



## Report of the International Commission for the History of Mathematics (ICHM) to the International Mathematical Union 2010-2014

*Craig Fraser (Chair)*

From 2010 through March 2014, the International Commission for the History of Mathematics (ICHM) has continued to pursue its dual aims of encouraging the study of the history of mathematics and of promoting a high level of historically and mathematically sophisticated scholarship in the field internationally. It has done so in the following ways:

### Meetings of the Executive Committee (EC) of the ICHM

The EC meets at least four times yearly via e-mail to discuss matters of interest to the international history of mathematics community. Among the business discussed and the issues considered over the four-year period from 2010 to March 2014 were: ICHM-funded projects (2010-2011); policies on co-sponsorship of events in the history of mathematics (2012); organization of symposia for the 24<sup>th</sup> ICHSTM (2012-2013); the editorial transition of the ICHM's journal, *Historia Mathematica*, the selection of the eighth Kenneth O. May Medalists and the selection of the second Montucla Prize winner (2012-13); satellite conferences on history of mathematics for the IMU (2013)

### Conferences /Symposia/ Congresses

From 2010 to 2014, the ICHM contributed to, organized, or co-sponsored numerous conferences, symposia, and congresses internationally:

Special Sessions at the annual joint meetings of the American Mathematical Society and Mathematical Association of America (USA) (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014)

Austrian Symposia on the History of Mathematics (Miesenbach, Austria) (2010, 2012, 2014)

International Symposium "Mathematics meets physics – General and local aspects" (Saxon Academy of Science, Leipzig, Germany, March 22 – March 25, 2010)

International Conference on the History of Modern Mathematics (Xi'an, China, August 11-17, 2010)

Fifth Joint Conference of the British Society for the History of Mathematics and the Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Mathematic (Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland; 15-17 July 2011)

Research symposium Editing Historical Mathematics: techniques and traditions since 1900 (All Souls College, Oxford, UK; December 15-16, 2011)

23rd Novembertagung on the History of Mathematics: Writing and Reading the History of Mathematics (Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Germany, November 7-10, 2012)



International Seminar on History of Mathematics: An event celebrating the National Mathematics Year 2012 to commemorate 125th Birth Year of Srinivasa Ramanujan (Ramjas College, Delhi University, Delhi, India, November 19-20, 2012)

Symposia on the History of Mathematics at the 24th International Congress of History of Science, Technology and Medicine (ICHSTM, Manchester, UK, July 22-28, 2013)

24th Novembertagung on the History of Mathematics (Open University, London Mathematical Society at De Morgan House, London, UK, November 20-22, 2013)

Research Symposium Printing mathematics in the early modern world (All Souls College, Oxford, UK, December 16-17, 2013)

Full reports on all of these conferences may be found on the ICHM website at <http://www.unizar.es/ichm/activity.htm>

## Projects

1. The ICHM mounted and continues to maintain a webpage of its activities and of matters of interest to historians of mathematics internationally. See the ICHM website: <http://www.unizar.es/ichm/>
2. The ICHM continues to update and maintain a database of information on historians of mathematics around the world.
3. The ICHM created and maintains an e-mail list of historians of mathematics internationally designed to inform colleagues in a timely manner of the ICHM's activities.
4. The ICHM continues actively to solicit and to co-sponsor special sessions and conferences internationally.

## Publications

*Historia Mathematica* is the official journal of the ICHM. It appears four times annually and publishes roughly 525 pages of original research in the history of mathematics from all times and cultures. From 2010 to 2012 it was edited by Niccolò Guicciardini (Italy) and June Barrow-Green (United Kingdom). From 2013 it has been edited by Niccolò Guicciardini (Italy) and Thomas Archibald (Canada). It is published by Elsevier Science and is available electronically to subscribers of IDEAL.

## Medals and Prizes

The **Kenneth O. May Prize** is awarded every four years to a historian or historians in recognition of distinguished contributions to the history of mathematics. The Prize is administered by the ICHM.

Kenneth Ownsworth May (1915-1977) was a distinguished American mathematician and historian of mathematics who spent the last ten years of his career at the University of Toronto.

The first May prize was awarded in 1989; to date there have been 12 winners. The recipient of the Prize also receives the May Medal, a bronze medallion cast from a design created by the Canadian sculptor



Salius Jaskus. A full list of past winners and citations for these awards may be found on the website of the ICHM (<http://www.unizar.es/ichm/mayprize.htm>).

The two winners of the May Prize for 2013 were Menso Folkerts and Jens Høyrup. The Prize was presented to them by Craig Fraser, chair of the ICHM, in July of 2013 at the International Congress for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine in Manchester, UK.

For the full citations that accompanied the awarding of the May Prize to Professors Folkerts and Høyrup see Craig Fraser, "Awarding of the May Prizes for 2013," *Historia Mathematica* 40 (2013): 353–356.

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. A full list of past winners and citations for these awards may be found on the website of the ICHM (<http://www.unizar.es/ichm/montuclaprize.htm>)

The Montucla Prize for 2013 was awarded to: Sébastien Maronne, for "The ovals in the *Excerpta Mathematica* and the origins of Descartes' method of normal," *Historia Mathematica* 37 (2010). The prize was presented to Dr. Maronne by Elena Ausejo, Secretary of the ICHM, in July of 2013 at the International Congress for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine in Manchester, UK.

For the full citation that accompanied the awarding of the Montucla Prize to Sébastien Maronne see Elena Auesjo, "Montucla Prize 2013," *Historia Mathematica* 40 (2013): 357-358.

## The members of the EC of the ICHM

From 2010 through 2014, the ICHM was chaired by Craig Fraser (Canada). The EC's current members are: Craig Fraser (Canada), Chair; June Barrow-Green (United Kingdom), Vice Chair; Elena Ausejo (Spain), Secretary; Henrik Kragh Sørensen (Denmark), Treasurer; Abdelmalek Bouzari (Algeria); Natalja Ermolaeva (Russia); Alejandro Garçiadiego (Mexico); Niccolò Guicciardini (Italy); Sergio Nobre (Brazil); QU Anjing (China); Luis Saraiva (Portugal). Ex officio members are: Joseph W. Dauben (United States), Karen Hunger Parshall (United States) and Thomas Archibald (Canada). The two IMU members are: Jesper Lützen (Denmark) and Kim Plofker (United States of America). For a list of the current ICHM national members, see the back cover of any recent issue of *Historia Mathematica*.