



**Report of the Activities of the
International Commission for the History of Mathematics (ICHM) in 2009
for the
International Mathematical Union (IMU)**

Craig Fraser (Chair)

An **Open Meeting** of the ICHM took place in Budapest on August 31 at the International Congress of the History of Science and Technology. At the meeting the 2009 winners of the **May Prize** were announced. The May Prize is awarded every four years for distinguished achievement in the history of mathematics and is the highest international honour awarded in the field. The 2009 winners were Ivor Grattan-Guinness and R. C. Gupta. Professor Grattan-Guinness was present at the meeting to receive the May Medal. Professor Gupta will be officially given the certificate and medal at the meeting of the IMU this August. Notices were published in *Historia Mathematica* and on the ICHM website (<http://www.unizar.es/ichm/>).

In 2009 a new slate of **executive officers** were elected, whose four-year terms commenced with the Open Meeting of the ICHM in Budapest. The Chair is Craig Fraser of the University of Toronto. The Vice-Chair is Jackie Stedall of Oxford University. The treasurer is Jan Hogendijk of the University of Utrecht. Elena Ausejo of the University of Zaragoza will be continuing in the position of Secretary. Outgoing chair Karen Parshall of the University of Virginia will continue to serve *ex officio* on the Executive Committee of the ICHM.

The official journal of the ICHM is *Historia Mathematica*, a quarterly journal of the history of mathematics published by Elsevier. On January 1 2009 June Barrow-Green of the Open University and Niccolo Guicciardini of the University of Bergamo took over as editors of this journal. Former editor Benno van Dalen is continuing to serve as an associate editor of the journal.

The **Montucla Prize** is an honor established in 2009 by ICHM to recognize research in the history of mathematics. The prize is awarded every four years to the author of the best article published by a young researcher in *Historia Mathematica* in the four years preceding the International Congress of History of Science and Technology. The prize is named after the great eighteenth-century historian of mathematical science Etienne Montucla, one of the founders of the modern discipline of the history of mathematics. The Montucla Prize for 2009 was awarded to Henrik Kragh Sørensen of the University of Aarhus for his article "Exceptions and counterexamples: understanding Abel's comment on Cauchy's Theorem," *Historia Mathematica* 32 (2005).

In 2009 the ICHM co-sponsored several **symposia** in the history of mathematics.

The following **symposia** at the ICHST09 in Budapest were co-sponsored by the ICHM:

- **Symposium S03** "Status in Mathematics: In Particular the Role of Applications in the First World War". Organizers: Jeremy Gray (UK) and Reinhard Siegmund-Schultze (Norway).
- **Symposium S04** "Mathematical Analysis from the Eighteenth to the Nineteenth Centuries". Organizers: Craig Fraser (Canada) and Michiyo Nakane (Japan).
- **Symposium S06** "Transmission and Transformation of Mathematics and Mathematical Instruments in their Social Contexts, East and West". Organizers: Joe Dauben (USA) and Liu Dun (China).
- **Symposium S35** "History of Numerical Tables: The Second Meeting on History of the Exact Sciences along the Silk Road". Organizer: QU Anjing.
- **Symposium S36** "Modern Mathematics into Iberoamerican Countries". Organizers: Clara Helena Sánchez (Colombia), Sergio Nobre (Brazil), and Alejandro Garcíadiego (Mexico).

For reports on these symposia see the ICHM website (<http://www.unizar.es/ichm/>).

Other **conferences or conference sessions** co-sponsored by the ICHM in 2009:

- **Session on history of mathematics** at the Joint Mathematics Meetings held in Washington, DC, United States, 7-8 January. Organizers: Joseph Dauben, Deborah Kent, Patty Hunter, Karen Parshall.
For a report on this session see the ICHM website (<http://www.unizar.es/ichm/>).
- International Conference "**History of Astronomy in Portugal: Theories, Institutions and Practices**", 24-26 September, Museum of Science of the University of Lisbon, Portugal. Organizer: Luis Saraiva.
- Academic Conference "**Numeracy: Historical, philosophical and educational perspectives**", 16-18 December, Oxford University, United Kingdom. Organizer: Benjamin Wardhaugh, All Souls College, Oxford UK.

One set of **conference sessions** was co-sponsored by the ICHM in 2010:

- **Session on history of mathematics** at the Joint Mathematics Meeting of the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America held in San Francisco, CA United States 15-16 January 2010. Organizers: Craig Fraser, Deborah Kent, Sloan Despeaux.

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