



HIRST PRIZE AND LECTURESHIP FOR THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS PRIZE REGULATIONS

I BACKGROUND AND GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1.1 The Hirst Prize and Lectureship was launched in 2015 as part of the 150th Anniversary celebrations of the LMS. Originally intended as a one-off award, it was later agreed by the LMS Council, in light of its success in 2015, that the prize should be awarded on a continual basis. In 2018, Council agreed that the Hirst Prize should be awarded jointly by the LMS and the British Society for the History of Mathematics (BSHM). The prize is named after Thomas Archer Hirst, who was the fifth President of the LMS (1872–1874).
- 1.2 The prize shall be awarded biennially in odd-numbered years.
- 1.3 It is expected that the prize winner shall give the Hirst Lecture on the History of Mathematics in the year following the award.

2 AIM

- 2.1 The Hirst Prize and Lectureship is intended to recognise contributions to the history of mathematics.

3 REMIT

- 3.1 The grounds for the award are contributions to the study of the history of mathematics. The prize shall be awarded in recognition of original and innovative work in the history of mathematics, which may be in any medium.

4 ELIGIBILITY

- 4.1 The prize may be open to any mathematician or historian of mathematics, subject to the restrictions in paragraphs 4.2 and 4.3. The prize may also be awarded to joint-winners.
- 4.2 The prize may not be awarded to anyone who has previously won the De Morgan Medal, Pólya Prize, Fröhlich Prize, Naylor Prize and Lectureship, Senior Whitehead Prize, Senior Anne Bennett Prize, or the Christopher Zeeman medal.
- 4.3 In a given year, the members of the Hirst Prize Committee, and the members of the LMS and BSHM Councils, shall be ineligible for the award of the prize.
- 4.4 The prize may not be restricted to mathematicians or historians of mathematics working in any specific field or area of mathematics or history of mathematics. To avoid doubt, the prize shall not be restricted to contributions to the study of the history of British mathematics, and there is no requirement for the winner to be based in the UK.

5 PRIZE COMMITTEE

- 5.1 The Hirst Prize and Lectureship Committee shall be formed of six members, which, subject to the proviso of 5.2 below, shall include the Presidents of the LMS and BSHM and two other members from each of the societies (at least one of whom shall not be a member of that society's Council). The Chair of the committee shall be the President of whichever organisation is responsible for the administration of the prize in a given year.
- 5.2 The LMS President may be allowed, should he or she so wish, to nominate a suitable person, to be approved by the LMS Council, who would act in his or her place. If this is done, of the three committee members appointed by the LMS, at least one must be a member of the LMS Council and one must be a member of the main LMS Prizes Committee. More than one of these roles may be fulfilled by the same person.
- 5.3 The committee may seek written opinions from other mathematicians, and/or historians of mathematics, on nominated candidates.
- 5.4 At committee meetings, committee members must declare any interests or conflicts in respect of the candidates being discussed.

6 PRIZE PROCEDURES

- 6.1 The administration of the prize shall alternate between the LMS and the BSHM offices. The organisation of the Hirst Lecture shall be undertaken by the LMS only.
- 6.2 In autumn of year X-1, each Council shall appoint its President and two other members of its society (at least one of whom shall not be a member of its Council) to a prize committee. The Chair of the committee shall be the President of whichever organisation is responsible for the administration of the prize in a given year.
- 6.3 In autumn of year X-1, a call for nominations for the Hirst Prize and Lectureship in year X shall be issued. The call for nominations shall be posted to the LMS and BSHM websites, with a link to the application form. The November (year X-1) issue of the *LMS Newsletter* shall also contain the call for nominations with a link to further information online. The deadline for submitting nominations shall be 31 January, year X.
- 6.4 The prize committee may itself make nominations for the prize. In each case, the proposer must complete a nomination form. The committee shall seek to ensure that a strong, diverse field is nominated for consideration.
- 6.5 Nominations shall be considered for two 'rounds' of the prize, providing the candidate remains eligible in the second round. In the case of nominations that 'roll over' to a second round, the nominees shall be given the opportunity to update their nomination if necessary.

- 6.6 In February, year X (or at a time convenient to all parties), the prize committee shall hold an initial, shortlisting, meeting. The meeting may be undertaken by conference call or other suitable electronic means.
- 6.7 At the shortlisting meeting, the committee shall agree: a) a shortlist from the nominated candidates; and b) potential referees for each shortlisted candidate. References are to be sourced after the meeting. At least two references must be obtained for each shortlisted candidate in order for the candidate to remain eligible for consideration at the decision meeting.
- 6.8 In May, year X (or at a time convenient to all parties), the committee shall hold a final, decision, meeting. The meeting may be undertaken by conference call or other suitable electronic means.
- 6.9 At the decision meeting, the committee shall agree on: a) a prize winner; and b) a citation writer for the prize winner. The citation is to be sourced after the meeting.
- 6.10 In the event that the voting of the prize committee results in a tie, the Presidents of the two societies shall have an additional vote. Should this again result in a tie, the Chair of the committee shall have a final and casting vote.
- 6.11 In the very unusual event that the committee feels that there is no candidate appropriate to receive the prize, the committee may recommend to the Councils that no award be made.
- 6.12 Following the decision meeting, the name of the recommended prize winner, and the detailed citation, shall be submitted to the LMS and BSHM Councils for approval by an absolute majority. Following approval by both Councils, the prize winner shall be notified. The failure of one or both Councils to approve the recommendation shall be regarded as equivalent to a decision that the prize be not awarded that year.
- 6.13 The decision of the Councils shall be announced at the June meeting of the LMS, and afterwards in the *LMS Newsletter* and on the LMS and BSHM websites.

7. AWARD

- 7.1 The winner(s) of the Hirst Prize and Lectureship shall be awarded: a) a certificate signed by the President and General Secretary of the LMS; b) a sum of money as determined by the LMS and BSHM Councils.
- 7.2 The winner will be invited to give a lecture on the history of mathematics at a meeting of the London Mathematical Society in the year following the award. Where the prize is awarded jointly, one of the winners will be invited to give the lecture.
- 7.3 The LMS and the BSHM shall each contribute 50% of the prize award. After the monetary award is transferred to the prize winner, the society responsible for the prize administration in that year shall invoice the other for 50% of the award. All expenses incurred from the organisation of the Hirst Lecture shall be covered solely by the LMS.

8 CHANGES TO THE PRIZE REGULATIONS

- 8.1 These regulations and any subsequent changes to them must be approved by the LMS and BSHM Councils by absolute majority.

Last revised: 9th October 2018