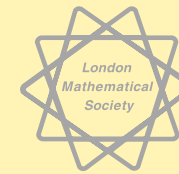


THE LONDON MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

No. 353 November 2006

Forthcoming Society Meetings

2006

Friday 17 November
AGM, London
Geometric Analysis
R. Hamilton
P. Topping
[page 3]

2007

Friday 9 February
London
P. Maini
A. Stevens
(Mary Carwright
Lecture)
[page 15]

Friday 20 April
Midlands Regional
Meeting
Loughborough
Y. Colin de Verdière
F. Kirwan
O. Viro

Wednesday 30 May
SW and South Wales
Regional Meeting,
Cardiff

Friday 22 June
London

Thursday 25 October
Northern Regional
Meeting, Sheffield

COUNCIL DIARY 13 October 2006

The table at October Council was decorated by an oriental carved wooden figure which had been presented to the Society at the recent International Congress of Mathematicians by the Cambodian Mathematical Society as a token of goodwill. Several officers and staff had represented the Society at the ICM and the Special Lectures, put on jointly by the Society and the Real Sociedad Matemática Española, had attracted a large audience.

Council were delighted to learn that Sir David Wallace, the new Director of the Isaac Newton Institute, had agreed to become Chair of the Council for the Mathematical Sciences (CMS). The CMS's objectives include providing a coherent voice for mathematical sciences to government and agencies, and a review in the light of the 2004 Smith report led to setting up an independent Chair and a permanent secretariat. The CMS will now consider its future operation and its linkage to its constituent societies, the LMS, the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications and the Royal

Statistical Society, and to other cognate bodies.

Council noted the CMS responses to several consultations, including the EPSRC's Strategy Consultation and the Royal Society call for evidence Science Higher Education in 2015 and Beyond. Council also received the responses of the LMS and CMS to the Department for Education and Skills' consultation Reform of Higher Education Research Assessment and Funding, both responses emphasising that a metric-based system is wholly inappropriate for mathematics.

Over lunch, Council members had a chance to meet Caroline Davis, the Society's Mathematics Policy and Promotion Officer. Since her appointment in August she has set up meetings with many media outlets, sent out several press releases and been involved in the publicity arrangements for events such as the More Maths Grads project. The Mathematics Promotion Unit also employed a summer vacation student to collect data on mathematics activity such as undergraduate numbers and school performance across the UK which will provide valuable evidence in future discussions with other bodies.

As usual at the October meeting, Council approved the accounts for the previous financial year. The accounts were in a different format from hitherto, conforming to the 2005 SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice) format now required by the Charity Commission. Council expressed its gratitude to the Treasurer, Nick Woodhouse, and Accounts Officer, Ephrem Belay, for their considerable work in the move over to this format. Council also approved the *Trustees' Report* in the form prescribed by the new rules. This legal document does not make light reading, so Council agreed to produce an *Annual Report of Activities* giving a more accessible account, which will be presented at the AGM, sent to departments and available on the Society's web pages.

Kenneth Falconer

THE TUCKER COLLECTION

Since January 1988 the *Newsletter* has featured photographs of the LMS Presidents, Honorary Members and most recently the De Morgan Medallists. So what next? Robert Tucker, who served as General Secretary from 1867 – 1902, collected photographs of mathematicians connected with the Society. This became known as the Tucker Collection. Aside from the LMS Presidents there are many photographs of the early members of the Society. You will now have the opportunity of seeing photographs of your predecessors from over a century ago, the founding members of your Society.

Susan Oakes
Administrative Editor

LMS AUTHOR AND REFEREE SURVEY

Many thanks to the thousand or so authors and referees who completed the survey connected to the *Bulletin*, *Journal* and *Proceedings* of the

LMS; and congratulations to Cherry Kearton of Durham, who won the prize draw. A large pile of OUP books should be in the post shortly.

LMS Newsletter

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LONDON MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

Friday 17 November 2006

3.15 – 3.30 Annual General Meeting (details page 4)

3.30 – 4.30 **Dr P. Topping (Warwick)**
*Ricci flow, entropy and
optimal transportation*

4.30 – 5.00 Tea

5.00 – 6.00 **Professor R. Hamilton (Columbia)**
The Ricci flow

The meeting will be held in the Chemistry Auditorium, Christopher Ingold Building, University College London, 20 Gordon Street, London WC1. Please note early start.

There are funds available to contribute in part to the expenses of members of the Society or research students to attend the meeting. Requests for support, including an estimate of expenses, may be addressed to the Programme Secretary at the Society (web: www.lms.ac.uk; email: grants@lms.ac.uk).

The meeting will be followed by the Annual Dinner. For further details see the announcement in this *Newsletter* (page 4). All enquiries may be addressed to Susan Oakes (tel: 020 7637 3686, email: oakes@lms.ac.uk).

WHAT HAPPENS AT YOUR AGM?

The Annual General Meeting of the London Mathematical Society will take place on Friday 17 November 2006 at 3.15 pm in the Chemistry Auditorium, University College London. At the AGM the following events will happen:

- Members bringing their ballot papers will have a last opportunity to vote.
- The Society's Treasurer, Professor N.M.J. Woodhouse, will present his report on the past year and invite questions.
- Copies of the Annual Report of Activities will be available.
- A list of nominations for election to membership to the Society will be submitted for approval by the meeting.
- Any member present who has paid his or her first subscription and not yet been admitted to the Society will have the opportunity to sign the Membership Book which dates back to the origin of the Society in 1865.
- The LMS President, Professor J.F. Toland, will present certificates to the 2006 Prizewinners. The Society 2006 Prizewinners were announced at the June Society meeting and published in the July *Newsletter*.
- Dr Peter Topping (Warwick), the first of two speakers at the Society Meeting, will give a talk on *Ricci flow, entropy and optimal transportation*.
- After the adjournment for tea, the scrutineers will declare the results of the ballot.
- This will be followed by Professor Richard Hamilton (Columbia) giving a talk on *The Ricci flow*.

The AGM will be followed by a reception at De Morgan House for those members attending the **Annual Dinner** at The Bonnington Hotel at 7.30 pm. The cost of the

Annual Dinner is £37.00 per person and members may book places for guests. The booking form, enclosed with the October *Newsletter*, should be returned together with payment to the London Mathematical Society office by **Monday 13 November**.

MORE MATHS GRADS

The LMS has welcomed a £3.3 million grant to increase the number of mathematical sciences graduates awarded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

The More Maths Grads project has four key objectives:

- Raising awareness of the wide range of career options open to graduates who have studied mathematics
- helping students enjoy mathematics while achieving their potential
- enabling teachers to stimulate their students to further study in mathematics
- reassessing and developing the mathematics curriculum for higher education

It will initially operate in three areas: in Yorkshire and Humberside, in the West Midlands and in London East in conjunction with the universities of Leeds (with Sheffield Hallam), Coventry and Queen Mary, University of London, respectively.

The grant was the result of a successful bid by a consortium of mathematical organisations: the LMS, the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, the Royal Statistical Society, the Heads of Departments of Mathematical Sciences and the Higher Education Academy – Mathematics, Statistics & Operational Research Network (MSOR). It will be managed by the University of Birmingham. The initial funding is for three years after which it is hoped that the project will be self-sustaining and extended to a further six areas.

Mathematics has been recognised as a strategically important and vulnerable subject by HEFCE. These subjects are deemed to require intervention to ensure there is not a mismatch between supply and demand. Other subjects such as chemistry, engineering, physics and modern languages have also received similar HEFCE support.

The projects website is: www.moremathsgrads.org.uk.

PROMOTING MATHEMATICS IN THE UK

The LMS's newest employee is hoping that she can provide a voice for the mathematics community in the UK. Caroline Davis, a former journalist, joined the Society's Mathematics Promotion Unit (MPU) at the end of August. In her role as Mathematics Policy and Promotion Officer, she will liaise with the press and policy makers on the issues affecting mathematics.

The MPU, which also receives funding from the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, was launched in 2004 in response to concerns about how mathematics is perceived by the public and policy makers. It will address issues such as the declining numbers of students carrying on mathematics after GCSE and then on into higher education. It also tries to tackle the problems in recruiting mathematics teachers and mathematics departments closing in our universities leaving mathematics 'deserts' in some parts of the country.

Caroline's job will be to promote mathematics education and mathematics research to the public and policy makers via the press and media. She plans to be able to provide information for anyone working on stories relating to mathematics, with access to comprehensive sets of data, case studies and contacts for the mathematical community.

To do this, Caroline will need to work closely with the mathematics community,

especially LMS members. She intends to meet as many members of the community as possible to build relationships, enabling a two-way flow of information. She welcomes any input from mathematicians and those who work around them, in particular:

- News of events
- Developments in the community
- Issues that should be brought to the attention of policy makers or the wider public
- Interesting research or case studies that could be made accessible and publicised to raise the profile of mathematics.

Caroline also plans to work with other organisations which use mathematics and are affected by the issues that affect mathematics. These may include scientific learned societies and lobby groups, but also could extend into the social sciences, industry and the business world.

Before joining the LMS, Caroline spent six years working as a reporter for the *Times Higher Education Supplement*. Reporting on science, technology, research policy and innovation, she gained a thorough understanding of the higher education system and many of the policy issues academics and their universities today face. She gained an MSc in Science Communication at Imperial College, London in 1999 and before that she worked in the IT industry. As an undergraduate, Caroline studied Mathematics and Philosophy at the University of Oxford.

The MPU works in close contact with the Society's work in education and with the IMA and the Royal Statistical Society (RSS), the Society's partners within the Council for the Mathematical Sciences (CMS).

Caroline is based at De Morgan House and works part-time. Please email her at caroline.davis@lms.ac.uk or telephone her on 020 7927 0804.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Subscription

The Society is appreciative of those members who have paid their 2006-07 subscriptions. May we remind those who have not yet paid, that subscriptions are due on **1 November 2006**. Prompt payment ensures continuity of publications and avoids the need for time-consuming reminders. If you have misplaced your renewal of subscription form (enclosed with your September Newsletter) contact the LMS office (email: membership@lms.ac.uk; tel: 020 7637 3686; fax: 020 7323 3656).

Donations

Council is grateful to members who responded to the Treasurer's request to consider making a donation together with payment of their LMS subscription. This will benefit the Society in its work in supporting mathematics. Every penny makes a vital difference, and the extra income generated by donations will enable the Society to maintain the level of grant funding it makes through its schemes and committees. By being a donor you are helping us to increase the Society's activities in education, in supporting mathematics in universities and fighting for research funding, so we are very grateful for your support.

HARDY LECTURER 2008

Nominations are sought for a Hardy Lecturer in 2008. The Hardy Lecturer will visit the UK for a period of about two weeks, and give the Hardy Lecture at a Society meeting, normally held in London in June. The Lecturer will also give at least two other lectures, on different topics, at other venues in the UK. The schedule will be decided by the Programme Secretary in consultation with the President and the Lecturer, and it will be designed to allow as many UK

mathematicians as possible to benefit from the Lecturer's presence in the UK.

The Lecturer shall be a mathematician who has not been normally resident in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for a period of at least five years, at the time of the award.

Grounds for the award of the Lectureship include:

- the achievements of the Lecturer, including work in, influence on, and general service to mathematics; lecturing gifts; and breadth of mathematical interests;
- the overall benefit the UK mathematical community might derive from the visit;
- the possibility of bringing to the UK a mathematician who might otherwise visit rarely or never.

The Lectureship is not restricted to mathematicians working in any specific area of mathematics. No person shall be awarded the Lectureship more than once. Previous lecturers have been:

Yuri Manin	Terence Tao
Alexander Its	Persi Diaconis
Dusa McDuff	Peter May

The LMS will pay all travel expenses for the Hardy Lecturer, together with initial and final travel expenses for a spouse or established partner. The host department(s) will be expected to provide office accommodation and the academic support normally offered to a distinguished visitor.

Nominations must have the support of the host department(s), and must be sent by the head of department to the Society's Executive Secretary, at the London Mathematical Society, De Morgan House, 57-58 Russell Square, London WC1B 4HS. In order to give time for a proper consideration of nominees, proposals should arrive by **Wednesday 31 January 2007**. The nominations will be considered by the 2007 Prizes Committee, who will bring a recommendation to Council in May 2007.



springer.com

Classics in Mathematics



Multidimensional Diffusion Processes

D. W. Stroock, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, USA;
S.R.S. Varadhan, New York University, NY, USA

From the reviews ▶ This book is an excellent presentation of the application of martingale theory to the theory of Markov processes, especially multidimensional diffusions. ... ▶ *Mathematische Operationsforschung und Statistik*

Reprint of the 1st ed. Berlin Heidelberg New York 1979, 2006. XII, 338 p. Hardcover
ISBN 3-540-28998-4 ▶ € 39,95 | £30,50

Entropy, Large Deviations, and Statistical Mechanics

R. S. Ellis, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, USA

From the reviews ▶ ... Besides the fact that the author's treatment of large deviations is a nice contribution to the literature on the subject, his book has the virtue that it provides a beautifully unified and mathematically appealing account of certain aspects of statistical mechanics. ... Furthermore, he does not make the mistake of assuming that his mathematical audience will be familiar with the physics and has done an admirable job of explaining the necessary physical background. ... ▶ *D. Stroock in Mathematical Reviews* 1985

Reprint of the 1st ed. Springer-Verlag New York 1985, 2006. XIV, 364 p. Softcover
ISBN 3-540-29059-1 ▶ € 39,95 | £ 30,50

The Analysis of Linear Partial Differential Operators II Differential Operators with Constant Coefficients

L. Hörmander, University of Lund, Sweden

Vol. II of Lars Hörmander's 4-volume treatise is mainly devoted to operators with constant coefficients.

Reprint of the 1st ed. Berlin Heidelberg New York 1983, 2005. VIII, 392 p. Softcover
ISBN 3-540-22516-1 ▶ € 39,95 | £ 30,50

Complex Manifolds and Deformation of Complex Structures

K. Kodaira

From the reviews ▶ The author, ... has written a book which will be of service to all who are interested in this by now vast subject. ... This is a book of many virtues: mathematical, historical, and pedagogical. Parts of it could be used for a graduate complex manifolds course ▶ *J.A. Carlson in Mathematical Reviews*, 1987

Reprint of the 1st ed. Berlin Heidelberg New York 1986, 2005. XIV, 465 p. Softcover
ISBN 3-540-22614-1 ▶ € 39,95 | £30,50

Interacting Particle Systems

T. M. Liggett, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, USA

Reprint of the 1st ed. Berlin Heidelberg New York 1985, 2005. XIX, 496 p. Softcover
ISBN 3-540-22617-6 ▶ € 39,95 | £ 30,50

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NEXT STEPS INITIATIVE

The councils of the IMA and the LMS have established a Joint Planning Group to prepare detailed plans for the possible unification of the two societies.

The first meeting of the Group took place on 24 May 2006 at De Morgan House, and was attended by representatives from the two societies including the two presidents. At this meeting three themes were chosen for preliminary discussion and development. They were: Vision and Mission, Constitution, and Membership Structure. Working parties were set up to investigate these themes, using the Frameworks Report and other material, and to produce draft documents.

A further meeting took place on 18 July 2006 at De Morgan House. The main business was a detailed consultation with Keith Lawrey from the Foundation for Science and Technology. Mr Lawrey began by saying that he understood the thinking behind a merger, and could see only benefit from it. The amalgamation of the two societies would create a larger and therefore more influential organisation. The new organisation would need a new charter and by-laws, which could be quite short, with the majority of the details in the regulations. The clauses of the charter would contain the principles of the society that apply to the outside world and the by-laws would contain principles that apply internally. The charter and by-laws would need to be approved by the Privy Council, but the regulations would not.

In his opinion, incorporation by Royal Charter confirmed that the Privy Council viewed an organisation as the leading body in its field. The Privy Council favours societies that support a subject and regulate the profession. He pointed out that a society that is solely concerned with offering services to its members is likely to find it hard to satisfy the new charity laws that are currently going through parliament. However, it was considered that because of its service to mathemat-

ics and the wider community of users, and its active role in supporting mathematics education, a merged society should have no difficulty in retaining the charitable status that the two societies presently hold.

It was noted that a Chartered designation can only be awarded by a society if the power to do so is provided within its Royal Charter. The Privy Council requires confirmation that the society is setting professional standards and promoting continuing professional development. It was also noted that, although a unified society should apply for the right to grant the CMath designation, there would be no pressure on its members to adopt this designation.

The proposed structure of the new Society is based on a framework in which there is one council, and one set of governing documents. Thus it is likely that both the LMS and IMA would have to surrender their charters in due course. The size of the governing body, and its extent to which it might delegate some of its powers was discussed at length. Keith Lawrey's opinion was that there is a trend towards smaller bodies, but most of those present considered that there is a need for wider representation.

A further meeting of the Joint Planning Group was held on 19 September 2006. At this meeting draft papers on the themes of Vision and Mission, Constitution, and Membership Structure were discussed. It was agreed that these papers should be revised in the light of the views expressed at the meeting, and they should form the basis of a report to the Councils of the two societies. The report will not make final proposals, but will instead focus attention on the questions that have arisen in the Group's discussions. It is hoped that the Councils will give guidance on the direction of further work, and the mechanisms for consultation with the members of both societies.

A further report will be prepared after the Councils have given their views.

Norman Biggs (LMS)
Charles Evans (IMA)

Personal Views

Over the last couple of years the *Newsletter* has tried to keep members informed about the ongoing formal discussions between the LMS and IMA. The Frameworks Study Initiative (FSI), as it was called prior to publication of its report, offered an overview of the issues concerning closer links between the two Societies and set out several possible models for their convergence. After due consideration, Councils of both Societies endorsed the setting up of a Joint Planning Group (JPG) to 'prepare detailed plans for a route to unification of the IMA and LMS, based on the lines of the inverted Y- framework described in the FSI Report (April 2005).' The JPG is now hard at work developing the plans which address the 'core' issues (vision and mission of the new body; constitution; membership) and will report back to Councils in November 2006. Subsequent 'fleshing-out' of details on matters such as support for research, financial structure and publishing will be completed prior to March 2008.

Many members may have had only a tangential interest in the FSI report, and in the present Next Steps Initiative, and may worry that the process is proceeding without enough discussion or consultation. It is very important that the members of both Societies feel that issues are debated openly, and that reservations and anxieties are addressed fully.

Stephen Huggett (University of Plymouth) writes:

The LMS and the IMA should of course work together: anything else would be folly. In our responses to various government consultations, and in our interactions with funding or research councils, we have been doing just that.

But I do not think that the two societies should merge. They are quite different, because they come from quite distinct communities. Our successful collaboration on some things should not blind us to that.

The LMS is very good at its learned society work. Its publishing is of extremely high quality, and its grants schemes give crucial support to mathematics research which is simply not available elsewhere. These schemes have high success rates and little bureaucracy, for small but useful amounts of money. They have focused particularly, but not exclusively, on research into mathematics itself. I don't think anybody doubts the value of interdisciplinary research: the benefits both ways, especially for example in physics or computer science, are enormous. But there are those who appear not to value the heart of our subject, academic mathematics.

It is very clear that LMS members regard these two activities, publishing and grant giving, as of the highest importance. How would a merger treat them? Nobody knows for how long the current business model in publications will work, but the most important aspect here is reputation: any change of name or image could do irreparable harm.

Our grant schemes have also been under pressure, even before any merger. Ten years ago the LMS spent a little more on grants than on administration. Now it spends more than twice as much on administration as on grants. A merger would surely not help mathematicians to resist this slide into bureaucracy.

Also, a merged society would have a far wider membership, and in general the former IMA members will have different priorities. The current focus of our grant schemes is bound to shift, regardless of proposals to safeguard it. Once lost, it is hard to see how this would ever be regained.

Some of our increased administration has arisen because we do more lobbying and responding to consultations. It is clearly necessary to do what we can, here, but we should be realistic about what can be achieved in this way. The 'single voices' in physics and chemistry have not been able to halt the collapse of science education.

It is even more clear that when we agree with other societies (such as the IMA and the RSS) we should work with them. But why merge? It is argued that a 'single voice' would be more effective. I am not convinced: we would be reducing the number of mathematical voices by one, not to one.

The current strengths of the LMS are highly valued by our community, and must be protected. Undoubtedly the same can be said for the IMA and its community (there are not very many people in both). This is as it should be: the two societies should continue to do what they do best, and collaborate on areas of shared interest.

David Abrahams (University of Manchester) writes:

I have been fortunate in being involved with both LMS and IMA over the last few years and have observed at Council level the activities and goals of these organisations. It was David Crighton who invited me to become involved with IMA, skilfully arguing that practising mathematicians outside academe need a professional society to help maintain standards, and by corollary the academic community can benefit from this link by having an input on many important external issues, such as the training and qualification of mathematics school teachers. He also believed passionately that mathematics is severely hampered by not having a single voice; despite his many roles, David did not feel that he had a mandate from the broader mathematics community. Tragically, illness prevented David Crighton from becoming President of LMS, but his efforts did help to create the Council for the Mathematical Sciences (CMS). This umbrella grouping aims to unite the community in its lobbying efforts, but most would agree that it is a stop-gap measure for IMA/LMS activities in this direction.

Apart from the professional side of the IMA, I have found its activities to be remark-

ably similar to those of the LMS. Its core focus is to support and enhance the (applied) mathematics community. It does this through a variety of activities, including the publication of six journals (which, like LMS, provides a substantial income for the Society), conference organization, BAMC support and a modest grant scheme. Both societies also expend much of the energies of their Officers and administration on mathematics education, careers, mathematics promotion and lobbying of one form or another. The LMS and IMA have made a good start in ensuring that these activities produce outputs that are consistent; however, replication could be avoided and significant economies of scale obtained if they combined.

The key anxiety for all LMS members is surely that a merger may result in the loss of the services, traditions and status of this remarkable Society. I, and many others, believe that unification will actually strengthen the core activities of LMS; the existing societies cannot, in their present forms, adequately deal with the many issues, pressures and constraints facing the academic community. These include significant changes in charity law, uncertainty in journals subscriptions and revenue, full economic costing (FEC) of academic time etc. It is a valuable exercise to look at the mergers of other academic societies, to see what the benefits or disadvantages are likely to be. Perhaps the best to study is the Institute of Physics, which came into being in 1960 (Royal Charter 1970) from the Physical Society (founded 1874) and the Institute of Physics (founded 1921). It is a highly successful organisation, attracting very high membership percentages from both inside and outside academe. British universities are unique in being populated by a very diverse range of mathematicians; we need a London Mathematical Society that caters for all their interests and needs, and that aims to be successful in attracting every mathematician to membership.

TONY CORNER

Anthony Leonard Southern (Tony) Corner died suddenly on 3 September 2006, aged 72. He had been a member of the London Mathematical Society since 1960 and served as a member of Council and as Assistant Editor of the *Proceedings*.

His early childhood was spent in Shanghai, China, part of the time in a Japanese prisoner of war camp. On returning to England he took undergraduate and postgraduate degrees at Cambridge where his PhD supervisor was Christopher Zeeman. Although his initial studies were in topology, Tony quickly switched to algebra and rapidly became a leading authority on abelian groups. His early work on realizing rings as endomorphism rings was to have a profound influence on the development of the area. His ability to produce groups with 'pathological' direct decompositions was legendary, his favourite being a group which is isomorphic to its direct cube but not to its square.

Tony spent most of his working life at Worcester College, Oxford where he worked tirelessly to encourage more women to study mathematics. His lecture notes to undergraduates were a model of precision and many handwritten copies are still carefully filed away in mathematics departments across the country. On retirement Tony moved to Exeter where he maintained some contact with the Department of Mathematics. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth.

Brendan Goldsmith writes: I was a graduate student of Tony Corner in Oxford in the early seventies. Tony was legendary for his refusal to publish anything that he considered less than perfect, with the result that he had a vast collection of important results which were frequently referenced (by him and others) as 'in preparation'. Tony was a cultured and erudite man with a huge range of interests. He enriched the lives of many of us; I shall miss him sorely.

ZALMAN RUBINSTEIN

Professor (emeritus) Zalman Rubinstein (University of Haifa) who was elected a member of the London Mathematical Society on 21 June 1973, died on 7 September 2006. Born in Warsaw, Poland, on 14 June 1933, he completed his PhD under Mishael Zedek at the University of Maryland in 1962, was a Research Fellow at Harvard (1962-65), taught at Clark University (1965-72), and at the University of Haifa (1972-2006), with visiting positions at Carnegie-Mellon, University of Michigan, University of Colorado and University of Tel-Aviv. Zalman's area of research was complex analysis, with a special interest in the zeros of real and complex polynomials; he wrote over 30 papers on this subject.

He served as chairman of the Department of Mathematics at Clark University (1967-69), Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences & Mathematics at University of Haifa (1975-77), and was chairman of the Faculty association at University of Haifa (1974-1975). Zalman Rubinstein was President of the Israel Mathematical Union in 1974-76.

LMS INVITED LECTURES

10-14 April 2007, Oxford

David Ben-Zvi
(University of Texas, Austin)
The Geometric Langlands
Correspondence

For further information see
www.maths.ox.ac.uk/~szendroi/langlands.html
or contact Balázs Szendroi
(szendroi@maths.ox.ac.uk).

LEVERHULME TRUST AWARDS 2006

The following mathematicians have been awarded fellowships by the Trustees of the Leverhulme Trust, under Schemes administered by their Research Awards Advisory Committee.

Research Fellowships

- Frank Ball (Professor of Applied Probability) University of Nottingham *Stochastic modelling in the biomedical sciences*
- Simon Chandler-Wilde (Professor of Applied Mathematics, University of Reading) *Scattering by unbounded surfaces*
- Holger Dullin (Senior Lecturer in Applied Mathematics, Loughborough University) *Bifurcations in volume preserving maps*
- Paul Flavell (Senior Lecturer in Mathematics, University of Birmingham) *Automorphisms of finite groups*
- Peter Friz (University Lecturer in Mathematics, University of Cambridge) *Stochastic processes and rough path theory*
- Michael Ruzhansky (Lecturer, Department of Mathematics, Imperial College London) *Global smoothing properties of Schrödinger equations*
- Ana Sendova-Franks (Senior Lecturer in Statistics, University of the West of England, Bristol) *The collective intelligence of movement in ants*
- André Sonnet (Lecturer, Department of Mathematics, University of Strathclyde) *Computational fluid dynamics of liquid crystals*
- Michael Tretyakov (Professor in Mathematics, University of Leicester) *Stochastic numerics: Wiener integrals and SPDEs*

Early Career Fellowship

Youra Taroyan (Department of Mathematics, University of Sheffield) *New challenges and prospects in diagnostics and modeling of the solar coronal plasma*

For further information about the Leverhulme awards visit www.leverhulme.ac.uk/grants.

OLGA TAUSSKY TODD LECTURE

The Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM) and the European Women in Mathematics (EWM) together with the organizers of the ICIAM 2007 Congress, announce the Olga Taussky Todd Lecture, to be awarded at the ICIAM 2007 Congress in Zürich. This honour is to be conferred to a woman who has made outstanding contributions in applied mathematics and/or scientific computation. The name of this lecture pays tribute to the memory of Olga Taussky Todd, whose scientific legacy is in both theoretical and applied mathematics, and whose work exemplifies the qualities to be recognized.

The nomination packet consists of two pages: The first is a description of the work and an explanation of why the individual is being nominated for this prize. The second is a brief CV for the nominee. Nomination packets may be sent electronically to bkeyfitz@fields.utoronto.ca by **8 November 2006**. The selection process will be conducted by the Olga Taussky Todd Prize Committee, chaired by Barbara Lee Keyfitz. While all nominees will be seriously considered, special consideration will be given for the first prize award in 2007 to candidates whose work is in one of the areas of Olga Taussky Todd's research: applications of number theory, linear algebra or numerical analysis. See also the EWM website www.math.helsinki.fi/EWM/ott-lecture.html for further information.

SET AWARDS

Mathematicians made an impressive debut at this year's SET (Science, Engineering and Technology) Student of the Year awards.

The awards are run by the World Leadership Forum. In the nine years since they began, this was the first year that a category for mathematics students was included. But the success of the mathematicians did

not stop here – the winner of the Best Mathematics Student Award also walked away with the SET Student of the Year award. And his tutor, a member of the LMS, took the Lecturer of the Year Award.

The mathematics judges, nominated by the LMS and the IMA, were Alan Camina (University of East Anglia), Neil Challis (Sheffield Hallam University), Nigel Steele (Coventry University) and David Stirling (University of Reading).

All three short-listed projects were deemed to be outstanding, well beyond what would normally be expected from students on a three-year mathematics course. But after interviewing the candidates, the judges felt that the personal characteristics of the student, such as ability to communicate their work, were also important. The final criterion for judging the award was most likely to make the best ambassador for the discipline'.

After a significant debate, they conferred the award on Gabriel Keeble-Gagnère who studied mathematics and computer science at Imperial College, London, for his work on *Simple Groups*. Lynda White, senior tutor at Imperial's Department of Mathematics, was awarded Lecturer of the Year.

The judges were pleasantly surprised at how well the mathematics candidates were received and would like to encourage more entries – from students in mathematics, statistics and operational research – next year.

THE ABEL PRIZE 2007 Call for Nominations

The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters is calling for nominations of candidates for the Abel Prize 2007. The Abel Prize, which was awarded for the first time in 2003, amounts to NOK 6 million (approximately €750,000). It is an international prize for outstanding scientific work in the field of mathematics, including mathematical aspects of computer science, mathe-

matical physics, probability, numerical analysis and scientific computing, statistics, and also applications of mathematics in the sciences.

The prize is to recognize contributions to mathematics and its applications of extraordinary depth and influence. Such work may have resolved fundamental problems, created powerful new techniques, introduced unifying principles or opened up major new areas. The intent is to award prizes over the course of time in a wide range of areas of mathematics and its applications. The Abel Committee will submit a recommendation of a candidate for the Abel Prize to the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, which will select the Abel laureate on the basis of this recommendation. The name of the Abel laureate will be announced in March 2007.

The nomination letter should contain a CV and a description of the candidate's work, together with names of distinguished specialists in the field of the nominee who can be contacted for independent opinion. The letter should be sent, no later than **15 November 2006**, to The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, Drammensveien 78, NO-0271 Oslo, Norway. It is also possible to nominate candidates by using the online submission form (www.abelprisen.no).

SYLVESTER MEDAL

The Royal Society 2006 Sylvester Medal has been awarded to Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, Bt, KBE, FRS for his fundamental work in arithmetic geometry and his many contributions to the theory of ordinary differential equations. The Sylvester Medal is awarded triennially by the Royal Society for the encouragement of mathematical research. It is named after James Joseph Sylvester (1814-1897), who was Savilian Professor of Geometry, Oxford, in the 1880s.

NEWS FROM THE IMU

IMU General Assembly

The 15th General Assembly of IMU was held in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, from 19-20 August. There were 133 delegates and 20 observers, from 64 countries.

The GA approved a budget for the coming years that will allow IMU to keep up its work through its commissions and committees. In particular IMU can continue to strengthen its work in support of developing countries. The GA also approved the amended statutes, as proposed by the EC. The main novelty is the creation of a new membership category, associate membership, to make it easier for new, in particular developing, countries to become members. Associate members pay no dues and have no voting rights, but are expected to apply for ordinary membership within 4-8 years. See www.mathunion.org/Organization/Statutes2006.pdf.

A new nomination procedure for the elections to the EC and the commissions were approved. Also, it was decided to increase the number of ordinary members of the EC from five to six. Laszlo Lovasz was elected as the new president of IMU for the period 2007-2010. The full results of the elections, the presentations from the commissions, and the Resolutions passed by the GA can be found at www.mathunion.org/Organization/GA.html.

The next General Assembly will be held in Bangalore, India, from 16-17 August 2010, and ICM 2010 will be held in Hyderabad, India, in the period 19-27 August 2010.

(See October Newsletter, pp 15-16, for LMS report on IMU GA.)

Committee on Electronic Information and Communication (CEIC)

Members of the CEIC, John Ewing, Martin Groetschel, Peter Michor and Alf van der Poorten, provided a detailed report to the GA of the IMU at Santiago de Compostela, emphasising both the failures and successes of the first eight years of the activities of the Committee (see www.ceic.math.ca/Publications/Reports/GA06).

Although the Committee is charged by the Executive Committee to advise on all matters of Information and Communication, an overriding motive behind the formation of the CEIC at Dresden, 1998 was, and remains, the ever increasing cost of academic journals. At the GA, I had to remind delegates that useful statements on that matter may be found at www.ceic.math.ca/News/IMUonWeb.shtml#CEIC1 and the link there to www.ceic.math.ca/Publications/Recommendations/Journalprices.

The GA formally endorsed the CEIC statement 'Digital Mathematical Library: a vision for the Future' and adopted the CEIC recommendation 'Some Best Practices for Retrodigitisation', declaring it did so 'with the ultimate goal of creating an enduring network of digital mathematical literature'; see the links at www.ceic.math.ca/.

What is MathML? Why should we care? No doubt it's some mathematicalization of the 'ht' in html; that seems worth caring about. An information article *The present and future of MathML*, written by CEIC member David Morrison, is currently in preparation and will soon be available on the CEIC pages.

Alf van der Poorten
CEIC member

ICM 2006

2006 will go down in the history of Spanish mathematics as the year in which our dreams became a reality. We are a community with a short history, but one eager to form part of the international community, and the ICM 2006 has provided us with the possibility of fulfilling that desire.

On a domestic level, the ICM 2006 in Madrid has been a collective effort, co-ordinated by the Spanish mathematical societies through the committee (www.ce-mat.org/) representing them at the IMU. It has fulfilled its aim of contributing to the internal vertebrae of our mathematical community.

Furthermore, this ICM and the General Assembly in Santiago de Compostela have helped to increase our involvement in the

tasks of the IMU, as well as making the IMU better known to Spanish mathematicians. In addition, it has been an experience that young Spanish mathematicians will never forget.

One of our greatest concerns was to meet the expectations that the IMU had placed in us by entrusting us with the organization of this outstanding event. We are proud not to have let them down and we are grateful to the IMU for having provided us with this opportunity.

This ICM 2006 will undoubtedly be remembered for the extraordinary attention it has received from the media. Some external factors contributed to this success, among them the presence of His Majesty the King of Spain and the expectation aroused by the award of the Fields Medals. However, we must not forget that the Press Office spent a year preparing for the congress and that an important part of the budget was devoted to this end. The results are there for all to see, and have opened up ways of transmitting mathematics to the public at large through the different media. For two weeks in our country people from different walks of life spoke about mathematics, while we mathematicians ourselves became something near and friendly.

The organization of any ICM is a highly complex undertaking that is beset by pitfalls. If I had to offer any advice to the organizers of future ICMs, I would suggest they choose a good team of collaborators, since it is impossible to carry out such an undertaking without this support. I would also advise them to approach the task with boldness and optimism. Four long (or short?) years of intense dedication awaits them, but I can assure them that the results are worthwhile.

The ICM 2006 has come to an end, and on behalf of the Organizing Committee I would like to thank all those who have helped to make it a reality: the participants, the members of the IMU, the sponsors, and the media representatives. Our greatest satisfaction consists in having upheld the founding spirit

of the congress by helping to bring mathematicians from all fields together to discuss their work.

The doors of our country remain open to all our new mathematical friends. Hasta pronto!

Manuel de León
President of the Organizing
Committee of ICM 2006

Third World Academy of Sciences

Jacob Palis has been elected President of the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). See www.ictp.trieste.it/~twas/pub/2006-09-04_Palis.html.

Kyoto Prize

The Kyoto Prize for the Basic Sciences Category was awarded to Dr Hirotugu Akaike (Japan) for major contribution to statistical science and modeling with the development of the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC). For more information, see www.inamori-f.or.jp/laureates/k22_b_hirotougu/prs_e.html.

The above items are taken from the 19th issue of the IMU electronic newsletter IMU-Net (see www.mathunion.org/Publications/Newsletter).

LMS MARY CARTWRIGHT LECTURE

Friday 9 February 2007
University College London

Philip K. Maini (Oxford)

Mary Cartwright Lecture
A. Stevens (Leipzig)

There are limited funds available to contribute in part to the expenses of members of the Society or research students to attend the meeting. Contact Isabelle Robinson (robinson@lms.ac.uk) for further information.

RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETINGS

ORDINARY MEETING

held on *Friday 25 August 2006* at the Palacio Municipal de Congresos, Madrid, during the International Congress of Mathematicians. At least 150 members and guests were present.

The meeting of Special Lectures arranged by the London Mathematical Society and the Real Sociedad Matemática Española began at 6.00 pm, chaired by Professor J.F. TOLAND, FRS, FRSE, President of the London Mathematical Society, and Professor C. ANDRADAS, President of the Real Sociedad Matemática Española.

The LMS President presented certificates to two of the 2005 Whitehead Prize winners: Professor Ben Green and Dr Peter Topping.

Five people were elected to Ordinary Membership: M.M.I.T. Bugatma, T.D.H. Hall, D. Stark, G. Williams, G. Yendall; two were elected to Associate Membership: E. Hadra, R.P. Turner; and two were elected Members under Reciprocity Agreements: R. Castano-Bernard (Amer. Math. Soc.), A.T. Lau (Amer. Math. Soc.).

In the absence of the Membership Book, for security restrictions, seven members signed a sheet which was to be taken back to the UK and incorporated into the Membership Book.

The RSME President awarded the 2005 José Luis Rubio de Francia Prize for young mathematicians to Dr Javier Parcet.

Professor E. REES introduced a lecture given by Professor R. Bryant on *Aufwiedersehen surfaces, revisited*.

Professor A. CAMPILLO introduced a lecture given by Professor G. Toussaint on *Musical rhythm and computational mathematics*.

After the meeting, the London Mathematical Society held a reception for its members and guests which provided an opportunity for overseas members to meet other members of the Society. There were 120 members and guests present, including representatives of many other mathematical societies, members of the IMU Executive Committee, and a Fields medallist. Professor Toland gave a warm welcome to all.

LMS MEETING AT THE ICM 2006

The very well attended meeting of the LMS at the ICM in Madrid on Friday 25 August 2006 took the form of a joint meeting with the Real Sociedad Matemática Española. It started with the traditional LMS business, followed by RSME business. The LMS President, John Toland, presented certificates to two of the 2005 Whitehead Prize winners: Professor Ben Green and Dr Peter Topping. The RSME President, Professor Carlos Andradas, awarded the 2005 José Luis Rubio de Francia Prize for young mathematicians to Dr Javier Parcet. The main session, consisting of two lectures, followed.

The first lecture was by Robert Bryant, who recalled the idea of an *Aufwiedersehen* surface. These are surfaces with a Riemannian metric in which people setting out from one point and following geodesics in all directions say *Aufwiedersehen* and eventually meet up again, rather like passing from North to South poles on the standard sphere. He led us through some interesting constructions, and finished by discussing related ideas involving Finsler geometry, where the local metric can have asymmetric features. This was illustrated with the geometry derived from moving across a river in the presence of a current.

The second lecture, by Godfried Toussaint on *Musical rhythm and computational math-*

ematics was also illustrated, this time with sound tracks as well as visuals. He gave an entertaining account of the analysis of rhythms with five beats in a 16 beat cycle, covering samba and rumba among others. After suggesting how to measure distance between rhythms he finished with the identification of salsa as playing a near-central role among them.

The reception for members and guests following the meeting was notable for the admired ability of the President to balance on a precarious table so that his speech of welcome could be heard by all. Both the meeting and reception were appreciated by the audience.

H.R. Morton
University of Liverpool



Robert Bryant



Godfried Toussaint



VISIT OF DR G. MIERMONT

Dr Gregory Miermont (CNRS, Universite Paris Sud) is visiting UK from 30 September – 15 December, during which time he will be based in Cambridge. Dr Miermont will lecture on *Discrete fragmentation trees and their continuum asymptotics* at:

- University of Cambridge, Centre for Mathematical Sciences, 14 November, 2pm, contact James Norris (j.r.norris@statslab.cam.ac.uk).
- University of Bath, Department of Mathematical Sciences, 22 November, 11.15am, contact Alexander Cox (A.M.G.Cox@bath.ac.uk)

For further information contact Dr James Norris (J.R.Norris@statslab.cam.ac.uk). This visit is supported by an LMS Scheme 2 grant.

SURVEYS FOR ALL

A one-day workshop on using questionnaires to gather reliable data will be held on Wednesday 22 November from 10.00 – 16.00 in the Hardy Room at De Morgan House, London. Surveys are universally accepted for gathering a variety of data, yet how questionnaires are written and structured can have a dramatic effect upon the survey data and the response rate. The purpose of this one-day event, organised and facilitated by the Maths, Stats & OR Network, is to share and disseminate good practice in creating questionnaires for a variety of different purposes.

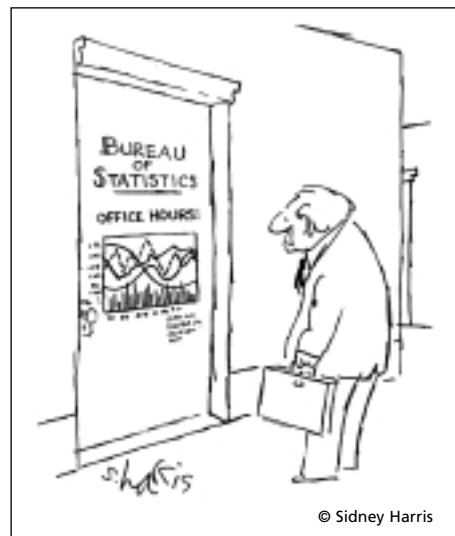
The workshop will be split into two distinct sections. The morning session will introduce good practice in producing reliable questionnaires and will provide examples of a variety of recently conducted surveys upon which participants may build. The afternoon will provide participants with the opportunity to develop their own questionnaires and will introduce an online system to assist with their delivery. The workshop will consist of an interactive element and participants are

encouraged to bring with them a survey idea which will form the basis of creating their own questionnaire.

This workshop will be appropriate to anyone involved in the use of questionnaires to gather data at any level, be they academic members of staff, postgraduate students, or Higher Education Academy Subject Centre staff. As this workshop will use online technologies, participants are asked, where possible, to bring with them a wireless enabled laptop.

This workshop is available free of charge to postgraduate students, subject centre staff and members of the UK Higher Education Community. Others may wish to attend at the special rate of £120. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Preliminary demand is high so you are advised to book early. To register for this event, please visit www.mathstore.ac.uk/workshops/surveys4all.

For enquiries, please contact the workshop organisers Bradley Payne (Bradley.Payne@ntu.ac.uk) or Michael Grove (M.J.Grove@bham.ac.uk).



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BAMC 2007

The 49th British Applied Mathematics Colloquium (BAMC) will be held at the University of Bristol 17-19 April 2007. Details of the meeting format, venue etc can be found at www.bristol.ac.uk/bamc2007/, which will be updated throughout the coming months. For further information (including suggestions for minisymposia) please contact the colloquium Co-Chairs, John Hogan (s.j.hogan@bristol.ac.uk) or Rich Kerswell (R.R.Kerswell@bristol.ac.uk).

21ST CENTURY MATHEMATICS

The School of Mathematical Sciences, G.C University, Lahore, is organizing the 3rd International Conference on *21st Century Mathematics* 2007 from 4-7 March 2007 in Lahore, Pakistan. The conference is to provide a forum for researchers, educators, and decision makers around the world to present their results and exchange ideas and information in their latest developments in all areas of Mathematics. The conference will cover a broad range of topics in Mathematical research. The topics include, but are not limited to: Pure mathematics, Applied mathematics, Computational mathematics, Actuarial mathematics, Industrial mathematics, Mathematics for information technology. The keynote speakers are:

- D.K. Arrowsmith (Queen Mary, University of London, UK)
- M.M. Deza (Ecole Normale Superieure, France)
- C.G. Gibson (University of Liverpool, UK)
- S. Glasby (Central Washington University, USA)
- A. Laptev (Royal Institute of Technology KTH, Stockholm)
- J. Leiterer (Humboldt University, Germany)
- D.A. Leites (Max Planck Institute for Mathematics, Germany)
- D. Popescu (University of Bucharest, Romania)

- C.E. Praeger (University of Western Australia)
- J. Seade (UNAM, Mexico)
- E. Tri Baskoro (Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia)
- T. Zamfirescu (University of Dortmund, Germany)

The conference is supported by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. All the foreign participants will be provided free accommodation on behalf of the organizing committee. For further information contact conference convener Professor A.D.R Choudary (Choudary@cwu.edu) or Conference Chairman: Dr Faqir M. Bhatti (fmbhatti@lums.edu.pk). The conference website is <http://wc2007.sms.edu.pk>.

KHOVANOV HOMOLOGY FOR KNOTS AND LINKS

A workshop on Khovanov homology for knots and links will take place from 1-2 December at the University of Liverpool. The aim is to bring together researchers and graduate students working in algebraic, geometric and low-dimensional topology for a workshop concentrating on the link homology theories pioneered by M. Khovanov over the last few years. The workshop will begin with introductory lectures aimed at non-experts and particularly suitable for graduate students. Following this there will be a number of research level talks. Speakers include:

- C. Blanchet (Université de Bretagne-Sud)
- H. Morton (Liverpool)
- A. Shumakovitch (George Washington University)
- I. Smith (Cambridge)
- P. Turner (Heriot-Watt)
- O. Viro (Uppsala)

For further information and registration details please consult the webpage www.math.wisc.edu/~paul/WKH.html. The organisers hope to be able to provide some financial support for UK-based graduate students.

PACIFIC RIM CONFERENCE

The City University of Hong Kong is organizing the Fourth Pacific Rim Conference on Mathematics and celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of the Liu Bie Ju Centre for Mathematical Sciences. The conference will take place from 7-11 December 2007 at the City University. The plenary speakers are:

- J-P. Bourguignon (Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques)
- P.G. Ciarlet (City University of Hong Kong)
- T-T. Li (Fudan University)
- T-P. Liu (Stanford University)
- M.J.D. Powell (Cambridge University)
- S. Smale (Toyota Technological Institute, Chicago)
- R.S.C. Wong (City University of Hong Kong)

For further information visit the website: www6.cityu.edu.hk/rcms/PRCM4.

BRAIDS

The Institute for Mathematical Sciences (Singapore) is organizing a programme on *Braids*, from 14 May – 13 July 2007 in Singapore. The main theme of the programme is the mathematical structure of the braid group, together with applications arising from this structure both within mathematics and outside of mathematics such as magneto hydrodynamics, robotics and stereochemistry. It is proposed to invite workers in these different areas with the intention of cross-fertilization. The interests of the organizers lie mostly in topology. Therefore it is likely that most long-term visitors will be from that area. Reflecting the theme of the programme, it is intended to have tutorials that would introduce outsiders (eg graduate students) to the mathematics of braid theory, facilitate communication between those working in mathematical theory of braids and those who apply braids elsewhere, specifically in magneto hydrodynamics, robotics and stereochemistry. Confirmed principal speakers are:

- M. Berger (London)
- J. Birman (Columbia)
- T. Brendle (Cornell)
- R. Budney (MPIM Bonn)
- F. Cohen (Rochester)
- R. Ghrist (UIUC)
- J. Gonzalez-Meneses (Seville)
- T. Kohno (Tokyo)
- D. Margalit (Utah)
- S. Morita (Tokyo)
- L. Paris (Bourgogne)
- N. Wahl (Chicago)
- B. Wajnryb (Technion Israel)
- B. Wiest (Rennes)

The Public Lecture will be given by Robert Ghrist (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) on *Braids and robotics*. Visit www.ims.nus.edu.sg/Programs/braids/index.htm for more information and to register. For general enquiries email imssec@nus.edu.sg. For enquiries on scientific aspects of the programme email A.J. Berrick (berrick@math.nus.edu.sg).

VISIT OF PROFESSOR D. MUBAYI

Professor Dhruv Mubayi (University of Illinois, Chicago) will be visiting the UK during November. He will lecture at:

- Queen Mary, University of London, Room 103, Mathematics Research Centre on Monday 27 November at 4.30 pm on *Stability in extremal set theory*
- University College, London, Room 707, Department of Mathematics on Tuesday 28 November at 4.00 pm on *Explicit constructions in graph Ramsey theory*
- Cambridge Centre for Mathematical Sciences on Thursday 30 November at 2.30 pm on *Stability in extremal set theory*

For further information contact Dr John Talbot (talbot@maths.ucl.ac.uk). This visit is supported by an LMS Scheme 2 grant.



University
of Southampton

School of Mathematics

The University of Southampton invites applications for two appointments in the field of Pure Mathematics. The University is in the top ten of research-led universities in the UK for both research quality and research income. In the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise, all the units of assessment within the School were rated 5.

Chair in Pure Mathematics. Ref. No 0411-06-E

Applications are invited for the position of Professor in Pure Mathematics with a start date of 1 October 2007. The Pure Mathematics Group has an international reputation in Algebraic Group Theory, Analytic and Geometric methods in Group Theory, and in K-theory. We seek someone with an outstanding record of research leadership in an area which will enhance the strengths of the Group. We expect the successful candidate to be involved in the appointment to the Lecturer position.

Salary will be on the Professorial scale.

The closing date for applications is 20 December 2006. Interviews will be held on 12 February 2007.

Informal enquiries concerning this post are welcome and may be made to Professor G A Jones, telephone +44 (0)23 8059 3654, email: G.A.Jones@maths.soton.ac.uk, or to Professor G Roehrl, telephone +44 (0)23 8059 3655, email: G.Roehrl@soton.ac.uk.

Lecturer in Pure Mathematics. Ref. No 0410-06-E

Applications are invited for the position of Lecturer in Pure Mathematics with a start date of 1 October 2007. The Pure Mathematics Group has an international reputation in Algebraic Group Theory, Analytic and Geometric methods in Group Theory, and in K-theory. We seek someone with an outstanding record of research in an area which will enhance the strengths of the Group.

Salary will be on the Lecturer ERE 4/5 scale.

The closing date for applications is 8 January 2007. Interviews will be held in the week commencing 12 March 2007.

Informal enquiries concerning this post are welcome and may be made to Professor G A Jones, telephone +44 (0)23 8059 3654, email: G.A.Jones@maths.soton.ac.uk, or to Professor G Roehrl, telephone +44 (0)23 8059 3655, email: G.Roehrl@soton.ac.uk.

Application forms and further particulars for these posts are available from www.maths.soton.ac.uk or from the Human Resources Department, University of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton, SO17 1BJ UK, Tel: +44 (0)23 8059 2750, email: recruit@soton.ac.uk or minicom 023 8059 5595. **Please quote the appropriate reference number.**

RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS AT MEETINGS

REGIONAL ORDINARY MEETING

held on *Monday 11 September 2006* at the University of Bath. At least 65 members and visitors were present for all or part of the meeting.

The meeting began at 3.15 pm, with the Programme Secretary, Dr S.A. HUGGETT, in the chair. One person was elected to Ordinary Membership: A. Mikaelian; six were elected to Associate Membership: J.M. Bennett, T.A. Bridgeland, N.P. Jorgensen, N. Peyerimhoff, C.M. Roney-Dougal, B.J. Schroers; and three were elected Members under Reciprocity Agreements: G.M. Abdal-Kader (Amer. Math. Soc.), P. Cassou-Nogues (Soc. Math. de France), R.F. Picken (Amer. Math. Soc.).

The Records of the Proceedings of the Society Meetings held on 15 May and 16 June 2006 were signed as a correct record.

Six members signed the book and were admitted to the Society.

Dr J. ZIMMER introduced a lecture given by Professor P-L. Lions on *Stochastic lattices and deformation energies*.

After tea, Professor M.D. PENROSE introduced a lecture given by Professor T. Seppäläinen on *Limit shapes and fluctuations for some planar stochastic growth models*.

Dr Huggett expressed the thanks of the Society to the University of Bath and the speakers for putting on such an excellent meeting.

A dinner was then held at Woods Restaurant.

LMS SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGIONAL MEETING 2006

The South West and South Wales Regional Meeting of the London Mathematical Society was held on Monday 11 September in an off-shoot of the newly built Centre for Photonics and Photonic Materials at the University of Bath. Delegates were able to enjoy the unique photographic art display by Kevin Clifford called DanceSCAPES as they registered for the programme of events.

The meeting was opened by the LMS Programme Secretary, Stephen Huggett, who began by giving apologies on behalf of the President, Professor John Toland, who was unable to attend. Stephen formally admitted new members to the Society.

Between 60 and 70 members and visitors attended the two feature talks of the day. The first talk was given by 1994 Fields Medal winner Pierre-Louis Lions (Paris) on *Stochastic lattices and deformation energies*. The second was presented by Timo Seppäläinen (Madison) on *Limit shapes and fluctuations for some planar stochastic growth models*.

Pierre-Louis Lions gave a stimulating talk introducing an abstract notion of lattice and presenting Delauney and various classes of stochastic lattices. He investigated the question of which conditions were necessary on a lattice for mean energies to converge. To do this he introduced some Sobolev spaces with an apology! He concluded with some notions of stochastic lattices and explained why they were natural. Pierre kept the audience entertained with witty comments throughout as well as a very interesting mathematical talk.

Timo Seppäläinen gave a beautifully presented talk with colourful, clear diagrams and fascinating content looking at last passage time on planar square lattices. He went on to examine fluctuations in the corner growth model, which involved techniques in Young Tableaux in the proof. He also exam-

ined fluctuations in the Simple Exclusion Process and the Random Average Process.

After the talks, around 25 people went for dinner at the warm and cosy Woods restaurant in Bath city centre. The evening was concluded with interesting discussions over excellent food and wine.

The meeting was followed by a workshop entitled *Analysis and stochastics of growth processes*. The aim of the workshop was to bring together analysts and probabilists working on the mathematical description of growth phenomena. Models based on the physics of individual particles were discussed alongside models based on the continuum description of large collections of particles. Subjects covered in the workshop included the Mullins-Sekerka model, the random cluster and Ising model, stochastic PDEs, justification of the Boltzmann equation, diffusion limited aggregation, the two-type Richardson model, Bose-Einstein condensation, phase boundaries and Anderson localisation.

Adam Kinnison
University of Bath

ASPECTS OF GEOMETRY Spitalfields Day

Held in the Mathematical Institute in Oxford on Wednesday 27 September 2006, this Spitalfields Day was organised in association with the COW Algebraic Geometry Seminar and was entitled *Aspects of Geometry*. It consisted of two talks by highly distinguished speakers and was aimed at graduate students and researchers, interested in geometry understood in a wide sense. Given the eminence of the speakers, it is perhaps not a surprise that there was a large turn-out for the whole event.

The day commenced with a short introduction by Frances Kirwan (Oxford) who described the history of the Spitalfields Days (which are named after the Spitalfields Mathematical Society, a predecessor of the LMS). She then introduced the first speaker, David Mumford

(Brown University), who was speaking in Oxford for the first time since 1971. His talk, called *Metrics on the space of simple closed plane curves*, was motivated by the question "What is shape?". He explained that the space of closed curves in the plane is an infinite-dimensional manifold and described four different classes of Riemannian metrics which can be put on it. One can then consider the geodesic equations, curvature etc., which have very different properties depending on the metric. This work has applications in medicine in the analysis of scans, where certain conditions can be diagnosed by the shape of structures in the body. He mentioned on-going experiments to see which metric is closest to human intuition. Silhouettes of fish (not cows) are used because "fish are fundamentally two-dimensional".

Following a coffee break the audience returned for the second talk of the day, *Tropical Implicitization* given by Bernd Sturmfels (UC Berkeley). The problem: given a set of n Laurent

polynomials, what is the ideal of relations between them? He explained that the traditional methods using Gröbner bases or resultants sometimes fail, and proposed a new approach based on tropical algebraic geometry. The audience was led through an example starting with three Laurent polynomials u, v, w parametrising a surface in three dimensions, and obtaining the Newton polytope of its implicit equation $P(u, v, w) = 0$ (i.e. the convex hull in the monomial lattice, of those monomials with non-zero coefficients in P). The polytope had 154 lattice points! He went on to explain in general the method of going from Laurent polynomials to a tropical variety to the Newton polytope.

The day concluded with a wine and cheese reception where participants, young and old, had the chance to chat and partake of the refreshments. A pursuit, we were informed, perfectly in keeping with the traditions of Spitalfields.

Nathan Broomhead
University of Bath

INSTITUT DES HAUTES ÉTUDES SCIENTIFIQUES

L'Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques, located in Bures-sur-Yvette (France), welcomes up to 250 mathematicians and theoretical physicists each year from all over the world for various periods going from two to three weeks up to one to two years.

Created in 1958, IHÉS is an international research institute, registered as a Foundation in the Public Interest since 1980, whose purpose is to support and develop theoretical research in the mathematical sciences, physics and, more recently, in molecular biology. IHÉS is financed by different institutions, such as: the French Research Ministry, several European research agencies among which the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), the European Commission, the US National Science Foundation, and also some private foundations and corporations. The EPSRC has now been supporting IHÉS for a number of years. In doing so, its aim is to foster closer links between British and French mathematical research centres. British mathematicians and theoretical physicists are invited to apply to IHÉS for visits (for more information, consult the website www.ihes.fr). They can use their stay to work with researchers from other research groups in the Paris area.

Director:	Jean-Pierre Bourguignon
Permanent Professors:	Thibault Damour, Mikhael Gromov, Maxim Kontsevich, Laurent Lafforgue, Nikita Nekrasov
Honorary Professor:	David Ruelle
Léon Motchane Chair:	Alain Connes
Louis Michel Chairs:	Michael Douglas, Jürg Fröhlich, Samson Shatashvili
Long term CNRS visitors:	Christophe Breuil, Ofer Gabber, Dirk Kreimer, Christophe Soulé
External Members of the Scientific Committee:	Curtis Callan, Michael Green, Stanislas Leibler, George Papanicolaou, Marc Mézard, Gerd Faltings

WILLIAM HODGE FELLOWSHIPS 2007/2008

In 2000 the EPSRC committee reviewing IHÉS suggested that the EPSRC and IHÉS offer each year two one-year fellowships bearing the name of Sir William Hodge, the eminent British mathematician. The fellowships enable outstanding young mathematicians and theoretical physicists to spend time at IHÉS. At the next review in 2005, it was suggested that each fellow be encouraged to have a UK-based mentor.

Conditions for application: PhD in the Mathematical Sciences or Theoretical Physics obtained in 2005, 2006 or in early 2007. One of the two grants awarded will go to an applicant who is a UK citizen or has spent at least the preceding nine months at a UK academic institute, e.g. to get his/her PhD.

Selection of applicants: Applications will be reviewed and selection made based on the sole criterion of excellence in research by IHÉS Scientific Committee on 16 December 2006. The Committee consists of the Permanent Professors, the Director, and the external members whose list can be found above.

Fellowship starting date: Autumn 2007.

How to apply: An application file should be sent through the IHÉS website (www.ihes.fr) and should include: a covering letter, a CV, a publication list, a research project, two or three letters of recommendation, and a proposal for a UK mentor.

Deadline for applications: 4 December 2006.

Information: IHÉS, 35, route de Chartres, F-91440 Bures-sur-Yvette, France (tel: +33 1 6092 6605, fax: +33 1 6092 6609, email: hodge@ihes.fr, web: www.ihes.fr).



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The Life of Numbers

From an idea by Antonio J. Durán

Articles by
Antonio J. Durán, Georges Ifrah, Alberto Manguel

Illustrations by
Sean Mcaikaoui, Natalia Pintado, Javier Pagola

ISBN: 1-56881-325-2; Hardcover; 180 pp.; £24.50

The special design and limited edition, including colored page numbers and artistic die-cut pages make this a good GIFT BOOK.

This book masterfully illustrates the life course of numbers, taking the reader on a walk through a museum of historical artifacts, manuscripts, and works of art. The authors recount how numbers lived in now extinct civilizations, with photographs of archaeological remains, Roman coins, pre-romantic manuscripts, incunabula; how people learned to use numbers to count, showing Renaissance mercantile arithmetic books; and how numbers evolved into the Western counting system that we use today, with the first recorded usage of the current arithmetic symbols.

The authors explore not only the history and use of numbers, but also the physical shape of numbers assumed in writing, including their life at the printing presses at the height of the Renaissance, and in prints of Leonardo da Vinci and Dürer, typographical designs, and both celestial and terrestrial maps.

REVIEWS

Mathematical Apocrypha Redux: More Stories & Anecdotes of Mathematicians and the Mathematical by Steven G. Krantz. Mathematical Association of America, 2005, pp.304, £24.99, ISBN 0-88385-554-2

Think Like a Maths Genius by Arthur Benjamin and Michael Shermer. London: Souvenir Press, 2006, pp.304, £12.99, ISBN 0-285-63776-2

As we struggle to attract students to the study of mathematics, and to convince funding bodies of its necessity, the public image of our subject is of increasing importance to the mathematics community. (It horrified me recently that, when I asked a final year student how people responded when she said she was studying mathematics, her reply was that she took care not to reveal the fact because to do so would be social suicide.) The two books under consideration, one intended for professional academic mathematicians, the other for the general public, provide examples of how mathematics and mathematicians may appear, to practitioners and to laymen.

Krantz's book is a successor to his previous *Mathematical Apocrypha*: a second collection of anecdotes about mathematicians; inevitably, it has rather a bias towards those working in the USA. The stories, which are the kind of mathematical legends one hears over tea in common rooms, are entertaining and generally worth telling. They deal with personal eccentricities and with the state of mathematical education and careers in the United States in the twentieth century. Mathematicians will be amused. Others might be disconcerted, for example, by the literalness which led Bertrand Russell, asked if his baby was a boy or girl, to reply 'Of course! What else could it be?', or by L.E. Dickson's description of his honeymoon: a success, except that he got only two papers written.

There are some moving stories about mathematicians who suffered under the Nazis, and indeed about those whose careers were blighted as a result of McCarthyism, but in general the tone is light. We are frequently reminded of how mathematics education has changed. Apparently Peter Jones's examiners, knowing of his brilliance, rather hope-

fully inserted into the exam paper a problem equivalent to the Riemann Hypothesis: to their disappointment Jones didn't solve it. One wonders what the other candidates thought, and whether present-day external examiners would regard this as fair.

I had intended to dislike the book by Benjamin and Shermer (which in fact appears to be largely by Benjamin, with a

Prologue and Epilogue attributed to Shermer, along with Prefaces by Bill Nye (the Science Guy®) and James Randi). This is a practical guide to rapid mental arithmetic, and the title, equating calculation speed with mathematical genius, is intensely annoying, not least because it sadly reflects the general lack of understanding of the nature of mathematics. One should at least credit the publishers for changing 'Math' to 'Maths' on the cover and title page of the British edition, even if they don't go any further than that.

Title apart, however, I rather liked this book. Benjamin is a 'mathemagician' who entertains audiences with his calculating skills, and he explains, clearly, the techniques he uses for mental arithmetic. These are effective and I can believe his assurances that with practice any of us could master them. He is particularly good in showing how to organise calculations to reduce the load on our short-term memory, and he also gives mnemonic techniques for holding the results of intermediate calculations. There are some entertaining tricks and he gives a method for determining the day of the week of a given date (not as good, I feel, as the one I got as an undergraduate from John Conway). There are also a few panels with information about historical calculators such as Zerah Colburn, George Parker Bidder and Alexander Aitken, and a somewhat less relevant one on Galois's fatal duel. The algorithms are very clearly explained though some of the diagrams of the criss-cross multiplication method are wrong and might mislead. I will definitely be using some of the methods in this book to try to show off to my students!

Mathematical Apocrypha Redux will certainly appeal to many mathematicians, and its title is unlikely to attract other readers. Benjamin's book will be useful for those of us who wish to impress with our

quick mental arithmetic, and I can imagine that many mathematically inclined teenagers will enjoy it. But it is a great pity that the title reinforces the idea that mathematics is just difficult calculation. (When my local newspaper covered an event commemorating William Burnside, its headline was 'Sums genius honoured!') I fear that *Think like a maths genius* will do little to address the misleading popular perception of mathematics and mathematicians exemplified by Krantz's quotation of the actress Molly Ringwald: 'My love life's not really going anywhere these days. Of course you won't find me dating any mathematicians...'

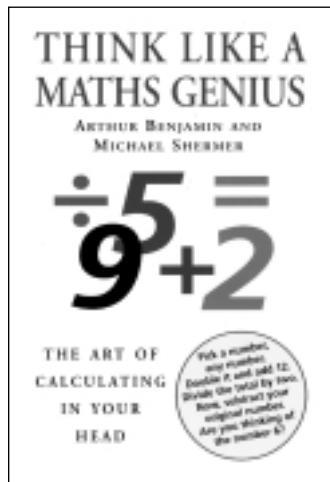
Tony Mann
University of Greenwich

ESF NETWORK IN
QUANTUM GEOMETRY
AND QUANTUM GRAVITY

A European Science Foundation network in Quantum Geometry and Quantum Gravity is now active and will run until July 2011. The network provides:

- Funding for conferences and workshops, with the option of joint organisation with other bodies.
- Travel grants for scientists (including PhD students) to travel from one European institution to another.

The network steering committee consists of Victor Aldaya (Spain), Ingemar Bengtsson (Sweden), Juerg Froehlich (Switzerland), Harald Grosse (Austria), Marc Henneaux (Belgium), Larisa Jonke (Croatia), Hermann Nicolai (Germany), Roger Picken (Portugal), Thomas Thiemann (Germany) and John Barrett (United Kingdom, Chair). For further information visit www.maths.nottingham.ac.uk/qg/.



EPSRC

Analysis on Graphs and its Applications



LMS/EPSRC Short Course

Gregynog Hall, University of Wales, 10-15 January 2007

Organiser: Professor B.M. Brown

The course will provide an introduction to the topics listed below.

The course lecturers are:

- Professor T. Sunada (Meiji, Japan)
Spectral geometry of discrete Laplacians
- Professors P. Kuchment (Texas A & M, USA) and P. Exner (Prague, Czech Republic)
Quantum graphs and their applications
- Professor A. Teplyaev (Connecticut, USA)
Analysis on fractals

Two guest lectures will be given by:

- Professor A. Valette (University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland)
Ramanujan graphs and related topics
- Professor U. Smilansky (Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel)
Spectral statistics

The course is intended both as an introduction to the above topics focused on research students in mathematics and the physical sciences, and as a set of introductory lectures to the six month programme *Analysis on Graphs and its Applications* to be held in 2007 at the Isaac Newton Institute Cambridge.

Postdocs and young scientists are welcome to attend.

The registration fee to attend is £100. The accommodation costs for all UK-based research students are covered by EPSRC. Participants must pay their own travel costs. EPSRC-supported students can expect that their registration fees and travel costs will be met by their departments from the EPSRC Doctoral Training Account. Postdocs and non-UK students will be required to pay their own subsistence costs and the registration fee (£420 in total). There may be some funds available to help with the costs of those required to pay the full amount – further information will be available after the deadline for applications.

Application forms may be obtained from Isabelle Robinson at the London Mathematical Society (email: robinson@lms.ac.uk) or go online from the LMS website: www.lms.ac.uk and click on 'events'.

Numbers will be limited and those interested are advised to make an early application. The closing date for applications is **Friday 11 November 2006**.

All applicants will be contacted by the London Mathematical Society approximately one week after this deadline; we will not be able to give information about individual applications before then. Please do not send any money until we ask.

ISAAC NEWTON INSTITUTE FOR MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

THE THEORY OF HIGHLY OSCILLATORY PROBLEMS

26 – 30 March 2007

in association with the Newton Institute programme entitled
Highly Oscillatory Problems: Computation, Theory and Application
(15 January – 6 July 2007)

Workshop organisers: Professor Thanasis Fokas (Cambridge), Professor Tom Hou (Caltech) and Professor Alexander Its (Indiana/Purdue).

Theme of workshop: The purpose of this workshop will be to discuss mathematical issues concerned with high oscillations. These include harmonic analysis, integral operators and Maslov's theory, and the asymptotics of integrable equations and Hamiltonian systems. An important aim of the workshop is to foster interdisciplinary interactions and to promote mathematical research under the encompassing principle of high oscillations. Applications include nonlinear optics, imaging and multiscale computation.

Location and cost: The workshop will take place at the Newton Institute and accommodation for participants will be provided in single study bedrooms with shared bathroom at Wolfson Court. The workshop package, costing £520 includes accommodation, breakfast and dinner from dinner on Sunday 25 March to breakfast on Saturday 31 March, and lunch and refreshments during the days that lectures take place. Participants who wish to attend but do not require accommodation or meals will be charged a registration fee of £90. Self-supporting participants are very welcome to apply.

Further information and application forms are available from the web at: www.newton.cam.ac.uk/programmes/HOP/hopw02.html. Completed application forms should be sent to Tracey Andrew, Programme and Visitor Officer, 20 Clarkson Road, Cambridge CB3 0EH or via email (t.andrew@newton.cam.ac.uk).

Closing date for the receipt of applications is **30 November 2006**.

ISAAC NEWTON INSTITUTE FOR MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

Effective Computational Methods for Highly Oscillatory Problems: The Interplay between Mathematical Theory and Applications

2 – 6 July 2007

in association with the Newton Institute programme entitled

Highly Oscillatory Problems: Computation, Theory and Application (15 January – 6 July 2007)

Workshop organisers: Professor Tom Hou (Caltech), Professor Arieh Iserles (Cambridge, Chair), Professor Ben Leimkuhler (Edinburgh) and Professor Christian Lubich (Tübingen).

Theme of workshop: Highly oscillatory phenomena occur in a very wide range of phenomena in science and engineering. They are usually considered 'difficult' problems and their understanding presents formidable challenges. However, a range of novel techniques, liberally borrowing from pure mathematics, computation and application areas, has recently revolutionised our understanding of high oscillation. Computation is the main bridge between theory and applications of rapidly oscillating phenomena. The main purpose of the workshop is to introduce wide audience, inclusive of young researchers and workers in the industry to a wide range of contemporary computational tools, techniques and application areas: homogenization, multiresolution, symplectic and geometric methods, computational molecular dynamics, computational geophysical fluid dynamics, highly oscillatory quadrature and computational electromagnetics.

Confirmed speakers: Assyr Abdulle (Edinburgh), Oscar Bruno (Caltech), Ralf Hiptmair (ETH Zürich), Ernst Hairer (Geneva), Tom Hou (Caltech), Caroline Lasser (FU Berlin), Ben Leimkuhler (Edinburgh), Christian Lubich (Tübingen), Jerry Marsden (Caltech), Sebastian Reich (Potsdam), Bob Skeel (Purdue), Andrew Stuart (Warwick) and Stefan Vandewalle (Louvain).

Location and cost: The workshop will take place at the Newton Institute and accommodation for participants will be provided in single study bedrooms with shared bathroom at Wolfson Court. The workshop package, costing £520 includes accommodation, breakfast and dinner from dinner on Sunday 1 July to breakfast on Saturday 7 July, and lunch and refreshments during the days that lectures take place. Participants who wish to attend but do not require accommodation or meals will be charged a registration fee of £90. Self-supporting participants are very welcome to apply.

Further information and application forms are available from the web at: www.newton.cam.ac.uk/programmes/HOP/hopw05.html. Completed application forms should be sent to Tracey Andrew, Programme and Visitor Officer, 20 Clarkson Road, Cambridge CB3 0EH or via email (t.andrew@newton.cam.ac.uk).

Closing date for the receipt of applications is **28 February 2007**.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This calendar lists Society meetings and other events publicised in the *Newsletter*. Further information can be obtained from the appropriate LMS *Newsletter* whose number is given in brackets. A fuller list of meetings and events is given on the Society's website (www.lms.ac.uk/meetings/calendar.html).

NOVEMBER 2006

- 1 Supporting Postgraduates who Teach Mathematics & Statistics Workshop, Bristol (351)
- 1 Inverse Problems Workshop, Cardiff (352)
- 6-10 Rankin Lectures 2006, Glasgow (351)
- 10 Edinburgh Mathematical Society AGM, Strathclyde (350)
- 15 The 20th Century: Chaos, Codes and Colouring, Gresham College London (351)
- 17 LMS AGM, London (353)
- 20-24 Stochastic Computation for the Analysis of Ecological and Epidemiological Data Workshop, INI, Cambridge (348)
- 22 Surveys for All Workshop, London (353)
- 25 Belfast Functional Analysis Day, Queen's University Belfast (351)
- 27-22 Dec Geophysical Fluid Dynamics and Scalar Transport in the Tropics, Singapore (348)

DECEMBER 2006

- 1-2 Khovanov Homology for Knots and Links Workshop, Liverpool (353)
- 8 Edinburgh Mathematical Society Meeting, Heriot-Watt (350)
- 11-15 Representation Theory and Physics Conference, City University, London (352)
- 15-16 Theoretical Fluid Dynamics in the 21st Century Conference, Imperial College London (352)
- 18-22 Trends in Noncommutative Geometry, INI, Cambridge (349)

JANUARY 2007

- 5-6 The Hall-Higman Theorems Conference, Oxford (352)

- 8-31 Mar Interface Problems and Applications in Fluid Dynamics, Singapore (351)
- 10-15 Analysis on Graphs & its Applications LMS/EPSRC Short Course, Gregynog Hall, University of Wales (353)
- 19 Edinburgh Mathematical Society Meeting, Edinburgh (350)

FEBRUARY 2007

- 9 LMS Meeting, Mary Cartwright Lecture, London (353)
- 16 Edinburgh Mathematical Society Meeting, Edinburgh (350)

MARCH 2007

- 4-7 21st Century Mathematics Conference, Lahore (353)
- 16 Edinburgh Mathematical Society Meeting, Dundee (350)
- 26-30 Theory of Highly Oscillatory Problems Workshop, INI, Cambridge (353)
- 26-31 Geometric Flows and Related Topics Symposium Workshop, Warwick, (350)

APRIL 2007

- 10-14 LMS Invited Lectures, The Geometric Langlands Correspondence, Oxford (353)
- 16-19 BMC, Swansea (352)
- 17-19 BAMC, Bristol (353)
- 20 LMS Midlands Regional Meeting, Loughborough
- 27 Edinburgh Mathematical Society Meeting, Stirling (350)

MAY 2007

- 14-13 Jul Braids Programme, Singapore (353)
- 18-20 Midwest Geometry Conference, Iowa, USA (350)
- 25 Edinburgh Mathematical Society Meeting, Aberdeen (350)
- 30 LMS South West & South Wales Regional Meeting, Cardiff

JUNE 2007

- 22 LMS Meeting, London

ROBERT TUCKER
(1832-1905)
LMS General Secretary 1867–1902



© Tucker Collection

Although Robert Tucker was an ardent and active supporter of the LMS, he was not a particularly distinguished mathematician. He dabbled in a number of mathematical subjects, especially the geometry of the triangle, but not always with the panache of a more confident mathematician. Thirty-fifth Wrangler in 1855, he replaced George De Morgan as one of the honorary secretaries of the LMS in 1867 and also as mathe-

matics master at University College School, serving there until 1899. As LMS secretary, he solicited papers for meetings, sending them to referees and supervising their publication in the Proceedings. He also kept the minutes at almost every meeting during his tenure. Indeed, so regular was his attendance that he is reputed to have missed only three meetings during his entire period in office. He remained an LMS secretary for 35 years.