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

N E W S L E T T E R

News of significant events, personal items, notice of important pub-
lications, expressions of opinion are earnestly solicited. Please send
all material to Professor E.J. Barbeau, B201, University College, University
of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1.

79.1. 1979 ANNUAL MEETING: June 4 & 5 in Saskatoon

Report of the Programme Committee

The programme committee for the 1979 annual conference consists of P.C.
Enros (University of Toronto), L. Charbonneau (University of Quebec at
Montreal), H. Lehman (University of Guelph) and G. Thomas (University of
Saskatchewan). The next conference will be held in Saskatoon on June 4 and
5, 1979, once again in conjunction with many other learned societies. Our
meetings, however, may actually begin on the evening of June 3 and end at
noon June 5 because of the peculiar scheduling of flights in and out of
Saskatoon. Registration forms will be mailed in February. The CSHPM regis-
tration fee will remain at $5 and the Learned Societies at $25. The Com-
mittee urges all members to consider giving a talk or otherwise participate in
our meeting. A joint session with the Canadian Classical Association and
with the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science has been
arranged for June 5. In addition, there will be a much enlarged display of
books of interest to our membership. The German Consulate in Toronto has
been very kind in offering to present to each of our members attending our
conference a very handsome biography of C.F. Gauss. Finally, please do send
the title of your talk to the programme chairman as soon as it is possible.

79.2. THE SECRETARIAT

This year, unlike earlier years, the society has a Treausrer and a
Secretary in two different people. Philip Enros, the Treasurer, is teaching
at the University of Toronto (Institute for the History and Philosophy of
Science and Technology), having taught last year at the University of New
Brunswick. He is currently writing up his thesis on the Analytical Society
at Cambridge in the early nineteenth century.

The Secretary is Charles V. Jones, who has been at York University for
many years, but this year is teaching at the University of Toronto in the
Mathematics Department at I.H.P.S.T. He has been appointed for one year to
the position left vacant by the death of Kenneth O. May. He has just ob-
tained his Ph. D. at Toronto for his thesis on the Concept of one as a
Number (Congratulations, Charles!). Both Jones and Enros were students of
the late Ken May (although Jones did his Ph. D. research under the direction
of Stillman Drake).

Please address any enquiries about Society business, subscription prob-
lems, and the like to the Secretary at the following new address:

Dr. C.V. Jones, Secretary CSHPM
Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology,
University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1

79.3. NOMINATIONS FOR THE 1979 EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL

Prior to the June meeting, members will be asked to cast ballots for
the officers and three of the councillors for 1979. The Chairman of the
Nominating Committee, Professor Iswar Chakravartty, would be pleased to
receive suggestions, nominations and names of volunteers. His address is

Professor Iswar Chakravartty
Chairman, Nominating Committee, CSHPM,
Department of Mathematics,
Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 7B8

The retiring president is J.L. Berggren, and the three retiring coun-
cillors are M. Closs, E. Nelson, J. Turgeon. Anyone having served only one
term may be renominated for a second term, except for the treasurer and
secretary who may serve indefinitely.

79.4. DUES

A dues notice is enclosed with this Newsletter. Please give this matter
your prompt attention.

79.5. THE PRESIDENT'S TRIBUTE TO K.O. MAY

The President of the Society, J.L. Berggren, gave the following appreci-
ation of the work of the late K.O. May, who died Dec. 1, 1977, at the annual
meeting of the Society in London, Ontario in June 1978:

At this time it is my sad duty to address to you a few words commemorating
the contributions of Professor Kenneth O. May to the founding of the history
of mathematics as an academic discipline in Canada. I would like to begin
by reading from a part of a letter I wrote to his wife shortly after I learned
of his death:

> "Dear Mrs. May,
> On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Canadian Society
> for the History and Philosophy of Mathematics I would like to extend
> to you our deepest sympathy on the death of your husband Kenneth
> May. The news of his sudden death was a sad shock to us all and
> we shall greatly miss the guidance and inspiration he provided to
> the Society as a whole and its membership individually.
> Our Society was truly Ken's creation and I know that those who
> worked hardest with him in its establishment would be the first
> to acknowledge that without Ken the CSHPM would never have been
> founded.
>
> . . .
>
> May your sorrow be tempered by the realization that your late
> husband's work in the history of mathematics will continue to
> influence the development of that subject, both in Canada and
> abroad, for years to come.
>
> With heartfelt sympathy,
> J.L. Berggren"

I shall not attempt to comment on Ken's personality or what he meant to those who knew him best. This has been done already by those most competent to do so and I am sure Ken would approve to hear me refer you to the literature, particularly since "the literature" is Historia Mathematica, Vol. 5, No. 1.

We are all aware that the reason we are gathered in this room today is the foresight of Ken May. Early in the '70s he saw that if history and philosophy of mathematics were to flourish in Canada it had to be more than a program of research and teaching at the University of Toronto. At the same time his work in establishing the journal Historia Mathematica had shown him that there were people interested in the history and philosophy of mathematics from British Columbia to Newfoundland. Thus it was five years ago, at the Conference of Learned Societies in Kingston, a group of people met to realize Ken's planning and to found our Society.

The first business meeting was held at the C.L.S. in Toronto, 1974, and that year was an especially significant one for Ken's work. Not only did CSHPM emerge with its first slate of officers but in February of that year the first issue of Historia Mathematica appeared. Historia is an international journal but from the beginning it was rooted in Canada, and Ken's achievement in bringing Historia out of Canada may be compared to Mittag-Leffler's in producing Acta Mathematica in Stockholm. It was Ken who saw the advantages, to both parties, of a close association between Historia and CSHPM, and it was due to his initiative that we adopted Historia as our official journal.

Thus let us today pay tribute to his memory and in the days to come let us strive to carry on worthily the work that Ken began so well.

79.6. THE K.O. MAY LECTURE FUND

About one year ago, the K.O. May Lecture Fund was established to provide an endowment for a special lecture at each annual CSHPM meeting. Since then, 19 persons have contributed a total of $586.20. In addition, the Springer Publishing Company in New York has donated the exhibition copies of its books at the June, 1978 meeting; the proceeds from these will amount to an additional $200. However, even with this, the capital will be far too small to serve the purpose envisaged. Consequently, we are appealing to the mathematical and historical communities for further donations. Please make out cheques to the K.O.May Lecture Fund and send them to

P.C. Enros, Institute for the History and
Philosophy of Science and Technology,
University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1

79.7. MATHEMATICS OF THE NATIVE PEOPLE

On December 9 and 10, 1978, a conference on the History and Philosophy of Mathematics of the Native People was held at Champlain College, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario. The programme, arranged by Professor I.C. Chakravartty, was as follows:

Michael Closs (Ottawa): A survey of mathematical development in the New World.
James Dumont (Laurentian): The concept of space, time and number among native people.
Roy Wright (Trent): A typology of native numerical systems
Paul Campbell (Beloit College, Wisconsin): Symmetry patterns in

American Indian ceramics

Francine Vinette (Ottawa): Geometry in the site plans of Mesoamerican communities

79.8. PROJECT ON THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS IN CANADA

At its 1978 annual meeting the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Mathematics agreed to support a project to solicit and publish material on the history of mathematics as it relates specifically to Canada and/or Canadians. The project is envisaged as a 3 to 4 year effort which will result in the publication of a number of monographs, each containing several papers.

We are seeking material on the mathematics of the Indian and Inuit peoples as well as on the mathematics and mathematicians of the French and English regimes in Canada. We are interested in biographical data on prominent mathematicians who have contributed to the research and development of mathematics in Canada. Our interest extends to outstanding personalities who have been practioners of mathematics in the field of science and technology: engineers, surveyors, astronomers. Another broad area to be explored is mathematics education. Many educators have contributed greatly to the establishment of school systems and curricula which have influenced the direction and the level of mathematical culture in Canada. Some institutions also have played direct or indirect roles in the development of mathematics: National Research Council, Royal Society of Canada, Canadian Mathematical Congress, various mathematics teachers' organizations. There have also been developments in the application of mathematics to statistics, the actuarial sciences and computing which have taken place in the Canadian context. Finally, there are always gifted amateurs outside of the established groups who may have enlivened the mathematical scene in Canada.

Deadlines for the receipt of papers is at least 2 years away, but anyone who is interested in submitting a contribution is asked to write to the project director:

Dr. Michael P. Closs
Department of Mathematics
University of Ottawa
Ottawa, Ontario
K1N 9B4

If you have any suggestions concerning material to be included or individuals who should be approached for a contribution please contact us. All submitted papers will be subject to a refereeing process before being accepted for publication in the proposed monograph series. All participants in the project will be kept informed of its development by means of regular progress reports.

A comprehensive study of the history of mathematics in Canada makes a survey of existing source materials necessary. To support and to complement the history project we invite all members of the mathematical community to provide us with information concerning existing or planned collections of archival material which could possibly be of benefit to us. Communications about this aspect of the project should be directed to:

Dr. Viktors Linis
Department of Mathematics

University of Ottawa
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 9B4

79.8. Projet d'une histoire des mathématiques au Canada

Lors de sa rencontre annuelle de 1978, la Société Canadienne d'histoire et de philosophie des mathématiques a convenu d'appuyer un projet visant à solliciter et publier des articles sur l'histoire des mathématiques se rapportant spécifiquement au Canada et aux Canadiens. Le projet prévoit un effort de trois ou quatre ans pour aboutir à la publication d'un certain nombre de monographies contenant chacune plusieurs mémoires.

Nous recherchons des matériaux concernant les mathématiques des indiens et des inuits, ainsi que les mathématiques et mathématiciens sous les régimes français et anglais au Canada. Nous nous intéressons aux biographies des mathématiciens éminents qui ont contribué à la recherche et au développement des mathématiques au Canada. Notre intérêt s'étend aux personnalités marquantes ayant utilisé les mathématiques dans les sciences et la technique: ingénieurs, arpenteurs, astronomes. Un autre domaine à explorer est celui de l'enseignement des mathématiques. De nombreux éducateurs ont contribué à l'établissement de systèmes scolaires et de programmes qui ont influencé la direction et le niveau de la culture mathématique au Canada. Certaines institutions ont également joué un rôle direct ou indirect dans le développement des mathématiques: le Conseil National de Recherches, la Société Royale du Canada, la Société Mathématique du Canada, diverses associations d'enseignants. Certains développements dans les applications des mathématiques à la statistique, aux sciences actuarielles et à l'informatique ont eu lieu dans un contexte canadien. Enfin, il y a toujours des amateurs doués en dehors des groupes établis qui pourraient avoir animé la scène mathématique canadienne.

Nous sommes au moins à deux ans de la date limite pour la réception des mémoires, mais toute personne désirant soumettre un article est priée d'écrire au directeur du projet:

> Dr. Michael P. Closs
> Department of Mathematics
> University of Ottawa
> Ottawa, Ontario K1N 9B4

Veuillez prendre contact avec nous si vous avez des suggestions concernant la matière à inclure ou des personnes qui pourraient soumettre un article et avec qui nous devrions entrer en communication. Tour les mémoires présentés seront soumis à un arbitrage avant d'être acceptés pour la publication dans la série de monographies proposée. Tous les participants au projet seront tenus au courant de son développement par des rapports périodiques.

Une étude d'ensemble de l'histoire des mathématiques au Canada nécessite un inventaire des sources existantes. Pour soutenir et compléter ce projet d'histoire, nous prions tous les membres de la communauté mathématique de nous faire part de toute information concernant des archives existantes ou projetées qui pourrait nous être utile. Veuillez adresser toute communication concernant cet aspect du projet à:

> Dr. Viktors Linis
> Department of Mathematics
> University of Ottawa
> Ottawa, Ontario K1N 9B4

79.9.   CONFERENCE ON THE STUDY OF THE HISTORY OF CANADIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

This conference met on November 3-5 at Queen's University, Kingston. Organized
by N. Ball (Public Archives of Canada), C.E.S. Franks (Queen's U.), J.-C.
Guédon (U. Montréal), B. Sinclair (U.of T.), and A.W. Tickner (NRC), it was
a huge success with over 135 participants drawn from various academic fields,
education, archives, industry and government. A total of 26 papers were
delivered by invited speakers and commentators in the following sessions:
"What is Canadian about the History of Canadian Science and Technology?",
"Problems in the Study of the History of Canadian Science and Technology",
"Archival Resources: Opportunities and Potential in Existing Collections",
"Archives and the History of Canadian Science and Technology", "The History of
Medicine in Canada", "The History of Canadian Science and Technology in
Museology", "Teaching Materials: Availability and Needs","Course Organization
and Content", "Invention and Discovery", "Adaptation and Innovation",
"Institutional Framework for Development of Science and Technology".

Edited proceedings of the conference are to be published in 1979. One
outcome of the conference that may be of interest to members of the CSHPM
was the striking of a committee to investigate the production of teaching
modules for the history of Canadian science and technology. Some modules
that may be available in the next year are "Science Education", "Scientific
Organizations", and "Science et gouvernement au Quebec". Any suggestions
concerning topics and authors should be sent to the committee's secretary,
Professor R.A. Jarrell, Department of Natural Science, Atkinson College,
York University, Downsview, Ontario.

Philip C. Enros