and that he had never imagined that Gauss felt otherwise. He asked Gauss for more details on why he considered the question to still be open.

On May 14, Gauss sent a reply with the requested elaboration. Before jumping into the detailed specifics of his concerns (mostly emphasizing the problem with concluding that certain observations or calculations were impossible by any means other than fraud), Gauss presented two preliminary points of clarification. One of the points was that he had no information other than that presented in Encke's report, and thus he could only judge the issue based on its contents. The other preliminary point was to emphasize that he did not consider the fraud to have been proven because, for him, he was using the word "proof" in its strongest, most uncompromising form. It is here that the subject quotation of this column appears:

> Ich nehme den Ausdruck Beweis hier nicht sowohl in dem Sinn der Juristen, die zwei halbe Beweise $=$ einem ganzen setzen, als in dem der Geometer, wo $\frac{1}{2}$ Beweis $= 0$ ist, und zum Beweis erfordert wird, dass jeder Zweifel unmöglich wird [Olbers, p. 451].

Mike Molinsky

References

Encke, J. F. 1820. Imposture Astronomique Grossière du Chevalier D'Angos, dévoilée par J. F. Encke à Gotha. *Correspondance Astronomique, Géographique, Hydrographique et Statistique du Baron de Zach*, pp. 456–474. Vol. 4. Genoa: A. Ponthenier.

Olbers, W. and C. F. Gauss. 1909. *Wilhelm Olbers: sein Leben und seine Werke*. Edited by C. Schilling. Vol. 2. Berlin: J. Springer.

The Diaries of Arthur M. Curtis

Arthur Mills Curtis (1866–1951) taught Mathematics and Penmanship at the Oneonta Normal School, now the State University of New York at Oneonta (SUNY Oneonta), in Oneonta, New York, from 1895 to 1933. Four diaries written by Curtis, covering the years 1910 to 1913, are preserved in the Alden Room in SUNY Oneonta's Milne Library. In the diaries, he wrote down his views on current events of the time, participation in women's suffrage, religious ideals, involvement in the community, and relationships with his colleagues. For example, the pages shown in the figure date from 15–16 April 1912 and refer to the sinking of the Titanic. Known as a competent educator, the diaries give us insight into Curtis's personal life.

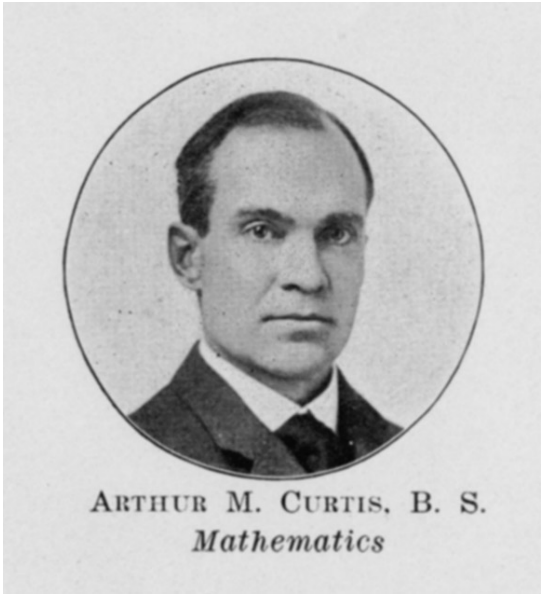


Figure 9: Arthur M. Curtis.

We began our work on Curtis's diaries in Spring 2025 as a project for the course History of Mathematics, taught by Toke Knudsen, and we continued it in Fall 2025 as an independent study, supervised by Knudsen. We were particularly drawn to the diaries because of the challenges presented by Curtis's intricate cursive handwriting. We did not know anything about the contents of the diaries when we started reading them. Throughout the project, we worked closely with Knudsen and Heather Stalter (Reference and Special Collections Librarian at Milne Library).

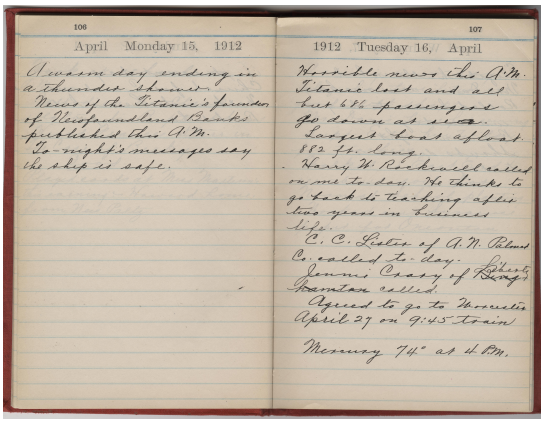


Figure 10: Curtis' Diary

Over the two semesters, we carefully examined each entry and produced accurate transcriptions of the original text. By compiling these transcriptions, we were able to gain a more comprehensive understanding of Curtis's life, experiences, interests, and the individuals and events that were significant to him (there is no mathematical content in the diaries). Our independent study also involved developing metadata for the collection in preparation for its publication on New York Heritage Digital Collections, `nyheritage.org/`. This process required us to complete metadata training, develop proficiency in organizing and managing information using Excel, and devote considerable time to the careful entry and importation of data. Through this work, we gained valuable experience in archival research, historical documentation, and digital preservation. As the project progressed, our continued engagement with the diaries deepened our interest in Curtis's life and strengthened our appreciation for the importance of preserving and providing access to primary historical sources. At the end of the project, we had transcribed the entirety of Curtis's four diaries, and this valuable historical material could then be made accessible to the public.



Figure 11: Sadie, Emma, and Abigail.

Collectively, we had the opportunity to present our work several times. We spoke about Curtis's diaries at a celebration of the International Day of Mathematics at SUNY Oneonta on 11 March 2026; we gave a talk about the diaries at the Greater Oneonta Historical Society on 2 April 2026; and we did a poster presentation about the diaries for SUNY Oneonta's Student Research and Creative Activity (SRCA) Showcase on 22 April 2026.

Our work is published within New York Heritage Digital Collections.[4] The link contains scans of the diaries along with our transcriptions (click on "Explore the Collection"). The scans are the focus, but every page of each diary has the transcription pasted in the transcription field and is fully searchable. The name of the one of us who did the transcription of a given page is listed under "Publisher of Digital."

Having the transcriptions of the diaries available to read on the website allows a wider range of people to connect with the history of Oneonta and SUNY Oneonta. Primary sources such as these can foster a feeling of connection to the history of a small town. The diaries are also a valuable resource for local historians and researchers.

We invite you to explore Curtis's diaries and our transcriptions on New York Heritage Digital Collections. If you want to see the original diaries, you are welcome to visit Milne Library at SUNY Oneonta, where other materials pertaining to Curtis are also kept. Appointments can be made with Heather Stalter, *heather.stalter@oneonta.edu*.

Acknowledgements

We want to thank Toke Knudsen, Heather Stalter, and Claire Lovell (Digital Services Librarian, South Central Regional Library Council) for their help with the project. The 1906 yearbook photo of Curtis at Oneonta Normal School and image of pages from Curtis's diary are used by permission of University Archives & Special Collections, SUNY Oneonta. Toke Knudsen provided the photo of Sadie Hall, Emma McCarthy, and Abigail Draper by their poster at the SRCA Showcase.

Editor's note: This article was first published in The Seaway Current *50:1 (Fall 2026),* `maaseaway.org/newsletter`*. Abigail and Sadie are Adolescent Education and Mathematics majors, and Sadie is a Mathematics and Statistics major. All three students are undergraduates at SUNY Oneonta. Toke Knudsen communicated their article to the Bulletin.*

Abigail Draper, Sadie Hall, & Emma McCarthy

Maierù School 2026

On 29–31 May 2026 Luigi Maierù's International School in the History of Mathematics was held at the Grand Hotel San Michele in Cetraro, Italy. The school brings together in one place researchers working in history of mathematics and people—such as graduate students, early career scholars, independent researchers, and teachers—who approach this topic with different motivations. CSHPM Vice-President Jemma Lorenat is a member of the organizing committee. The editor of CSHPM's journal *Historia Mathematica*, Marco Panza, is also on the organizing committee.



Figure 12: Location of Maierù School.

The School is named in honour of Luigi Maierù, who is a retired professor at the University of Calabria and a leader in history of mathematics in Italy. The school is supported financially by Chapman University, the Ferrucci Institute for Italian Experience and

[4] See `nyheritage.org/collections/arthur-curtis-diaries`

Research, and the University of Calabria.

The title of this year's conference was *Classical Mechanics from Newton to Hamilton*. Keynote teachers were Niccolò Guicciardini (University of Milano), "Newton's mechanics and its mathematics," and Craig Fraser (University of Toronto), "Variational mechanics from Lagrange to Hamilton." Jemma Lorenat (Pitzer College) was an invited speaker, "Early 19th-century correspondence on *The Mechanism of the Heavens* (1831)." Other invited speakers were Carlos Alvarez (UNAM, Mexico City), "Euler's 'New Law of Mechanics';" Paolo Freguglia (University of l'Aquila), "Analytical Optics and Mechanics in W.R. Hamilton;" Andrew N. Jordan (Chapman University), "Analytical Mechanics from a Modern Perspective;" and Ahmed Sebbar (Chapman University), "The Least Action Principle: Past and Present."

Craig Fraser

Contesting Trivia

For the last two years (2024 and 2025), HOMSIGMAA had sponsored history of mathematics trivia contests open to teams made up of students and faculty. There were some questions about mathematics and some about the locations of the meetings (Indianapolis and Sacramento, respectively) but not much about a combination of the two. When I saw that this year's meeting was to be in Boston, I figured that it might be appropriate to get the questions to deal with mathematics as developed in the Boston area. Bud Boman quickly agreed to work on it, and additional members of the TCCC (Trivia Contest Construction Committee) were Ximena Catepillán, Abe Edwards, and Greg Coxson.

We moved into high gear a month before the contest and came up with what we regarded as a handful of multiple-choice questions. I'm sure all of us learned something in the process, even as the answer to one of the questions had to be changed after July's ICM in Philadelphia. Ximena may have gotten tired of redoing the questions and answers as a matter of clarification. By the end even we nit-pickers on the committee were satisfied.

We ended up with close to 70 participants and general enthusiasm about the questions. It also made us feel that our time had not been wasted when no team ended up with a perfect score. An unexpected bonus came from one of the exhibitors who didn't want to take his television set back to the home office. As a result, he contributed it as one of the prizes.

We expect to try to do something similar at next year's MathFest in New Orleans. If you know more about the history of mathematics there, the TCCC may need you. We are not, however, expecting to be able to offer television sets for prizes.

Thomas Drucker

Joint Math Meetings in Chicago

A number of events in history and philosophy of mathematics have been planned for the Joint Mathematics Meetings, to be held in Chicago, January 12–15, 2027. More information can be found on the conference website: `jointmathematicsmeetings.org`.

Tuesday, January 12

- 8:00–12:00: AMS Special Session on the Legacy of James P. Keener I, organized by Eric S Marland, Courtney Davis, and Brynja Kohler.
- 8:00–12:00: Spectra Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon, organized by Apoorva Mate and Michael A. Hill.
- 9:00–11:30: AMS Special Session on a Tribute to Michael Barrus I, organized by Emily Barranca and Jean A. Guillaume.
- 14:00–14:50: PME J. Sutherland Lecture by Talitha Washington.
- 14:00–16:30: AMS Special Session on a Tribute to Michael Barrus II, organized by Emily Barranca and Jean A. Guillaume.
- 15:00–16:30: AWM EvenQuads Festival, organized by sarah-marie belcastro, Sherli Koshy-Chenthittayil, Linda McGuire, Monica D. Morales-Hernandez, and Denise Amanda Rangel Tracy.

Wednesday, January 13

- 15:00–16:30: From 1971 to Today: The Joint Committee on Women and the Evolution of Equity in the Mathematical Sciences, organized by Nancy Sattler, Viveka Vaughn, and Rachel Rupnow.

Thursday, January 14

- 10:30–12:00: NAM Panel: Celebrating 85 Years of J. Ernest Wilkins, Jr., PhD in Mathematics.
- 13:00–17:00: AMS Special Session on History of Mathematics I, organized by Sloan Evans Despeaux, Jemma Lorenat, and Elizabeth A. Hunter.
- 17:30–18:30: POM SIGMAA Business Meeting

with Guest Speaker.
- 18:00–20:00: MathPath 25th Anniversary Reunion.

Friday, January 15

- 8:00–12:00: AMS Special Session on History of Mathematics II, organized by Sloan Evans Despeaux, Jemma Lorenat, and Elizabeth A. Hunter.
- 8:00–11:30: POM SIGMAA Contributed Paper Session on New Ideas in the Philosophy of Mathematics, organized by Bonnie Gold and Jason Douma.
- 13:00–17:00: AMS Special Session on History of Mathematics III, organized by Sloan Evans Despeaux, Jemma Lorenat, and Elizabeth A. Hunter.

Greetings from HOM SIGMAA!

This past spring, we continued the HOM SIGMAA Virtual Speaker Series with several excellent presentations. Beginning in October we will have a great slate of speakers for our **2026–2027 Virtual Speaker Series**. The tentative schedule is below. We anticipate that each session will last one hour, including time for Q&A. All meetings take place at 3:30PM, ET, on the second Friday of the month. Join in via Zoom at the link in the footnote.[5] Meeting details will be posted on our website, `homsigmaa.net`, as they become available.

- October 9, 2026: Ramiro Carrillo Catalán (National Pedagodical University, Oaxaca, Mexico)
- November 13, 2026: Dana Mackenzie (Mathematician and Science Writer)
- December 11, 2026: Terika Harris (Teachers College, Columbia University)
- February 12, 2027: Ryan Thomas (Charleston Southern University)
- March 12, 2027: TBD
- April 9, 2027: David Murphy (Hillsdale College)

If you have any suggestions for speakers for our Virtual Speaker Series, please contact Abe Edwards, the HOM SIGMAA Program Coordinator, at *aedwards@msu.edu*.

At **MathFest 2026** in Boston, MA, August 5–8, History of Mathematics was present in numerous events including talks, sessions, workshops, awards, panels, readings, a business meeting, and a trivia. For example, the MAA journals, including *MAA Convergence* co-editors Amy Ackerberg-Hastings and Danny Otero, were recognized during the prize session. Jennifer Clinkenbeard, Abe Edwards, and Danny Otero were the organizers of the workshop, "Discovering Mathematics Through Primary Historical Sources," a successful event that gave participants experience with classroom materials based on primary historical sources. Phil Blau, Shawnee State University, was the speaker at the HOM SIGMAA business and reception meeting. He delivered a noteworthy presentation titled "Road to Insolvability." Rick Gilman was one of the organizers of the successful poster session, "Stories from our Section Histories," in which presenters shared stories, based on original sources, from the history of their MAA sections. Bud Boman was one of the speakers at the HOM-sponsored contributed papers session, "Teaching through Time: Historical and Cultural Perspectives on Mathematics." The event had twelve excellent presentations and was organized by Abe Edwards, Ximena Catepillán and Cynthia Huffman.



Figure 13: *MAA Convergence* co-editors.

There was also a History of Mathematics Trivia event organized by Bud Boman, Greg Coxson, Ximena Catepillán, Tom Drucker, and Abe Edwards (see related article in this issue of the *Bulletin*), and an event titled "Read the Masters! Galois' Memoir on Solvability by Radicals," organized by Danny Otero, in which participants engaged in a common reading and discussion of selections (in English translation) from the 1830 memoir of Évariste Galois in which he used "groups of substitutions" to formulate conditions for solvability of polynomial equations by radicals.

Looking ahead to the Joint Mathematics Meetings (Chicago, IL, January 12–15, 2027) there will be a

[5] See `msu.zoom.us/j/94740679958` (Passcode: Cardano)



Figure 14: Bud Boman

number of talks related to the history of mathematics, including a **Special Session on the History of Mathematics** organized by Sloan Evans Despeaux (Western Carolina University), Jemma Lorenat (Pitzer College), and Elizabeth A. Hunter (University of Chicago).

See you in Chicago this winter!

Ximena Catepillán & Abe Edwards

MAA Convergence's Latest Resources

MAA Convergence, the MAA's refereed online journal for the use of the history of mathematics to teach mathematics, is pleased to announce several new articles that have appeared in 2026 at its home within the MAA suite of journals published by Taylor & Francis (T&F): `maa.tandfonline.com/journals/ucnv20`. MAA members should access the journal by visitng `maa.org/publication/convergence/` and clicking on the "Read Now" button to log in with their member credentials.

In the most recent installment of former associate editor Mike Molinsky's series of "Quotations in Context," he examined two essay collections by H. G. Wells to develop the background and context for a statement attributed to Wells: "Statistical thinking will one day be as necessary for efficient citizenship as the ability to read and write." As with all of the essays in this series, mathematics instructors might share the intriguing story to engage students' interest; prompt students to think about and discuss the potential problems that arise from too much reliance on tertiary sources; or use the background of the quotation to instigate student research projects.



Figure 15: Phil Blau



Figure 16: H. G. Wells.

Former co-editor Janet Heine Barnett shared insights about incorporating the history of mathematics throughout the mathematics curriculum in her article, "Some Brief (and Not-so-Brief) Ideas for Bringing History into the Mathematics Classroom." In addition to tips and resource lists, she provided eight supplements featuring worksheets and collections focused on algebra that she created over decades of teaching undergraduates, and especially pre-service mathematics teachers. Note that the length and format of these supplements might also serve as models for creating

readers' own historically-focused classroom activities.

Barnett also teamed up with fellow TRIUMPHS PI Kathy Clark to assess the development and classroom implementation of the over 100 classroom projects developed between 2015 and 2022 in their retrospective analysis, "TRansforming Instruction in Undergraduate Mathematics via Primary Historical Sources: Looking to the future, with an eye on the past."

Finally, Jenna Slusser thoroughly revised and improved her winning paper from the final HOM SIGMAA Student Paper Contest in 2025 to publish "Heron's Formula: A Visual Proof in the Style of Oliver Byrne." She adapted the popular style of presentation that Oliver Byrne (1810–1880) applied in his famous 1847 edition of *The Elements of Euclid* to the proof by Heron of Alexandria of his method for determining the area of a triangle from its side lengths. We encourage instructors to consider trying an application of Byrne's techniques with their students.

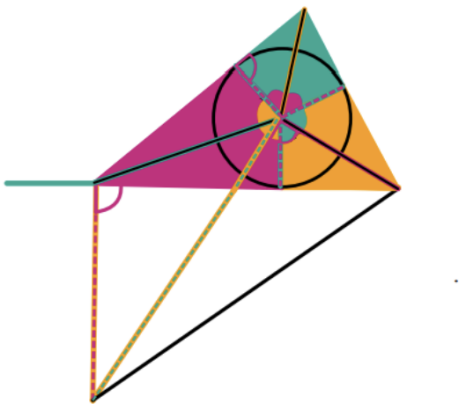


Figure 17: Byrne-inspired diagram.

In mid-September, we turned *MAA Convergence*'s first 21 volumes over to MAA Publications for transmittal to T&F. PDF versions of approximately 347 articles published between 2004 and 2024 will be uploaded alongside the current volumes 22–23. Until that material is unveiled, the best way to access articles published on the former version of the MAA website is to enter a URL into the Wayback Machine found at the Internet Archive, `archive.org/`. If you need assistance, please contact us at *convergence@maa.org*.

We also continue to seek new submissions, such as reports on how you have implemented the history of mathematics into your mathematics classroom, or Mathematical Treasures (which should be classified as Pictorial Works on submission) that provide images, historical information, and significant mathematical concepts for a rare or unusual mathematical book or object. Guided readings, contextualized activities or worksheets, course outlines, or field trips (in-person or virtual) are among the forms of classroom resources we consider. Find even more descriptions of possible article formats and approaches at our MAA and T&F web pages. The submission portal may also be accessed via the URLs in the first paragraph.

Daniel E. Otero & Amy Ackerberg-Hastings

TRIUMPHS Society Update

Since the last issue of this *Bulletin*, the TRIUMPHS Society (TRansforming Instruction: Understanding Mathematics via Primary Historical Sources, see `triumphssociety.org/`) has continued to promote the proliferation of primary source-based pedagogy in mathematics instruction by bringing together practitioners and others interested in the use of primary historical sources in the teaching and learning of mathematics. The Society's 2026 efforts have included the first full year of our quarterly Primary Source Virtual Reading Group (VRG). The sources and meeting dates of the VRG for 2026 were as follows:

- Euclid's *Elements*, Book II, January 16–17
- Isidore of Seville's *Etymologies*, Book III, April 10–11
- Brahmagupta's *Brāhmasphuṭasiddhānta*, July 17–18
- Omar Khayyam's *Algebra Al-Muqabala*, October 9–10

Session 1 of each meeting was held on a Friday afternoon and began with a brief introduction about the author and text. Participants across four time zones were then divided into breakout groups of 3–4 people to read selections from the featured source. These small-group discussions were interspersed with time for collective check-ins and participant-driven exploration. Session 2, held on the subsequent Saturday morning, followed a similar plan, but with participants explicitly prompted to reflect on the pedagogical value of the source, a topic to which the entire group returned at the closing discussion.

Recordings of whole-group discussions during each

VRG session and all of the Society's prior professional development offerings are available to all under the archived section of the Society's Programming webpage. The Society plans four VRG meetings annually over the next several years in sessions designed to work through texts that are not very well-known but speak to core mathematical ideas. Our 2027 sources will cover the time period 1200–1750 and feature the following:

- Selections from medieval mathematicians such as Simon Stevin and Al-Samawal al-Maghribi
- Selections from 17th-century correspondence on probability theory
- Sangaku & Temple Mathematics
- Euler's *Introductio in Analysin*

Specific dates for the 2027 sessions will be announced soon via various channels. No advanced reading or preparation is required to take part in the Virtual Reading Group sessions, but participants must be current members of the TRIUMPHS Society.

Additionally in 2026, our peer-reviewed journal, *Annals of the TRIUMPHS Society*, published a Special Legacy Issue which features 16 Primary Source Projects (PSPs) that were developed with previous support from the US National Science Foundation. These freely-available projects cover a variety of topics for use in courses in discrete mathematics, computer science, combinatorics, and linear algebra. These projects previously appeared in the Mathematical Association of America's (MAA) online journal *MAA Convergence*, and that article highlighting the collection can also still be accessed via the Internet Archive.[6]

Additionally, the *Annals* continues to seek submissions to its regular annual issues, for which it invites new classroom-ready PSPs as well as artifacts related to the development of or supporting the implementation of such projects and articles on the scholarship of teaching and learning with primary sources. Submissions are accepted (and published) on a rolling basis. If a topic is related to teaching mathematics with primary sources, then it is potentially of interest to the journal—*please consider submitting your own work in this exciting field for publication!* For more information about publishing in *Annals*, visit the "For Authors" page of the journal's website.

Membership in the TRIUMPHS Society is only US$12 per calendar year and allows for participation in all Society events). Note that membership is not required, however, to access or submit to the *Annals*.

Janet Heine Barnett

[6] See `web.archive.org/web/20260614140811/https://old.maa.org/press/periodicals/convergence/primary-historical-sources-in-the-classroom-discrete-mathematics-and-computer-science`

New Members

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

Anshula Ghandi
Cambridge
UK

Molly Kao
Montreal, QC
Canada

Linyuan Li
Notre Dame, IN
USA

Margaret McBride
Halifax, NS
Canada

Jacob Tmannetje
Ottawa, ON
Canada

Zhuohan Yang
London
UK

From the Editor

CSHPM is a small academic society (125 members in 2026) that makes significant contributions to the wider community of scholars in the history and philosophy of mathematics—and the even wider communities of mathematicians, philosophers, and historians. Our annual meetings offer opportunities for intellectual cross-fertilization and professional networking within all of these disciplines. The resulting *Annals* are filled with sound research and analysis that is accessible to Birkhäuser/Springer's large audience of institutional subscribers. Twenty-one years ago, we also published a volume of May Lectures, *Mathematics and the Historian's Craft*. The CSHPM Notes column provides glimpses into our professional prac-

tices as well as the vast range of fascinating topics we study, while the *Bulletin* shares news and creates community; both are freely available to global users of the internet. The online colloquium was a terrific means for disseminating cutting-edge research as well as a CSHPM membership recruiting tool when we were able to sustain it.

Indeed, sustainability and stewardship are closely related. For many years, our number of retiree members has greatly outnumbered our number of student members, and retirees are now about to surpass our body of early-, mid-, and late-career members. Meanwhile, various pressures from governments, changing funding landscapes, and demographic reductions in the student-aged population continue to impact our working conditions and the number of jobs available to students who complete graduate programs. None of this is news to anyone reading this, and I have no dramatic solutions to offer. In fact, I am now watching all of this from the additional perspective of the parent of an undergraduate student. But, in the spirit of "small steps do add up," here is a thought toward continuing CSHPM's multi-faceted work into the future: if you are younger than 60, have the good fortune to be employed, and have a couple of hours available each month (i.e., are not already overcommitted), please consider whether you could assist with the administration of one of the activities described in the first paragraph and reach out to the relevant volunteer—contact information appears in About the Society on page 2. And, we can all continue thinking and talking and working together to further CSHPM's mission. I am grateful for each one of you.

The next submission deadline for the *Bulletin* is **April 1, 2027**. Perhaps you have a monograph related to Newton in your office that either you have not consulted in a long time or never got around to reading; this volume may be a good candidate for our Off the Shelf column revisiting earlier scholarship. Or, perhaps you are interested in interviewing a scholar whose career is related to the history or philosophy of Newtonian studies. Additionally, the editors seek items of interest to historians and philosophers of mathematics, such as reports on conferences attended, activities of other societies, or discussions of publications. We also welcome memorials of historians or philosophers of mathematics who have passed away and short yet substantive articles that are informative or thought-provoking as well as relevant to the practice of history or philosophy of mathematics. Les soumissions en français sont les bienvenues. Keep in mind that unsigned articles in the *Bulletin* were prepared by the editors, who are always happy to have other writers take on the tasks of these announcements and Society matters.

Amy Ackerberg-Hastings

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