



ICHM Co-Sponsored
Valediction to Jeremy Gray
*A meeting to mark Jeremy Gray's retirement from the Open University and to
celebrate his many achievements*

Mercure Parkside House, Milton Keynes MK6 3LR, UK
11-12 September 2014

Organizer

June Barrow-Green, Open University, Milton Keynes, UK

The conference to mark Jeremy Gray's contributions to the history of mathematics and his retirement took place on 11 and 12 September at the Parkside Hotel in Milton Keynes. 43 people gathered to hear 10 talks over the two days, given by invited speakers who comprised Jeremy's long-term friends, collaborators, former PhD students, and Jeremy himself. The talks covered a variety of topics in the history of mathematics, ranging from the roles mathematicians have played in Italian politics, through the mathematics of medieval China and studies in the personal manuscripts of Isaac Newton, to thoughts on what the history of mathematics can teach to other areas of historical study. The concentration of distinguished academics ensured that every talk inspired lively discussions afterwards.

Thursday 11 September

Snezana Lawrence (Bath Spa)
History of Mathematics lessons for Mathematics Education

Umberto Bottazzini (Milan)
Mathematics and politics: the Italian case

Karine Chemla (Paris)
"Measuring the circle on the sea-mirror"

Leo Corry (Tel Aviv)
The interaction between arithmetic and geometry in the Euclidean tradition: a longue durée issue in the historiography of mathematics (if there ever was one).

Niccolò Guicciardini (Bergamo)
On Newton's mathematical manuscripts: disciplinary boundaries, writing practices, and styles

Friday 12 September

Erhard Scholz (Wuppertal)
'Localizing' the geometry of special relativity: Why Cartan and Weyl posed their new 'problem of space' differently

Moritz Epple (Frankfurt)
Another look at mathematical modernism: Felix Hausdorff on dimension

Jesper Lützen (Copenhagen)
Geometry, forces and models



June Barrow-Green (OU)

GD Birkhoff and Poincaré's 'Last Geometric Theorem': some findings from the archives

Jeremy Gray

Klein's Galois theory: underneath the icosahedron

On Thursday, the conference dinner, held in the pub across the road from the hotel, provided further opportunity for lively discussions through the evening; while on Friday, the final session after lunch began with a short encomium from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics by Phil Rippon (OU), before June Barrow-Green read the many warm wishes to Jeremy from those who couldn't make it to the meeting.

Needless to say, the talks were frequently embellished by numerous stories and photographs of Jeremy throughout his career. The meeting was a fitting tribute to Jeremy, although of course nobody believes that his retirement will cause any reduction in his rate of output!