



**Report of the Activities of the
International Commission for the History of Mathematics (ICHM) in 2012
for the
International Mathematical Union (IMU)**

Craig Fraser (Chair)

Activities

The Executive Council of the ICHM had four e-meetings in 2012. Three subcommittees of the ICHM deliberated; two submitted reports to the Executive Committee in 2012 and the third submitted its report in March of 2013.

Projects

1. The ICHM 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/home.htm>
2. The ICHM continues actively to solicit and to co-sponsor special sessions and conferences internationally.
3. The ICHM is co-sponsoring several symposia on the history of mathematics for the 24th International Congress of History of Science, Technology and Medicine that will be held in Manchester, UK in July of 2013. These symposia are:
 - a. Mathematics and Patronage
 - b. Mathematical Knowledge at Work in Ancient China
 - c. The History and Philosophy of Mathematical Optimization
 - d. Introduction of Modern Mathematics in Iberoamerica
 - e. The Institutionalization of Mathematics and the Founding of National Societies
 - f. Poincaré's Méthodes nouvelles de la mécanique céleste in historical context: bridging the frontiers of knowledge in mathematics, astronomy and wireless technology, 1892-1914

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. The journal is currently edited by Niccolò Guicciardini (Italy) and Thomas Archibald (Canada). It is published by Elsevier Science and is available electronically to subscribers of IDEAL.



ICHM

Conferences co-sponsored by the ICHM in 2012 and January of 2013

11th Austrian Symposium on the History of Mathematics

April 22-28, 2012; Miesenbach, Lower Austria

Organizer: Dr. Christa Binder

The 23rd Novembertagung on the History of Mathematics. A conference for junior scholars.

November 7-10, 2012; Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Germany

Organizers: Philipp Kranz, Desirée Kröger, Dagmar Mrozik, and Alfredo Ramírez

Two-day International Seminar on History of Mathematics, held jointly with the Indian Society for History of Mathematics (ISHM)

November 19-20, 2012; Ramjas College, Delhi (India)

Organizer: Man Mohan

Sessions on history of mathematics at the Joint Meetings of the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America

January 9-12, 2013; San Diego, CA

Organizers: Patti Hunter (Westmont College), Deborah Kent (Drake University), Adrian Rice (Randolph-Macon College)

Reports on these conferences are available on the ICHM website:

<http://www.unizar.es/ichm/activity.htm>

ICHM Prizes

The ICHM awards two prizes every four years at the International Congress of the History of Science and Technology. These are the Kenneth O. May Prize, awarded to historians of mathematics for outstanding contributions to the history of mathematics; and the Montucla Prize, awarded to the author of the best article by a junior scholar published in *Historia Mathematica* in the four years preceding the International Congress. Committees were established in 2012 to select winners of these prizes for 2013. The recommendation of the May Prize Committee was ratified by the Executive Council at the December E-meeting. The result will be announced at the 24th ICHSTM in Manchester in July of 2013. The recommendation of the Montucla Prize Committee was ratified at the March 2013 E-meeting of the EC. The result will also be announced at the Manchester Congress.



Subcommittee on Sponsorship of Conferences

A subcommittee to review ICHM policies on the sponsorship of conferences and to make recommendations for an updated statement of the policy was established in August of 2012 and deliberated in the following months. The subcommittee's members were: Craig Fraser (chair), Henrik Kragh-Sørensen and Luis Saraiva. The report of the committee was submitted to the Executive Council at its December E-meeting and the recommendations in it were accepted by a vote of the EC. A statement of the policy may be found at <http://www.unizar.es/ichm/cosponsor.htm>

Changes in Personnel at ICHM

In June Ahmed Djebbar resigned as the Algerian ICHM National Member. He was replaced by Malek Bourzari. Bourzari is an expert on the Conics of Al-Mutaman (11th c.), and is Maître de Conférences of the History of Mathematics at the École Normale Supérieure of Algiers (Kouba).

In 2012 June Barrow-Green was replaced by Tom Archibald as an ex officio member of the Executive Committee in his capacity as co-editor of *Historia Mathematica*.

In July Jackie Stedall resigned as Vice-Chair of ICHM. This resignation came at the end of the third year of the four-year term of the position. Given that a committee was due to be formed in March of 2013 to nominate a slate of officers for the next four years, it was decided that the position could remain temporarily vacant. Nominations for this position as well as other ones on the Executive Committee that will become vacant or that are up for renewal are currently being solicited (March 2013) by the nomination committee. A slate of candidates will be voted on at the June E-meeting of 2013 and the terms of the new members will begin at the 24th International Congress in Manchester at the end of July.

March 31, 2013