

LMS NEWSLETTER

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BACKLOG SURVEY

The Council of the Society has decided to publish in the October Newsletter an annual survey of the backlogs of pure mathematics research journals in U.K. This will be compiled by Professor C. T. C.

Wall, and will take the same form as the annual statement by the American Mathematical Society.

D. A. BRANNAN

REFERENCES FOR RECENT LECTURES

Dr. C. Lance: A. Connes, Classification of automorphisms of hyperfinite factors of type II_1 and II_{∞} and application to type III factors (to appear). W. Krieger, On ergodic flows and the isomorphism of factors (to appear). E. Størmer, Entropy in finite factors, (to appear in Proc. Int. Cong. Math., Vancouver 1974).

Professor I. N. Sneddon: I. N. Sneddon, Mixed boundary value problems in potential theory, North Holland, 1966.

B. Ross (ed.), Proceedings of conference on fractional integration at Univ. of New Haven, 1974, Springer Lecture Notes series —to appear.

LIBRARIES

In the course of talking with colleagues around the country it has become clear to me that we are all coming under pressure, at some level or another, from University Librarians who are concerned to find out our priorities in regard to the journals we require. At the last meeting of Council of the Society, it was suggested that those of us who have had to draw up priority lists

of journals should consult with colleagues in neighbouring universities, so that we do not find ourselves in a position where we all cancel the same journals of possible minority interest. By exchanging such lists we might hope to minimize the effects of present economic pressures.

W. H. COCKCROFT

I.H.E.S.

The Science Research Council has, for the past few years, been giving support to the Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques at Bures-sur-Yvette near Paris, and it wishes to encourage British mathematicians to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by the I.H.E.S.

The Institute is located in a spacious park some twenty kilometres from Paris, in the vicinity of the Science Faculty of the University of Paris-Sud at Orsay. It provides scientists with offices, a lecture room, library, a small computer and a common room. There is also furnished housing available for about forty visitors and their families. So far there have been up to one hundred and twenty visitors per year from a wide variety of countries. Visits last from a few weeks to one year.

In order to give a vigorous and coherent structure to the activities of the I.H.E.S. the Director Professor Nicolaas Kuiper, advised by a scientific council, invites each

year men of very high calibre with various research interests. Together with the Institute's permanent professors (at present three mathematicians and two theoretical physicists) they determine by their interests, work and time of stay, the main research directions to be followed during the year.

At the present time the major areas of research are algebra and algebraic geometry, number theory, differential and algebraic topology and geometry; dynamical systems and differential equations and their singularities; statistical mechanics, the theory of elementary particles, and relativistic quantum field theory.

If you are interested in visiting the I.H.E.S. you should make a preliminary approach to Professor Kuiper. Further details are also available from the Secretary of the Mathematics Committee of the S.R.C.

D. A. BRANNAN

THE BRITISH NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR MATHEMATICS (BNC)

Organisation. International science is organised by I.C.S.U., the International Council of Scientific Unions. This has a number of adherent unions, including I.M.U., the International Mathematical union. Each Union is a union with participant countries: the participation being organised by a National Committee. In this country, these committees are co-ordinated by the Royal Society.

Functions. Up to date, the I.M.U.'s main activity has been the organisation of the quadrennial International Congresses. It also gives support to other international conferences (11 between 1970-74), has sponsored sets of 'Union Lectures', arranges exchange visits and is introducing a fellowship programme. Associated to it is I.C.M.I., the International Commission for Mathematical Instruction, which is holding an International Congress at Karlsruhe next year, and held successful regional meetings last year in Kenya and Japan. The B.N.C., and a subcommittee on Mathematical Instruction, receive reports from the international bodies, and can put up proposals to them. Last year we raised the problem of growing numbers of publications, and their cost: the I.M.U. could not agree whether there was a problem!

Finance. I.M.U. gets money from subscriptions from member nations (there are 5 different rates), and also U.N.E.S.C.O.

support through I.C.S.U.: the total, however, is fairly small. The B.N.C. makes recommendations to the Royal Society for money (from the annual government grant) to pay this subscription. It also disburses Royal Society money to pay part expenses of British mathematicians travelling to International Congresses.

Publications: *l'Enseignement Mathématique* (the official organ of I.C.M.I.; this is mostly mathematics); I.M.U. Bulletin (quadrennial report); I.M.U. Canberra Circular (mostly lists of forthcoming meetings), and I.C.M.I. Bulletins.

Membership. The I.M.U. President is D. Montgomery (U.S.A.); J. W. S. Cassels (U.K.) is a Vice-President. The I.C.M.I. Chairman is S. Iyanaga (Japan), who succeeded Sir James Lighthill. The current members of the B.N.C. are: C. A. Rogers (Chairman); Physical and Foreign Secretaries of the Royal Society, plus an I.M.U. representative (J. W. S. Cassels) (ex-officio); F. F. Bonsall, I. M. James and Sir James Lighthill (Royal Society); H. Halberstam, C. A. Rogers and C. T. C. Wall (L.M.S.); A. G. Mackie (E.M.S.); J. W. Hersee (Mathematical Association); W. N. Everitt (Royal Society of Edinburgh); J. H. Wilkinson (I.M.A.); R. L. Plackett (R.S.S.); J. V. Armitage (Chairman, Mathematical Instruction Subcommittee).

C. T. C. WALL

STOP PRESS

I.M.A. Symposium on Cosmology : 27 June, Burlington House, London.